

PIONEER NEWS

Phone: 759-5491

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

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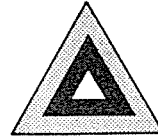
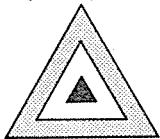
President:

J. (Mick) DODSON

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ANZAC FUNCTIONS - 1976

Well, here we are back again to tell you about our April Parades and we would like to see as many as possible attend at least one of the Parades. Come on, surprise us, everyone turn up. The Committee remind everyone that the wearing of medals is desirable.

WREATH LAYING CEREMONY

Saturday, 24th April, at 7.00 p.m.

The first of our Anzac Day Parades is for our Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Cenotaph, Martin Plaza, where members of the 2/1-2/2 will assemble outside No. 19 Hunter Street, at 7.00 p.m. on **Saturday, 24th April**. At 7.20 p.m. we form up at the corner of Hunter and Pitt Streets and march off at 7.25 and lay wreaths at 7.30 on the Cenotaph, on behalf of the 2/1, 2/2 and Ladies Auxiliary.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, 24th April, at 8.00 p.m.

Now that we have you up at the Cenotaph, how about coming to our Annual Meeting. We are holding it immediately after the Wreath Laying at the Castlereagh Hotel, on the Corner of Park and Castlereagh Streets. Everyone has a say at the Annual Meeting and as all positions for office bearers have been nominated (you can nominate further ones if you want to) you need not stay away for fear of coping a job. So don't forget - attend the Wreath Laying then the Annual Meeting - where you will have a few beers and biscuits on the Association.

ANZAC DAY MARCH

Sunday, 25th April

The 2/1 will assemble in Elizabeth St. with head on to King Street at the rear of the 6th Division. The 2/2 will assemble in Phillip Street with head on to King Street at the rear of the 7th Division.

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

Both the 2/1 and 2/2 will complete the march at Hyde Park and from here proceed to Museum Station to catch a train to Redfern for the mighty Anzac Reunion.

ANZAC LUNCH AND REUNION

Sunday, 25th April —

Redfern Town Hall

Well, you all realize, because Anzac Day falls on a Sunday, no hotels will be open, so we couldn't use the Castlereagh Hotel. Therefore we have made arrangements to return to the Redfern Town Hall, where we had our 1971 Reunion when it previously fell on a Sunday.

Redfern Town Hall is on the corner of Pitt and Wells Street, Redfern and is only five minutes from Redfern Station.

Lamaro Catering Service have been engaged to put on lunch at 12.30 p.m. The doors will open at 11.15 and draught beer will be on tap on entering. Snacks will also be served during the afternoon. The lunch and snacks will be free but the drinks will be charged for.

Monday, 26th April has been declared a public holiday so you country fellows will have a chance to get back home and you city fellows will be able to see them off.

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

GORDON FINLAY, Publicity Officer

VALE LIEUTENANT-COLONEL HENRY WILLIAM NICHOLLS, MC and BAR, M.I.D.

February 26th, 1976 at the Christ Church, Church of England, Gosford, a service was held for our late member, prior to moving to the Plamdale Crematorium, at Ourimbah.

He had been Patron of the Gosford RSL and well respected in the community. The President of the RSL Sub-Branch, Committee and members turned up in force to pay their respects to a great soldier in a final farewell. Many fine words were spoken at both services of his war service and contribution to the district after his retirement from the services on 22nd July, 1964.

The minister even spoke of the 2/1 Pioneer Battalion members who had travelled to pay their final tributes to their late member. They were Jack Collis, Ted Dolling, Brickie Wall, Harry Montague, Lofty Barlow, Roger Tuxford and Jack (Mick) Dodson.

Many thanks to Athol Frewin, President of the Gosford RSL Sub-Branch, who supplied me with a copy of a biography on Lieutenant-Colonel H. W. Nicholls, M.C. and Bar, M.I.D., on his retirement from the Australian Regular Army and transfer to the Citizens Military Forces on 22nd July, 1964.

VISITS TO SICK MEMBERS

On Friday, 9th January, 1976 I visited Tom Hugo at his home on his birthday. To members who are not aware, Tom is unfortunate to be a double amputee and paralysed from the waist down. Though he is incapacitated, Tom wheels his chair to the garden and with a special tool weeds the garden. It really amazes one to see him. We spent quite a while chatting and I am sure Tom and wife Margaret, did not want to see me leave.

Due to his disability, Tom is unable to move outside the gate which means his only contact with people is either by phone or occasional visitors. These days a great number of members are retired and time is their own. Now gentlemen after reading this please make an effort to visit one of your old army mates. It does not matter if you cannot remember "Long Tom" you can still pay him a visit. This gentlemen, will be one of your good deeds for the year and will certainly cheer Tom and make his day.

Ring before you visit him for he regularly trips to the RGH Concord. The address and telephone number is: Tom Hugo, 58 Sherwood Street, Revesby. Tel.: 71-2136.

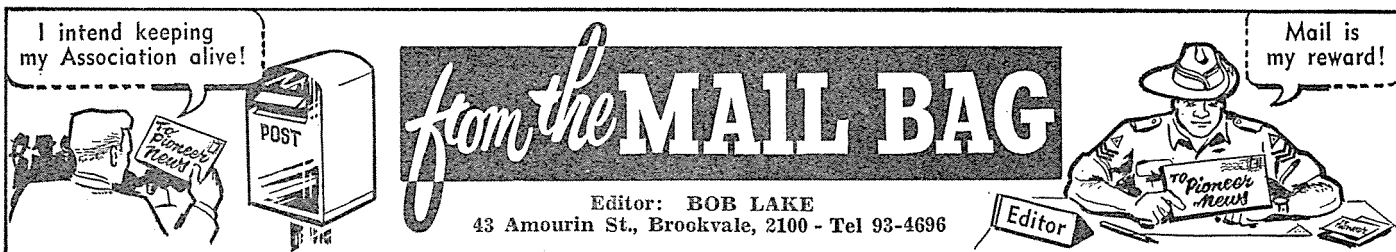
JACK (Mick) DODSON, President.

**POSTAGE UP - NEWSPRINT UP - BANK CHARGES UP - PRINTING COSTS UP
- EVERYTHING UP BUT THE BOOKMAKER'S PRICES !!!**

In the past, response from members and other recipients of our "News" to cover expenses for printing, postage and welfare commitments has been very good. Having no income now, other than donations and subscriptions from members, we will have to keep up this standard to keep afloat. Our

members are lessening as time goes by and we have reached the stage where second world war personnel are coming up to retirement and in future possibly may not have the "jaloosh" to outlay. If you can help finance our "News" in any way, please do so.

— **VIC WHITELEY, Treasurer**



The first issue for 1976, lets hope that the year remains as good as the previous ones, hopefully better, and that all members of the Association have good health and reasonable prosperity throughout.

DON MURRAY, 2/2, now at Taree, sends a letter telling of an accident to **BERNIE DALY**, he fell at work and broke a hip, being hospitalised for a few weeks and attended his daughter's wedding per wheel chair. Don has also had a period in hospital, home again now and visits **BERNIE** every few days mainly to check on the application of his amber medication which is attended to with almost monotonous regularity. Thanks for the letter, Don and your cheque in the hands of the worthy treasurer.

LEN PREEDY, 2/2, and now of Western Australia, writes a letter of thanks to Max and Peg Herron, for a grand holiday in Sydney and N.S.W. earlier in the New Year. The holiday was coupled with the R.S.L. Bowls Carnival, held at Canberra. The organisation was top class, the host Club, Kingston, and the Liaison Officer, **NED SPEERING**, another 2/2, hence the plug. Queensland won the State Bowls, a Geelong team won the fours and Western Australia won a lot of friends, so a good result all round. Had a good look round the A.C.T., also a trip to the Snowy and the three days in Sydney and the grand parade with the Herrons. Len thought it very nice to read of **SPEED GORDON**, **BILL BARNES** and **CHOOK FOWLER** in the last issue and remarks of **NEV O'CONNOR'S** ability as a sugar salesman. Also had a phone call from an Air Hostess, turned out to be the daughter of **BERNIE DALY**, only had one call from her so must have made a blue somewhere. Len sends his regards to all and sundry and wishes them well for '76.

ALAN CRUTE, 2/1, Woolgoolga, per medium of wife, Buelah, writes a long letter to Max & Peg Herron, mainly personal, but did say they enjoyed a 10-day break at the Gold Coast. Alan has given up the Scouts after years of service, but wife Buelah is still carrying on as a Cub Mistress, has been doing the job for 16 years now, almost due for long service. Alan is still out at Kumbaingeri. I hope that is the correct spelling, this is an animal and bird sanctuary at Woolgoolga and growing bigger all the time. The **CRUTES** have reared two wallabies and a kangaroo, then taken them to the sanctuary when they were old enough to have three meals a day. Buelah claims that they still know her, tells by their actions. They were to go to a wedding at Forster in February so would have called in on **ROMA & DOUG SHEARSTON** by this time and would have been made very welcome. They do not see many Pioneers. **TOM MORROW** who lives at Woolgoolga and the north coast yo yo, **LARRY ROBSON**, calls every time he

goes through. Many thanks for the letter folks and subs in the treasurer's hot little hand.

NORM "NOBBY" COOPER, 2/1, now at Balgownie on the south coast, sends a sub. to the treasurer per medium of wife, Dorothy and passes the information on that Nobby retires at Anniversary week-end and on the 5th April they are sailing overseas on the Oriana, so will not be in attendance on Anzac Day. Although not been in the very best of health lately both are looking forward to the trip, more so Nobby with a trip on a ship with the lights on. Many thanks for the letter Dorothy and good sailing for both of you.

TOM SLEEMAN, 2/1, now at Eastwood sends a sub to the treasurer and good wishes to all in the Association for the coming year. Tom has a bit of trouble with the legs, preventing a lot of travel, but does get to see **Gordon Walsh**, **Vince Christenson** and **Neville Schaeffer** (who has not been too well) periodically. Tom hopes to make an appearance at the water hole on Aanzac Day. Thanks Tom, will be looking forward to seeing you.

ERIC (Bombo) REYNOLDS, 2/1, now of Coogee, sends a sub to the treasurer and a long letter telling of his news of the family. Daughter Allison and family had been overseas, three months tour of England and the Continent visiting eight countries in their tour. Bombo and wife tripped to Melbourne to give them a welcome home, arriving in the usual Melbourne weather, wet and cold, and glad to return to Sydney where it has been wet and hot! Then tripped up to Macksville where they stayed on a property for a week. Did a bit of fishing, caught a 62 lb Jewfish, had it weighed for proof too! Visited Nambucca Heads RSL and knocked off a pokie and they only paid \$13.00 You know how it is Bombo, they have to keep the money local in those places. Eric's wife Joyce, met Mary Lloyd in the street some short time ago and on saying who she was, Mary said I know that name "Bombo," looks like the Pioneers have given you a name for life. Bombo still packs nuts and bolts for Macphersons and still continues to send them to the islands, its a wonder New Guinea has not started to sink as he has been doing much the same thing for over 12 years now. Good luck Eric and as you say, let the good health and a few schooners long continue.

JACK ALLISON, 2/2 now at Eastwood, sends a cheque to the treasurer and an apology for his absence from the functions, claims family of five youngish, tends to keep him off limits, always pleased to receive the paper for news of the boys, his only occasional contact locally being **Ray Harris**. Many thanks Jack, and keep smiling.

IAN HODGE, 2/1, ex Moree and now at Lismore, a cheque to the treasurer and

the information that Ian has been transferred from Moree High School to Principal of Richmond River High, at Lismore. As Ian quotes, right in the heart of Pioneer Country on the North Coast. However, no doubt that you may strike a few, but I don't think you will have too many of them as angry parents. I'd imagine that most would be above that age now. Ian also mentions **John Pittman**, 2/1 C/- Post Office, Boomai near the Queensland border, who is a great worker for Legacy. Many thanks for the letter Ian, and good wishes at the new school.

JACK COATS, 2/1 now home at Umina after a lengthy spell at both Concord and St. Vincents Hospital, where Jack was introduced to the by-pass operation where, as he quotes "Wouldn't actually recommend same unless absolutely necessary, but has been promised quite a few more years of life once it is completed. Whilst at the hospital Jack received the usual visits from Monty and the News. He also relates of waking in the recovery ward after losing some two days of his life, to hear a woman in the same room addressed as Mrs. Dolaghan, saying to the lady "I sailed with a Jack Dolaghan from Manly in 1940. Said woman quietly "I married him and we are at Mona Vale now." Dolaghan visiting wife in the afternoon then converted the visit to Pioneer week and was to see quite a bit of both of them until returned to Concord. Also at St. Vincents was one **BOB ARCHIBALD** of Guyra, same operation as Jack, who knows Fred Wheaton will add between the two of them have sent the following message: "To the big Dorrigo Wog from the Balmaln Wog, we greet you." Jack hopes to be on deck this Anzac Day, has not been available for the last two years, too many pills, however only the few painkillers are necessary now, although he says that some days he feels as though he had done a 10 rounder with Mick Reilly, Paddy King, Brian Gray, Tommy Hilton all at once. Couldn't miss this Jack, you pick your marks with those blokes, notice you didn't include Tich McGregor and Bob Lake in the same group?? Jack, as reported is back home but his activities so far have been just about nil, but hoping to improve them as the time passes, we all wish you well Jack and after 14 months without a beer, you will have to go pretty quietly, however, you'd have no trouble reaching Australia Street, if you did kick the traces a bit. Good luck and looking forward to seeing you in April.

