

PIONEER NEWS

Phone: 759-5491

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

Phone: 759-5491

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

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

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

Treasurer:

DOUG SHEARSTON

Editors: R. LAKE & M. HERRON

President:

J. (Mick) DODSON

Vol. 20, No. 1

1st APRIL, 1975

Price: 50c Per Annum



ANZAC FUNCTIONS, 1975

With Anzac Day making a three-day holiday, lets see a good roll-up at our Anzac functions this year. We are hopeful of some country members making the trip. Try to attend at least one of the official functions — all of them for preference. The Committee once again remind all that the wearing of medals is most desirable.

WREATH LAYING CEREMONY

Thursday, 24th April, 7.00 p.m.

This function is most important — our Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Cenotaph. Members of both 2/1 and 2/2 will assemble at 19 Hunter Street, **NO LATER THAN 7.20 p.m.** with the March off at 7.25 p.m. for the Cenotaph at Martin Place. The Ladies Auxiliary will join in at the Cenotaph for our short service and wreath laying ceremonies.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, 24th April, 8.00 p.m.

Immediately after the completion of the above ceremony, our 2/1 and 2/2 Annual General Meeting will be held at the "Castlereagh" Hotel, Corner Park and Castlereagh Streets. We are **ALL** interested to see and hear how the Association is being conducted — how much "faloosh" is on hand — so come along and get the G.G. Also a few beers and biscuits on the Association.

VIC WHITELEY, Publicity Officer.

ANZAC DAY MARCH

Friday, 25th April

Once again there has been a change in forming-up places prior to the March. The 2/1 will assemble in **Elizabeth St.** between King St. and Martin Place on the rear of the 6th Division formation, and the 2/2 in **Phillip Street**, also between King St. and Martin Place on rear of the 7th Division formation.

Our banners will be prominently displayed in both cases. Check with assembly points published in the newspapers in case of a late change.

ANNUAL LUNCH & REUNION

Friday, 25th April

Lunch and Reunion as usual at the Castlereagh Hotel. Same place as the Annual General Meeting. Hot lunch will be served from 11.20 a.m. for the 2/1 and 2/2. Paid for by the Association, with the bar opening at Noon. Afternoon tea will be served at approximately 2.30 p.m.

Here's hoping for a good roll-up at all functions.

FUNERAL VISITATIONS

At the March Committee Meeting it was resolved that a Committee be formed to carry out the attendance of a representative from the Association at a member's funeral.

It was also resolved to send a floral tribute to the home of the next of kin of the deceased member when notified, rather than to the funeral parlours as in the past.

Due to rising costs it was resolved that the Association discontinue placing advertisements in the newspapers regarding a deceased member but rather that the R.S.L. or the next of kin be requested to include the words "The deceased was a member of the 2/1-2/2 Pioneer Battalion Association."

The Chairman of the Funeral Committee is Mr. J. Dodson and the procedure is for the person notifying the Association of a deceased member is to ring Mr. Dodson with all details and he will then contact one of the Committee residing in that area to attend.

JACK (Mick) DODSON,
194 Hamilton Rd., Fairfield.
Phone: 72-4091

VALE

It is with regret that we report the deaths of two A Coy. members of the 2/1st in the form of **JACK TATTAM** and **TOM CARR**. Jack and Tom endeared themselves right from the formation of the Battalion at Greta in June, 1940, and they will never be forgotten.

Tom was the first Sgt. cook in A Coy. and nothing was a trouble to him and he really gave of his best.

The old proverbial saying of - "Who called the cook a 'so and so'" could never have been applied to Tom as he was a perfect gentleman and he did his very best.

One could never forget the panto-mimes that eventuated at mess time, when he had as mess orderlies the late "Admiral" Purcell, Bing and Tom Pendlebury. The unrehearsed scenes this caste demonstrated at meal time was something to see, especially when Tom tried to restore order.

JACK "Sliprail" TATTAM brought much happiness to us and especially when there was a piano around. He could certainly play and many a night he would entertain the boys.

Now they have gone, but memories of these two great mates will never fade from our history.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to the families of these two members.
HARRY MONTAGUE.

FAREWELL — LT. COL. JEFFREY GRAHAM

Something we did not know about our Late C.O., Lieut. Colonel George John Graham, M.M. and Bar, affectionately known as "Jeffrey John," can now be revealed.

Those who knew Jeffrey well, assessed him as a very astute soldier, one who knew how to delegate authority and one who always commanded respect.

Born 14th July, 1897, London, and educated at Highfield College, Surrey, England, Jeffrey enlisted in the British Army, 10th Royal Fusiliers, on 17th August, 1914 and served three years in France and Belgium and during this service he was awarded the Military Medal to which he added a Bar, which in turn led to his promotion to commissioned rank.

At the end of 1918, he transferred to the Indian Army, 2/41 Dogras, serving on the North West Frontier and the Afghan War of 1919.

In 1924 he returned to England and was placed on the Reserve of Officers.

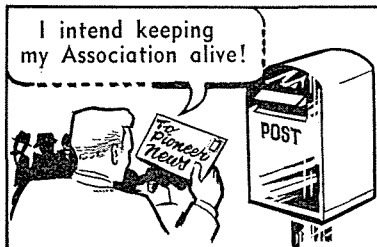
Eventually he migrated to Australia and it was October 1939 when he enlisted in the A.M.F. and joined 2 Garrison Bn. as a Company Commander. Subsequently he was transferred to the now famous 2/1 Aust. Pioneer Bn., where in June, 1942 he was appointed 2 I/C as a Major and in August 1943 to C.O. as Lieut. Col.

In August 1944 Jeffrey transferred to G.D.D., Queensland, as C.O. and in November 1944 moved to L.T.D., Western Australia as C.O. and remained until July 1946, when he was demobilised and placed on the Reserve of Officers.

He then joined the Repatriation Dept. and was a member of the Tribunal and to his great credit, his vote was always in favour of the Digger, when any doubt arose.

Well done Jeffrey.

FRANK ALLAN.



from the MAIL BAG

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



Here it is the first edition for 1975 and let us all pull some weight with plenty of news, plenty of letters, and mostly, from a lot more members than the usual few who battle so hard to keep the columns going.

First let me quote, quite a few widows of late members continue to write and enclose subscriptions; while these subs are greatly appreciated and are put to good use, please let it be known that we do not expect subs from late members' widows, and the paper will continue to be sent to them until such times as they themselves, wish otherwise.

MRS. DAISY MCKEWEN, wife of the late Cpt. D. McKewen, sends a subscription to the Association and wishing the Association all the best for 1975. Thank you Mrs. Mc., and good fortune for yourself in this 1975.

MRS. IDA HORDER, wife of the late Viv. Horder, sends a donation with the best wishes to the Association and thanking us for the Pioneer News, we in turn wish you the best for 1975 and the paper will continue to arrive on time all the time in future.

JACK MARSHALL, ex D. Coy, 2/1, sends along a two pager from Glen Innes with a little local cover from the Northern area. Jack was quite a friend of the late **LEO FERRIS** and comments on the fatal accident that happened last year. Jack has been retired for the last three years, but is lucky to enjoy very good health, a good 14½ stone, and still has plenty of hair. "I don't know why you had to bring that into it" - and can still find plenty of chores to do around the house. Jack also mentions the photos of the Greta Show we had and could only recognise two of the mob, Clancy Scholes and Three Course Kelly, however what amazed him was the middle aged spread and lack of hair "there he goes again!" of most of them. Jack does see quite a bit of **JACK RODGERS**, **TOM MANUAL** and **BOB** and **VIC DONALD**, who in turn patronise the R.S.L. on numerous occasions. Jack has two sons, well grown up, one living at Warren, N.S.W. and the other at Toongabbie, one thing, he can't complain about them being on his doorstep. Many thanks for the letter Jack, and your subs are placed where they are doing the most good.

DARYL BELFORD, 2/1 now a resident of Wollongong, remarks that he did not receive any acknowledgement of the last subscription, however records have been checked and the error was on our side, sorry about that. However, he still receives the paper so realises that he is still on our records. Daryl was in the orderly room at B.H.Q. and comments on the lack of John Harnetty's name and quotes the pleasure of seeing the names of **Phil Cramsie**, **Tom Morrow**, **Tom Mannual**, **Karl Drumm** and **Alec Durie**, while the Barry that you mention

would have been Barry Taylor I think, who still lives at Dee Why in the suburb of Warringah.

Daryl was a member of the Education Department, been retired about six years, however, with a dicky Ticker, he has been unable to participate with the troops on the 25/4 for some years and has to have his very close look per medium of the T.V. On occasion he did meet **Leo Morris** and **Tiny Thirlby**, plus **R.S.M. Smith**, but has not seen them for some time. **R.S.M. Smith** is still a chemist at Bowral, many thanks for the letter Daryl and good health for the New Year.

MRS. LORNA COOK, daughter of Lt. Col. Norm Neal, sends a thank you letter to the Secretary for the copies forwarded to her, containing the references to her father, in the last issue and makes special mention of those written by Gordon Osborne and our President, Mick Dodson. Thank you Lorna, we can assure you that Norm "Nuggett" Neal, was respected and admired by all the members of this Association, whether their acquaintances has been over a long period or a short one.

MICK PUNTON, 2/1 now of Padstow and per medium of his good wife's pen sends a few lines nominating a donation to the funds and the statement that Mick has only written two letters in his life and doesn't want to spoil his record! Thank you Margaret for the good wishes, I only hope that you never have to have a holiday of more than a few days away from him, on that admission you would wait a long time for news, or you would have a large telephone bill after the period. Many thanks for the subs and they are in the treasurer's hot little hand doing much good.

GUS HUNTER, ex Don Coy, 2/1, now at Beverly Hills, sends a short note sending regards to all his Don Coy mates, a subscription to the Treasurer, and the statement that he will make every effort to see and be with them on Anzac Day, 1975. That is easy enough to do Gus, spirit need only be bigger than the heart, and you have got it made.

JACK O'NEILL, 2/2 and now at Bankstown, sends a donation and best wishes to all the Don Coy boys under Spag. Harris. Jack had a bad trot with the Service Typhus and Malaria and had a period of some twelve months in and out of hospital. With a brother Bert, in the 2/1, he would have to be Pioneer minded. Jack is now occupied as a postman around the Revesby area and on the retiring list for about next May, and quotes that he should find or make time to get in contact with the boys and attend some of the functions. Thank you for the letter Jack, glad to know that the wife enjoys the paper also, and looking forward to seeing you in the near future, by the way you chaps, Jack signed his name "Hayseed" does this ring a bell?

PHIL RUBIE, H.Q. Coy, 2/1, now a resident of Surry Hills, sends a short note of congratulations to the committee and their efforts with the paper, a subscription for the next year, and very little else, however we know that he must be O.K. and that's the main thing, thanks Phil and good health for 1975.

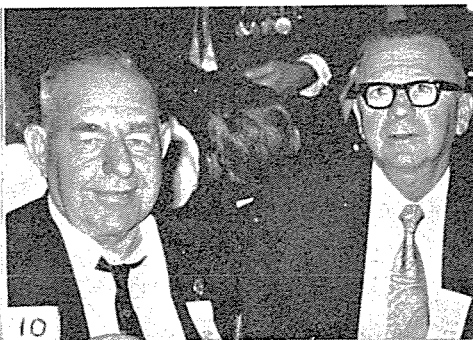
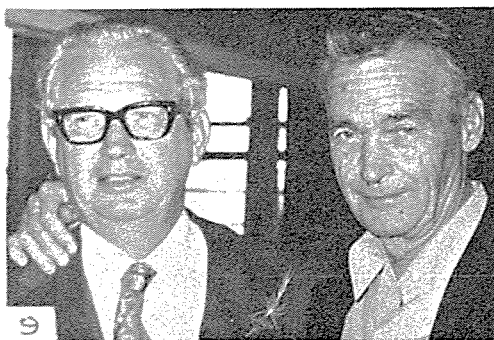
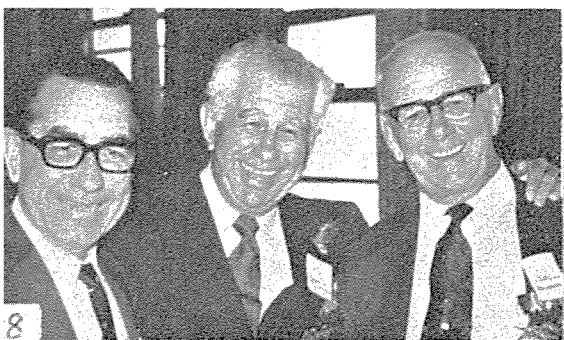
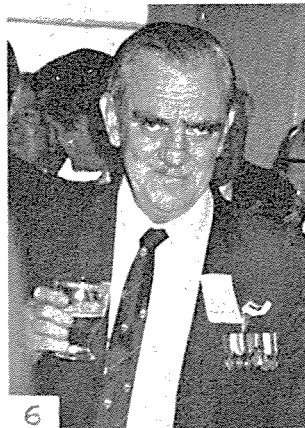
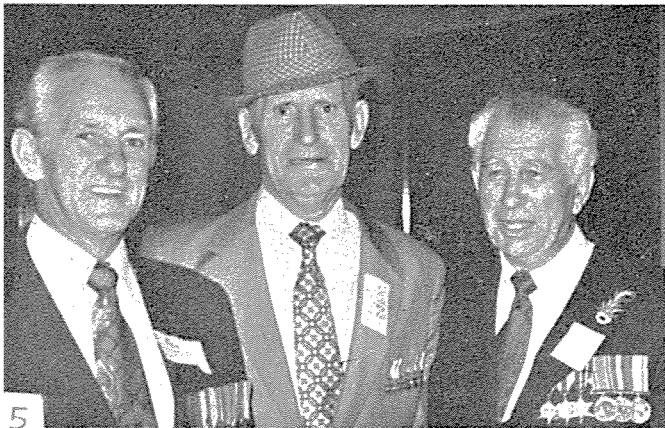
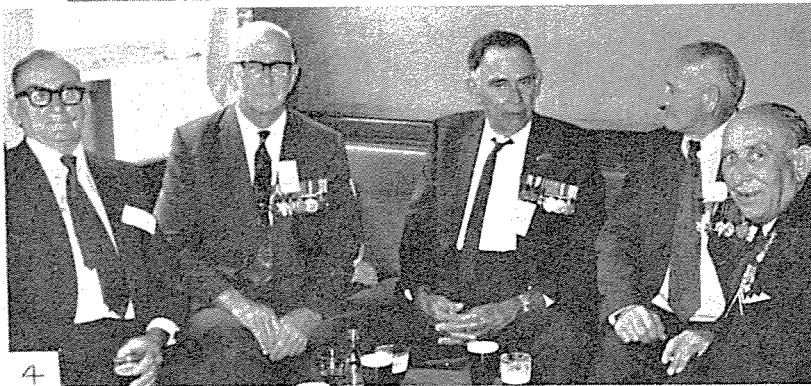
JACK BERTRAM, 2/1 Newcastle, sends a short letter with the sad tidings that he, together with **Jack Griffiths** and **Dick Seddon**, had just returned from attending the funeral of **KEN NEWLING**, ex transport Sgt. fitter for the 2/1. Jack Griffith spoke at the ceremony and a wreath was presented on behalf of the Association. Since this letter, I have had a visit from Jack, just a stop-over, a short beer and a bit of a yarn. He told me of **LARRY ROBSON**, sapphire miner and jolly good luck to him with it. Don't forget to mention that carpet to Jean, Jack. I reckon she would love the idea, and its terrific underfoot! A further report from Jack with the unfortunate information advising us of the deaths of **JACK WALLACE**, of Belmont and **JACK TATTAM** of Kempsey. Dick Seddon and Jack both attended the service for Jack Wallace at Belmont.