NEVILLE O'CONNOR, 2/2, now at Ballina, sends a sub to the treasurer and a letter referring to the passing of Stan Claughton and Smoky Tomlinson as Nev quotes "Two of nature's gentlemen." Neville apologises for his absence at the last reunion and has doubts about this next one as he hopes to be in Malaysia where his son and wife are both teachers

at Panang RAAF School. Neville has been around the west a bit of later years, apparently he sells sugar, "everyone seems to be plugging this" and has been in Dubbo two or three times but always in a hurry. Don't know how you sell sugar if you are always in a hurry!! Nev quotes it would be grand if we could get the two battalions together and meet them all again, reckons we could go into action against some of the types that are getting around these days, or is that wishful thinking. Nev has asked Allan McInnes' address and this has been posted to you and I have no doubt that the Twin Town RSL would make a perfect rendezvous for you both should you arrange same. Good luck and keep sober.

PHIL RUBIE, 2/1 now resident at Surry Hills, sends a short letter of appreciation for the news, good wishes to all fellow members for 1976, special mention for the Committee for the good work, and a cheque for subs to the treasurer, not much else I am afraid, so we in turn say thanks, Phil, hope to see you at Redfern Town Hall on the 25th April.

COLIN CAMERON, resident of Campbelltown, sends much the same as the above, not much news to pass on, however, subs are in the hot little hands of the treasurer, doing what comes naturally.

MRS. IDA HORDER, wife of the late Vic Horder, posts a note of thanks and a few lines with a subscription, as Ida says, to help with the Christmas Cheer. I am sure it will do more than that Ida, and many thanks from the Association.

The following members sent subscriptions with no news so we have to improvise: **HAROLD WHITTAKER**, 2/1, of Canley Vale. **JOE BLANCH**, 2/1, of Beaudesert, we can't complain of Joe he generally writes quite a letter, maybe Joe and Mavis are playing too much bowls! **BUD SPRUCE**, 2/2, resident of Fairfield and **COL JACKSON**, 2/1, of Fairfield should get together and what a letter we would receive between them, however many thanks for the subscriptions and we can assure you that it will be utilised in the speediest manner.

MRS. DAISY MCKEWEN, wife of the late Doug, 2/2, had the pleasure of attending the Queensland Reunion and renewing acquaintances with Allan and Mary McInnes. Allan being a good mate of Doug's through the army years. Daisy has also been for a trip to Tasmania with a group of ladies from Legacy. Daisy reiterates her pleasure of being associated with the Pioneers and looks forward to her copy of each issue of the News, we in turn say thank you for your good words and the pleasure of having the acquaintance of such a charming woman.

DENNIS GEORGE, 2/1, now at Beaudesert, Queensland sends the following account which is as written:

Firstly, herewith a small contribution to the coffers, secondly, please note my change of address after all these years.

As with so many others, "Tracy" put a period to what we had imagined had become our settled and permanent way of life. We were luckier than most in the blow, losing about a third of the roof and having numerous holes punched through walls, all caused by flying debris. Structurally, however, we were undamaged and, thankfully, the house provided

sanctuary for ourselves, five people from next door, two cats and our dog, all of whom survived without injury. The decision to move was caused by several factors, the high cost, about \$20,000, to bring the house up to the new anti cyclone building requirements, the fact that the rundown of the Services in Darwin made my job at Headquarters, 7th Military District redundant, the knowledge that Darwin would never be the same place to live in again, and the further fact that so many of our long time friends had made the same decision for the same reasons. We don't regret having left the place, the depressing effects of living amongst the remains of a completely shattered city have to be experienced to be believed and I suspect, from letters, that a good many people who have remained are wishing, as the Wet season approaches, that they were some place else. The only thing I really miss is the sea. For some years my main interest has been sailing and last year I was lucky enough to be invited to crew in the Darwin to Dili Ocean Race. This year, unfortunately, the race had to be cancelled owing to the political situation in Timor. It was most interesting seeing the monument erected above the town of Dili in honour of the boys of "Sparrow Force" and back in the hills, some of their old positions. It seems so sad that such a delightful area should again be torn by strife such a short time later. Ah well, 'twas ever thus I suppose, wars and rumours of war.

Ran into **RAY (Joey) BLANCH** the other day and he tells me that there are quite a few 2/1 in the Brisbane area and of course the Kyogle contingent and I am looking forward to meeting them again. Whilst we are on the subject, if you are in touch with **BOB BURNSIDE**, would you tell him that a thorough search during our move failed to reveal the note book which had the names of those members seconded to the Sig Platoon for a while, in Tobruk. Sorry about that. I think that is about it, Max, except to thank you, the hard working Committee and the ladies who assist so untiringly, for keeping going our very successful Association. Having remained in, or of, the Service over all those years, perhaps I have not given as much attention to our organisation as perhaps I should have. With the passing of the years however, the wheel turns full circle and one comes back to the beginning, Ingleburn. Greta, Dubbo and the realisation that old friends who shared common first experiences are good friends.

Thanks for the letter Dennis, good to hear from you, many years have passed since you failed to answer the call to protect Popeye's mo at Derna, did notice that you managed to meet **Joe Blanch**, who was the razor man on that occasion.

Thats all for this issue, keep sober, hope to see lots of you on Anzac Day at Redfern Town Hall.

LAKEY.

NEWS ITEMS

PAT NOONAN, Sig. Pln. 2/1, was kind enough to deliver text books to George Walker for distribution to the 7th Division New Guinea appeal. Thank you very much, Pat.

STOP PRESS

Late letters, lucky to meet the press time, received from **DON LAWSON**, who reports on his return from a West Aust. holiday via Melbourne, called on **COL SHEA**, who is secretary of our Association in Melbourne. Reports that Col is very well, still in business as a butcher and in addition, grandfather of eight (What's that got to do with being a buther, Don?) Col sends his regards to all in N.S.W. and sent a sub to the Association via Don.

TED DOLLING, now at Woy Woy, Ettalong, sends a note on the funeral of the late **H. W. NICHOLLS** (Lt. Col.), where quite a few of the Association members from the area attended. "Nicky" as we all knew him was quite a lad throughout the years. Was Patron of the RSL Club at Gosford and well respected as same. To his wife and family we offer our sincere sympathies. Ted also reports that he is Welfare Officer of the Woy Woy Ettalong sub-branch, which keeps him right on his toes, approximately 40 per cent of the local population being returned servicemen from the two wars. Thanks for the letter Ted, and Monty will be informed of your visit to Concord.

LARRY ROBSON, our North Coast Yo Yo, strikes again with a sub to the treasurer and the following news. On return from his first trip for 1976 mentioned that he did not see as many as he would have wished, but contact was made with **FRED WHEATON** and **JEAN, BLUEY EATHER** and family both well and send their regards. **EVAN and JILL THOMSON**, **SID and MYRTLE JOPSON**, of Port Macquarie. Sid improving with every visit. **JACK and MURIEL SPENCE** of Wingham. **DOUG and ROMA SHEARSTON**, at Foster, who are settling in very well in their new home. Doug and Roma have had a visit from **MICK and VI FLYNN**, who were in the area on a holiday. Both Doug and Roma play bowls, golf and Doug does a spot of fishing, and as I know, pinches big round stones from the waterfront for his rockery." Both would make welcome any Pioneer visiting or passing through at any time. Larry also spent a few minutes with **JACK and LORNA Taylor** of Quirindi, apologises for not helping with the binding Lorna, thats something we know nothing about. Missed out on **ERN SMALLWOOD**, but will try next time. **JACK and JEAN BERTRAM**, **DICK and PEARL SEDDON**, **JOCK RUSSELL**, **IVAN PEPPER**, **GLIDO GRIFFITH** and **ESME**, all local Newcastle members, well over the Christmas festivities and ploughing into the New Year in their usual fashion. Larry apologies for missing **JACK STANNARD**, of Nambucca and **ALEX DURIE** of Coffs Harbour, but will not miss next time. **BILL WADE** was not home when he called and Bill's wife still on the sick list. Larry closes with the notice that he intends to give the needle to Newcastle crowd for a big contingent to Sydney for the Anzac Day Reunion, sincerely hope that you can plunge that needle deep enough, looking forward to seeing you Saturday night, April 24th. All the best.

That's the news from the Yo Yo, still can't work out when he gets time to sell anything, but must make some impression on the powers that be. Thanks Larry for a job wonderfully well done.

LAKEY.

WELFARE REPORT

ANNUAL WELFARE REPORT

It is with pleasure that I present this report in regards assisting the Pioneers with their problems on Pensions, Entitlements and other benefits. These were brought to the respective department's notice and interviews were arranged with their representatives so that matters could be arranged satisfactorily.

The hospital visitations were much wider as the Concord Medical Centre is now controlled by the Repatriation and Compensation Federal Act, which means that public patients are now also accepted for treatment and so it is well occupied. Whilst on this subject, it is now more than ever important that if you are to become hospitalised and would be interested in a visit, please ring 76-6657 or contact me at 46 Pomeroy St., Homebush.

I attended quite a number of funerals of our members, which has been very high over the past twelve months and the deepest regrets expressed on behalf of the Association to next of kin, personally.

Several local calls were also made to Pioneers at their own residence which was always appreciated.

Arrangements were made with the Red Cross House at Concord for the wives of members, who required accommodation upon arriving from the country and wanted to be close handy to their husband. This proved to assist them greatly.

WELFARE JOTTINGS

JACK COATES, B Coy, 2/1, of Umina was visited during my rounds at Concord Hospital and as we had not met for a long time, we had quite a lot to talk about. He has not changed a bit and is happy and cheerful as ever and sends his regards to all his mates.

BILL McCARTER, 2/1 Band is undergoing treatment at Gladesville Hospital after being injured at Darwin when Cyclone Tracy struck. It was here he lost everything, even his cornet.

Although we had many problems, we finally did get a pension for Bill which was mainly due to the efforts of Sue Goulston, yes she is the daughter of Dr. Stan Goulston, our first 2/1st medical officer. You can imagine my surprise when hearing her name, I enquired and found out she was Stan's daughter.

ROY BOUNDS, H.Q. Coy, 2/1, was at Lady Davidson Convalescent Hospital and while there Ted Skoyles of Bowral was admitted to the same ward - so you can imagine the chatting that went on. Ted had a nasty thigh complaint and while a bed case Roy attended to his needs in true Pioneer spirit.

PETER PEILE, A Coy, 2/1, was visited at the Sutherland Hospital and as it was an unannounced visit, he received quite a shock to see me. He had a very nasty back complaint and really appreciated the visit.

BILL MACDONALD, B Coy, 2/2, was recently enrolled as a new member and we are pleased to have his company and sincerely trust we will enjoy his company at the Anzac Reunion.

SCOTTY ANGUS, A Coy, 2/1, is doing

very well in Brisbane and sends regards to all his mates.

FRED CHARLESWORTH, HQ, 2/1 Band member, was again at Concord Hospital after many years absence, and he really appreciated my several visits to him. Fred was delighted to realize that the Association sponsors my hospital visitations.

TOM HUGO, D Coy, 2/1, was visited at Christmas and although he is in a wheel chair, he is as cheerful as ever and believe me, his wife Margaret really makes you welcome.

Tom would really appreciate a visit from any Pioneer and his address is 58 Sherwood Road, Revesby. Both Margaret and Tom send regards to all Pioneers.

GERRY COLLINS, A Coy, 2/1 was at Concord Hospital for two weeks and it was a real pleasure to call on him. Gerry, is a Tribunal Advocate for the RSL on appeals to the Pension Board, and is also Pensions Officer for Penshurst RSL Sub-Branch.

TED SKOYLES, C Coy, 2/1, after being discharged from Lady Davidson Home, spent a few weeks at home and was then rushed to Bowral Hospital for urgent medical attention.

On being discharged, I visited him at home and although my visit was unannounced, I was made quite welcome by Nell and Ted.

It is an accepted thing to see Ted at all Pioneer functions, irrespective of the distance travelled, so we do hope he is able to get around again soon.

ALLAN SMITH, RSM, 2/1, now conducts a chemist shop at Bundanoon, so after visiting Ted Skoyles, I called in to see him and after introducing myself, he was pleasantly surprised.

Allan informed me he is president of the Bowral RSL and as such, always leads the local Anzac Day Procession which prevents him from attending the Sydney Anzac March.

He requests that any Pioneer visiting Bundanoon to call on him as they would be made most welcome. Thank you very much, Allan, for your generous donation to the Association.

"FLANGO" McFADYEN, 2/1, is a patient at a Stanmore Convalescent Home and was recently discovered there by Padre Jack Geddes, of the Salvation Army, Tobruk fame.

Jack very quickly notified our President, Mick Dodson, who immediately phoned me and consequently within a few hours, I was on the doorstep visiting "Flango."

He was most thankful for the visit and sends his regards to all Pioneers.

JACK FINCH, C Coy, 2/2, does anyone know where Jack is residing, as I would like to contact him. Please ring me at 76-6657.

TED DOLLING, 2/1 is now the Welfare Officer of Ettalong RSL, and extends a welcome to any Pioneer passing through. He sends regards to all.

MRS. CLAUGHTON, wife of the late Padre Stan Claughton, arranged a Remembrance Day Service for all Pioneers on Sunday, 9th November, but unfortunately weather conditions were bad and many people rang to apologise for not

attending. My wife and myself were the only ones to attend and even then it was only by the kindness of Mrs. Claughton's neighbours who kindly came by car to the station to drive us to her home.

We were most pleased to meet Mrs. Claughton's son, Michael and his wife Betty, who greeted us most cordially.

After a most appetising afternoon tea we said our farewells to Jean Claughton, Michael and Betty and thanked them for the pleasant afternoon.

LAST POST

GEOFF CHEAL, 2/2nd Pioneers, Late of the Bank of NSW, Junee.

SID COOPER, B Coy, 2/1st Pioneers, passed away in November and our representative attended the funeral.

DAVE AUSTIN, 2/1st Pioneers, B. Coy. passed away last December. Everything possible was done on behalf of the Association and sympathies were extended.

DAVID MATHEWS, 2/1st Pioneers, passed away on Christmas Eve at the Orange Base Hospital, after being in Concord Repatriation Hospital for a few weeks.

David did appreciate the visits made on behalf of the Association and it did cheer him up chatting about old times. Deepest sympathy was extended to his widow and family.

JACK HIRST, 2/1st Pioneer Band member passed away at St. Joseph's Home in September, where he had resided for many years and was deeply respected by all. He always looked forward to my visits and was most interested in news of the Pioneers.

—H. MONTAGUE.

VALE LESLIE (Darcy) PRITCHARD

In December, 1975 at Rookwood Crematorium, a gathering of relations and friends of the late Leslie (Darcy) Pritchard paid a final farewell and tribute to their relation and friend. Those ex-servicemen held a small but impressive service conducted by Padre Sir Arthur McIlveen, M.B.E., O.F.

Our late mate, Darcy's health commenced to get the better of him about five years ago when he had to retire from work in his mid fifties and prior to his passing, for a couple of months he was in hospital with little chance of again joining us in this present life.

The late Darcy enlisted in 1940, went to Greta where he joined "Don" Company of the 2/1 Pioneer Battalion. He left Australia on the "New Zealand" arriving in the Middle East, where he was promoted to Corporal, prior to moving to the desert to join the 6th Division. At Benghazi he was promoted to Sergeant of 16 Platoon and remained with them till he was discharged at the end of the War, serving in the siege of Tobruk, Milne Bay and Borneo.

One could write a lot about our mate but when I sit down to start, well it is hard, for he was a very good mate of mine.

The 2/1-2/2 Pioneer Bn. Association will be behind me when condolences are extended to Rita Pritchard and her family.

"Lest We Forget."

JACK (Mick) DODSON, President

PIONEER NEWS

Phone: 759-5491

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

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PRESIDENTS ANNUAL REPORT

Gentlemen - Anzac Day 1976 is with us and here I am with my Annual Report. Once again our ranks are reduced, this time by 25 2/1 and 8 2/2 Pioneers. Their names I have recorded in the Funeral Report which is in this "Pioneer News."

"LEST WE FORGET"

As our members pass on it places a burden upon those left behind to keep the Association up to the standard we have known. Knowing the members of the Association and how they were always there when required, it only means now, we need you to back the Executive and Committee on the decisions they may make.

SECRETARY

Max Herron, well one could fill the Pioneer News with the work that he does for the Association, in fact he is the backbone of the Association. Most members do not realise the amount of work Max carries out behind the scenes. The day has to come when Max will give away the secretary position (I hope it is a long way off), then we might have to appoint two secretaries to take his place. Thanks Max, for a terrific job you have and are doing.

TREASURER

Vic Whiteley has completed his first year as Treasurer after taking over from Doug Shearston. The treasurer's job is no stranger to Vic and he has settled down into the job well. Now that we are not receiving rental from the Hunter St. rooms, Vic has some ideas for the future. After this year's reunion Vic will need to take a couple of sickies from work, for due to our reunion at Redfern, there sure is a lot of extra work. However, knowing Vic's capabilities, we have nothing to worry for it will be a top class job.

SOCIAL SECRETARY

This year, due to ill health, our old stalwart Bob McGregor, resigned as the social secretary. We sure miss his face around the place. Bob has been through most executive and committee positions during the many years he has been with the Association. Sorry to see you bow out Bob. George Walker and Bob Dixon have jointly taken over the social secretary's job.

"PIONEER NEWS"

Once again the "Pioneer News" is still tops, the Editors Bob Lake and Max Herron associated with the printers, Vaughan Douglas Pty. Ltd have seen to

that. Our reporters Gordon Finlay, Harry Montague, Don Lawson and Bob Dixon are keeping up the news of the activities of the members coming in to keep the "Pioneer News" up to the fine standard it has been over the years.

PAPER WRAPPING

Max and Peg Herron's home is still open for the paper wrapping. Many thanks to them both, and for the supper Peg has ready for us when we have completed the wrapping. It is disappointing to see the numbers decreasing at this paper wrapping for that means longer hours. If you are interested please give your name to Max Herron.

WELFARE

Now that we are ageing gentlemen, more members seem to require treatment. Harry Montague, who appears to know when members are laid up, keeps a close check not only at the RGH, Concord, but all other hospitals. Now that he is retired he is always on call. Besides visiting the sick, nearly every week, he is chasing around attending to some members pension needs. Jack Collis on the Central Coast does the same job as he did in Sydney. One has to be dedicated to a welfare officer and both Monty and Jack are sure the boys to fit the position. Once again thanks for a job well done.

I could not finish my report without once again paying tribute to Peg Herron. Peg is a great standby for Max, in fact she could be called Max's secretary. Many members ring up while Max is away and Peg always has the information for those members, another one dedicated to the Pioneer Association.

That gentlemen, is my report for this year, hoping to see you all again next year.

JACK (Mick) DODSON,
President.

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ANZAC DAY

REUNION - 1977

Yes, gentlemen, the heading is correct I have not made a mistake in the date. You may think it too early to make decisions on next year's Anzac Day Reunion, but the Committee spent much time discussing all matters in relation to the Reunion. The result, to be held again at the South Sydney Town Hall (old Redfern Town Hall).

The strong points for again holding the reunion at Redfern were: By all sitting down together for lunch made it more like a reunion. There was plenty of room to move around and speak to ones mates; Drinks were available on arrival at the hall; a few speeches added that bit extra to the day; Good lunch and afternoon snacks.

The Secretary, Treasurer and even myself were able to move around freely and make closer contact with everyone.

The points against were:

Towards the finish the beer was not as cold as could be; Directions for members to reach the Town Hall could be improved; that the Town Hall at Redfern was not as central as the Castlereagh Hotel.

The first two complaints the Committee are quite confident that they will be rectified, the third one not being central, well we know that it does matter where the Reunion is held, unfortunately, all cannot be satisfied.

Even though the 1977 Anzac Reunion will be a trial, we feel that after you members have expressed your views at the Reunion, it may continue.

Speaking on my view, I think we had a very successful last Reunion, what are your views? Let us hear them, give it a lot of thought.

The Committee, plus Pat Murphy (our member and caretaker) have ideas to brighten the Town Hall and we feel sure you will enjoy next year's reunion.

You have a committee who are interested in entertaining you and have the interest of the Association at heart. Let me take this opportunity to thank one and all of the Committee, members and adopted members, for their effort last Anzac Day in making it a most successful reunion.

Thanking all gentlemen.

JACK (Mick) DODSON,
President.

ANZAC DAY - 1976

Anzac Day, 1976 is now behind us and as so often we hear, with sad regret, 30 members of our Association have passed on - "We will remember them."

THE 2/1 MARCH

In glorious sunshine, approximately 120 2/1st marched behind their banner, carried in the most capable hands of Clancy Scholes from Casino way, with Col. Gordon Osborn and Bill Jollie out front. After so long we finally had a band who kept a good step and time. (Still not quite up to scratch with the old 2/1st' own band, but as most will agree, their standard happens but once in a lifetime). To those who marched it was well worth while.

2/1 - 2/2 ANZAC REUNION

From Hyde Park Station by train and car to our combined 2/1 - 2/2 Pioneer Bn Reunion at South Sydney Town Hall to a sit down and very enjoyable hot meal which, as all agreed, plenty of room to move about, talk and see old mates, and were there some tales, especially with the visits from some of our far distant interstate and country members who can usually only make it on long weekends. To these visitors we sincerely hope you enjoyed the day and felt the effort well worth while and see you again next year. Whose for the reunion at the Town Hall next year?

DON LAWSON (2/2) M.C.

Prior to the meal being served and whilst everyone quenched their thirsts on either the amber fluid or the lighter drinks our good friend Don Lawson, 2/2 attended to the few formalities in hand, i.e. Toast to the Queen and Max Law 2/1st proposed the toast to the Association, then the meal.

NEWS JOTTINGS

★ With this over the groups seemed to settle down into talk of yesteryear and present happenings since last seeing each other. Bluey Moxey, Ces Peak, old No. 9 Eric Hawkins, Len Weyman, Arch Murray Max Law and Clancy Scholes. Next to this group Bluey Miller, Arthur Wright, Earl (Stinker) Jones, Scotty Burns and the Bory Creek Bull - Chas O'Neill and believe you me some swifties were being put over every now and again. Noticed a table who were more interested in sitting and sipping in the form of Ted Skoyles who turns up wherever a reunion of Pioneers gather, good to see you old friend, with Jimmy Trotter, Snaggs Sinclair, Joe (Blue) Brisbane who later entertained the assembly with a solo act and then partnered by Little Frank Gillian (more about you later) and 6 to 4 the field, Percy Penrose. Our old mate Don Slater, who decided to take things easy, making up the team. Don not quite as frisky as he used to be but at least he made the Dinner.

★ A quiet bunch in the centre of the hall consisted of Joe Blanch (never been quiet in his life) down from Beadesert and making sure everyone knew he was present, with some of the Don Company boys, Ray Hill, George Brooks, Bill Hodges, Bert Percival, Bimbo Bell, Pat Murphy and Bob Gales, Bob is off to Penang sometime in June for a visit. Are you going there to visit relations Bob? Don't forget to let our editor know

when you return and send an account of your visit, but have a good trip.

★ Two of our gathering who were sitting together having a chat could have passed as twins, particularly from the shoulders up and I refer to Jimmy Gray and Johnny Hunt. They must have read the same advt. as both hairdo and beards were nearly identical. They had with them George Walker and Jack Harvey. Jack not in the best of health as he couldn't make the March but at least he made an appearance later, still I guess he'll be marching with us next year if possible. We hope so.

★ One group which started off the afternoon together but boy, did they spread out later, were Jock Russell from Newcastle, Clem Cook, Beau Hannaford, John Hunt and Rube Wade from Queensland and after so long it was good to see you Rube. Could still fit into his 45 uniform, Lofty Hannon from Victoria, Lofty was yakking with Rube Wade and Arthur Ludington and who doesn't seem to get any older (whats the secret, Art) plus your truly.

★ Don't worry I haven't missed out the Transport Section led by Dora Black, with Bert Hearne (what happened to the rum issue Bert?) Alby Brown, Snowy Jardine, Brian Jackson and son Ian and Eric Monkton and son Bob (welcome to both Ian and Bob), to our Association and hope we see you both at further do's. Think they were all ears to find out what tricks their respective Dads got up to 30 years ago. Both seemed to be enjoying themselves.

AFTERNOON SNACKS

I think at about this stage fish pieces and rolls were served and in true Pioneer fashion smartly devoured. They were always good on the tooth!

★ How's this for a group, Mick Dwyer, Brian Kybert, Dick Blakeney, Bert Holmes, Ted Jenson, Ron Callagan, Jack Robinson, can't you march Robbo, how about stretching the legs next year, George (Tarmie) Bates, Alex George from Lismore, great to see you with us Alex and hope you can make it again next year, he's another like Rube and Arthur, can still wear his '45 uniform, must be that country air or Jean's good cooking (hope you enjoyed your stay in Sydney Jean, and had a good trip home). Gordon Finlay relaxing (while someone else did his job - its yours again next time sport).

A little bloke who seemed to be holding the floor, don't know if he still has four hairs growing on the top of his dome or were just there for the occasion, Johnny Clifford. Boy can he put over a good tale or tales. However, everyone in good humour and fine fettle. Rube Wade as stated previously, down from Queensland for his first but not last visit and renewing old acquaintances. Remember fellows, the only mail constantly coming to A. Coy. Rube assured me he'd be down again next year. To top this table off were Arthur Ludington who had to put up with us all at one stage and the

QUIETEST one of all, little Franky Gillian. He was relating to one and all about a certain Capt. George Sheahan who on parade commenced calling out detail for guard. After a few names called, was heard to say, S---, that's the football team, replacing the paper in one pocket and from the other pocket a further bit. Guess who's name appeared first on the priority list for guard. You guessed it, Gillian. He's never forgiven him. That's the worst of being a good soldier on parade, they always get the goodies.

THANKS TO THE HARD WORKING COMMITTEE

Of course one must not forget our ever hardworking Committee who seemed to be going all day, Mick Dodson (President) Max Herron (Secretary), Vic Whitely (Treasurer), Don Lawson and guess who finished up being roped in, yes our past Treasurer, Doug. Shearston. Travelled from Foster to be with us and everyone remarked how well he looks. There you are gents, retire, go north and improve with age. One of course must not forget George Walker and Bob Lake, who seem to be everywhere at once. From my observations I have a feeling Lakey wears makeup cream on that bare patch on his top as everyone seems to be taking a liking to it. That reminds me, to those who weren't present at our General Meeting, when a certain person (Squeaker) no names mentioned, was presented with his Life Membership (and well deserved too) and asked to respond, he became speechless. Now I've plenty of witnesses, so don't say impossible. Our past Social Secretary, Bob McGregor, also received this award and to you both we all say well done and many thanks. Monty Montague as ever, doing the general rounds and seeking information on any sick personnel. Don't know what we'd do without him.

★ Late arrivals but at least in attendance were Bob Burnside, Pat Noonan and Doug Evans. The wanderer of the afternoon, none other than everyone's friend or foe Laurie (three course) Kelly. When asked where he secured the large hat, he went into the discourse of reminding his mates of the Royal Show held recently. Heard that yarn about it fell off the back of a truck? Never mind Kell, the mob wouldn't have been the same without you.

Don't know whether C.O's or O.C's would agree but we do. Be with us again next year, mate.

★ At this point I would like to say how very pleasing it was to have with us on this occasion one of the original 2/2nd Pioneers Bn. members, who now lives in Sydney (when he is in Australia), I refer to Jack Samuels. Jack is Company Secretary for Dunlop Aust. Ltd. and spends quite a time in the U.S.A. Jack said he'd be there for their 4th July celebrations and will certainly be wearing his or our Association pin with pride. Once again Jack, welcome and hope to see you again next year and many more thereafter. I'm not sure if Jack is the first original 2/2nd to attend one of our Sydney Reunions but if so let's see if there are others. I know Jack would appreciate reminiscing after so long. What about it?

★ A personal thanks to Ken Stuart for his time spent playing the piano and

I know all present join with me in this thanks.