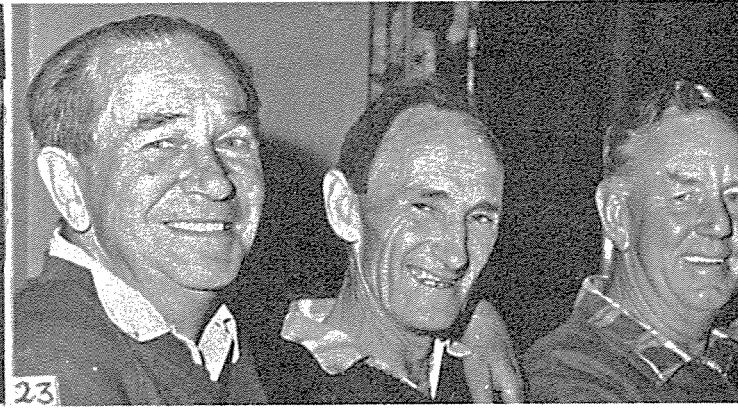
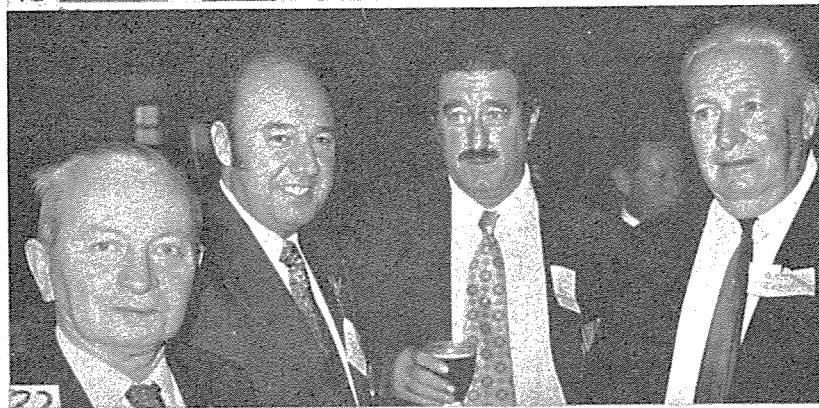
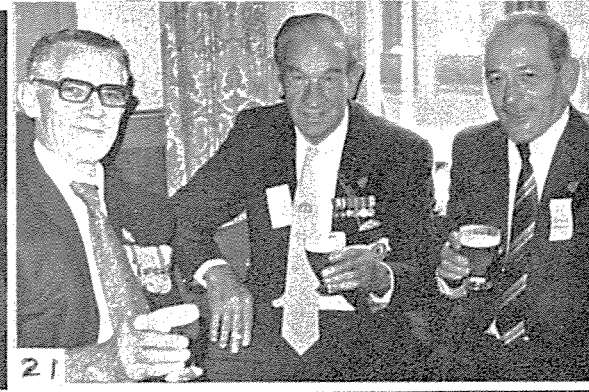
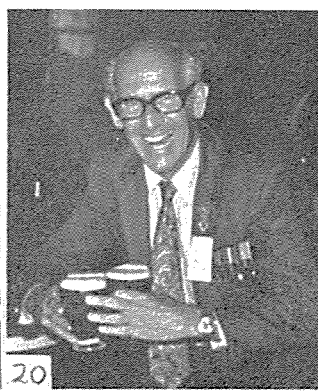
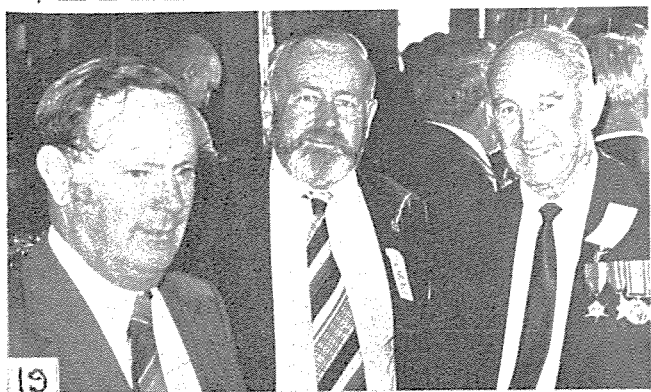
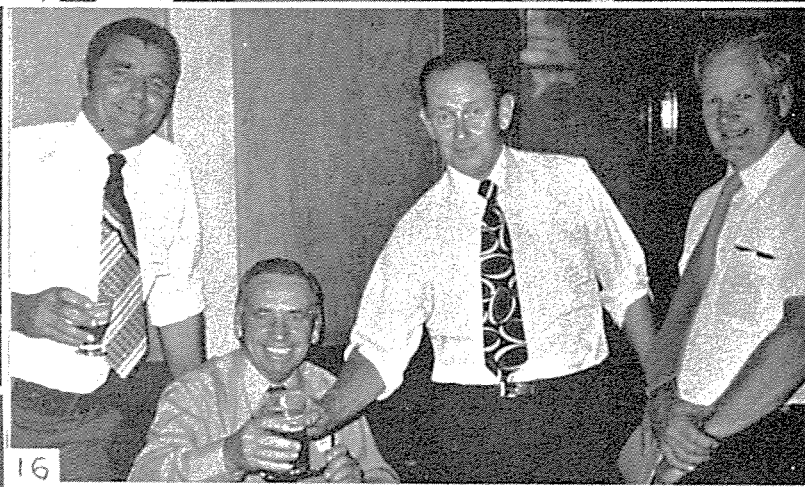
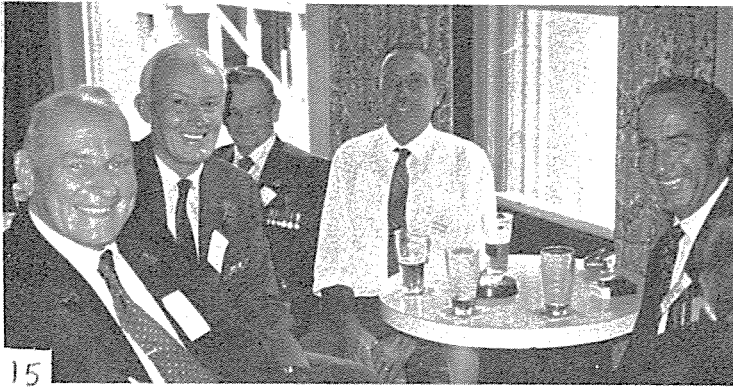
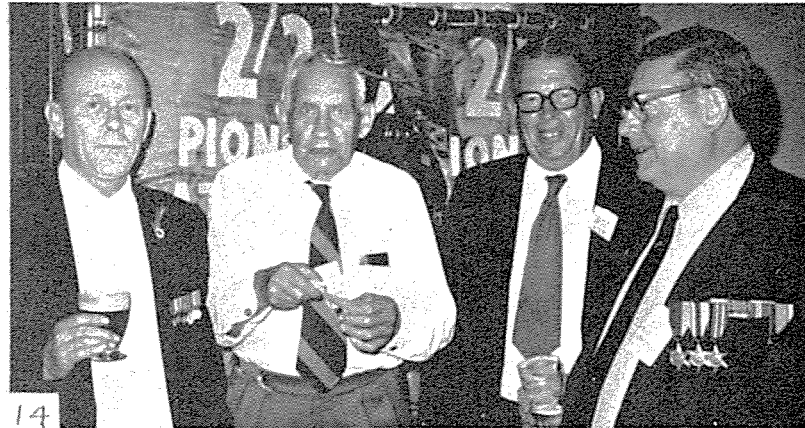
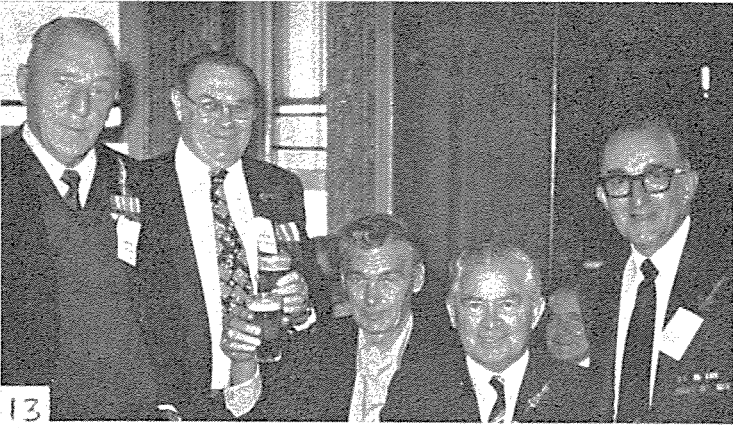
DICK SEDDON, another of our Newcastle correspondents, also sends along a newsy note with subs enclosed from **Jack McCracken** and **Herb Wilson**. McCracken still a reasonably fit man. Dick met him at 10.15 a.m. one morning and after numerous Red Mills and Beer chasers, and a very fortunate black out about 2 p.m., Dick was finally able to head for home. **Herb Wilson** was at the Rats' meeting on the Tuesday night and was very grateful for the back numbers of Pioneer News and also passed on the news of his admittance to Concord in February for an operation on his hips. Herb has been on crutches for a long while now and there is some hope of a relief from pain with this operation. **Roy Bluey Cheers** arrived on the Monday, a day early for the Tuesday meeting, however, had a good night and a great old yarn. Roy is now at Topi Topi,

(continued on page 5)

1974 REUNION PHOTOS

Come along to the 1975 Anzac Reunion and you will see these same faces, plus many more. ALL NAMES LISTED ARE FROM LEFT TO RIGHT
PAGE 3: 1 Bob Dixon, Max Herron; 2 Larry Robson, Clive Brown, Bill Arthur, Sid Vaughan. 3 Frank Gillian, Mick Dwyer, Brian Kybert, Max Law. 4 Nobby Smith, Arthur Murphy, George Brooks, Jim Anderson, Bob Gales. 5 Gordon Finlay, Jack Lloyd, Curly Bentley. 6 Bob Burnside. 7 Mick Egan, Bob McTaggart, Ted Skoyles, Ron Wilson. 8 Rowley Moore, Curly Bentley, Arthur Murphy. 9 Nichols Brothers. 10 Ted Skoyles, Jack Standen. 11 Albert Brown, Bert Moore, Bluey Jones. 12 Perc Fisk, Russ Monaghan. Noel Trefoni, Scotty Burns, Mick Reilly.





via Buladelah, and passed on the news that **BILL WADE** had retired from the General Store (left in the hands of his brother) and had gone for a trip to America. Dick finishes off with the news that they (he and Pearl), will be down for the Anzac Day Reunion and will stay for a few extra days (Why not bring Pearl to the Smoko?), we will all look after her, Dick!

LARRY ROBSON, the North Coast Yo Yo, is having a change of scenery for the next six months and will be travelling the West to Denman, Merriwa Coonabarabran, Coonamble, Gunnedah, Werris Creek and Quirindi. On his last trip he contacted **JOHNNY TAYLOR**, at Quirindi. John T. looks well and has lost a bit of weight since the Greta show in 1970. Also told Larry that **ERIC SMALLGOOD** is at Merriwa and hopes to contact Ern next trip. Spent a week in Glen Innes and contacted **JACK MARSHALL**, **JOCK RODGERS** (comments on some badges and hopes you received same) and **TOM (Rondo) MANUEL**, who is pensions officer and Legacy member for the district. Tom advises that anyone in his area may contact him in either matter. **TOM SPENCER**, of Wingham is also back on his feet again after his operation, is putting on weight and eating better than ever for the first time in many years. Both Jack and his wife Muriel, cannot say enough for Monty and his assistance during Jack's hospitalisation. Larry also quotes that the locals, **JACK BERTRAM**, **DICK SEDDON**, **GLIDO GRIFFITHS**, **IVAN PEPPER**, **JOCK RUSSELL**, **TOM CHEETHAM**, **TOM WALLACE** and **MICK FLYNN** all seem to have got over the Christmas spirit of things and are sparking on all fours.

Message from **LARRY** to the Queenslanders, "Well, how is that Reunion going along. Surprising the number who are interested, particularly if a long week-end, perhaps the October week-end would be suitable as that would be the closest to when the Unit was dis-banded 30 years ago. (That's the message and with good suggestions included). Larry reports that he will be down for the Anzac function and has a last quip to Doug Shearston. Question? How are quotes for the Forster Mansion going, apparently you have had a few. Sounds

like a Winfield advt! Good luck Larry, cheque well on the way to being spent.

BOB EVANS, 2/2 now of Essendon, Victoria, sends a short letter wishing all well and wealth for 1975 and passes the information that at the last General Meeting of the 2/2 Association he resigned as secretary due to the fact of also retiring from his place of work. Also on the same night, President Mr. **SAM COLES** resigned due to the work situation and Bob has kindly enclosed the names of the new office bearers. Secretary Mr. **COL SHEA** and President Mr. E. J. **TED HANSEN**, so while we are sorry to see you go, our congratulations and best wishes to the new team.

BRUCE RICH, Narrandera, sends a short note with cheque enclosed and mentions a few words with **KEN KNIGHT "Wagga"** at one of the local water holes, also sees **GEORGE (Blue) EVANS** on occasions and also **MICK ROBERTS**, of Leeton and mentions that all are wearing well and looking pretty fit.

TED SKOYLES, the old stalwart from Mittagong, sends a cheque to the treasurer and the news that he and Mum, while still swallowing lots of pills, are not too bad. Ted had a note from **SNAGS** and his mate a while back and claims that apart from the white hair, Snags looks as good as he did in the Army. I might add there that white hair is probably better than no hair at all, like a lot of us, are getting nowadays. Ted as usual quotes that he will see us all in April.

JOHN SMITH, ex B Coy. 2/1 and now at Smithtown, N.S.W., sends a cheque to the treasurer and claims he finds difficulty in putting names to faces, no doubt faces are slowly changing John, still most times all one needs is a bit of a nudge and it clicks again. John has been retired for about three years but claims he is still pretty fit, does on occasion catch a sight of **BLUEY EATHER** and that about the only one up there however, he does send his best regards to all his mates in 11 Plt. particularly and all Pioneers generally and a special mention goes to **OUR MONTY**, who was on the job the several times John was a patient at Concord. Thanks for the letter, John, the treasurer is using the cheque to good purpose.

PHIL CRAMSIE, 2/1 and now a banana bender from Brisbane, sends a short note congratulating the committee on the News and his pleasure to receive and read same, containing the very familiar names of years before. Phil does not get to Sydney very often so like many others is dependant on the News for what goes on.

ALEC GEORGE, ex 2/1 and now the acting secretary for **TERRY McGUIRE** and **BILL LOWE**, plus himself to forward the subs for all three and to pass on the local news of the boys from Lismore, writes that all are well, both Alec and Terry, a little "arthritic" at times (good word that), but they claim nothing serious. From what we hear and read, it doesn't affect Terry and his bowling, anyway. Bill Lowe has just had about eight months with his daughter in New Guinea, and Alec says "about the fittest bloke he has seen come out of the territory," Alec sends his regards to all and hopes to see us all on ANZAC DAY.

BERT HUTTLEY, 2/2, now at Mackay, Queensland, sends a few lines to tell of his appreciation of the paper and was quite pleased to see the name of a good mate, **J. CRISPIN** mentioned in the last issue. Bert and his wife have had a couple of trips through the Whitsunday Islands and highly recommends same to any passing that way. Suggests that winter months would be the best time of the year, as the summer months are prone to cyclones and the normal wet season often disrupts all services and roads for long periods. Bert also requires a cure for gout, you and about 1 million others would all be pleased to receive same, I'd reckon. My suggestion "drink more beer," but then I have never had gout. Many thanks for the letter, Bert, and excuse the sarcasm.