★ If I forgot this group Noel wouldn't be the same again. Yes B. Coy. Noel Trefoni, Jack Harvey, Arch Starr, Jack Pearce, Russ Monahan and Jack Collis and also with him from Umina, Jack Coates. Remember, Coates - Collis or Collis - Coates you sort it out and with them, Percy Fisk of D. Coy. How did you get mixed up with that lot Perce?

VISIT BY PATRON — COL. GORDON OSBORN

During the afternoon our Patron Col. Gordon Osborne made his usual appearance. Disappears after the March and returns (other commitments) and spent an enjoyable time with old mates. Found him cornered by Noel Schomberg, Joe Blanch (what again), Scotty Copeland, Eric Guthrie and Clancy Scholes. Where did Bill Jollie get to?

★ What would a Reunion be like without our helpers? To Ron Sandquest, who over the last few years has been a real stalwart, I thought he was a Pioneer, but he told me he was in the Navy! Our two barmen Rick and Terry, hope I'm correct, who kept everyone in high spirits during the afternoon and of course the two good ladies who prepared our meal, we say thank you for helping to make this occasion a success. We, over the period adopt certain people to our Association and for this year the following: Rick Collins, Terry Bird, Ian Jackson, Bob Monkton and Kevin Wheatley, welcome and may we see you again next year.

★ Apologies were received from Len Humphries who is not in the best of health, hope things improve Len and be with us in '77. Ivan Pepper, whose good lady, Vi is not too well, George Johns and Jim Anderson, Dick Seddon and Jack Bertram tied up in Newcastle March, Mick Flynn recovering from his operation and doing O.K. Daryl (Bluey) Reid, ex-R.A.P., has had to work every Anzac Day but Blue said he'd be there next year for sure. What happened to Jack (Glido) Griffiths- As Newcastle President of ROTA he decided to lead the Newcastle March for them. Blue Eather the Kempsey kid sent apologies as he was tied up helping out at a Kempsey function. Sid Jopson improving and hopes to make it again one day. Jerry Collins apparently on duty after the March at Peshurst RSL. He'll make it one of these days. Found out since Anzac Day that Fred Wheaton was in Melbourne.

★ John Hunt hopes to organise another get together in Brisbane for the lads up there so what about it you Queenslanders and stretch a point to make it. Also there was discussion with Alex George, re a reunion at Lismore. Now what about it you chaps in that area. Particularly the 2/1st as you are always saying it was a North Coast unit or Kyogle unit. Lets see what can be done and find out how and what your mates are doing.

★ That reminds me, Association Tie Pins are now available ex the Treasurer for about \$1.50 each (including postage) and well worth it. Both colour patches are on clasp so neither has been forgotten.

★ The 2/2nd report will be separate so I hope I haven't missed out on too many 2/1st who attended, if so apologies.

2/2 PIONEER BN. ANZAC DAY NOTES

By DOB DIXON'S "STAND IN"

Units assembled in Phillip Street and moved off down Hunter Street. "Praise the Lord the March was downhill!" Led by Arthur Stafford.

Banner of 2/2 Pioneer Battalion was carried by that ever reliable Arch Stanton, thank you Arch for a grand job. After passing the Cenotaph and turning into George Street Jack Henderson relieved Arch and carried the Banner to end of the March.

Sorry to know Jimmy Fields, Custodian of the Banner was too ill to attend, boys all send their best wishes for a speedy recovery. Whilst at "Eyes Right" passing the Cenotaph noticed that Pioneers wreaths had been moved from foot of Cenotaph to place of Honour at top. Thanks to Custodian for this.

★ After the March Morrie Ballard could not find his car so another "Route March" took place around Sydney for Arch Stanton, Ted Tomlinson, the Henry Bros. and myself, searching for the missing transport, finally located it resting quietly down behind the Botanic Gardens where Morrie had earlier left it in a parking bay. Morrie met "Tassie" Joiner at Burnie, Tasmania R.S.L. on a recent trip to the Apple Isle. "Tassie" not enjoying the best of health at present, sends regards to the boys; thanks "Tassie" and the boys hope you are soon on the mend.

★ Ted Tomlinson up from Wollongong for the March and Reunion, good for you Ted, hope to see you again next year.

★ Charlie Henry Don Coy, 2/2 Pioneers, now living at Bodalla came along with brother Bill. Charlie reports that Matt Elliott Don Coy, 2/2 Pioneers now lives at Wollongong but often returns to Bodalla to see how the boys are. Charlie also said that ALL Pioneers are cordially welcome at the new Bodalla Bowling Club.

★ News to hand that Roy Stubbs C Coy, 2/2 Pioneers, resides at Moruya and that he recently lost his wife. 2/1-2/2 Pioneer Battalion's Association extends deepest sympathy to Roy and family.

★ Bruce Metcalf now living at Condell Park was present at March and later at Reunion, hope you can make it a regular affair, Bruce.

★ Bill Nicholls (minus brother George) up from Wollongong, would like to know if "Wobbl U" P.C. is getting a bit long in the tooth for a few minutes in the "Bull Ring" at "On Guard, Off Guard." How about it Pat? Bill regularly attends Dawn Service, has never missed one

service since 1946, even flying down from Brisbane on three occasions.

★ Bill "Robbie" O.C. Don Coy, 2/2 Pioneers, not in March because of illness but put in an appearance at the Reunion. His usual position as leader of the 2/2 Pioneers was very ably filled by Arthur Stafford.

★ Georgie Paracos on a trip to Dubbo in August last year, met "Poj" Sullivan C Coy, at West Dubbo Bowling Club and had a great time. "Poj" took him to meet Tommy Reynolds and that meant another reunion. George made very welcome by President of West Dubbo Bowls and is looking forward to another trip to Dubbo.

★ Bert Beasley made his regular yearly trip from Brisbane, reports that all Pioneers in his area in pretty good shape. Good to see you again Bert, noticed that Mick Egan and Bert soon got together for their usual "Chin Wag."

★ John Samuels, original A Coy, 2/2 was at the March, is now living in Sydney, having transferred for his firm, we endorse this kind of business transfer.

★ Harry Sullivan C Coy, along from Bourke, glad to have you with us Harry. A mate of Harry's, also from Bourke, by name of Tom Murray of 7th Div. Amm. Supply Coy, came along, hope he enjoyed our hospitality, Harry.

★ Noticed Tommy Bye and the Henry brothers had "captured" Bill Robbie at one stage of the Reunion. Bet some tall tales were swapped between them.

Well mates, that just about winds it up for another year and hope I have been able to keep somewhere near the writing standards set by Don Lawson, Bob Dixon and others.

If I have missed anything of interest about anybody please excuse me as this is my first attempt.

Repeating my sincere thanks to Arch Stanton for his valuable help at Assembly also to Arthur Stafford and Jack Henderson for help on the March.

Hope to see you all next Anzac Day.
REG ARMSTRONG
(2/2 Pnr. Reporter).

WREATH LAYING — 2/2 PIONEER BN.

In association with 2/1 Pioneer Bn, 2/2 Pioneer Bn assembled in Hunter Street near Pitt Street.

Units moved off at 7.30 p.m. and I had the honour of carrying the Banner of the 2/2 Pioneers.

At the Cenotaph the Battalion Wreath was laid by Don Lawson, after which the Bugler sounded Last Post whilst Banners of both Battalions were dipped in Salute.

When the Bugler sounded "Reveille" Banners were raised and Units were marched off and dismissed.

It was a most impressive ceremony in which I was very proud to take part. This was my first opportunity to be present at the Wreath Laying and I sincerely hope it won't be the last.

REG ARMSTRONG.

★ By the way, two ladies turned up later in the afternoon to see all were behaving. Peg Herron and Mrs. George Walker. Nice to see you both.

★ Well, that is it for the 1976 Reunion. We know many others are tied up with their local RSL organisations re marches etc., but no doubt one of these days they'll turn up and surprise us all — lets hope it isn't too long.

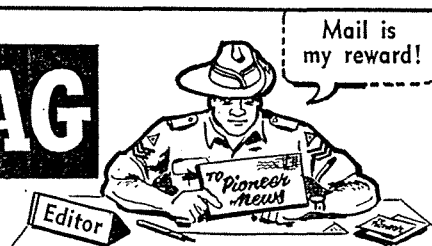
★ See you all next year and best wishes for the remainder of 1976.

THE NORTH COAST YO-YO,
LARRY ROBSON.



from the MAIL BAG

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



The first publication of the "News" since Anzac Day with quite a good response from the members of the Association.

JIM DARRAGH, 2/2, per medium of wife Norma, sends a cheque to the Treasurer and the good wishes to all from themselves. Norma tells of the March in Melbourne and how well the 2/2 appeared on T.V. However, she did admit to their little secret, apparently they had a drummer stacked in the centre of the battalion which gave that added lift to the old left, right, left, Norma quotes that she knows just what this can do as she was an AWAS herself. Jim enjoys receiving the paper and is never backward at producing same when he contacts any of the 2/2 and encloses good wishes for the continued success of same and to all members. Many thanks for the newsy letter, Norma. I can imagine the little giggles that will go on when the boys read of that drummer.

BERNIE DALY, 2/2, now resident of Taree, writes a letter of appreciation of the paper and the news that he has had visits from **John Down** and wife in January, on holidays and was pleased to see them after so many years. Bernie is still on crutches, result of a broken hip acquired at work in January and has had many visits from **Don Murray**, of Tinonee (ex Mortar Platoon), who apparently also supplied many water melons, rock melons and hours of great company while he was laid up. Many thanks for the news Bernie and treasurer has cheque in his hot little hand.

BILL HOOD, 2/2, now at Lismore sends a letter of apology for not attending the Reunion. Bill was attending the farewell of his sister and her husband off overseas on that day and actually did not know the full story until he returned to Lismore and opened his "Pioneer News." Bill mentions with regret the passing of **Harry Nicholls**, he had quite a lot of contact with Nicky when he was at Gosford. Bill also remarks of **Phil Barnett**, 2/2, a keen worker for Legacy and works hard for the Lismore community, will also see a lot of **Ian Hodge**, who has been transferred as Headmaster to Lismore High and will be secretary himself of the Lismore Division of Legacy in the coming year. Thank you for the news, Bill, just keep up the good work.

NOEL PETERSON, 2/1 per the pen of Nan, sends a letter to say they are both in the land of the living. Nan has been in hospital for a period and claims that Noel has had a torrid time looking after her (while not the best himself). However he is still soldiering on and keeping the flag flying. We are sorry to hear of this upset to you both and sincerely hope that it is all behind you by the time this paper reaches you, keep smiling and cheque with the Treasurer doing most good.

WALLY PAGE (Desso), 2/1, ex Publicity Officer of the Association for many years, sends a letter of some of his travels since his retirement back in '73. Wal and wife, Lal had been overseas for six months and on their return have more or less made a home on wheels, they have spent most of the time travelling between States, their son Ross, who is on the Gold Coast (incidentally entertains nightly at the "Port of Call" Hotel at Coolangatta), then flitted down south to Cootamundra for a stay with friends. Further south to Melbourne, then back to Sydney for a visit with two more sons and daughter, and on that very day, Anzac Day, were leaving for Mt. Buffalo and Bright, in Victoria, with **Bob and Joyce McGregor**. Well Wally and Lal, you are certainly getting around, you should finish up with corns on the (you know what) from driving, however we wish you good travelling and on behalf of the Executive and members, would thank you for the job of Publicity Officer that you filled so very ably over the many years, performed so willingly and well. And we sincerely hope that when you have finished your globe trotting that you will present your smiling face at the functions of the future. Good travelling.

MICK ROBERTS, 2/1, now of Leeton sends a letter with subs on behalf of himself and **Phil Mahey**, with the information that he has had a big year as President of the Lions Club of Leeton and issues the information that any Pioneer travelling in that area would be more than welcome and that Phil would be in attendance at the Soldier's Club for any enquiries. Mick quotes that all the Leeton boys are in good health. **Jack Painter**, **Jack Purcell**, **Les Gravel**, **Alf Gelteh** and of course himself. Many thanks for the letter Mick, treasurer is doing the right thing with the subs, and your good wishes to Max Law and wife, Joy, and all the boys from Newcastle is herewith passed on through the Press.

JIM FIELD, 2/2 now of Greystanes, writes a very moving and nostalgic letter of apology for his non-attendance at the Anzac functions. Jim as you know, has been and is, a very sick man but his thoughts and good wishes are so well known to all 2/2 Pioneers that knowing him, his feelings so strong of being one of them, that it becomes just a little too great for my pen to convey. We in return Jim, thank you for the kind words and hope that this illness can be conquered (with your spirit it will be a piece of cake) and that you are back with us all for the next function, whatever it may be.

PHIL BARNETT, 2/2 Lismore, sends a cheque to the treasurer wishing the kindest regards to all and very little else, so I am afraid that I cannot make much more out of it for all concerned.

JIM FERGUSON, 2/2, now at Randwick sends a cheque and the news that he is not a member of the Association, but was with the 2/2 Don. Coy at Pucka, then transferred to the Petrol Park. Jim is now a T.P.I. with limited eyesight, apologies for the writing and sends best wishes to all the blokes.

JACK CLAYPOLE, 2/1 now at Matraville, writes about as much as he talks, very very little, sends a cheque to the treasurer and the information that he was going to see **Tom Hugo**, well done Jack, I sincerely hope that you have more to say to Tom than you wrote in your note, however, a glass of ale may do more for the tongue that it does for the pen. Many thanks Jack, keep up the good work.

TOM PENFOLD, 2/1 now of Tarro, received his copy of the April issue and decided he had best put pen to paper. Tom quotes as not being too crash hot on the letter writing and he substantiates this by writing on every second line thus filling a page quite easily, however it looks good and glad to receive same. Tom is a widower now, lost his wife a couple of years ago, but fills in his days with a bit of bowls at Beresfield Bowling Club where he runs into a few Pioneers occasionally. Retired on the Service Pension, he hopes to get down some Anzac Day and see all the blokes again. Don't leave it too long old Buddy.

ALBERT MALLETT, 2/2 Goonellabah, writes a letter on behalf of himself and **Don McGill**, 2/1 representing the Association on the Far North Coast. Both apologise for non attendance on Anzac Day but hope to remedy this later on as both are hoping to give up that nasty four letter word (work) in the not too distant future. Don is right on the highway at Broadwater, so any passing Pioneers would do worse than stop and shake his hand, with the "local" only a quarter of a mile down the road! Albert would like to see the names of chaps like **Carl Ball**, **Albert Hoare** and the **Henry Brothers** written up, well we have printed them Albert, now lets see if they can reciprocate with a bit of news for you. Welcome letter and the subscriptions in the hands of the treasurer.

IAN KIRKWOOD, 2/1 of Wollongong, quotes laziness as his excuse for not being with us on Anzac Day - slept in, what a boo boo! However, don't suppose we can hold that against him as he is a pretty regular attender at all our functions. Sends a cheque to the treasurer and the information that he sees **Leo Morris** quite often at the Bowling Club and that **Ted Skoyles** and his wife called on him one day while visiting Wollongong on business and all are keeping quite well. No doubt you know by now Ian that **Bluey Kerslake** deserted us this time too, he and Marj were on a trip to Tasmania. I have not seen them since they arrived home but hope they had a good time.

BRICKY WALL, 2/1 now of Point Clare sends the news that he has been tripping around quite a bit of late, always bus tours, where he seems to enjoy himself immensely. One early trip last November included Melbourne, Adelaide and back through Wagga and Canberra. Same bus company and this time Katoomba, Orange, Coonabarabran, Lightning Ridge, Dalby, Moree, Kingaroy, Brisbane, Surfers Paradise, Grafton, Coffs Harbour, Taree. Met **Fred Wheaton** at Coffs Harbour had a couple of sherberts at the RSL with same. Glad you are enjoying yourself "Brick" bet you must have had corns on the whatsits after all those miles!

GORDON WALSH, 2/1 now at Ryde, sends a sub on behalf of himself and **Nev Shaeffer** and the news that he was heading north to Evans Head for a month's holiday. Looking forward to same and the hopes that he will contact **Joe Leis** and **Ted Vaughan** for sure while up there. Ted has retired from the PMG and spends quite a bit of time fishing at which he is very good. Ted's two brothers were also in the 2/1. Sid a regular attendant at the Association functions, while Darcy is somewhere in Queensland. Joe has unfortunately lost the sight of one eye, but we are told that he can still see the greyhounds and a very keen enthusiast of the long tails. Hope he gets the winners.

Nev's address has been corrected on the files and can assure regular postage hereafter. Many thanks for the letter, Gordon and much obliged for the good wishes for Findlay and self.

GEORGE PATTERSON (Capt.) 2/1, now resident of St. Ives, sends his apologies for non attendance at the Anzac functions, however as he writes himself, he tripped over a blade of grass one wet morning and badly broke his fibular bone in the leg and under doctor's orders, there is little else to do but sit and rest. We are very sorry for this accident George, and the executive and members wish you a speedy and good recovery, just be careful in future, perhaps you should wear spiked shoes while on grass, but then I suppose wife would complain about tearing up the carpets. Many thanks for the cheque, can assure you its put to good use.

KEVIN RAWARD, 2/2 now a stock and station and business agent at Lismore, sends a good letter apologising for his never being able to attend the Anzac functions, but declares that it is a part of life that will never be forgotten, and that the "Pioneer News" just helps to refresh those days. He speaks of so many of the North Coast boys, **Bill Hood**, **Nev O'Connor**, **Pat Allan**, **Bill Robertson**, **McInnes**, but speaks as the very best time as when Sgt. of 18 Platoon **Don Coy**. Kevin is trying to locate the platoon roll of 18 Platoon and the full roll of Don Coy. which he has either lost or mislaid, but in the event of finding same intends that we will receive a copy for publication. Many thanks for a newsy letter. Kevin, may business continue to prosper for you and success to your search.

Second letter from **GORDON WALSH**, telling of his trip north, had Anzac Day at Evans Head where he had dinner with **Jack (Banjo) Martin** and **Ted (Nobby) Felton**, a real surprise and a great yarn developed. Banjo now lives at San Souci while Nobby, I think still resides at Grafton, where he is on the Tick staff

with **Bruce McNaughton**. Gordon enquires as to the whereabouts of **Harold Stroud** and **Bob Wilson**, also **Fred Ness**, however, can't say that we can offer any suggestions as to their place of abode, nor do I know if they are even on the mailing list.

JACK SPENCE, per the pen of wife, Muriel, sends a sub to the treasurer and the news that both enjoy the paper and are kept well in touch with the goings on by **Larry Robson**, who calls in at Wingham on his every trip up the Coast. Jack has plenty to occupy his time, a good vegetable garden and the visits from the grandchildren keep him on his toes. Many thanks for the letter Muriel, and glad to know that Monty keeps in touch.

JACK COLLIS from Umina sends a letter on what a good day the Umina boys **Ted Dolling**, **Jack Coates** and himself put in at Redfern on Anzac Day. The meal was probably the best we have had and the fact that we were all able to sit down together made this more so. Jack mentions that it would be nice to see perhaps **Barry Taylor**, **Cliff Secombe** and **Ron Irwin**, surprise him and turn up next year. What about it, you chaps, and especially **Barry Taylor**, just give those pokies at Dee Why R.S.L. a spell for one day and come and join us? Sorry **Jack Coates**, have not had a chance to pass on the message to **Graham Eadie** as yet, but have not forgotten same, may strike him this Friday afternoon.

Len Preedy, 2/2 writes from Western Australia that they are setting back into routine after the visit to Sydney and Canberra, where he took part in the Bowls tournament and quotes that he is looking forward to the next Carnival at Christmas in Adelaide. Bit of a glutton for punishment I'd say, however, Len and family really must enjoy it. Len relates the passing on of **A. G. Furness**, 2/2 although we have no listings of him in our files. Many thanks Len, probably some of the 2/2 boys would know of him.

Mrs. Phil Rubie writes with the information that **Phil** passed away on the 4th April, 1976. The Association offers their sincere sympathies to you Mrs. Rubie. The "Pioneer News" will be posted to you as usual. Many thanks for your kind letter.

Dr. Geoff Dynon, now at Strathfield, sends a short note with a sub to keep the flag flying and the information that he does not get around to seeing people very much, except, and here is where you have got me Geoff, I can make the word **Colin** out but the surname has me foofed, so all we can say is **Colin** ? ? ? and take a punt by asking that next time you might print any surname. Many thanks Doc and I'd say, most of the boys would be glad to read of you and to know that you are going O.K.

John Hunt, of Chermside, Queensland writes that he and wife have been on holidays to Melbourne then back through Tumut, Oberon, the Hunter Valley, then up the Coast home. John does express his thanks to the great day on Anzac Day at Redfern and is sure that all present must have enjoyed themselves. John's other message is for all concerned: **As before - A BARBEQUE at 22 Lupton St., Chermside, Brisbane, on SATURDAY, 16th OCTOBER.** Same arrangements as last time. Just bring yourselves. As there

will not be another edition of "Pioneer News" before that date, notices will be posted out later this year, so all you Brisbane guys and Far North Coast residents, keep this copy as a reminder of the big event.

Well, that's about the extent of Mail Bag for this issue, so will pass along to all - the usual message - **Good Health, Good Luck and keep sober.**

LAKEY.

FUNERAL COMMITTEE

This year, gentlemen, we have lost 33 members of the 2/1-2/2 Pioneer Association, 25 2/1 and 8 2/2. As we know, it is one thing we are sure of and can happen to anyone at any time.

The names of the deceased members I will list at the end of my report. Some of the late members were well known to most of you, others we have not seen for many years, but to all those deceased we say: **"Lest We Forget."**

To all the members who attended the services I must say sincere thanks. Also many thanks to those members who wrote reports on our late members. At least, at half of the funerals there were some representative of the 2/1-2/2 Pioneer Association.

While some of the members can attend the funerals of our late members, it is good to know that even at the end there is always some one to farewell deceased members.

Following is a list of our departed comrades since last Anzac Day:

Jack Lloyd, 2/1; **Jim Drummond**, 2/1-2/2; **Terrence Wiggins**, 2/1; **Harry Mosston**, 2/1; **E. R. Ellis**, 2/1; **Stan Claughton**, 2/2; **M. J. Foxton**, 2/1; **B. Kearney**, 2/2; **A. (Bull) Green**, 2/1; **J. Nicholls**, 2/2; **N. Ainsworth**, 2/1; **G. W. (Snowy) Tomlinson**, 2/2; **R. Buckley**, 2/1; **R. Lemon**, 2/1; **Noel McCoy**, 2/2; **F. Scribbens**, 2/1; **E. (Ted) Williams**, 2/1; **Fred Hannon**, 2/1; **Sid Cooper**, 2/1; **R. B. Birrell**, 2/1; **Darcy Pritchard**, 2/1; **J. A. Hurst**, 2/1; **Dave Austin**, 2/1; **Henry Nicholls**, 2/1; **H. S. Adams**, 2/1; **F. T. Gibson**, 2/1; **V. N. Lewis**, 2/1; **Phil Rubie**, 2/1; **Geoff Cheal**, 2/1; **W. C. Coote**, 2/2; **David Mathews**, 2/1; **F. M. Persson**, 2/2; **Cpl. Hanley**, 2/1.

JACK (Mick) DODSON,
President.

RATS OF TOBRUK ASSOCIATION

Easter 1977, the Rats of Tobruk Association N.S.W. Branch are host to the first World Reunion of Tobruk Veterans, in Sydney.

From Victoria the Rats of Tobruk Memorial Pipe Band will be in Sydney for our Commemoration March and Service. Each piper and drummer will have a small banner attached to his band instrument. The banners will be of the units who served in Tobruk. Most units are represented, including the 2/1 Pioneer Battalion.

As we know, these banners cost money and the 2/1 Pioneer Battalion have **Bob Scott** to thank for so generously donating the cost of the banner. Those members attending the World Reunion, Easter 1977, can view with pride our banner attached to one of the band instruments.

Many thanks **Bob** for your fine gesture.
JACK (Mick) DODSON,
President.

2-2 PIONEER ANZAC DOINGS - GEELONG 1976

If anyone had said to me a fortnight prior to Anzac Day, that I would be in Geelong on that day, I would have laughed long and loud and told them not to be so stupid.

As a good committeeman (I hope), I had attended all of the Committee meetings to arrange for the reunion at Redfern Town Hall, been given my share of the proceedings to take care of, etc., and was looking forward to the March with its attendant hand shakes, back slaps, collecting of dues, looking at faces so well remembered — but with names just as positively forgotten; finding some one to carry the banner, and all this kind of jazz, which goes towards the making of an excellent day. However, all of this was not to be.

My platoon, 3 Platoon, 3" mortars, was formed of predominantly Victorians, a large section of them Geelong boys, or thereabouts, and being their Platoon Sgt., of course I came to know them very well. So when I received a letter from John French, ex Sgt. 3 Platoon, saying that a Reunion of the Platoon was being organised at Geelong — and would — or could I be there, I immediately wrote to say, yes — I would be there. I hope you people understand that I had not seen the majority of these blokes for 31 years. Nor am I too proud to say I was so excited that normal life was indeed hard to adhere to.

Due to a series of events, it was not possible for my wife, Jean, and I to go by car and caravan as intended, and I alone went by train, arriving at the Criterion Hotel, Geelong at 10.45 p.m. on the Saturday night — very tired and very thirsty!

From the hotel foyer I rang a number in Geelong and the following conversation took place: Male voice at other end of phone "Hello." Me: "Have you got a bloke there called Bluey Carter!" Other voice: "Yes! I'll go and get him — hang on." Pause, then another voice "Watter-you-want?" Me: "Do you know a bloke called Bob Dixon?" Other voice: "Yeah."

Me: "Well — he's talking to you from the Criterion Hotel, Geelong. How are you Blue?"

Pause — other voice shouting to another person: "Hey Reg, its bloody Dicko — he's here in Geelong — pause — Gee — 31 years — we was only talking about you not five minutes ago. Reg Coulton is here do you remember him?"

Me: "I'll say I do."

And so in a brief moment and a few brief words I was reunited with two of my old mates of the Platoon, and all was set and assured for a good day on the morrow.

I was picked up by Blue on Sunday morning and taken to the start point of the March. Here there was great excitement as the boys who had not seen each other for so long had so much to remember. Then with much milling about and great disorganisation we joined in the March and everything went well — well! As well as could be expected with our mob stuck in between a Scottish band and a boys drum and pipe band.

However, with each foot going its own way we arrived at Johnston Park where the Commemoration Anzac Service took place. The address was given by Brigadier I. G. C. Gilmore, O.B.E., it was an excellent address. A large crowd of people were present.

Our own get-together was at Eastern Park, Geelong, we had a barbecue and lunch, combined with the fellowship of mates and their wives, which made it from my point of view a most memorable occasion. In memory of the occasion, I was given a write-up in the local newspaper, complete with photo, I was also given the original blown up photo used in the production of the paper.

I'll never forget it. I had tea at Mary and John French's place that night — there was much to discuss — and much to remember. The following day was spent with Bluey Carter and family, also Leith Lucas, who had not been able to come the day previous. We carried on till 5 p.m. when my train left for Melbourne and then home.

Of course as always happens, all who had promised to come or said they would try to come, did not or could not do so.

But for those who managed, it was an experience which could never be recaptured. It was an unforgettable experience. I am so proud to have been able to be there.