GEORGE BROOKS, 2/1, now at Ipswich, Qld., sends along a mixed letter, first the good news, cheque to the treasurer, second the bad news - that he will not be down for Anzac Day, 1975. George had to make a hurried trip to Wollongong in October last year, where he had the misfortune to bury his brother, apparently the most favoured of the boys and one to whom George was particularly attached. Sorry to hear this bad news George, and the whole committee extend their sympathy. George has been in touch with **TED DAVENPORT** and if the Queensland Reunion gets off the ground, he will be in it. Make it when the weather cools, he claims. Guarantees to have a beer in his hand on Anzac Day, even if it is only one from his own frig, however, he vows to have one with us even if only in spirit.

KEN COLLIER, 2/1, now a resident of Essendon, Vic., writes a long letter to Max, quite a lot of it personal, however, Ken has had a pretty rough trot over the past few years and was finally discharged medically unfit from the Fire Brigade after 23 years' service and was finally granted the Invalid pension. He is the father of six children, three married, three still with the family. Ken attended a wedding some time ago and the waiter called him aside and asked "were you in 2/1 Pioneers?" It was **VIN MAHONY**, and an ex member of the Mortar Platoon. Ken, wife and a few friends are off to the Glenroy R.S.L. on Saturday night, 20th February, past, to have a few drinks to celebrate their 25th Wedding Anniversary (We wish you many more) and he also enclosed a cheque for himself and **ALEX MC-KENZIE**, whom he sees pretty often.

Two ladies, **MRS. KEN NEWLING** and **MRS. JACK TATTAM** send letters with the sad news of the passing of their respective husbands. To both these ladies, Marjorie and Pat, we of the Association offer our sincere sympathy, you have lost good husbands and we have lost two respected mates, and so long as you would care to receive same, copies of the Pioneer News shall continue to be posted to you both.

Well, that's Mail Bag for this issue we hope you read and digest the doings of your fellow members, and perhaps add some little items yourself for next time, it is not restricted in any way. Will call it off with the big wish — hope to see you all on the Anzac week-end — there is plenty of time for even travellers if they care to make the trip.

So long for now.

LAKEY.

1974 REUNION PHOTOS

Page 4:

13 Doug Watson, Brian Neiberding, Nichols, Dick Kennewill, George Paricos. 14 Bob Lake, Sailor Witham, Mick Dodson, Vic Whiteley. 15 Bimbo Bell, Ray Hill, Bluey Jones, George Walker, George Tolmie. 16 Ron Sandquest, Doug Shearston, Jack Collis, Max Herron. 17 Merv Phipps, Bluey Kerslake, Jack Clayhole, Nev Woodham, Viv Le Mesurier. 18 Les Skein, Eric Hawkins. 19 Lance Gayden, John Hunt, Arthur Luddington. 20 Bob Dixon. 21 Norm McEvoy, Dora Black, Banjo Martin. 22 Kevin Curtin, Clem Cook, BO Hannaford, Jock Russell. 23 Jack Price, Wal Coggan, Ross Saunders. (Taken at Cootamundra Ex-Service-men's Club). You may purchase any of these prints at 40 cents each, by sending your money and order to **PAUL WIGENS, 218 Connells Point Rd., South Hurstville. Phone 546-2165**. Quote the number listed in the bottom left hand corner of the photo. Size of actual photo is 5" x 4".

VALE

TOM CARR, 2/1st. On Thursday, 27th February, 1975, at the Presbyterian Church, St. George, Kingsford, I attended the funeral of the Late **TOM CARR**.

To the church Tom was a regular follower and well liked, as could be seen by a full attendance at the church.

Tom Carr left behind many people who remembered, how through the years, he had endeavoured to assist his fellow man who were unable to assist themselves. Prior to his passing on, he had travelled as far as Brisbane to help someone less fortunate than himself. Even to the last day he had assisted in the washing and nursing of one of his relations.

Tom was one who did not belong to an R.S.L. Club, but when ever mention was made of the war, his friends told me, that he always brought the 2/1 Pioneer Battalion to the fore. After the Middle East, Tobruk and New Guinea he left the Battalion. The next time I heard of him was in January 1946, at Randwick Hospital. I was a patient there and on the first morning, I saw Tom doing his rounds of the hospital, helping those not able to look after themselves. Later on at the now R.G.H. Concord, I again saw Tom doing his best to help the unfortunate ones.

Most Anzac Days, Tom Carr could be seen on the side line during the March, again to help those who required attention, for he was a member of the St. John's Ambulance.

So we say goodbye to another member — Lest We Forget.

NORMAN CURLEY, 2/1, on Sunday, 30th March, passed away after a long illness. Always a cheerful oldie of our Unit and the original Tpt. Sgt. at Greta in 1940. We sympathise with his son, Michael and daughter Maureen, with the loss of their father. **Jack Pearse** attended the service and offered condolences on behalf of the Association and the Rats of Tobruk.

JACK (Mick) DODSON,
President.

SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE

With your subscription, send news of your family and your happenings.

Letters must contain surname, christian name, nickname, platoon, company, Battalion and present address. When forwarding a new address, include your old address.

During a recent strike at Boston's Emerson College — an institution primarily dedicated to speech, broadcasting and the dramatic arts — some students remained in classes while others paced the street below chanting and carrying signs. Not about to take such activity lying down, one annoyed professor interrupted her class to lean out the window and yell to the demonstrators below, "Open those throats! Enunciate! Enunciate!"

WELFARE JOTTINGS

Recently I had the pleasure of having a chat with Jack Ferguson, M.L.A., who is the State member for Merrylands and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the N.S.W. Parliament.

He is the son of the Late Jack Ferguson, who succeeded R.S.M. Jock MacAdam when he received his commission at Greta.

We had quite a discussion about his father and the young fellow really enjoyed every moment, recalling memories and he is most anxious to meet any of his father's friends.

He served in the 9th Division in the Islands, so knows all about Army life.

He sends best wishes to all Pioneers who were associated with his father who at all times spoke so highly of the "wonderful crowd" of which he was very proud.

HERB WILSON of B.H.Q., 2/1 had a spell recently at R.G.H. Concord but is now doing fine.

Herb has been a T.P.I. for sometime now and still resides at Merrylands where he occasionally meets members of the 2/1 Pioneers.

I had a few sessions with him while visiting at Concord Hospital and we had quite a laugh when we recalled the occasion when "Pop Eye" Edwards had half his moustache shaved off. It appears Jim "Pop Eye" Edwards came home one night very drunk and some individual laid him out on his bed, and while he was unconscious, they shaved off half of his moustache.

Next morning, when Jack Armour's band aroused Jim, with their rendition of "Good Morning," Jim, by force of habit, attempted to curl the mo. On feeling only half a mo he thought he was suffering from the D/Ts caused by the previous night's festivities; until looking in the mirror, he suddenly realised what had transpired.

He could not get the other half off quick enough and although he did not say a word, any poor innocent individual who happened to look at him and enquire about the removal of the fungus on his upper lip, was a potential suspect and was immediately given a fatigue.

Of course, many enquiries were made by "Pop Eye" about who was with him on the previous evening, but strange as it may seem, no one could offer any information.

TOM HUGO and his charming wife, Margaret, reside at 58 Sherwood Road, Revesby and on calling on them a few days ago. I was distressed to hear that not one Pioneer had visited them since the last issue of Pioneer News. As a double leg amputee, and confined to the house in a wheel chair is pretty rough, so if you can only spare half an hour to call in for a chat it would really work wonders, and you would be made most welcome.

MRS. DAISY McKEWEN, widow of the late Captain Doug McKewen, has offered her services in organising a Brisbane Reunion.

Her gesture is appreciated, and we do hope the Reunion will eventuate in the near future and will be the forerunner of other Interstate Reunions.

Daisy has always been a keen supporter of our Association and really welcomes the "Pioneer News."

If any of our members are in Brisbane they would be most welcome at 5/14 Avenue, Kedron, to pay their respects which would cheer up Daisy and let her know she is not forgotten.

HARRY MONTAGUE.

ANNUAL WELFARE REPORT

The past twelve months have been very active for this section and the efforts made on behalf of our members to the various Departments have been most successful.

Quite noticeable have been the number of our members, who have retired from work and sought information about aged pensions.

It is surprising to still hear of cases where through incorrect information being given, they had forgone due payments, but on being explained the proper procedure the situation had been resolved.

Before you do anything about applying for a pension please ring me, or interview your local official at the Department's Offices which are in most suburbs.

The Last Post has been sounded on many occasions during the past twelve months and we mourn the passing of our comrades. At many of the funerals representatives from the Association attended to pay final respects.

Visitation to R.G.H. Concord over the past year were down but were well up in the Private - Public hospitals and Convalescent homes, sector.

To call on our members while they are receiving treatment does a tremendous amount of good and really brings joy and happiness when chatting about past times.

Several errands were made to the city on behalf of members who had problems and as a result direct lines of communication were established which proved beneficial to the member concerned.

It has been a great privilege to have served the Association and I do thank the various Departments who have been so understanding and assisted me.

HARRY MONTAGUE,
Welfare Officer - Phone: 76-6657.

VALE

BERKELEY ARCHBOLD, 2/2. Some 2/2nd's will remember the visit of Senior Chaplain Berkeley Archbold to Raven-shoe in 1943 but many more will place him better in recent years as the Methodist Chaplain at R.G.H., Concord, N.S.W. Universally liked, his sudden death in October 1974, is deeply regretted.

Padre Stan Claughton, in paying a tribute to his former colleague, said: "Berkeley Archbold was in every sense a man's man. He was awarded the M.C. at Tobruk and his service with the 2/48 Bn. is legendary. Representing his fellow Chaplains he went with the Australian contingent to the Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. His ability to remain calm and objective under all manner of conditions enabled him to handle many complex situations and to give vital leadership. His life reflected his scholarly disciplined mind and spirit. He is greatly missed.

PIONEER NEWS

Phone: 759-5491

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

Phone: 759-5491

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

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

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

Treasurer:

VIC WHITELEY

Editors: R. LAKE & M. HERRON

President:

J. (Mick) DODSON

Vol. 20, No. 2

1st AUGUST, 1975

Price: 50c Per Annum

RETIREMENT OF DOUG. SHEARSTON

On Friday evening, 16th May, a farewell and presentation dinner for Roma & Doug Shearston, was held at North Sydney Anzac Memorial Club.

Doug has been our Treasurer for approximately 15 years and by keeping a sharp eye on the "faloosh" was largely responsible for our finances being in such a healthy state. The Shearstons are foregoing their city life and building a home at Forster.

The evening was chaired by Bob Dixon (2/2) who volunteered, after being detailed to do the job. Bob's first duty was to read a card from Gordon and Olive Finlay, who were away on holidays in North Queensland. President Mick Dodson made a speech of welcome, then Bob called on Vice-Presidents Max Law and Bill Jollie to speak and propose a toast to Roma and Doug. President Mick presented Doug with a fishing reel and windcheater from the Association, and Peg Herron, secretary of the Ladies Auxiliary, presented Roma with a bowl of flowers. Both Roma and Doug responded and expressed their appreciation of the gifts and best wishes for their future.

At this stage the Master of Ceremonies, Bob Dixon, called on members present to have a few words and immediately Max Herron stood up and spoke in glowing terms of the role Doug had played.

Max stated he was in the "Performing Seals" (Sigs) with Doug and ever since the War both he and Peg had been close friends of Roma and Doug. Max said he had found Doug very easy to work with and although at meetings there would be differences of opinion, they were forgotten once the meeting was over.

Harry Montague then had a few words to say in summing up the evenings proceedings by saying what a pleasure it was to work with a person like Doug.

WIVES AND MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

In attendance with their wives were Bill Jollie, Max Herron, Alan Black, Bob Lake, George Walker, Bob McGregor, Peter O'Brien, Vic Whiteley, Laurie Kelly, accompanied also by his daughter and son-in-law Jennifer and Ray Brennan, Val and Jack Pearce and their charming daughter, Joyce.

Also present - Ray Lester, Max Law, Harry Montague, Bob Burnside, Bob Dixon and Mick Dodson.

A vote of thanks accorded to Frank Dynon for arranging accommodation for the evening finalised a successful and enjoyable time.

VIC WHITELEY.

VALE - JACK LLOYD

Friday, 2nd May, 1975, at the Margaret Mary Church, North Randwick, a Requiem Mass for the repose of the soul of our above late member was celebrated. After the Mass, the funeral proceeded to the Waverley Cemetery, where relations and friends (including 12 members of the 2/1-2/2 Pioneer Association), paid a last farewell to our friend, Jack Lloyd.

Harry Nies, Honorary Secretary of the Coogee-Randwick R.S.L., conducted the R.S.L. side of the service and paid tribute to Jack as a club member prior to his death, also how proud he was to have been a member of the 2/1 Pioneers and a Rat of Tobruk.

For years a member of the Committee of the Association, Jack was the marshall for the 2/1 Pioneer Battalion and proudly carried out the job to perfection. Another duty on Anzac Day was, with Gordon Finlay, to escort the late Col. Normie (Nugget) Neal to the Castlereagh Hotel in the afternoon for his usual inspection of the "boys."

Mary Lloyd, his wife, is well-known to the Association as a member of our Ladies Auxiliary. On behalf of the 2/1-2/2 Pioneer Association, we extend our deepest sympathy to Mary and her family in their sad loss.

Members who attended the service and funeral were Gordon Osborn, Steve Clarke, John Morahan, Cyril Morahan, Kevin Morahan, Norm Lloyd (brother), Bert Moore, Bill Robertson, Don Lawson, Doug Shearston, Mick Dodson, Max Herron and his wife, Peg.

At the Committee meeting on Friday, 28th June all members paid homage to Jack, who had been a staunch Committee member for many years.

A letter was read by the Secretary from Jack's wife Mary, in which she thanked the many members of 2/1 and 2/2 who had attended the funeral and had sent along sympathy cards. She also thanked the Executive for the beautiful flowers they had sent to her home.

Mary said she had sent cards to all Pioneers she could, but stated there was a chance she may have overlooked someone, so she now thanks one and all for their kind expressions of sympathy.

"Lest We Forget."

JACK (Mick) DODSON, President.

PETER O'BRIEN (2/1) RETIRES

"Smilin' Pete" they called him. An apt description. But the smile came hard in recent years when serious illness dogged his footsteps and culminated in an emergency operation, the success of which he regarded as miraculous.

Like some of the boxers he loved to watch in the old Sydney Stadium, Peter staggered to his feet once again. Despite some serious after-effects he is good for a few more rounds yet and the smile is still there because it is the badge of a philosophical outlook firmly based on his religious beliefs and practices.

Peter O'Brien got into the grain handling business through the Sydney Terminal back in December, 1930. He stayed at the Terminal, working in various positions until he joined the 2/1 Pioneer Battalion, A.I.F. in World War II.

Back at the Terminal after returning from active service he rose to the rank of Assistant Operator-in-Charge. But the pressure in that position, with frequent long terms of overtime, took its toll and when Peter's health began to suffer

he was transferred to Head Office, where his experience, clerical skill and keen sense of responsibility gained him the position of Deputy to the Wheat Officer. It was from this position that he retired - a little prematurely - on November 1, 1973, at the age of 64. In all he had served for a total of 43 years.

To say that Pete's retirement left a gap would be the understatement of the decade. He was irreplaceable. Someone may come forward in time to match his work performance, but his personality was unique. There'll never be another "P. J. O'B".

All his friends at the Grain Elevators Board take this opportunity of wishing him, and his wife Roma, many years of improved health and happiness in their well-earned years of retirement.

Editor's Note—The above article was taken from a journal which was given to us and we join in with Peter's workmates in wishing him every happiness in the future. Peter, who was in Don Coy., 2/1, has been a staunch Committee member for many years.

2/1 - 2/2 ANZAC ACTIVITIES - 1975

ANNUAL WREATH LAYING

Despite the rainy conditions that prevailed on Anzac Eve in the City, it did not in any way dampen the enthusiasm of about forty of our members in their March to the Cenotaph for our wreath laying ceremony.