For the benefit of the few N.S.W. boys who belonged to the Platoon here is a list of names present: Jack French, Bill (Punchy) Hanson, Cliff Preston, Bluey Carter, Reg Coulton, Charlie Picone, Alan Steff, Don Steff (Chip and Chop), Jack Mitchell and later on Leith Lucas, also yours truly. A great many other names were mentioned and those who have passed on were remembered. Before closing I would like to thank Reg Armstrong, who so ably carried out such a large share of the duties I would have performed had I been here. Also Don Lawson for his part in the duties which were to have been mine.

Thanks, chaps, you helped to make this unforgettable experience happen, and one which will live long in my memory.

Hope to see you all next year.

BOB DIXON,
2/2 Reporter.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP TO Bob McGregor and Bob Lake

At the Annual General Meeting it was with great pleasure that the President presented Life Membership Certificates to Bob McGregor, who has put a tremendous lot of work into his job as Social Secretary and to Bob Lake, who has been Editor of "Pioneer News" for many years.

All Pioneers extend congratulations to these two gentlemen for the mighty effort they have put into the Association and our hearty thanks are extended to them.

TOBRUK SUNDAY, NEWCASTLE

Newcastle Sub-Branch of the Rats of Tobruk Association held their annual Tobruk Sunday Remembrance Day Service on Sunday, 11th April, 1976.

From Sydney Jack Pearce, Ted Skoyles, Max Herron and yours truly travelled up by car to attend the well conducted and impressive service at the Civic Park Memorial in Newcastle.

In doubtful weather the Service commenced, for once luck was with us, even though speeches were cut to a minimum and wreath laying hurried along. A few wreaths were laid, then all representatives from the services, units and associations laid volumes at the Memorial, which later were presented to children from various schools who received them on behalf of their school libraries.

Our worthy Secretary, Max Herron, placed a volume on behalf of the 2/1 - 2/2 Pioneer Association. The volume was "Life in Australia" which went to the West Wallsend High School.

The ladies from Newcastle always ready to help and entertain visitors were again to the fore after the service. They saw that the ladies from Sydney were not left on their own. It was off to the RSL Club to lunch for all, then during the afternoon they were entertained while the men were at the dinner.

After the Service the men adjourned to the Gallipoli Legion at Hamilton for the Reunion.

There were good speakers at the Dinner, but the Guest Speaker, Major Ian McKenzie representing the Sixth Division was outstanding. He brought back many memories to the men at the Reunion as he moved through the Middle East during his excellent speech. Most of the audience were sorry to hear him finish speaking.

From the Rats of Tobruk in Sydney, I took up the three banners the Association have. These banners are about twenty feet long and three feet wide painted by Don Evans, of Canberra. This excellent work cannot be repeated for unfortunately Don Evans now has failing eyesight. The banners hung in the hall, added that little difference to the Reunion. They were admired by all, there being much favourable comment from the members and visitors.

When all official speeches were completed members moved around chatting to each other over past days. Even though it was a Rats of Tobruk Reunion, a mini reunion of 2/1 Pioneer members took place. In one group I came upon was Charlie Wilby, Nugget Laurie, Bob Jull-eff, Jock Russell, Ted Skoyles, Max Herron, Jack Pearce and Herb Wilson. Also at the Reunion were President Jack Griffiths, Treasurer Dick Seddon, Noel Peterson and yours truly, and Jack Bertram.

Many thanks to Max and Peg Herron for taking up their car, otherwise I would have had to travel by train the previous night.

JACK (Mick) DODSON,
President.

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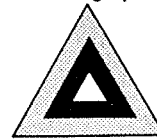
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OCCASIONS WITH JIM DRUMMOND

BY MONTY REID

About a month after the formation of the 2/1st the C.O. decided it was time to see if the Battalion was making any progress in discipline and self control. So, on a suitable day the four Rifle Companies were marshalled to a flat area below Silver City and were formed into a hollow square.

Around them were the officers and HQ Coy. In the centre the RSM prepared to test the men with O'Grady, the aim of each man being to stay in the game as long as possible.

It soon became apparent that the troops had not reached the stage where they could readily differentiate between "Do this" and O'Grady says "Do this," and consequently were being put out in their hundreds. Eventually, two men were not able to be separated, all the others having been eliminated. Privates Fraser and Reid who remained were both from C. Coy.

JIM DRUMMOND - THE PROFESSIONAL SOLDIER

I started to write about Jim Drummond and I only put in this incident because when I came to know Jim, my impressions of him were that this was the kind of exercise at which I thought he would have excelled. He was at all times a very professional soldier, whereas I was, and remained, a civilian in uniform and the above was probably my most outstanding achievement.

Jim and I enlisted within a few minutes of each other, he being numerically 40 behind me, but even though I knew that someone of his name was in the Battalion, it was eleven months before I had the opportunity to meet and know him as a person. And it happened thus - C Coy of which I was a Section Corporal, was sent forward after the German breakthrough on the Tobruk front, to dig in and form a new line. This we did with some difficulty and managed to hollow out shallow slit trenches for each man in the area which became known to posterity as the Salient.

SIX PIONEERS LOST IN 4 DAYS

The Company lost five or six men in the four days we were in residence, one of these being Private, now Cpl. Fraser, my erstwhile rival at O'Grady. Jim Drummond's Coy. came forward to relieve us, Jim's section taking over from mine. That day one of my men had mislaid my claspknife, it being the only one remaining to us, and that was unfortunate, for you who were there would remember the number of tins we had to open and a bayonet never was a good substitute for a tin opener. When Jim came to take over that night he asked me for a range card - I asked him to try and find my knife.

It was not hard to know where the

Germans were - look to the front and keep your head down, and if more specific information was needed, look over the parapet and the sniper would put a bullet through it. I never did find my knife, but for months after, every time we met Jim would ask for a range card.

2/1 SECONDED TO 2/2

When we returned to Palestine in September, some dozen of us from the Battalion and a similar number from the 2/2's were seconded to the Training Battalion to try and convey to the men who would eventually join the two Battalions, some of the lessons we were presumed to have learnt in Syria and in Tobruk. As NCO Instructors we felt that we should be excused from the early morning Admin Parade, so, one morning we all stayed in bed.

Unfortunately, the matter was brought to the notice of the CO and he, on having us paraded, took a very dim view of such a notion, and sentenced us to a route march on the next rest day - Sunday. Of course the other troops were aware of the situation and when we formed up on the Sunday morning, we had an audience of jeering privates who were apparently delighted to see how the mighty were fallen.

CSM Geo Gee, who of course had not been involved in our behaviour, had to take charge of us, but being a gentleman and somewhat sympathetic, he merely took us out of sight of camp and finding a shady spot, the remainder of the day was spent quite pleasantly. But the lesson was learned - strike over.

Later we found ourselves in South Australia, then home on leave and with the re-forming of the 2/2's the opportunity of joining them. We gave this matter some serious thought - after all we had been away from the Battalion for about eight months, had become used to working with the NCO's from the 2/2nds, and had been assured of some promotion in the new unit - so, all things being considered, we decided to make the change.

TRAIN TO BATHURST

Consequently, Jim D, Bill Hood, George Paricos and Pat Collins with myself as the fifth, found ourselves on the train to Bathurst on a cold June day. At the station we were met by a spruce young Lieutenant who directed us to our transport. Having been in the habit of travel-

ling by truck, when we weren't marching, everywhere in the Middle East, we wasted no time in niceties but threw our gear into the truck and climbed over the sides, then we declared ourselves as ready to move off to Kelso, where there were two companies of new Pioneers waiting to join the new Battalion. I can almost still see the look of horror on the face of that young Lieut. at such unsoldierly conduct. He did not actually quote from A.M.R. & O's about embussing, but I am sure he could have, and then he ordered us out to get in the correct way.

Of course we sat pat - we were not a bunch of young raw recruits to be pushed around by a young one pip Militia Lieut. far from it. Let us digress for a moment - for over six months 15,000 troops had stood against the Germans, had endured at least 2000 air raids in that time, spent many months in the front line and had patrolled extensively in No Mans Land, and not only were these troops the first of the Allies to hold the enemy, but they had even beaten Rommel and his Africa Corps at their own game.

WE WERE TOBRUK RATS

And we were of this company - we were Tobruk Rats, had been awarded the Africa Star, had been given permission to wear Pugarees and canvas gaiters, and already wore on our sleeves the blue chevrons of service. And so we sat pat.

And do you know what happened? Well that young man with the confidence of the authority he had been given, and with a few well chosen words, namely "This truck will not move until . . ." caused us to dismount, climb in through the back, place our gear on the floor, sit on it back to back, and with our rifles between our knees, muzzles in the air (oh the ignominy of it) the truck moved off to our new life.

NEW 2/2 FORMED AT KAPOOKA

The new 2/2 was formed at Kapooka and it was only about a month before Jim, Bill and myself were able to put up our pips and take our places in that mysterious Officers Mess. The remaining three years of our Army life and the part we as individuals played in them, have been recorded many times in other places and so my tale draws to a close.

I have a beautiful piece of parchment, signed by Lord Gowrie, V.C., which states that I was an Officer and by implication, a gentleman, although I have often wondered at the truth of that last statement. Jim also had one of these papers and, as I look back over the years with the benefit of hindsight, I would readily acknowledge that Jim Drummond was an Officer, and he was a Gentleman and a good Pioneer, and what more can I say.

LARRY ROBSON REPORTS ON NORTH COAST DOINGS

Since our last report a few things have been happening in the North. At the top end Bill Payne, who had the Gift Shop at Maclean, now no longer in business. Sorry I can't give any further information, but perhaps someone in that region can help.

The last couple of trips north have not permitted me the time to make many calls. I'm being kept busy "Squeaker" so no comment!

In Coffs Harbour area, Alec Dury has now retired and I understand from a few moments with Fred Wheaton, Alec had quite a write-up in the local paper. Fred still his usual self - sends regards to all.

Called on Jim Stannard at Nambucca Heads. Jim is in good health and glad to see anyone passing through. Spends quite a bit of time at the Bowling Club, so I called there first.

In Kempsey I spent a few minutes with Bluey Eather (Kempsey Kid), who is very much tied up with assisting the District A.A. people. Keep it up Ted as I know you are doing a tremendous job. Wal Ryan, I know would be pleased to see anyone who calls as he is unable to get about much these days.

In Port Macquarie, Sid Jopson is coming along well - has been able to visit his son in Inverell. Myrtle states if he behaves himself he may get down to Sydney one day for the Anzac March, if only to join the reunion. Evan Thompson of Port Macquarie and his family are in fine fettle. Evan is dead keen on leatherwork at present, and also makes an occasional home brew - why not call and sample some Bob, when on holidays at Laurieton. Far as can be known Tom Hodge is in good health and plays mid-week bowls.

Jack Spence and wife Muriel at Wingham, both are OK and again proud grandparents. Jack has had a bout in hospital with the old complaint, but OK again for the present, says Jack. Jack and our two Forster residents, Doug and Roma Shearston are getting ready to travel north again for a holiday. Doug has been elected to the Club Committee as assistant games supervisor, also he and his team reached the Taree-Manning District Bowls semis or close to it. So any of our Pioneer bowlers going that way please call in. They said Gordon Finlay and wife called in on their way north last week.

Called into Bill Wade's at Buladelah, but no one home. He was probably at the races somewhere!

On the local scene we regret to report the passing of Vi Pepper, wife of member Ivan, about six weeks ago. Our thoughts and sympathies to Ivan and family, and card sent from the Association. Dick Seddon, Jack Bertram and families all O.K. Jack is getting a bit hard to find at home these days, since his retirement in February.

He and Jean are catching up on trips they should have done over the years. Good luck! Another retirement to the list - Mick Flynn. Mick and Vi spent a couple of weeks at Forster - caravanning,

and called to see the Shearston's whilst there and had a good rest. Both look well. Jock Russell of Mayfield, never seems to change and looks as well as ever. Daryl Reid at present on a month's leave and how can you go on leave from a leave job.

Contacted a steady pair at Beresfield RSL - Tom Penfold and Bill (Shorty) Anderson. Have you sent your dues in yet, Shorty? Or are you still relying on Don Brooks for the paper. Shorty is ex-7 Platoon, A Coy. Told you Shorty, I wouldn't let you up for air. Both in good health. Tom gets around the district playing a bit of bowls. These Pioneers must be getting old - they're all playing Drake's game - or is it the amber liquid each end?

Glido Griffiths of course, is tied up helping to organise the big Rota Day for Newcastle next year. Don't know what's happened to Sid (Digger) Williams. Jock Russell tells me he sees him now and again at S. & L. Recreation Club. Hope to see Bob Juleff during next week, he must be OK, otherwise I would have heard.

To John and Mollie Hunt (who are, or by the time this edition will be out), have organised the Queensland get-together of Pioneers, we sincerely hope you had a good roll-up. Sorry that I'm not able to make it this year, John, owing to a prior commitment. Have advised the locals, but as its a short week-end in our area. I know you'll understand. I noticed at the end of Catering you have in brackets stated (we hope). If its anything like last year and how well setup things were carried out, you'll both excuse me from smiling. Good luck mate!

Might get up that way sometime in January Johnno, but no promises.

Well think this is about all for the present. Best wishes to all Pioneers for the Christmas and New Year period and may 1977 be better than 1976.

From the Newcastle and North Coast mob we say "Up the Pioneers."

Just one thought has come to mind. How about in the first issue for 1977 we start a column called "Remember When." It only need be a few words, but surely will bring back many memories. How about it, Pioneers?

Regards.

LARRY ROBSON.

ANZAC DAY RAFFLE

Due to an oversight we regret not publishing the result of the raffle on Anzac Day. Financially it was good - many thanks to George Walker for his efforts in selling tickets. I am not sure but I think he had an assistant. The winner was Sid Kent who immediately donated it back to the paper wrapping committee to dispose of. Many thanks Sid, for your generosity.

ANNUAL MEETING
ON Sunday, 24th April, 1977
At R.S.L. Club
GEORGE STREET, SYDNEY
at 8.00 p.m.
Immediately after the March

2/2 PIONEER NOTES

★ On a recent trip visiting relatives in Orbost, Vic., I was stopped in a shopping area by Fred Lay, original A Coy. 2/2. Fred recognised the colour patch in our Association badge. We had a great yarn about old times and Fred sends regards to all Pioneers and was pleased to hear that John Samuels, another old A Coy. man had come along to the Anzac Day parade. Fred was a POW.

★ He gave me the name of the Secretary of Orbost RSL, Lionel Fullarton, and advised me to find him at the office of Orbost Water Board and Sewerage Authority where I would find Lionel to be Secretary of the Works. He and staff gave me V.I.P. treatment.

★ In course of conversation Lionel revealed he was 2/2 Pioneer (Dixons' mortars) and was pleased to have news of the unit and sends regards to all. Passed on news that Ernie Jewell, 2/2, is now living in forced retirement as a result of a tractor accident on his property at Koroit, Vic. Also news that Bill Hanson, 2/2, is still battling at Timboon, Vic.

★ Owing to my brother-in-law being admitted to Orbost Hospital and many family and friends dropping in, I was unable to accept Lionel's invitation to dinner; sorry about that Lionel, but I hope to make amends in the future.

★ A few days later was "arrested" in the main street and "under escort" was "paraded" before Fred Lay, for another yarn; Fred produced a photo of the 2/2 Pioneers at their first Anzac Day March, 1946. Prominent in centre of the group was Eddie Aitken, Lt. Col., original 2/2, displaying designation board showing unit assembly area prior to the March.

★ News also of Eddie Morgan, original 2/2, who is now retired to Orbost after many years residence at Bemm River.

★ Another original 2/2 and lifetime resident of Orbost district is Bill Bailey, now a T.P.I.

★ Heard that Bert Brown, 2/2, is living in retirement with his son at Delegate, NSW. Now that you are in "Monaro Country" Bert, how about making a try at getting to our next reunion, we are always glad to see old mates.

★ Reg Benton, 2/2, farming at Timbarra, Vic., in shares with his brother, and is keeping in good shape.

★ I would have liked to have had the opportunity of spending a few days in Bodalla, Moruya and other towns along the highway, but circumstances decreed otherwise, however I am hoping for another trip later in a more leisurely style.

★ Hey Bob Dixo, what is the story of "Gunga Din"?

Since compiling these notes, B.I.L. has passed away. So took the opportunity of calling on Lionel Fullarton, whilst in Orbost for the funeral. I handed over a copy of the "Pioneer News" and Lionel's donation to the Association is still in my pocket as I have not had the opportunity of passing it on to the hands of our tight-fisted Treasurer. Lionel was very pleased with the paper.

REG. ARMSTRONG,
2/2 Reporter.

WELFARE and NEWS JOTTINGS

H. MONTAGUE.

Recently it was indeed a great pleasure to again meet up with the Reverend Pitt-Owen, who is now appointed to St. Oswald's Church of England, Dickson Street, Haberfield, Sydney.

He became Padre of the 2/1st in the Desert, relieving Mr. Dransfield there, and immediately became a very popular member of the Unit, thus being respected by all.

During our conversation he made it most emphatic that any old timers who happen to be in that vicinity would be very welcome, calling on him. Also after giving the particulars of old cobbbers who were in hospital, he very kindly visited them.

Also Albert is a very keen member of our Association and eagerly looks forward to receiving Pioneer News.

★ ★ ★

In reply to correspondence received from a country centre where apparently a few of our old originals are having a few wagers, as to who was the first RSM of the 2/1st Pioneers, the answer is Frank Tellick. This fellow originally belonged to the Coldstream Guards, England, but was seconded to the Australian Army Instructional Coy in the late 1930's.

When the Unit was formed at Greta on Tuesday, 11st June, 1940, he was appointed the first RSM.

★ ★ ★

Whilst doing the usual visitation tour recently at Concord Repatriation Hospital I met up with Leslie Hargraves, one of the B Coy, 2/1 old originals, so you can well understand what a pleasant surprise it was for him to be called on with the Association's respects.

Despite his sickness the visit cheered the old timer up considerably, and we certainly did have a great chin wag about identities, events and places.

I don't know if we have any other World War I veterans in our Association left, but Les served overseas during that conflict with the 35th Battalion, which was known as "Carmichael's Thousand," so in other words he had done some travelling in his life-time, and relates some very interesting experiences.

After several calls our old china was discharged from that medical centre, but during the first visit he particularly requested that all his best regards and wishes be tendered to all Pioneers for their kindness and generosity in such representation.

Also, if any of our readers are down Saratoga, Gosford way, he and his good wife, who reside at 1 The Corso, would be only too pleased and absolutely thrilled to welcome them.

★ ★ ★

Best wishes and congratulations to Johnny Trevelthick, who has now been appointed as the manager of the huge new shopping centre of David Jones Ltd, at Bondi Junction.

★ ★ ★

After last seeing David "Scotty" King, D Coy, in Tobruk, you can well guess what a great old reunion we had on meeting him out at Concord. He was one of the old originals who joined at Greta

and sailed from Melbourne with that Section and was taken POW in the desert's historic battlefield. The old china was receiving medical attention for a serious illness, but did appreciate the calls made on behalf of the Association, and it cheered him up considerably with tiding of his old Pioneer mates, to whom he forwards all his good wishes.

Incidentally, Dave immediately enrolled in our organisation and so will be furnished with all the latest tiding of the old unit. ★ ★ ★

George Creasy, 2/1, A Coy, that great old friend of ours from Portland, N.S.W. was indeed pleased when I called on him at the Lady Gowrie Red Cross Centre, at Gordon recently.

The old mate hasn't been in the best of health for quite some time now, having been transferred to the above nursing home where he is still receiving medical attention, after being at the Lady Davidson Hospital, Turramurra, for quite a while.

However, he was delighted with such an unexpected visit and of course we did have a session about past times which certainly cheered him up, and in conclusion George sincerely requests that all his best respects and regards be conveyed to all and the organisation for their representation.

★ ★ ★

Recently I went to St. Vincents Hospital where Jock Gillespie was undergoing surgery, and who joined A Coy. as an original at Greta with the rank of Lieutenant. However, he was transferred to D Coy at Dubbo and sailed with that Company at that position from Melbourne.

You can well imagine the tremendous surprise he got on introducing myself and conveying the Association's compliments which he did really appreciate. Of course, during the interview quite a few years history of the Pioneers were debated on and the visit made him a very happy person.

To hear tidings of the old Battalion cobbbers and seeking information on them provided a very welcome session, and I was sorry when time came for me to leave, but gave an assurance that I will take another trip to see him again, and enjoy another interesting session.

Again Jock especially forwards to all his old Digger pals the sincerest compliments for such kind thoughts and respects. ★ ★ ★

Tom Hugo with his charming wife, Margaret, requested me prior to Anzac Day, to convey their best wishes and regards to all for the Annual General Meeting and the yearly historic reunion of the Association. Their wish was carried out at both sessions and greatly received by all present, so thanks again, you pair of great friends.

★ ★ ★

The President of the Blacktown RSL, Lenny Humphries, original Greta member of B Coy, extends a very welcome hearty invitation to any old Pioneer who happens to be in that particular vicinity anytime, to call on him there.

Met up again with Harry Whittaker

after all these years whilst doing the rounds at the Repatriation Hospital. This fellow is another of the C Coy. originals, so we had much to discuss about old identities, Silver City days, etc., etc.

As I had a few more calls to make, time did not allow me to stay longer that we both would have liked, but I do know both our sides were quite sore from laughter and conversing about "Old Pop Eye" and events that transpired whilst in the 2/1 Pioneers when on "His Majesty's Service."

HARRY MONTAGUE.

VALE - CLAUDE KEN KERR

Early last October with Arthur Murphy ex Sgt. 5 Platoon, H.Q. Coy, 2/1st, we attended the funeral of the late Claude Ken Kerr, affectionately known throughout the Battalion as "Old Mum Kerr," as representatives of our Association, to pay our respects to one of the greatest blokes it was ever possible to have been associated with.

From the very first day at Greta until the termination of his military career he was always a tremendously popular cobbber, and sincerely esteemed by the whole Unit.

Much could be penned of the very high regard we all had of him, and truly his memory will never be forgotten.

Over these past few years his health was anything but good, so thus quite a number of visits had to be made to various hospitals where he spent as a patient.

However, despite his unfortunate suffering, he really did appreciate my calls where we had many chats about old times, which cheered the old pal up considerably.

After the funeral service, both Arthur and I personally expressed the Association's deepest sympathies and sorrow, which was most greatly received and was of comfort to his widow, June.

In acknowledgement the lady thanked us for the attendance and especially requests her sincerest regards and respects be conveyed to our Association as per her letter below. H. MONTAGUE.

VALE — PETER O'BRIEN

Last June, Bob Burnside and I represented the Association at St. Canice's Catholic Church, Elizabeth Bay, Sydney, where a Requiem Mass service was held for our deeply respected cobbber, previous to the burial at Waverley Cemetery.

As in Army life, he was indeed highly esteemed in his civilian career by the very large congregation that attended also, to pay their last respects.

Peter was another original as he joined at Greta, posted to D. Coy and served continuously until discharged from the Forces. To all of us from the 2/1st, it really was a wonderful pleasure to have met him as at all times, he endeared himself with his friendship and kindness.

Peter was a staunch supporter of our organisation and attended get-togethers whenever his health permitted, where as usual, he was always so popular.

At the conclusion of the Service both of us personally expressed the Association's deepest regrets and sorrow to his widow, Roma and their family which was truly appreciated, and they requested that sincerest thanks be tendered to all for such kindness, comfort at their tragic loss.

ANZAC DAY REUNION

MONDAY, 25th APRIL, 1977

SOUTH SYDNEY TOWN HALL For ALL 2/1 and 2/2 Pioneers

PIONEERS ANNUAL QUEENSLAND REUNION

In October, the yearly gathering of old 2/1 and 2/2 Pioneers of that State was held at John and Mollie Hunt's residence at Chermside, Brisbane, and was a tremendous success. The reception which greeted the visitors on arrival was very much appreciated and the appetising barbecue and catering arrangements could not have been better.

Our charming hosts must have worked very hard for several days and fully earned the thanks and appreciation of all who attended. Getting old mates and their wives together for such an evening requires a lot of hard work and our thanks go to you, John and Mollie for your efforts.

ATTENDANCE

Toby Palim, A. Coy, came all the way from Maryborough and enjoyed every moment with old friends. He tendered an apology from Charlie Kerr, Sigs., who could not attend because of the illness of his wife Neida. However, all present sent their regards and trust that her health will improve.

Micky Reilly, B Coy, with his good wife, Joy, were as popular as ever and they certainly added great merriment to the assembly.

Phil Cramsie and his wife, Mary, assisted greatly with the transport position and travelled quite a number of miles in taking Fred and Nell Davenport, also myself, to and from Scarborough to the gathering. Fred is still paralysed down his left side, can only say a few words, but his physical health and mental alertness is good and he can fully understand any discussions, also has put on weight.

Norm Goodchap, B.H.Q., and his wife Anne, through the untiring efforts of our hosts, came and what a pleasant surprise it was. These two journeyed many miles from way back of the Tamboourine Mountains. It was their first visit and will not be the last, as they really enjoyed themselves.

Pat and Nell Laughren came from Nambour just to see old friends. Pat as usual, is a great advocate for "C" Coy, and had the whole crowd in fits of laughter.

Arthur Luddington from Rockdale in Sydney happened to be on vacation in Queensland and delayed his return to attend, together with his cousin, Mrs. Loveday. Both thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Ray and Mavis Blanch turned up from Beaudesert and it was really delightful to have the pleasure of their company.

Rube Wade, A Coy., had a wonderful evening and was sorry when the party ended, but like the rest of us has already given notice of his intention to be present next year.

W. J. McKibben, A Coy. and R.A.P., came up from the Tweed and had a good time with old friends.

George Brooks, D. Coy, toured from the outback of the State and spent many pleasant hours with old mates. He said it was well worth the effort to be at such a gathering.

As for myself, Fred and Nell Davenport kindly provided me with accommodation which was greatly appreciated. The long trip was worth every minute by the wonderful reception and the hospitality of John and Mollie Hunt. We are all hoping we may be able to attend again next year.

During the evening, telegrams of re-

gret for non-attendance and good wishes were received from Toby Hale, Tom Manuel, Wally "Desso" Page, Merv Andrews, Peter Bell, Fred Blanch, Charlie Kerr, Bill Hoffman, Larry Robson and Jack Bertram of the 2/1sts, and Bill Hood, Lenny and Alma O'Connor, Daisy McKewen (widow of the late Cpt. McKewen), Tom Burstow of the 2/2nds.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

The next reunion of old Pioneers will be held at John and Mollie Hunt's residence, 22 Lupton Street, Chermside West, Brisbane, on Saturday, 29th October, 1977, at 4.00 p.m.

It is to be readily understood that quite a number of members obviously have commitments over the week-ends, but we earnestly request that you keep this particular one free for such a social gathering, as your company with your wives, would be most appreciated.

Please don't forget this most important date, and let John and Mollie know at the above address.

HARRY MONTAGUE.

VALE — J. F. (Johnie) CLIFFORD

At the Northern Suburbs Crematorium Johnie Clifford was laid to rest, on 19th July, 1976.

Many members will be shocked to hear of his passing even though his illness had plagued him for a few years. I know that all members are behind me when I extend sympathy to his wife and family on behalf of the 2/1 - 2/2 Pioneer Association.

In A. Coy. 2/1 Pioneer Battalion, he was well known as the scrum half of our football team. Fred Wheaton, when he reads this, will know that he has lost one of his happy mates, especially when the topic was football.

The Minister who conducted the service was none other than one of the 2/1 Pioneer Padres - the Rev. Alan Laing. Monty made it known that we were there from the 2/1 - 2/2 to pay our respects. The Reverend Alan Laing, after the RSL Service, spoke of the mates from the 2/1 Pioneers Battalion there to farewell Johnie Clifford. He stated that he was proud to be of the same Battalion during the Second World War.