Max Law was the Marshal on this occasion and carried out his duties very efficiently. On being halted at the Cenotaph, Doug Shearston laid the wreath on behalf of the 2/1, followed by Bob Dixon for the 2/2 and Mrs. Roma Shearston for the Ladies Auxiliary.

The Ode was then recited by our President, Mick Dodson, after which Aub Brazier sounded the "Last Post," followed by Reveille. Thank you Aub. for your continued attendance at our functions.

The group then marched off and proceeded to the Castlereagh for the Annual Meeting.

"We Will Remember Them."

Annual General Meeting

Following the Wreath Laying ceremony quite a gathering were at the Castlereagh for the Annual Meeting, where refreshments were provided by the Association and much appreciated on such a drab evening.

MICK DODSON, CHAIRMAN

The Chairman, Mick Dodson, in opening the meeting, welcomed all present and thanked them for the great interest taken during the previous 12 months. He gave an account of the activities over that period and particularly thanked the Executive and Committee who had been busy on our behalf keeping our Association together and as strong as ever. His greatest regret was reporting since the last Annual Meeting, the passing of twenty six of our old comrades and how on each occasion, where notified, our deepest respects and sympathy had been passed on to next of kin. He then requested that all stand for two minutes' silence, followed by the traditional Ode.

MAX HERRON, SECRETARY

Our Secretary, Max Herron, then outlined the general correspondence since last year and he has certainly been kept very busy. There is an old saying that any organisation is only as strong as its secretary and we certainly appreciate the work Max puts into the Association.

One item which was carried unanimously was a request for a donation by the 7th Div. Council Appeal for the erection of a War Memorial School in the village of Situm, New Guinea. An amount of \$10.00 was forwarded as our contribution.

DOUG SHEARSTON, TREASURER

Treasurer, Doug Shearston, then introduced the balance sheets which really were most healthy and comprehensive. These had been audited by Arthur Watson and distributed to members for inspection. They were then received and adopted unanimously by all present. Doug then announced that this would be his last term as treasurer, as he was retiring from business and moving to Forster in the immediate future. Many expressions of thanks came from all members and he will certainly be missed after so many years of loyal service.

REPORTS FROM MEMBERS

A telegram was read from Pat Laughren of Nambour, Qld., wishing a great reunion to all and best wishes. (He still thinks "C" Coy. was the best in the Battalion). Good wishes were also tendered by the Brisbane Pioneers, Charlie Kerr from Maryborough, who could not make it this time, and all the Tweed Head members. These were received with acclamation. An account was given of the Brisbane Pioneers get-together which was held at Bribie Island.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP BESTOWED

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of Life Membership to both Max Herron and Doug Shearston, for their outstanding services to this Association over many years. In thanking these great fellows for the work they had done for us, Mick Dodson emphasised most strongly the many months of continuous hard work both had given most freely at all times and their untiring efforts which had been instrumental in making our Association one of the foremost, strongest and respected organisations.

TRIBUTES FROM MEMBERS

Many tributes were paid by quite a number of members, which certainly conveyed the confidence and admiration these two had merited. Don Lawson and Bob Dixon also offered their congratulations and best wishes on behalf of the 2/2nd.

In responding, our Secretary and Treasurer thanked everyone concerned for the honour bestowed upon them and said they keenly appreciated the confidence that had been placed in them. Both had only carried out their jobs to the best of their ability and would continue to do so.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The President then declared all positions vacant and Max Law was asked to take the chair to conduct the Election of Officers, which he did in a very capable manner.

The results were:

Patrons: Gordon Osborn, George Patterson, Rev. Stan Claughton.

President: Mick Dodson.

Vice-Presidents: Bill Jollie, Bill Hoffman, Bob Dixon, Max Law, Jack Bertram

Secretary: Max Herron.

Treasurer: Vic. Whiteley.

Social Secretary: Bob McGregor.

Welfare Officers: Harry Montague and Jack Collis.

Publicity Officer: Gordon Finlay.

Trustees: Frank Allen, Tom Crossman.

Master At Arms: Bob Lake.

Editors: Max Herron and Bob Lake.

Reporters: 2/1 Gordon Finlay; 2/2 Bob Dixon.

Committee: Additional to the Committee: George Tolmie, Brian Jackson, Nev Woodham.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Don Lawson, 2/2, spoke in glowing terms of praise to those responsible for the publication of our newspaper, which was greatly appreciated by all readers. The news of old comrades, items of general interest and information it contains had really made it one of the best Unit newspapers.

REV. STAN CLAUGHTON, PATRON

Rev. Stan Claughton, who was the Padre with the 2/2, could not be present with us this evening through ill health. Although Padre had retired from active ministry, he still conducts our yearly Remembrance Service at his home at Pennant Hills. He and his good wife, Jean, make all very welcome and a vote of thanks was accorded them for the work they have done, and are doing, for members of our Association.

THANKS TO WELFARE OFFICERS

To our Welfare Officers many thanks were extended for the job they are doing attending to our sick and those in need of assistance, and members were loud in their praises. "Monty" had covered many miles around Concord this year on his weekly visits and they had certainly been appreciated by all those who had been on his visiting list.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the President thanked all for their attendance and hoped they would be "on deck" for the following day.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Gentlemen, tonight brings to an end a year since my last report. This report begins more on a sadder note than usual. In that our ranks have been reduced considerably by the passing of twenty eight 2/1 and several 2/2 Pioneers and this number could be greater for we may have missed some names.

Colonel Normie Neal, "Sailor" Witham, "Bluey" Chase, Tom Carr, Jack Tattam and "Stumpy" Curtin were all at our last reunion. - "Lest We Forget."

Many members have been in hospital or are suffering illness laid up at home, many have retired, which goes to show that we must be getting old. This leads us gentlemen, to the point I am getting at, because we are getting older, do not let us drift away from each other, let us keep closer and turn up in force to our annual reunion. It is on these days we all enjoy seeing and yarning with each other.

The executive and committee have my thanks for the work they have carried out during the year and the way they help to make our reunion a successful day. You may have noticed I said helpful, but it does not matter how hard the committee work, we must have you gentlemen to turn up in force to carry out the good work the committee have already commenced.

Max Herron, our hard working Secretary, is one who really has his heart in the Association. Besides making arrangements for meetings, etc., the phone at Max's home is continually ringing with members seeking enquiries and giving Max information regarding the Association. Many thanks for a good job well carried out.

Now to the Treasurer - on the financial side, despite big increases in the cost of food for our Anzac Day reunion and the cost of printing the "Pioneer News," our balance sheet still shows a substantial amount to our credit. This all boils down to the good work our Treasurer does to keep our bank balance in such a pleasing state. To Doug Shearston, I feel sure I can express, on behalf of the Association many thanks for the fine effort you have performed over the

years. Doug has indicated to us that he will be retiring and moving to Forster in the next few months, which means we will be looking for a new Treasurer. Whoever the next Treasurer, I feel sure he will know in his own mind, he will be kept busy keeping up to the standard of Doug Shearston. On the other hand, he knows he can be assured that before Doug leaves he will be giving all the advice possible to the new office bearer.

Many thanks Doug Shearston, a long and happy retirement to you and your wife, Roma.

Many thanks also to all members who made donations to help the Treasurer keep the funds healthy in the Association account.

The 'Pioneer News' is still the best Unit newspaper. Congratulations to the Editors, Max Herron and Bob Lake and the printers, Vaughan Douglas, for making the 'Pioneer News' such a great Unit newspaper. Of course the editors could not operate without the reporters, Gordon Finlay, Harry Montague, Don Lawson and Bob Dixon, with their reports of activities of the members from both the 2/1 and 2/1 Pioneer units. While all work as a team the 'Pioneer News' will continue to be the top Unit newspaper.

The wrapping of the 'Pioneer News' still carries on at Max and Peg Herron's home, with an excellent supper to follow. Once again we have to express appreciation to Max and Peg for making their home available and for providing the supper afterwards. Many thanks to those people who assisted throughout the year with the paper wrapping. Over the last couple of years we have lost several of the supporters who helped in this paper wrapping. This gentlemen, leaves an opportunity for you to assist in the wrapping - you can bring your wife. If interested please contact Max Herron. It is only three times a year and you can be assured of being made most welcome.

Our Welfare Officer, Harry Montague, R.G.H. and local hospitals and Jack Collis, Central Coast, have been kept busy this last year with a long list of members ill in hospital. One can be assured that with any questions regarding pension problems, Harry and Jack can come up with the answers. There is nothing but praise from the sick members for the work that Harry and Jack are doing. Good jog, boys.

Social Secretary, Bob McGregor, we have not seen much of during the year due to his stay in the R.G.H., Concord. Despite his illness and being away on holidays, Bob made sure all arrangements were in hand for this Anzac Day reunion.

One achievement of the year was the Funeral Committee. This was a brain child of Max Herron and a very good one indeed. The idea is that a representative of the Association attends whenever possible the funeral of our late member. This has been managed in a lot of cases but some we have not heard about till months later. In the Newcastle area we have two good stalwarts in Jack Griffiths and Dick Seddon, who keep a check and attend the funerals in that area. Keep up the good work.

That, gentlemen, is my report for 1975. I sincerely hope that we are all together to hear the next report in 1976. Thank you all for hearing me out this evening.

JACK (MICK) DODSON, President.

Anzac Day March

Although the weather conditions were anything but pleasant for this year's March, it really was very encouraging to see so many of our old Battalion gathered at the respective moving off point. It was good to see so many on parade, considering ours, like all other Units, are starting to thin out.

On forming up, the contingent was headed by Gordon Osborn and moved off smartly, behind our 2/1 banner. We were fortunate this year in having a band nearby, thanks to Bill Jollie, and marching did not seem such an effort.

On arrival at Hyde Park, we joined in the traditional Anzac Service to our fallen comrades who had paid the Supreme Sacrifice. Like all present, we were honoured to represent our Association on such an occasion.

HARRY MONTAGUE.

ANZAC DAY JOTTINGS

● H.Q. Coy. seemed to get away to a very good start, as Ken Stuart gathered them all at one table for a time. Big Bob Scott, Johnny Bowers, "Banjo" Martin, Nobby Felton (his first roll up), Dick Scholes, Norm McEvoy, Bob Lake, Brian Jackson (now living in Sydney), Joey Bird's son, Terry (thanks for the job you did behind the bar), Allan Black, Jack Green, Jack Clarke and Cec Blanch (down from Kyogle), Jack Pearce, Albert Brown, Laurie Kelly, Arthur Murphy.

● Some of B. Coy. boys had one corner of the bar propped up - Ivan Pepper, Noel Trefoni, Russ Monahan and Ken McGregor were the only names I was able to collect.

● A. Coy had a good roll up and they were all pretty well known to me. Bruce Smith, Henry Allan, Norm Cooper, Jimmy Trotter, Mick Dodson and Nev. Woodham were in one group, with Bruce Smith looking his usual dapper self. Time is catching up on most of us, however.

● Eric Guthrie, Bill Arthur, Lance Gayden, Mick Flynn (first time for years and good to see you), Ray Horne (almost another stranger), had possession of a table.

● Fred Davenport came down from Queensland again and had a position on the stairs with Monty. Another old-timer was Don Slater, good to see you, Don.

● Frank Gillian, Mick Dwyer, Dick Blakeney, Brian Kybert and big Mick Basket (up from Moruya) had their own little reunion going. Bert Holmes and Max Law were another pair who had a lot to say to one another.

● One more old-timer from A. Coy. was Bill Gordon. Nearly missed you, Bill.

● Newcastle had their own contingent down, Dick Seddon, "Glido" Griffiths, Jack Bertram, Larry Robson and Jock Russell.

● Another from distant fields was Bill Simpson, old C. Coy. boy, who was teamed up with Bill Doney and Arch McIntosh.

● Max Herron and his big Pommy mate, Ron Sandquest, ex Royal Navy, were everywhere. It's good to have someone just a bit younger to help around.

● Don Coy. had their own table also. Steve Clarke and Gordon Osborn had with them George Walker, Bert Moore, Peter O'Brien, Sid Percival, "Bimbo" Bell, George Tolmie, Ray Hill, Eric Reynolds, Jim Gray, Peter Craig, Bill

Hodges and Bluey Jones, George Walker, "Shrewdie" Percival, Ken Oliver, Perc Fisk.

● For the information of B. Coy. boys, I was down in West Wyalong during March and went into see John Douglas for a couple of minutes and came out two hours later. John is well and sends his regards to all.

● I don't know if this crowd were a get-together of stretcher bearers or of one company, but Jack Collis, Roy Bounds, Ted Jensen and Ron Callegan had a position at the bar.

● "Doc" Brown, Laurie (3-Course) Kelly and Arthur Murphy were another trio spending a lot of time talking.

● A very late visitor was old B. Coy. boy, Ray Lester. He has lost quite a lot of weight too.

● Harry Bentley was there also, with a private message for his wife. He WAS there!

● Let's not forget the two girls behind the bar, Lois and Sandra, who did such a good job for us all.

● Big Bo Hannaford seems to be getting bigger all the time and was with Sammy Lewis, Dick Chalmers, Jack Claypole and Bill Wright.

● Major Bill Robertson, although with the 2/2 for the March, spent a lot of time with some old C. Coy. boys. Also Jimmy Drummond who ended up and marched with the 2/2, did some time with old B. Coy, 2/1.

● Ian Kirkwood was up from the South Coast again and gathered some old B. Coy fellas around him, Scotty Burns, Bluey Miller, Eric Appleton and Roger Twyford.

● Ted Skoyles was also up from Mittagong, but left early with Ron Sinclair.

● Bob Burnside was there from Sig. Platoon, H.Q. Coy., along with Pat Noonan and Arthur "Sooty" White.

● Also noticed on my rounds Ted and Sid Vaughan, also Jack Copeland.

● Another very popular visitor was Matt Hession, from Corp. Sigs. Matt is treasurer of the Rats of Tobruk Association and I think he was after business.

GORDON FINLAY.

NEWS ITEMS

● George Creasy, A. Coy, 2/1, apologised to Monty for his non-attendance at our last reunion, through ill health, but sent along a generous donation to funds and mentions how thrilled he is to receive the "News" regularly. George spent some time in Concord where he was visited by Monty. He is T.P.I. now and living in Firth Street, Portland, where he would be happy to receive any Pioneers passing through that district.

● Fred "Snowy" Baker, A. Coy, 2/1, also per Monty, passed on apologies for not being able to attend the Anzac Day reunion due to ill health. Fred has also just been discharged from Concord and still not 100 per cent. His best wishes are conveyed to all for the "big day" and many thanks Snow, for the donation to the "Pioneer News." If any Pioneers are ever in the vicinity of 26 Edgeware Road, Enmore, Fred and his wife would be most happy to see them.

2/2nd ANZAC DAY NEWS

In the past I have always commenced my news of the day by stating how quickly the year rolls round from one Anzac Day to the next. This time - to be different - and in keeping with our past event, I make this statement - bring on the next Anzac Day as smartly as you like.

The wreath laying ceremony, as is usual, was held in conjunction with the 2/1 Pioneers. Our good ladies also attended, although this year down in numbers. We marched to the Cenotaph where we quietly placed the respective wreaths of the 2/2, 2/1 and Ladies Auxiliary to the words of the Ode, and the strident voice of the bugle, remembering comrades of our two units who had passed on - "We will Remember Them."

BANNER CARRIED BY JIM FIELD

The 2/2 banner was carried the short distance by Jim Field, on Thursday night and we were grateful that he could be there as his health is not the best these days. Thanks, Jim it was good to have you with us.

The Annual Meeting of the combined Units was held at the Castlereagh Hotel and Don Lawson, Jim Field and myself were present on behalf of the 2/2nds. Officers were elected and business carried out in very workmanship manner, helped along with a few beers, biscuits and cheese. This meeting had three points of business which I, from the 2/2, would like to elaborate on.

Firstly, our Secretary, Max Herron, was made a Life Member of the Association and I would like to say, on behalf of the 2/2, congratulations Max, you have certainly earned it. Secondly, and this was a real surprise, Doug Shearston, after many years of holding the office of Treasurer, retired from that position and to his amazement was also made a Life Member of the Association. Congratulations to you also, Doug, and may your retirement in Forster be a joyful and restful one for you and your wife.

Thirdly, but by no means last, Padre Stan Claughton was elected one of our Patrons. This I think was a very fitting office to bestow on our Padre, who is ever mindful of our Association and all its members.

2/2 ANZAC DAY MARCH

Came Anzac Day - rain and wind - yours truly battled his way to the starting point armed with rain coat, umbrella receipt book, cash bag and the Unit banner. A camp spot was found, only to be chased out and directed to another one. This spot became somewhat busy with lost and straying 2/1 Pioneers, but over a period of time things straightened out. Again, as is usual, the 2/2 boys gathered slowly. Dues were received, and receipts given, and it is at this point I must mention Arch Stanton. Arch became my second set of hands. Working as one man with four hands, we issued receipts and took fees in spite of the blustering wind Reg Armstrong helped here also by relieving me of my umbrella. Thanks Reg.

In spite of the weather, the roll-up

was fair. "Robbie" took charge and with Bill Nicholls carrying the banner the 2/2 took off. It soon became apparent that a few sherbits and a high strong wind was putting Bill into trouble banner-wise. To relieve the pressure, Bill put the banner pole over his shoulder, and joyfully wended his way down the street. The crowd ahead would not have had a clue "who" we were, but we knew - we had a first class view of our own banner. However, we soon corrected this small error and Bill carried on to about the half-way mark. Here brother George took over and finished the last half. Top marks and many thanks to the Nicholls boys - don't know what we'd do without them! Had the pleasure of seeing that bouncy marcher, a latecomer by the way, Jimmy Germ do his stuff. So we marched to the finish and then to the Castlereagh and a good hot meal.

As is usual with this type of gathering it takes a little while to get under way, but the groups soon formed, the drop that cheers started to circulate and the old battles and events of long ago were re-fought once again.

GOOD TO SEE THE TWO BANNERS TOGETHER

It would be impossible to mention the names of all present as contact cannot be made with all persons, due to movement and so one, but I have not purposely omitted any name. I mention again at this point, as I always do every year, and as others have mentioned to me, how perfectly suited the two Unit banners looked at the head of the stairs and how stirring the sight. A large group comprised Bob Lee, Arch Stanton, Jimmy Germ, Bluey Locane, Don Lawson, Reg Armstrong, Jim Drummond and Mick Egan and they seemed to have quite a lot to yak about. While hovering about this group the following matters were asked to be made public.

Firstly, where was George Paracos, and why wasn't he on parade? Secondly, a certain Bill Nicholls claimed that George was not on parade because he squibbed a bout of on-guard - off-guard with him. So he challenges George next year to the same bout, with Bluey Locane and Paddy Collins as joint referees. If you want to keep that good name George, you had better be on the line next year.

C Coy. boys want to know where that ageless Paddy Collins was this year. You were noticeable by your absence, Paddy and we order you to be in attendance Anzac Day, 1976.

Good to see Bill "Robbie" Robertson this year - wasn't too good last year, I believe, but back and in good form this time. He was part of a group consisting of Bert Beasley, Arthur Stafford, Alf Ballard, with Jack Henderson waffling about in the background from time to time. Bluey Locane would like to contact Vince Digges of Coonamble, Harry Sullivan of Bourke and "Podge" Sullivan of West Dubbo, via the "Pioneer News," if possible. How about it you fellows, just a line to let the old Blue know how and what.

So the time passed quickly and in company with Bluey Locane, Jimmy

Germ, Reg Armstrong, I left this gathering of valiant ex-warriors to wend our way to Bankstown, calling in at the Big Wheel on the way to replenish our thirst. We dropped Blue off at the station and Reg and I were guests of the famous Germ for a short period at Bankstown R.S.L., meeting the original one and only "Clackers" Clark. Then home, with another good Anzac Day behind us.

See you all next year, fellas - God willing.

BOB DIXON.

VALE — TOM KEARNEY

Major Bill Robertson, 2/2, and I represented the Association at the funeral of the late Tom (Darkie) Kearney, Sgt. D. Coy, 2/2, early in May. His passing was very sudden after discharge from hospital from a heart attack.

After the service, both Bill and I paid our respects and sincere sympathy to the relatives on behalf of the Association.

HARRY MONTAGUE.

FAREWELL JIM DRUMMOND

Friday, 9th May, 1975 at Northern Suburbs Crematorium, members Bill Robertson, Bill Holmes, Don Linton, Mick Egan, Harry Montague and Jack (Mick) Dodson of the 2/1 and 2/2 Pioneer Battalions gathered together with Wilma and family and a large number of friends, to pay final tribute to our departed comrade.

Jim was born in Scotland and came to Australia at a very early age.

At the outbreak of war he enlisted in the A.I.F. and was an original member of the 2/1 Pioneer Battalion, serving in the Middle East and the siege of Tobruk.

On returning to Australia in 1942 he was seconded to the 2/2 Pioneer Battalion, at that time in the process of reforming and refitting after Java.

He was an excellent soldier and instructor and his efforts during the reforming and training of the new 2/2 Pioneers earned him his commission as a Lieutenant.

His service to the Battalion in the Markham and Ramu Valley campaigns including the historic march, Tsilla Tsilla to Nadzab and the capture of Nadzab aerodrome and the subsequent campaigns the invasion and capture of Tarakan and Balikpapan was outstanding.

Returning to Australia he joined the C.M.F. and rose to the rank of Major, a fine achievement.

For some years Jim did not enjoy the best of health. His fighting spirit enabled him to fight back successfully and march with us on Anzac Day.

Within two short weeks he suffered a stroke and answered the Last Roll Call.

He was a man of humour, compassion and understanding.

In passing our way he enriched the lives of us all.

To Wilma and family, on behalf of all 2/1 and 2/2 Pioneers, we extend our deep and sincere sympathy.

Lest we forget - Vale Jim Drummond.
BILL ROBERTSON (Robbie).

NORTH COAST NEWS

Once again Anzac Day has passed and sad to say some old faces missing - "Lest We Forget" - but then again a few new faces turning up to march with pride behind their respective banners.

● Since my last insert, a change of territory for some six months. I now have the North Coast back in my lap. I've not seen too many Pioneers, but hope to rectify this soon. Spoke to Alex Durie, Coffs Harbour, for a few minutes and he couldn't make it this year as he is tied up with the local show which falls on Anzac Day. He sends his regards to all. Missed Bluey Eather and Tom Hodge, but will try and catch up with them next time. Called to see Sid Jopson at Port Macquarie, where he is now retired, but was informed that he had had a serious attack that morning and was in hospital. Latest reports are that he is on the mend, once again. Hope Fred Wheaton received the note I sent him re this.

● The country boys who travelled to the "big smoke" for the Annual Meeting and March from Newcastle - Jack Bertram, Dick Seddon, Jack Griffiths, Jock Russell, Ivan Pepper, Mick Flynn and myself, really enjoyed the day and hope to be there next year. From further afield Mick Basket, Ted Vaughan, of Casino, Fred Davenport from Queensland, Ted Skoyles of Mittagong (never seems to get any older), Jack Collis and Bluey Miller (billy boy for 9 Platoon, in N.G. and a better brew maker than our Company cook ever made), from Umina.

● A. Coy. seem to be turning up in force these days - Mick Flynn, Don Slater, "Shakey" Bill Arthur, George Bates, Lance Gayden, Arthur Luddington, Sid and Ted Vaughan, Fred Davenport, Gerry Collins, that little noisy bloke and mate of Bluey Eather, Jimmy Potter, our last O.C., John Morahan, Mick Basket, Bert Holmes, and the quietest bloke of all (Frank Gillian), who wanted to know where "Paunchy" George was, as according to the last news he would be in attendance. Watch him Alec, he's fading away to a mountain. Frank said he called to see you at Christmas, but you were away fishing at Ballina. Jimmy Potter said that Joe Blanch from Beaudesert would be coming, but guess he was delayed. You can't blame the M.P.'s this time, Joe.

● Contacted Jack Taylor of Quirindi recently. Jack had intended coming, but his daughter arrived from out of town and Jack got the message. Said he spent the day at Quirindi R.S.L. where he met up with Ern Smallwood, who after 30 years had decided to join the R.S.L. Never did like rushing things. Also Albert Brown. Ern is with the Water Irrigation people and at present working at Millers Creek. The licensee of the Federal Hotel, Quirindi, where Ern spends his town hours, said he's well and looking after himself.

● Jean Bertram spent Anzac Day in hospital but now out and well again. Bob Juleff and his wife are well, keeping young Bob busy at the R.S.L., Cardiff. Tom Wallace was unable to attend as he was working and no doubt this applies to Daryl (Bluey) Reed, RAP.

● That remind me. Jeff Braye didn't turn up, have you finished reading the

papers I loaned you, Jeff, and would like them back please? Think Max Law mentioned something about Balikpapan. Had an hour or so with Ern Thompson, A. Coy., he look well. Must be that sea-side air and bowls.

● Fred Davenport passed on the news that the Brisbane boys are organising a get-together sometime in September. Why not make it the long week-end N.S.W. have in October and we could come up. Will contact Johnny Hunt re this.

● Finally from all our country and interstate members, on their behalf, I would say congratulations for the work they are doing and have done to two of our members who, at the Annual General Meeting, were made Life Members of our Pioneer Association. The members of these two areas realise perhaps more so than our city members the tremendous work they do, for it is through them we are able to contact and keep in contact with old comrades-in-arms and have an Association which is fruitful and financial.

To Doug Shearston and his good wife in their retirement at Forster, we say thank you and good wishes, to Max and Peg Herron (who still have to work), thank you for what you have done and are continuing to do for our Association.

● Let us get behind our new Treasurer, Vic. Whiteley, as we did with Doug, and keep our Association financial. I can say it and I'm not the Treasurer - how about hitting the can fellows, tomorrow may be too late. The "Pioneer News" cost money.

I'm getting in first Lakey - so from the North Coast, Yo-Yo and Cheerio.

Best regards.

LARRY ROBSON.

VIC WHITELEY - TREASURER

At the Annual Meeting, Vic Whiteley was elected Treasurer in place of our retiring Treasurer, Doug. Shearston.

Vic is not new to the Committee, as he was on the Committee for many years up to 1968.

Vic was also Treasurer of the Rats of Tobruk Association for seven years and has worked with the Penshurst R.S.L. Youth Club, supervising Baseball teams for the past 14 years.

He has been a member of the St. George Junior Baseball Association for 10 years and was awarded Life Membership this year.

Vic. works in the Darling Harbour Motor Garage, Dept. of Railways, since discharge from the Army. He has recently retired from the C.M.F. Railway Group of which he was a member for 14 years. Vic's latest interest is his first grandchild - a baby girl named Dylane.

We welcome our new Treasurer to the Executive and do thank him for taking on the task.

MAX HERRON, Editor.

THE "SCRAP IRON" FLOTILLA

Following enquiries received in reference to those famous ships which were on the "Spud Run" to Tobruk, the following information is forthcoming:

H.M.A.S. Waterhen - Sunk by aircraft whilst serving as a Tobruk ferry, 30/6/41. H.M.A.S. Vampire, sunk by aircraft in the Bay of Bengal, 9/4/1941. H.M.A.S. Voyager, sunk off Timor 23/9/1941. H.M.A.S. Vendetta, scuttled outside the Heads after cessation of hostilities. The same fate was suffered by H.M.A.S. Stuart.

HARRY MONTAGUE.

NEWS ITEMS FROM H. MONTAGUE

● It is with the greatest of happiness that this Association extends our sincere congratulations to our original M.O. of the 2/1st, Stan Goulston, M.C., on his appointment as President of the Royal Australian College of Physicians.

● Whilst doing the rounds recently at the Concord Repatriation Hospital, met up again with Alf Carter, who was receiving medical attention there. This was indeed a thrill to meet our old cobbler again, and we did have a joyous old chat. He certainly has had a very bad trot over a long period with his health and although he is anything but well and indeed much thinner, nevertheless his well known cheerfulness is just the same. Alf was absolutely pleased at the calls and sincerely requests that all best wishes and truest regards be extended to all old Pioneers.

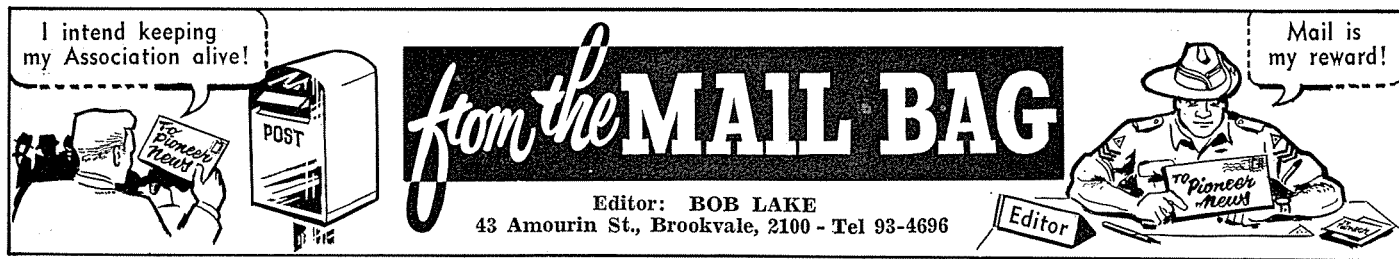
● Ron Macfarlane, Sigs 2/1, was in a pretty bad way at St. Vincent's Hospital, Sydney for quite a while, but always appreciated sincerely the visits I made on behalf of the Association which cheered him up tremendously, and he too, tendered his thanks for the calls and chatting over old times,

● Recently while doing the rounds at the Repat. Hospital at Concord, I met up again with Bob Gratton, who joined at Greta and was in D. Coy. It was a pleasure to meet up with the old timer again and his best wishes are passed on to all. Another old original of 2/1 was Fred "Snowy" Baker of A. Coy., who was with us at Silver City. Many battles were won and lost in the ensuing conversations and many memories shared.

● John Hunt, A. Coy, 2/1, sends an invitation to all members to a Barbecue Evening he and his wife are arranging at their residence in Chermiside, near Brisbane, in September. Accommodation can be arranged and details will be available at a later date. In accepting this generous offer, on behalf of the Association, we sincerely appreciate such an offer and do hope some of our members will be able to attend.

LAST POST

NX 156071 Pte. D. H. T. Brown, 2/1.
NX 45435 WOII C. S. Cooper, 2/1.
NX 18714 Pte. N. Pittman, 2/1.
Lest we Forget.



One more Anzac Day behind us, a wonderful day was enjoyed by all that attended both the March and at the Reunion afterwards at the Castlereagh. As usual many acquaintances were renewed some for the first time and many as usual from the previous day twelve months ago. With Anzac Day past, so we continue with another issue of the paper giving all the doings of the big day and to acknowledge the mail received over the previous few months.

BOB GALES, 2/1, now at Toukley, N.S.W., sends a letter apologising for his absence on Anzac Day however, Bob was at Lidcombe, where he attended the Dawn service, then retired home to bed, as this was the first day he had missed for many years, and he hopes that he has not upset Nobby Smith and Doug Watson by his non-attendance. On the 23rd May, Bob and his wife are off to Penang to visit his daughter and son-in-law, who is a member of the R.A.A.F. stationed at Butterworth. On the return trip they have a couple of days at Singapore, where he has lined up a tour and so should spend quite an enjoyable short holiday. Bob also enclosed a cheque to the treasurer who has taken complete charge of same. Thanks for the letter, Bob and hope you had a good trip.

MRS. MARY PROSSER, on behalf of hubby Bill, sends a cheque to the treasurer and the information that Bill hasn't written a letter in the 32 years of their marriage, so Mary offers the following information. They have four children, three married and the younger going for her fourth certificate as a Nursing Sister at St. Vincent's Hospital. She is in the Heart and Lung ward and strikes quite a few boys from Concord when they attend for treatment. Bill has been retired for three years, has his good and bad days and occupies his active time with his garden and his leisure time making and enjoying his own home brew. Mary is also the sister of the late **Roger Coogan**, ex-member of our battalion and association. Many thanks for the letter, Mary and our best wishes to you both out there at Campbelltown.

DOUG WATSON, 2/1, now resident at Bellambi on the South Coast of N.S.W., per media of his daughter, Barbara, apologises for his absence at the March on Anzac Day, health being the major problem, however, Barbara assures that he was present in spirit, his first miss since the war ended, which is quite a good record. Doug was able to attend the Dawn Service at Corrimall, so participated as well as lots of mates down on the Coast. Many thanks for the letter, Doug and Barbara, and the sub is in the treasurer's hot little hand.

SNOW MORRIS, 2/1, and now with a new residence at Gleanlea, Dungog, on

the North Coast slopes, sends the best wishes to all, his appreciation of the paper we produce and a cheque to the treasurer, but not much else, how about letting us know old mate, what is Glenlea, a sheep station, a timber mill or a nice country residence, housing a nice country bloke, never know we all might like a country holiday sometime! You might also might make some enquiries as to one **Mark Monaghan**, ex 2/1 transport driver with us on the tablelands. Cheque to treasurer doing its thing.

STEVE SNOW, 2/2, and now resident at Arncliffe, N.S.W., sends a short note apologising for lack of news, explaining that apart from **Mick Egan**, has not had any contact with any of the boys for some time, occasionally strikes Mick in Bexley, however Steve wishes everyone the best for the future and cheque to treasurer noted and accepted with thanks.

GORDON WALSH, 2/1, resident of Ryde and great asset in the times gone by to many of our fellows who have had to do dealings with Repat., sends a letter with subs, and the news that retirement is good for the soul, for those that did not know Gordon was retired from the Repat. where for all his happy smiles and good cheer, had spent some considerable time with a very bad back condition that never improved with age. Can assure you Gordon, "I miss that pleasant hour at the Tooheys, over the corner, when I attend Repat. now-a-days. Gordon reckons the photos in the paper a good idea but claims we made two mistakes, can't argue with you mate, as have not got a copy to check, but don't forget most of the blokes have changed considerably over the past thirty years. Gordon will have been north by the time this paper is printed, he was heading for Casino, where he hoped to contact **Joe Leis** and **Ted Vaughan**. Had ideas of Kyogle, not sure, but Evans Head was a specialty. One thing sure Pioneers are not hard to find on the North Coast of N.S.W. Gordon does see quite a bit of **Vince Christenson**, **Tom Sleeman**, **Snow Jardine** and **Nev Schafer**, apparently all around the Ryde area and add; that both Tom and Nev have leg problems. Nev already having had one operation on the hips and could possibly have to have another, but adds that they still manage to battle along. Many thanks for the letter, Gordon good to hear from you and might add that here is one youngy thats got his eye on that retirement bit as soon as it comes along.

FRED CALLAWAY, 2/1, now at Wahroonga and secretary to the Association prior to **Max Herron** (that makes it a long time ago), sends a cheque and a letter of good wishes. Fred has a job at the Opera House, I'd assume in the administration side, where he has to attend many functions which in turn tie him down over many and long hours,

however, he quotes that this situation is now easing a little and he hopes to have more time to be able to join us in the activities of the Association. To those who do not know, Fred was re-elected to the Committee at the first Annual Meeting for the first time in many years. With his wife, Aileen, they are embarking on a trip through some of the Asian countries in June and they have both been very busy with injections, vaccinations, etc., he quotes "It reminds me of the times we had to line up for Doc Dynon to wield his rather blunt needle every so often."

Sorry Fred, but have no answer for you as far as old "Colgate" **Dodson**, as they call him in the Rats of Tobruk paper, with regard to the bowling business, all I do know is that he is a hard man to keep up with, whether it is bowls or anything else. Many thanks for the letter, Fred, and we all wish you a happy and successful trip overseas.

NOEL PETERSON, the old schooner king from Wyong on the Central Coast, sends a subscription to the treasurer and the information that he has successfully negotiated another Tobruk Sunday and Anzac Day and finishing in pretty good nick over that rather torrid period, showing up a little as he gets a little older but still firing on all cylinders. Claims not much else to convey from the Wyong district and sends his best regards to all. Many thanks for the letter Noel, and will call to see you again one of these fine days.

DICK SEDDON, 2/1, our Newcastle correspondent, sends a letter mainly with regard to the send off dinner to Doug Shearston, our retiring Treasurer, apologising for his inability to be present and passing on further information of the illness of **Syd Jopson**, of Port Macquarie. Syd has had a very bad spell, a massive heart attack, but is on the road back, very slowly, no grog, plenty of rest and time alone to keep up the recovery. Dick enjoyed himself on Anzac Day, and they arrived home in fair shape. Even beat Pearl home and she could hardly believe her eyes, especially in regard to the good condition he was in. Just goes to show Dick, if you are in good company, and you were you know, it's surprising how well you can come up even after a return trip to Newcastle. We proved it when we made the trip to your Newcastle show, remember.

BERT APPLETON, hon member of the Association through a casual meeting at the Nelsons Bay R.S.L. with a mate of mine and self on a Saturday night back in 1968 "thats the date Bert, October 1968" and on the Sunday with **Glido Griffiths**, **Dick Seddon**, **Jack Bertram** and wives, has been receiving a 'Pioneer News' ever since and decided to send a subscription to help things along. Bert does not know too many of the names,

MAIL BAG—Continued

but is acquainted with those mentioned above through the Newcastle Branch of the Rats of Tobruk, as a member of 2/13 Field Coy. Engineers and member of R.O.T.A. Was pleased to receive the letter Bert, the name and address did not mean a thing to me, but as I read the letter it all came back. We really kicked a few goals that Saturday and Sunday didn't we? I showed your letter to Ross, that was the mate who was with me on the Saturday night and he was tickled pink, he said that night was a wow, as you remember we had his wife and her sister with us, the sister being the wife of the C.O. of Williams-town at that period, **Ian Parker**. Well Bert the voice is still going along O.K., its still rough, and I don't think I will ever get any invitation to sing at the Opera House (although some I've heard from there were almost as bad), however, I am still using it and it does not affect my swallow in any way, so I am ups every six months, but that's only precautionary. Many thanks for the letter Bert, and who knows, perhaps one of these days we will make the trip again, if so will definitely call and look you up - Lakey.

JOHN HUNT, Chermside, Qld., per Monty, passed a sub donation to the Association but with no letter or no news, however John many thanks for same and we hope you enjoy the paper and the news that it passes along, and perhaps by seeing your name in print, you may decided to write a few lines and let us know of your doings.

JACK HAMILTON, Kiama, N.S.W., has done a repeat of the same, a cheque in the envelope and nothing else. We thank you for the cheque Jack, that is without saying, however its been a long time, so how about a few lines, one page would do just to let us know what you are doing and what you have been up to.

BRYAN SMALLHORN, Armidale, another of the strong silent type, written on a small piece of paper were the historic words, quote "Belated cheque for subs, regards Bryan Smallhorn." - now come on you blokes, you must be able to do a bit better than that, surely something must happen at Armidale, sometime, how about letting your fellow members know how you pass your time away, it's got to be bowls or beer or both, so let's in on the secret. How about it fellows?

PHIL BARNETT, 2/2, Lismore has joined the ranks of the above mentioned chaps, a subscription a name and address and zero else. Reckon the same statement as above must apply, Phil. Many thanks for the cheque, but a little information and who knows, you could possibly renew acquaintances from thirty years ago.

BILL STEERS, 2/1 and now at Marks Point, sends a donation to the funds and the information that he has not enjoyed the best of health over the last year, including a couple of trips to hospital. Sorry to hear this old timer, and we all wish you well, and for a better turn of health in this year.

TOM (Bricky) WALL, 2/1 now at Point Clare, sends a sub to the treasurer and

the news that he travelled north for Anzac Day this year, arriving Glen Innes on the 24th April. He attended the local March, where he met up with **Tom Manuel, Jack Marshall, Bob and Vic Donald and Jack Rodgers**. The March goes through the main street to the Memorial Park where the service is conducted. From there to the R.S.L. for lunch and the few of the necessary needed to top the day off, had more than his share by 4.00 p.m. when he retired for the day. Travelled on to Inverell, Tingha and then back toward Newcastle, Birmingham Gardens, Maitland and Patterson, where Pioneers were conspicuous by their absence and the same goes for Gosford, where he has seen nobody for some months, although he goes into town twice a week, must be something wrong with those blokes Brick, or your not looking in the right places. Bricky has also had a trip to Japan and a further trip to Fiji, Samoa, Tonga and New Zealand, where he enjoyed himself on both occasions. No doubt about some of these oldies, they do themselves well when the occasion arises. Good luck, anyway old timer, let's hope you have many more of such little jaunts.

JOHN SPENCE, per Muriel, ex 2/1, and now at Wingham sends a sub to the treasurer and the information that John is up and around again, taking things quietly after his illness last year. Monty called in to see them on his trip north and was more than pleased to see the progress John has shown. They also have the pleasure of **Larry Robson's** company on his trips north where as Muriel quotes - "he is a real breeze even though he may only stay a short while." Many thanks for the letter John and Muriel and so pleased you enjoy our editions of the "News."

DICK SEDDON sends a short note regards **CHARLIE WILBY**, Charles has been careless enough to drop a tractor battery on his foot and has made a hell of a mess of the foot which will be in plaster for another couple of weeks. With his son away on a five-month trip overseas, this throws quite a load back onto Mum, who has the job of doing two men's work. I suppose she has to check on two men's work all the time anyhow, most mums do in our little group. Sorry Charles, I know those hooky old legs will always keep the flag flying.

GORDON FINLAY, 2/1, and his wife Olive, are holidaying in North Queensland and early in June were at Cairns. They left here just after Anzac Day and have been leisurely making their way up the Coast. They spent several days in Innisfail before continuing on to the Atherton Tablelands and says the country is just beautiful. However, on last reports the rain had caught up with them and they had not seen the sun for over 10 days. Gordon had not found any Pioneers in the area, but should have better luck as he comes further south. Do hope you're feeling better, Olive, and your kind message passed on to Mary Lloyd.

JOHN BUCHANAN, per medium of his wife, Isobel, sends a short note with a subscription to the treasurer and very little other news, however, its good to hear from them and to know that

Casino is still carrying on with the help of the Buchanans.

ALEC GEORGE, H.Q. 2/1, South Lismore, was on a hurried visit to Sydney early April and rang the Secretary to extend apologies for not staying for Anzac Day, but business was calling so he had to return. Alec sent regards to all his friends, especially those in H.Q. Coy.

BERN REINERS, H.Q. 2/1, of Corryong, writes in a quite lengthy letter and enclosed a donation, for which we thank you Bern. He gave us news that Mona (his wife) and himself are now like "Darby and Joan" as their three children are now grown up and all living in Melbourne. Bern has changed jobs after working for the local Co-op for many years. He now works for the local school.

CHARLIE KERR, H.Q. 2/1, (A performing seal), rang from Maryborough, Qld. at 4 p.m. on Anzac Eve, to Peg Herron and sent apologies for not attending this year. Charlie sent regards to all Pioneers and especially to the "performing seals" and hoped everyone had a good Anzac Day.

That is about the lot for this issue, a big cheerio to **Sid Jopson**, at Port Macquarie and his wife Myrtle. We sincerely hope that Syd is continuing to progress favourably and we look forward to receiving favourable reports of his progress, don't forget, Myrtle!!

LAKEY.

NEWS JOTTINGS

Recently I was the guest of Len "Spino" O'Connor, A. Coy., 2/1, and his charming wife, Alma, and daughter Lyla, at Tumbulgum, on the Tweed River. Although my proposed visit was only for a couple of days, this wonderful couple had other ideas and one would have had a better chance of getting out of Long Bay Gaol than trying to have kept to the original schedule. From the time I arrived at Murmillumbah until leaving, Len and his family took me many miles around the lovely countryside and it was a wonderful experience.

During my stay, I met up with Wally Ashton, ex C. Coy., and we spent a very enjoyable time at the "local" going over old times. On another occasion, Doug Turner of the Transport Platoon, and Dick Holland of H.Q. Coy., called on us, which necessitated another session. I am sure the Far West Children do not get a better reception when they come to the city, than we fellas receive when we go north. That old Pioneer "spirit of welcome" is noticeable no matter where one travels and makes one feel proud of belonging to such an Association.

To "Spino," Alma and Lyla, my thanks for their hospitality and kindness during my stay and a warm welcome awaits any of our members who are around that way on holidays. The people at the Tumbulgum Post Office would be only too pleased to give directions. I can assure you the O'Connor family will be very glad to see you.

HARRY MONTAGUE.

TOBRUK SUNDAY - NEWCASTLE

On Sunday, 13th April, 1975, at the Cenotaph in Newcastle, the Newcastle Branch of the Rats of Tobruk Association, held a Commemoration Service for Tobruk Sunday. People who have not been to one of these Commemoration Services certainly missed something different to the usual services. Lead by the mixed junior band the March was to the Newcastle Cenotaph where the service took place.

Representatives from the different services, the Lady Lord Mayor, President Jack Griffiths, of the Newcastle Branch, State President Ken McBurnie and the Padre from the R.A.A.F., who conducted the service, all spoke in glowing terms of the Rats of Tobruk.

The Guest Speaker was Lieutenant George McDonald, a graduate from Duntroon. He is the only son of a member of the Rats of Tobruk to graduate from Duntroon. Another record was that the Sam Browne he wore had been through World War I, worn by his father's uncle, through World War II by his father and now by himself, quite a record for the family.

All representatives from services and units placed volumes on the Cenotaph instead of wreaths. School boys and girls from local and country schools marched proudly forward to receive the books which had been nominated for their school to be placed in the school library.

Yours truly placed a book on behalf of the 2/1-2/2 Pioneer Association, this book "Australian Transport" going to the Kurri Kurri Public School. This part of the service which has been carried on for many years, is something President Jack Griffiths and committee of the Newcastle Rats of Tobruk must be proud to have initiated.

After the service was completed at the Cenotaph the men adjourned to the Gallipoli Legion at Hamilton for the reunion dinner. When the speeches had been completed there was much talking amongst the members. Some who through having to travel a long distance, only see each other at these dinners. In all it was a good day and all enjoyed themselves.

JACK (Mick) DODSON, President.

SOCIAL SECRETARY RETIRES

At the recent Committee Meeting the President received with regret the resignation of Bob McGregor as Social Secretary. Bob has not enjoyed the best of health in the past year and although he has stated he will remain on the Committee and assist all he can, he finds he is not able to do justice to the job of Social Secretary.

The President spoke highly of Bobs performance and said the Committee were sorry to receive the resignation. A motion was moved thanking Bob for the wonderful job he had done for the Association - this was carried with acclamation. We know all Pioneers will join the Executive and Committee in thanking Bob for a job well done.

HERB WILSON & TWO BROTHERS

The following is an extract from the Womens Weekly of Sept/Oct. 1941 and happened at Kilo 89, Palestine.

Jack Wilson, one of three brothers serving with the A.I.F., to his parents, Mr and Mrs. W. W. Wilson, of Gloucester, N.S.W.

"After hearing (and we hear many rumors here) that Herb's unit had been moved back in Palestine for a rest about 15 miles from me, I set out hitch-hiking to investigate. When I reached the 2/1 Pioneers' orderly room and asked for Herb Wilson, I was asked in return, 'Are you another brother?'"

"Can you imagine my surprise? When I was told that both he and Stan were within 200 yards of me I left so hurriedly I nearly took the orderly room post with me, and the boys must have thought there was an air raid on. When I found Herb, he and Stan were sitting on his bed with their backs to me. Ted Simpson was also with them and saw me first. I signalled to him not to speak and I sneaked right up and put my hands over Herb's eyes, but I was so excited myself, I cannot remember if he guessed correctly or not.

"Stan had found him only about 20 minutes before me - under a shower. Stan is camped closer to him than I. Well, did we have a great day! It is one day of this war I shall never forget. Herb looks real well and is still the same old chap. He was very modest about what he had gone through in Libya, but after hearing of their experiences from Ted and other mates he did his share and a little more, and Stan and I are mighty proud of him."

NEW SOCIAL SECRETARY

At the Committee Meeting, held on Friday, 28th June, 1975 it was moved and adopted that George Walker be the Social Secretary. George has been on the Committee for the past four years since retiring from the Army. He has been Association delegate to the 7th Aust. Div. Association for the past two years, as Social Secretary he will still carry on this role (with no extra pay)!

It was decided at the same meeting to appoint an Assistant Social Secretary so as to liaise with the 2/2nds and to generally assist the Social Secretary at the actual social functions. For this position it was moved and adopted that Bob Dixon (2/2) be the Assistant Social Sec.

To these two gentlemen we say thank you for taking on these positions.

VALE — HARRY MOSTYN

It is with regret we report the passing of Harry Mostyn, 2/1, of Brisbane, previously of Sydney. Harry was a Committee member for many years and his wife Daisy was a former member of the Ladies Auxiliary. Joyce McGregor flew to Brisbane with Wal and Lal Page. A floral tribute was sent by the Association.

We extend our sincere sympathy to Daisy and her family in her loss.

"LEST WE FORGET."

PIONEERS GATHER IN QLD.

The first Queensland reunion of members belonging to our Association was held at Bribie Island, well-known tourist resort outside Brisbane, on Sunday, 23rd March last. What a tremendous occasion it was, thanks to Fred and Nell Davenport who did a wonderful task in organising such a gathering of old Pioneers, their wives and families.

Weeks before this particular day, they wrote or telephoned every known member of the Association around the Northern capital and the response was indeed very good. Some travelled many miles to meet up with their old comrades once again.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable occasion and it was sincerely hoped by all who attended that it would be an annual picnic day for future years.

Among those present were Phil Cramsie and his wife Mary, Ray and Mavis Blanch from Beaudesert, Pat and Nell Laughren from Nambour, George Brooks of Ipswich, Rube and Marjorie Wade, Tom Thurston, 2/2, Wally and Lal Page, Bob and Joyce McGregor from Sydney, Harry and Daisy Mostyn, Fred and Nell Davenport and specially invited guests, Terry and Sue Tattam, son and daughter-in-law of the late Jack "Sliprail" Tattam ex A. Coy., 2/1.

Also invited was John Hunt, who was doubtful about his attendance on account of a family christening, but he was able to join us and like the rest had a wonderful time.

Tom Thurston of the 2/2 really enjoyed himself and was made very welcome among members of the 2/1.

We later adjourned to the "local" and had a great time reminiscing about old times. Apologies were also tendered on behalf of Allan and Mary McInnes, Charlie and Zeida Kerr and Micky Riley and his wife. Lunch was served by the ladies, which was greatly appreciated by all present.

It was later announced by John Hunt and his wife that they would be arranging an open evening at their residence at Chermside, Brisbane, next September, for the 2/1 and 2/2 Pioneers. Everything would be provided and any interstate visitors could be accommodated free, which offer was received by acclamation. Many thanks John for your very kind offer.

At the conclusion of the day, Pat Laughren thanked Fred and Nell Davenport for the wonderful effort they had put into making the day's outing the success it had turned out to be, which was unanimously endorsed by all present.

It was my own pleasure to have been able to take part in such a gathering and am hoping for a repeat performance in the not too distant future.

HARRY MONTAGUE.

TEXT BOOKS REQUIRED

Would any member having school text books or spellers of no further use please contact George Walker. They are required to hand over to 7th Aust. Div. Association for sending to New Guinea. Contact George at 30 Croydon Rd., Hurstville. Phone: 587-1669.

PIONEER NEWS

Phone: 759-5491

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

Phone: 759-5491

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

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

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

Treasurer:

VIC WHITELEY

Editors: R. LAKE & M. HERRON

President:

J. (Mick) DODSON

Vol. 20, No. 3

1st NOVEMBER, 1975

Price: 50c Per Annum

QUEENSLAND'S SECOND REUNION, 1975

The second gathering of Queensland and a few NSW members of the 2/1 - 2/2 Pioneer Bn. Association was held at the home of John & Mollie Hunt, at Chermerside.

Even though numbers were down, owing to the oil strike and other functions being held, particularly in the Kyogle-Lismore area, a wonderful time was had by those who did attend.

Many letters were sent out weeks in advance and a lot of hard work followed as our grand old mate who was one of the earlier workers for a Queensland Reunion - Fred Davenport - was rushed to hospital in a critical condition and John Hunt, assisted by his good wife Mollie, did it alone.

Those in attendance were: Allen & Mary McInnes, Ray & Mavis Blanch, Phil & Mary Cramprice, Mick — Joyce Reilly, Daisy McEwan, George Brooks, Toby Palin, Nell Davenport, Ted Burstow, Jack Bertram, Harry Montague and special guest Rob & Audrey Goodey, daughter and son-in-law of the late Doug McEwan.

Also in attendance and assisting Mum & Dad were the younger generation of Hunts. As John said, two down and one to go. Garth to be married later in the year to Melindee Everett. Our congrats. to both on this occasion. Don't know what happened to Rube and Marjorie Wade. Would have been good to see you after so long old mate. Understand you are going for a T.P.I. Good luck Rube, hope you make it.

At the close of the evening Jack Bertram, our NSW Country Vice-President, expressed thanks to John & Mollie for a most enjoyable time, which was carried by all present.

Sunday saw those visitors still in Brisbane spending a most enjoyable day visiting Sunair for lunch and then a drive through the Nambour Valley and

back to the Hunt mansion for refreshments and hence home.

Monday Jack Bertram and self paid a visit to Charley Richardson, ex A Coy. officer who fills in his working hours at the Mater Hospital. X-ray dept. Charlie sends his regards to all Pioneers and is happy to see any passing through Brisbane. Said one of these days he'll get to a reunion in Sydney.

It was sad to hear on our arrival in Brisbane that Fred Davenport was in hospital. Harry Montague no doubt will supply further information re this in his report. Our sincere thoughts are with his good wife Nell, at this time.

Apologies received for non attendance were as follows: Bill Hoffman, Ces & Fred Blanch, Merv Andrews, Alex George, Bill Ford, Jack Boyd, George Scholes, Peter Bell, Toby Hale, Jack Sherman, Jim Hall, Terry McGuire, Max Herron, Pat Loughrin. During Saturday evening a suggestion was made that perhaps a reunion could be held next at Kyogle. What about it members from that area, we base the thought in your capable hands.

Being billeted at Anzac House over the weekend enabled us to view the Queensland RSL "Girl in a Million" competition and will offer some stiff competition to other states.

Nearly forgot to mention that one Pioneer turned up with his pre-embarkation leave pass of 1940. Never mind Monty, it's too late to crime you now for not handing it in.

Once again on behalf of all those who attended the gathering of the October weekend we say many thanks to John & Mollie Hunt and hope to see you both in Sydney for Anzac Day, 1976.

LARRY ROBSON.

THIS SCHOOL REMEMBERS OUR 7th DIVVY "BOYS"

Education Week can surely provide no better instance of communication than the thread of fellowship connecting a village in Papua New Guinea with a home in Bruce Street, Ryde.

Mr. Norman Rose, president of 7 Aust. Div. Association (88-1016) lives at Ryde.

At the other end of the thread is a school at Situmgobari, 12 miles from Lae.

Veterans of 7 Div. in grateful remembrance of Fuzzy-Wuzzy loyalty and help in action against the Japanese more than 30 years ago, brought the school into existence.

The start of the fund which brought the school into existence is a story on its own.

The needy widow of one of the veterans was preparing to auction her late husband's Victoria Cross.

To prevent this, 7 Div members chipped in so handsomely that, after the VC was bought for presentation to Canberra, there was \$800 left.

This was enough to begin the construction of a double classroom for the young Fuzzy-Wuzzy generation.

From these humble beginnings, the roll call at the school now numbers 316 and the school is headed for high school status.

Bells for the school, supplied by the Churches of England at Gympie and Putney now call the pupils of Situm-Gobari to their classes. The school has passed into the control of the authorities — with the appreciation of the NG Chief Minister, Mr. Somare, but 7 Div. still plays the role of a P. & C. Association for the school.

Singers have co-operated in a round-up of which has resulted in a number of non-electric sewing machines being given to the school.

Timber was sent by the 7 Div. Association to the Catholic School at Lae where it was made into desks in a students' project and delivered to the Situm-Gobari school. The school was officially opened in August, 1973.

Seeds provided by the Association for planting in the grounds will be taken to the school by a group of 22 ex-members of the Australian Women's Army Service who served during 1945-46. This group has now returned to Australia.

Editor's Note—The above article was supplied by George Walker who represents the 2/1 - 2/2 Pioneers at the 7th Div Association meetings. The Association recently donated \$10 to a recent appeal for the 7 Div. Situm School. Would any member having school text or spellers of no further use please contact George Walker, Phone: 587-1669.

ANZAC REUNION - 1976

SUNDAY, 25th APRIL, 1976

SOUTH SYDNEY TOWN HALL

formerly known as Redfern Town Hall - Pitt St., Redfern

Dinner served Free after March — Draught Beer available

FOR FURTHER PARTICULARS

Watch APRIL Issue of "Pioneer News"

REPORT ON PENSIONS

By courtesy Gerry Collins, 2/1
Pensions Officer, Penhurst RSL Advance

Entitlement appeals tribunals are a very important feature with veterans attempting to have disabilities accepted as being due or to aggravated by War Service. It is very important to use some common sense and realise that War Service is separated from, now by a wide margin of years, with the possible exception of some Vietnam Veterans. Before your case gets to a tribunal, your claim is first refused by the Repatriation Board and your appeal disallowed by the Commission. One does not have to be bright to accept the fact that if the appeal to a tribunal is to succeed, additional evidence may be necessary.

How do we obtain this additional evidence? In many cases we can't, but there are cases where we can. Before the Board decides a claim, a departmental medical officer has to prepare a section 48 opinion. In this, he or she is obliged to outline the possible causes of the claimed disability, then the first question that has to be answered is, "Has the incapacity resulted from an occurrence that happened during his war service?" Secondly, "Did the incapacity arise out of, or is it attributable to his war service?" Thirdly, "Is any disability diagnosed causally related to any accepted or rejected disability, if so comment on relationship" and lastly, "Has the incapacity been contributed to in any material degree, or has it been aggravated by the conditions of his war service?"

The doctor who answers these questions is guided by incidents recorded in the veteran's service documents, together with statements made by the applicant and clinical notes obtained from home medical officers and hospitals that have been nominated by the applicant.

Should the answers be negative then the entitlement to treatment and/or pension for the disabilities would be refused.

Fresh evidence in these cases may be obtained by referring your summary of evidence to a doctor of your own choice to see whether or not he can rebut the unfavourable medical opinion. Your advocate will recommend this type of action or advise against it should he feel that you have little or no chance of success.

Another method of obtaining supporting evidence may be by producing statutory declarations. This applies when an injury or illness suffered on service is not recorded. If you can produce evidence from a former serving member of the incident it must strengthen your claim. Quality of the new evidence is much more important than quantity.

Let's take an example: If the departmental medical opinion were to say: "If the alleged injury did occur it could be the cause of the present disability." Then a statutory declaration verifying the occurrence would weigh strongly in your favour. However, if the same medical opinion read, "If the alleged injury did occur, it must have been minor and is insignificant, because the present incapacity is slight and compatible with his age and occupation" all the statutory declarations here would be of no avail.

Where your credence is at stake it is important that you attend the hearing and subject yourself to a series of questions, the answers given would convince the tribunal of your honesty or lack of it.

Let's understand that tribunals today must give written reasons for their de-

VALE - PADRE STAN CLAUGHTON

On Sunday, 10th October, Padre Stan Claughton passed away quite suddenly at the Concord Repatriation Hospital, at the age of 70 years.

The funeral was held on Wednesday, 13th August and in attendance were the following Pioneers: Mick Dodson, Harry Montague, Allan McInnes, George Paraccos, Jim Field, Norm Dalla, Bob Dixon, Harry Huggard, Reg Armstrong, Bill Robertson, Alf Ballard and Don Lawson.

The Padre was a Patron of the Association and a friend to all Pioneers and our condolences are extended to Mrs. Claughton and the family and we know he will be sadly missed by all.

I am honoured to have been selected to compose an eulogy to the memory of Stan Claughton as it was a privilege to be associated with him and to be able to call him a friend.

Stan was a man who extended the hand of friendship to all and even in his chosen life's work, he had a philosophy that you had to see a hungry man was fed before you fed him religion.

Stan was not endowed with a great deal of material goods in life but what he did have, he was prepared to give and help the unfortunate ones. I have known him to personally help a Pioneer over a bad hurdle. He understood the

weaknesses of his fellow men and was tolerant towards them at all times. He was not one to criticise his fellow men, but was always ready to give help and guidance.

The Pioneers had a special place in his life and those that attended his church on Remembrance Sunday each year would understand what I mean. He cherished his little black book in which he kept a diary during the war years, and would read extracts to the Pioneers who gathered after the Remembrance Service.

We meet up with all kinds of people during our life, but when you come in close contact with a man the likes of Stan, a little bit of him rubs onto you and it makes you feel better for it.

Stan was held in real affection by all and when I say he was called "a good bloke" — that is the ultimate.

Now, on behalf of all Pioneers I say to Stan — Farewell and —

At the going down of the Sun -
And in the morning

We will remember you.

Lest we Forget.

DON LAWSON.

WORLD WAR VETERANS Gathering Sydney, August, 1975

Just thirty years after the end of World War II the RSL and World War Veterans Associations arranged an assembly of war veterans in Sydney. From thirty eight countries war veterans gathered in Sydney for the first reunion of this kind in Australia. Men who fought against each other years ago were mingling together as if they had been mates for years.

One realises that all veterans want peace and friendship. As in all cases, irrespective of friend or enemy, men went away to fight for their country and when one saw how all veterans joined together in discussions and laughing over happenings which had occurred many years ago, well we knew a lot had been achieved.

The committee had arranged services, outings and different entertainment for the period of their stay in Sydney. On one occasion the Prime Minister made an unwarranted attack upon the R.S.L. If he had attended functions following that statement, as I did, he would surely have withdrawn those remarks. To see the way former enemies joined together over drinks, laughing over instances that had occurred in those early days was enough to make the organisers happy, for they had achieved their aim in creating friendship.

One function I attended was on Monday, 11th August, 1975, at the Combined Services Club, where the 9th Division entertained Veterans from Germany among whom were Veterans from the

Western Desert. Speakers were trying to keep their speeches to a minimum but on these occasions we know it is very hard. The German General in his very good speech, stated that those who were left behind and passed on since would be proud to know the friendship that was now current.

Another member of the German party who had migrated out to Australia after the war was now residing in a Sydney suburb. Accompanying him was his son, now an officer in the 17th Battalion Australian Army, quite a change!

When each member of the delegation was introduced, his rank, service, decorations, etc., were read out, to all 9th Divvy men one thing stood out. The General had been wounded three times, others four and five times and one eight times, losing his leg on the Russian Front which may have saved his life for he was one of a handful of survivors of an Armoured Division.

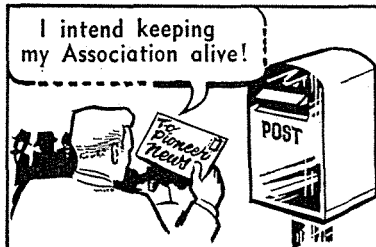
There was an excellent dinner - plenty of amber and wines, which was seen by the way the tongues loosened.

The moment all speeches were completed, men crowded the official table to renew acquaintances of those they had met at the Reunion in Germany. When the Club was closed men were still yarning over instances that had occurred when they faced each other in the dim dark days.

Those in attendance from the 2/1 Pioneer Battalion were: Roy Jardine, Pat Noonan, Bob Scott, Harry Bentley, Bob Juleff from Newcastle and yours truly.

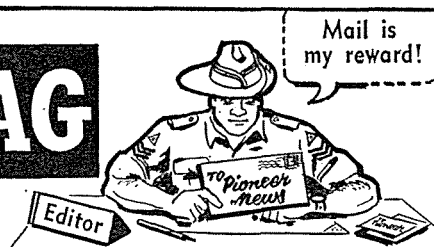
President JACK (Mick) DODSON.

cisions, whether allowed or disallowed. They comprise a very fair and sympathetic body of men who are naturally interested in seeing substantial evidence whether medical or lay, evidence is of no value, let's face it, you are claiming compensation and therefore your argument must be sound or it will be thrown out.



from the MAIL BAG

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



The last edition of the Mail Bag for the year 1975 and quite a good response from the members with letters and subscriptions for news and the treasurer both of which are necessary to keep our paper afloat.

FRED BAKER, 2/1, A. Coy, with a short note of good wishes and a change of address, which has been noted and future copies will proceed to Marrickville.

SID ABERCROMBIE, 2/1, A. Coy, and now a resident of Mosman Park, West. Australia, sends a letter with a cheque to the treasurer and the fact that he gets much pleasure from the news, although names would be the only link after 30 years. He doubts whether he would recognise many of the boys after all this time. Its surprising Sid just how many have kept their features, probably a little fatter and less hair on a lot of occasions, but still the same blokes for all that.

BERT APPLETON, the Fingal Bay adopted Pioneer, sends a short note correcting the bit of a mix up with Post Codes and address, however you would have to be right Bert, there wouldn't be two Bert Appletons, not both from the same town, as you say "No town could stand it." Many thanks for the note and the good wishes and we will still keep plugging along.

TOM REYNOLDS, 2/2, now a resident of Dubbo, sends a short note with a sub for the treasurer and a request for the News to be posted to him regularly. Tom is a new member of the Association, so how about a little more information Tom, life for what it's worth, your work, family and so forth. I am sure that there would be other members of 13 Platoon, D. Coy who would be pleased to read about you after so long.

TOBY HALE, 2/1, resident of that wonder town, Kyogle, sends a letter with a cheque for the treasurer and the news that although it's a fair while since he put pen to paper, he is still keeping well, good health and still has quite a bit of success showing fowls at the shows. His two children also have had the same success, Phillip and Wendy, who have concentrated on Bantams. Toby sees quite a bit of Peter Bell, who has given up drinking (thats news) and who looks all the better for it. Toby still does a bit of painting and remarks that the new Swimming Pool is almost completed and has taken two years to build but will be really something for everyone from here on. Thanks for the letter Toby and good luck for the coming season.

CEC BLANCH also from Kyogle, writes saying how pleased he was to have attended the Anzac Day March in the City. Both he and his wife had promised one another that they would attend and finally they made the trip. Cec had a wonderful time at the Reunion with the transport platoon inclined to monopolise him a little, however he managed to

circulate quite a bit and to have a yarn with so many old faces after 30 years, was really something. While down for this period, Cec and wife spent a fortnight on the Blue Mountains with daughter and family, two children and quite a kick to see the little ones again. Eldest son is deputy manager of the CBC bank at Cooma, any one going by that way don't be afraid to call and make yourself known. I don't know if he is allowed to hand out samples (Cec never said) but take a chance anyway. Thanks for the letter Cec and I'll drink to that last statement about hoping to visit us again next year, will be looking for you. Cec did see Alec George while down at Casino a few weeks ago and he sends his apologies for not getting to Sydney, after all those statements that were made previously too, never mind Alec, we shall just wait for you to arrive.

NOEL HIBBARD, ex 2/1, now at Meadbank sends a sub to the treasurer and an apology for non attendance last Anzac Day and the news that, I think it is **MICK GREEN** has a dentist practise at Revesby and lives at Bexley North where Noel had dinner with them to celebrate his 50th birthday. Noel is now working at a pharmacy at Riverwood in company with **Doug Pinkerton** who is an ex 9 Div wallah, can't be far from our treasurer's home, Noel he lives in Cairns Street, they used to call it Herne Bay. Thanks for the letter Noel and the news included.

ALLAN McINNES, ex President of our Association and now resident at Isle of Capri, Queensland, writes a letter of congratulations to our Secretary and retiring treasurer on their Life Membership of the Association. As Allan says a small reward for the services that these two men have given this Association over many, many years. A well spoken paragraph from Allan as follows: "The sad news was the many members who have passed on and this brings back to one that it is now thirty years since we put those uniforms away, I think the Association has been a tremendous thing to the members of these battalions because of friendships formed in the A.I.F. are forever and can be picked-up when one meets an old mate, whether it be tomorrow, yesterday or in ten years, or even only reads news of them."

Allan and Mary have been to Cairns recently and really enjoyed the trip around the tablelands, although not much left of the camps that housed so many men in the war years. Also claims to be keeping busy and has taken the position of President of the Gold Coast Bridge Club which is a public Company with a Board, have their own premises and a very large debt so are kept busy organising five playing sessions per week and other functions to help reduce the debt. I can offer a couple of suggestions Mac, why not a couple of Crown and Anchor boards and a Swi game? Since this letter

was posted Allan and Mary have been in Sydney where they were in contact with the Herrons, who in turn passed on all the personal news so will say thanks for your session Allan and cheque in the hot little hand of Pear Shape Whiteley, and sincerely hope that Mary has shown better improvement.

BILL McCARTER, ex Sgt. Bandmaster of the 2/1, letter from sister informing us of the ill health of Bill, who has had a pretty rough spin through an accident some time ago. He has been admitted to hospital and Monty has been in contact with Bill and also of assistance to him for his repatriation benefits. All this information has been passed on to Bill's sister by personal letter from the secretary and we hope that things move a little better for you both from here on.

Per **MICK DODSON**, donation received from **BOB JULEFF**, at Cardiff, via Newcastle and from **HARRY HUGGARD**, of Roseville, these two chaps, I'd say were bowling mates or acquaintances of Mick, who from time to time arrives with these little pieces of paper for the Association.

Both men send their best regards to all three mates and many thanks to the Committee for the great job that they do in producing the "Pioneer News."

TOM HUGO, per wife Margaret writes that Tom is feeling quite well considering all he had to cope with, but continues to show that marvellous spirit for which he is renowned. Really looks forward to the news and the articles on his many friends. He gets regular visits from Monty, who keeps him abreast with the goings on and also had a visit from **ROY BOUNDS** who had attended Anzac Day and so spent a day with Tom, where he repeated all the doings of same. Tom sends his regards to all and don't forget, if you are anywhere near 58 Sherwood Street, Revesby, he would love to have you call.

DOUG SHEARSTON, ex treasurer of the association and now at Forster on the North Coast or mid coast as some of the locals prefer, sends a brief note to say that he has not even had a chance to use the reel as yet, nor has there been much call for the Blackfish, they are there all right, but have been surrounded by too much water and not all from the ocean, however the waterproof jacket has had plenty of demand. Doug does not say much else only that Roma would have told Peg Herron all the news, the only trouble is that that has a very difficult job to find its way into the columns of the "Pioneer News." However Doug may even sit down sometime and write a short story, thats when those fish stop getting on the end of his line.

GEORGE CREASEY, 2/1 now at Portland sends a sub to the Treasurer and a short note to the effect that **DAVE DIXON**, who was with the Battalion at Dubbo, now resides near Max Herron. Dave visited George in hospital at St. George some months ago and quotes that

MAIL BAG

he used to sing a good song, maybe some of the band boys would remember him. Dave is well known to Max George, they do see one another quite often with affiliation with the same church.

Mrs. **WILLMA DRUMMOND**, wife of the late Jim Drummond, sends a letter of thanks to the Association for the many members that attended the service for Jim in May, 1975, to the numerous cards that were posted to the house and phone calls expressing sympathy to herself. Mrs. Drummond was very impressed by the article written by Robbie Robertson and has asked that further issues of the news be posted, many names, only names, mentioned by Jim she recalls so well and many that she has met and know quite well personally. Willma, your name and address has been placed on the mailing list and future issues will continue to arrive. Many thanks for a very nice letter.

DAVE DENNY, 2/1, now at Lismore on the North Coast, sends a sub to the treasurer and an apology that it's a bit late in arriving, apparently wife Joyce has jacked up and told Dave that surely he can write one letter a year, you know it's Women's Year, Dave, although from past experience with most of our blokes it's always been Women's Year! Dave is another of the old brigade that finds the News more valuable and more welcome as time goes by. Many thanks for the letter Dave, and our regards to wife Joyce in her year of liberation.

KEN "MUM" KERR, per the pen of wife June, sends a sub to the treasurer and a notification of a new address. Mum has had a lot of ups and downs and health has slowly deteriorated, he has Parkinsons Disease and very little vision.

June writes that they are residents at the Cottages of the War Veterans Home at Narrabeen and it is an excellent place for Ken with his condition. He enjoys receiving the News and the help they have both had from our "Monty." Many thanks for the letter June, and hope that you can be happy in the new abode.

BILL BARNES, 2/2, now at Warren sends a letter with a sub and the sad news that **SNOWY TOMLINSON** passed away at Dubbo on the 25th June. He was a great bloke and appreciated by all members who knew him. He leaves a wife and five children who still reside at 18 Allison Street, Dubbo. **Bonny Fowler** and **Bill Norris**, D Coy, 2/2 still in residence at Warren. Both happy bachelors with no strings attached. **Speed Gordon** returns to Warren from Panania from time to time, as Bill says "When he wants to clear his system of city pollution." **Jack Crouch** and wife **Betty** called in on the Barnes during the month of August. Jack still in the railway business at Goulburn and are both in good health. Many thanks for the letter Bill, no way that you can feel neglected with all those mates to call and say "Hullo," this Warren must be a pretty popular spot on our West.

LAKEY and wife **Joan**, have just completed a trip around Tamworth, Armidale, Coffs Harbour, Sawtell, Port Macquarie, Laurieton, Forster, etc., and on the journey looked up a few faces. Had **Bob Fogarty's** address but missed the first turn off to Nundle and as we progressed each turn-off got further away, so sorry

Bob, perhaps next time. At Coffs Harbour we looked in on **Betty Rees**, wife of the late Merv Rees and pleased to report that Betty looks well and is always kept in touch by the visits of Larry Robson from time to time on his trips north. Bad luck, as usual, at Sawtell where **Fred and Jean Wheaton** were away in Queensland one of these times we will get together over a few ales, but don't ask me when. Had intended booking for a couple of days with them just to have a couple of evenings together, however, with Fred and Jean away and **Speed Gordon** off on a week's sick leave, decided to head south to Port Macquarie where we entertained or annoyed **Sid and Myrtle Jopson**, for a few days. Had a really pleasant time here, very pleased to report that Sid is looking well after his very bad attack and is able to have a limited (not many) number of Hi-Lo per day. He does his usual constitutional each day along the waterfront, accompanied by Myrtle, then relaxes at the Club for an hour or so. While I did not think it necessary for me to join in the constitutional, I did think it my duty to attend the Club meeting each day and get the daily report. Our Joffo has still retained his sweet tooth, and has to be watched rather vigilantly by Myrtle, especially where the biscuits and chocolates are concerned, as she remarked "He gets away with bloody murder sometimes." He has also acquired the habit (doctor's orders) of a short nap in the afternoon. On the Friday while in session at the Club, who should walk in but **NEVILLE ANDREWS** and wife **PHILL**, and if you had to guess who you would meet at Port Macquarie, I'd say **NEVILLE ANDREWS** would be the last name you would decide on. However, it happened and this necessitated two sessions at the waterhole, morning and afternoon, hence on this day there was no nap for Sid. Neville apologised through me to Max Herron for lack of correspondence, again through me, a substantial sub for the treasurer, and the statement that he won't have to write for another five years after this. The Jopsons are also claiming another record through their son Greg, who at the tender age of some six months attended his first Dawn Service with his dad, and the record to be attacked by any other "Proud Pioneer Parent" is Greg is now 24 years old, has not missed a Dawn Service since, 25 attendances at 24 years of age. I think it will take some beating but we are willing to publish any that may lay claim. Like everything else, all good things must come to an end and it was time for us to proceed. Many thanks Sid, Myrtle and friend, Ivy, for a really grand four days, and like McArthur, we will return (no doubts). Travelled down to Forster where we contacted **Doug and Roma Shearston** at their new mansion not quite completed but getting very close, the house anyway, however, a friend of Doug's, who is a landscaper, has drawn a blueprint for Doug to follow and if this comes to pass, he will have spent so much time in the sun that he will have to become the first white Boori of Forster. Spent a pleasant couple of hours with them, even knocked back a beer, but it had an ulterior motive, if we had had the beer we would have had to stay for lunch so you see it was not all will power. However, they both look well. Doug still having lots of fun on the bowling green and Roma runner-up in

RATS OF TOBRUK ASSOCIATION
Bramble Bay, Queensland

On Friday night, 3rd October the annual dinner was held at Sandgate RSL Hall with some 100 in attendance. A special invitation was extended to Jack Bertram, ROTA N'cle branch and myself on behalf of 2/1 Pioneer Bn. by immediate past president Mick Reilly, ex CSM, B Coy, 2/1 Pnr. Bn., who also was the founder of this Association in Bramble Bay, October 1968.

Bramble Bay ROTA commenced with 8 members banded together by Mick and their first dinner was subsidised by a collection from unknown source. By hard work from those early few a tremendous assistance from their wives, the Association in their district now numbers 60 and in the past 12 months have raised some \$1400 for charities. This is certainly a magnificent effort. Well done.

The guests were welcomed by President Davey Wells and also by Queensland State President of ROTA, President Toovey. Unfortunately Fred Davenport not in attendance but another ex Pioneer Horrie Saunders, ex A Coy. and his wife were there.

A toast to departed comrades and the Ode then followed. A Life membership was presented to one of the oldest members and dancing followed.

Unfortunately all good things must come to an end and at 10.15 p.m. Jack and self departed for the last train home and in typical fashion of Pioneers scaled the barrier to get aboard.

To Mick & Joyce Reilly we say many thanks for a wonderful evening. May the hard work put in by Mick and his members and Mrs. Ivy Dawson and the Ladies committee be an example to all who follow and may the interstate visit in 1977 be a huge success.

HARRY ROBSON.

MAIL BAG

the Ladies Golf Day a few weeks ago. From Foster we headed off home with no stops on the way, the end of a very good eight or nine days' trip.

That's about all the Mail Bag for this issue, keep those letters coming for the next issue and as this is the last publication for 1975, would like to wish each and every Pioneer family the very best for the festive season and a bigger and brighter New Year in 1976.

That's all for now.

LAKEY.

REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE

AT Mrs. **CLAUGHTON'S RESIDENCE**
64 VICTORIA RD., WEST PENNANT
HILLS

ON SUNDAY, 9th NOVEMBER, 1975
between 4.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.

ANZAC REUNION, 1976

SUNDAY, 25th APRIL, 1976

SOUTH SYDNEY TOWN HALL
formerly known as Redfern Town Hall
PITT STREET, REDFERN

Dinner served Free after March
Draught Beer

For further particulars . . .

WATCH APRIL ISSUE OF
"PIONEER NEWS"