Bert Holmes, a good mate of Johnie, was there with his wife, plus Harry (Monty) Montague and yours truly. The brother of Bruce Smith and his wife had a yarn to us after the service.

JACK (Mick) DODSON,
President.

OBITUARY

With Bill Jollie and Len Humphries, I represented the Association at the Church Service and later the Cremation of Ron Macfarlane, ex Sigs. 2/1st, at the Eastern Pine Cemetery, late in August.

This fellow was indeed a very popular one, and always deeply respected by all

who had had the great pleasure to have known him. Before passing on he spent some time in hospitals and always looked forward to my visits, where we had many good old chats, which cheered him up considerably. After the proceedings his widow Pat and family, personally thanked us and our organisation for such kind tributes and representation which was of comfort and consolation at such a tremendous loss.

H. MONTAGUE.

LAST POST

George "Blue" Evans passed away in the Narrandera hospital on 2nd October a few days after admittance.

The Funeral was on 5th October and was well attended with RSL President, Don Doyle, conducting the Service and Guard of Honour.

George's wife predeceased him some years ago and he is survived by son, Jim, who is on the staff of the local Post Office.

— BRUCE RICH.

THANKS

Dear Monty,

Thank you for making such an effort to pay your respects to Ken. I appreciated it so much. The years of his life spent in the A.I.F. were important to him and I am glad he was with such kind men. He had battled ill health for so many years and I am grateful that I was able to love and care for him till almost the end of his life. I can truly say that the "Pioneer News" was the mail he looked forward to and enjoyed.

I am also grateful to "Murph" for having attended. Although out of touch recently, we always appreciated his friendship.

I am thankful for the thoughts and kindness of so many friends.

Sincerely,

JUNE KERR.

MAIL BAG (continued)

John Hunt, A Coy. 2/1, writes of the great success of the third Queensland get-together and says how pleased he and Mollie were to see people from Maryborough, Sydney, Beaudesert, Ipswich and the Brisbane area. One they were specially delighted to see was Fred Davenport, even though Nell thought he would not be able to make it. He thinks it would have taken the proverbial wild horses to keep Fred away. John would not tell the names of the two people (maybe getting old) who, when he phoned them on Sunday morning, told him they went back to bed after breakfast.

It was really a great evening, 22 for dinner and apologies from 14 more. As he and Mollie hope to take a trip to Canada from June to September next year, they have chosen the last Saturday in October, 29th, and hope to see many more Pioneers and their wives on this occasion. Arthur Luddington said to put him down for next year, so what more recommendation can you get. John feels that if you can get a dozen or more Pioneers together it is well worth while and would like to see more small functions held around the country throughout the year.

Thank you for the cheque John, it will be passed on to our worthy Treasurer, and once again many thanks to you and Mollie from the Committee here, for a job well done. Perhaps next year some of us may be able to make the trip to swell the numbers.



Here it is, the final production for 1976, my how the time gets by as the years roll on. Quite a good response from members which always makes it easier for the compilation of the "News."

Dr. Stan Goulston, Medical Centre Newtown, ex 2/1 M.O., and our back-up through the early years of the Unit, sends a cheque to the Treasurer and the information that he still enjoys the news of his many friends made through the African campaign. Many thanks for the letter Stan, we all wish you well and the "News" will continue to arrive each issue.

Fergus Robertson, 2/1, now of Mosman, sends a cheque to the Treasurer and a request for a badge, and the information that on the day he was writing same was the 62nd anniversary of the declaration of War, (World War I), which he remembers very well, glory, you should be that old! Badge has been posted, you should be wearing same by the time you read this. Thanks for the letter "Robbo" and thanks for the memories, also.

Eric Lindsay, 2/2, now at Coonabarabran, enclosed cheque to the Treasurer and a request for the badge, badges despatched and many thanks for the sub.

Toby Palin, 2/1, now at Maryborough, Qld., sends a cheque to the Treasurer, a request for a badge and an apology for not making Anzac Day. Toby was to have made the trip with John Hunt, but unfortunately, was despatched to hospital without being able to let John know, but hopes to remedy this next year. Toby wishes to be remembered to Bluey Eather also Bill McCarter of the Band, Toby was a base drummer with the Band on the Tablelands and went out to A. Coy. going to Borneo. Toby has no intention of missing the Barbeque and reunion at John Hunt's place, reckons the last one was a beauty, many thanks, Toby, and hope you enjoyed that day with John Hunt and company.

Bob Juleff, per wife Jean, sends a request for a badge and quotes that they enjoyed the company of the Sydney contingent at Newcastle's Tobruk Sunday, and hope to see a few more next year at same. Many thanks Jean and Bob, keep that Cardiff Club rocking along.

Joe Hickey, 2/1, now at Lambton, Newcastle, sends a sub to the Treasurer, a request for a badge and a special mention to all the blokes of 13 Platoon, C. Coy., also asks for the address of Don Durie, can do all the first parts Joe, but Don's address a bit hard. I know he lives somewhere in North Manly, but have not see him for years and have no idea as to his correct address. Many thanks Joe, keep sober.

Bill Barnes, 2/2, now at Warren, sends along a little news of the boys of the West. Bonny Fowler and Bill Norris, 2/2 are still living in Warren, enjoying bliss-

ful bachelorhood. Bonny being retired and Bill with Wright Heaton's Store. Jack and Betty Crouch called on Bill early in the year. Crouches are at Goulburn where Jack puts in with the Railways. Also visited by Eric Lindsay and wife Norma, residents of Coonabarabran. Bill thinks it might have been a sort of second honeymoon, although this was not actually stated. Joyce Tomlinson, widow of Snowy doing a great job on her own with the children and would welcome any Pioneers passing through Dubbo, at Allison Street. Joyce saw Bill Fallow a few weeks ago and understands that Tom Reynolds has also moved back but has not run into him as yet. Bill also called on Mick Bye out Goodooga way a short time ago, claims you are always made welcome at Brahman Stud, remarks that the Bye's look well and thriving, but would appreciate an upturn in the stock market. Many thanks for the newsy letter, Bill and Margaret, also for the good wishes on behalf of the committee and "Pioneer News."

Jack Morgan, 2/2, now at Wagga, sends a letter with the news of Les Pridmore, A. Coy, and Ken Knights, D. Coy., the last two occasions with Ken drawing a winning ticket for Jack in the RSL Club raffle. Jack is hoping to go to Dubbo for the 7th Div. Reunion and is looking forward to meeting the blokes from Warren at same, also Alf Ballard from Tumut. Thanks for the letter, Jack, and hope you all had a ball at Dubbo.

George Creasy, 2/2, resident of Portland, sends a cheque to the Treasurer and a note of thanks to Monty for his visits. George and Portland seem to have a problem, they can't get a doctor in the town so he will have to stay at Ashfield until at least the end of October, well George, we'll all wish you well and hope that by the time this goes to press, you are at home and on the way to recovery.

Doug Watson, 2/1, Bellambi per medium of his daughter, Barbara, sends a sub to the Treasurer and the information that Doug's health is no longer tops, so is unable to make the trip to Sydney on the big days, however, he still manages the local service and March at Corrimal and Wollongong. Many thanks for the letter, Barbara, just keep an eye on the old bloke for us and keep him smiling.

Bruce Rich, 2/1, now at Narrandera, sends a sub to the Treasurer, congratulations to the Association, and mentions that there are not many Pioneers down that way, he does see George (Bluey) Evans now and again and Ken Knight of Wagga shows up on occasions in his job as an architect. Thanks for the news Bruce and keep the flag flying down at the local.

Jack Crosland, 2/1, now at Condell Park, sends a sub to Treasurer and quotes

that he is not much at writing, but both he and his wife enjoy the "News" very much and read from cover to cover of each issue. Thanks Jack, glad to know it is all appreciated.

Mick Bye, 2/2, of Goodooga writes the information of a change of address. I think it is only Postal, as I can't imagine moving a stud into town. Mick tells of the big rains of January - February, this year, they were floodbound for some 8 to 10 weeks, but claims they were well provided by S.A.S. and supplied by helicopter from Walgett. Stock losses were not bad compared to some in the area and Mick does not complain. He was pleased to hear of "Hayseed" O'Neill and reckons he must have put his age back a bit, don't know Mick, but that's the sort of statement that could cause you trouble if same Hayseed should ever contact you. Many thanks for your letter and better luck with the country in the future.

Jock Gillespie, 2/1, Captain of our old days with a postal address of Potts Point and a residential address of St. Vincents Hospital for some considerable time, puts pen to paper (after a lot of pestering by Monty) to let us know that he still has good thoughts about the old Battalion. To quote Jock's operation "They split him up the middle like a sheep, stuck tubes and wires into all sorts of places (mentionable and unmentionable), took a valve out of his heart and replaced it with a device of plastic and metal (it ticks like a time bomb) and proceeded to put him together again with twitches of wire and lots of stitches." Monty claims he looks as well after such a big job, but Jock reminded him that it would not be the first time that he had been referred to as a tough old B... Claims that another week or so of eating, sleeping and strolling in the sun and some of those little nurses will have to keep on their toes. Very good to receive the letter Jock, we all wish you the very best, hope that the recovery is as quick as you hope and good hunting with the "angels of mercy."

Charles Richardson, ex 2/1, ex Captain of A and C Coys., also writes for the first time for a mighty long while (not bad three officers in the one Mail Bag)! However we like it, Charlie now resides in Queensland where he is a member of the Manly (Wynnum) Bowling Club and the RSL, which he claims as about the best in Brisbane, they have a March and reunion on Anzac Day, good, but not the same as with the fellows that you served with, and hopes one day to make the big pilgrimage to Sydney to have a go. Charles' family have all grown up, last one finished school last year, but still never seems to get time to himself. Has been to Sydney on occasions but mostly business and a call on the family. Many thanks for the letter, Charlie, very

good to hear from you, don't let it be so long next time.

...**Wally "Desso" Page**, still travelling the country in their caravan house and loving every minute of it. At time of writing they are at Currumbin Beach, but soon to move on to where? They do not know as yet. Wally sent an address of a 2/2 Pioneer at Terranora, northern NSW, by the name of Ray Hill, who has been admitted to the mailing list. Wally claims its the greatest life to have and he and wife Lall intend to keep at it whilever they can drive, we are glad that you enjoy it so and we all wish you many more miles of successful motoring.

Bob Gales, 2/2, now at Toukley, and just returned from a trip to Penang, Butterworth and Singapore. Bob's daughter, son-in-law and grandchildren are over there. Son-in-law as a Sgt. with the RAAF at Butterworth, which is almost an hours drive from the residents' dwellings so they have a Sgt's Mess in the resident's area, of which he became an honorary member for the period of his stay. Bob and daughter had quite a bit of luck on the "pokies" while there, "those pokies turn up everywhere", and finished up a little in front over the period. Bob and family had a final week in Singapore prior to his return home where he was really captivated. As son-in-law will finish his period of duty in February, it is quite unlikely that he will get another trip, which is probably just as well the way he is talking about the Amah, lovely girl and keeps on bashing the gums, however, sounds like a great trip Bob and pleased to receive the letter, suppose you will find little old Toukley a bit on the quiet side till you settle down!

"**Scotty**" **David King**, 2/1, now resident of French's Forest, sends a sub to the Treasurer and a lot of good wishes, not a lot of news, strange that I can't just place the name Scotty, however may call on you one day just to say hello. I live at Brookvale and my three children all married and live at Frenchs Forest. Many thanks for the letter, the sub doing lots of good and we hope you enjoy the "News" for many more years to come.

Mrs. Joyce Tomlinson, wife of the late George, sends a nice letter to the Association and the information that she has not been neglected by the Gilgandra and Warren boys that were known to George, these chaps speak so very highly of you Joyce and I am sure that anyone reading this paper that happens to travel through Dubbo will most certainly call at 28 Allison Street. However, keep smiling and paper will continue to be posted until such times as you wish to discontinue and subscriptions are not necessary.

Ted Whitfield, 2/1, sends a letter notifying us of his change of address. Ted has moved from Earlwood to Epping. He has recently retired and should have all the time in the world, however, these things do not always go according to plan and a couple of operations have not helped any, taken a little of the steam out of him, still he claims that once he gets on top of this, he will be good for another 20 years or so. Many thanks for the letter, Ted, wish you speedy recovery from ops., and Treasurer knows just what to do with sub.

Gerry Collins, 2/1 Penshurst, sends a letter which is good to receive, but the contents were not, namely news of the death of his brother, Dan, who was also a member of our Battalion. Dan lived out West, Nymagee, practically the centre of NSW, with Cobar, Nyngan and Condobolin about the same distance away. Dan was in the process of building a War Service home at Nyngan and perhaps this added worry could have caused some of his upset. To his wife, Noleen, we offer our sincere sympathies and we sincerely hope that she is able to carry on and complete the job that they both started out to do together.

"**Dave**" **Athol Boyle**, 2/1, now of West Australia, writes a thank you letter to Max for the services he offered at the funeral of Dave's brother, on behalf of Dave, who through ill health was not able to make the trip. Dave does hope to perhaps see Max perhaps next year, as his son will take over the duties as he puts it, "I am not to lift, run, jump or anything foolish in other words, I'm buggered." What rot, a little rest, steady as she goes, and you'll be "shooting the moon" by the time you get over here. Many thanks for the letter Dave, have no worry about your writing, you should see some we get, but we still love 'em and cheque is in the hot little hands of the Treasurer.

Max Law, 2/1, now at Kareela, sends a letter of apology for his non-attendance at the June Committee Meeting and his lack of not notifying of same, we all forgive you Max. When your work becomes a little complicated as yours does from time to time, we are fortunate that you are available for Committee as often as you are. As to being anxious as to the finances of Anzac Day, you would have learnt all of this by now and I could not print it because I do not know, besides the taxation might get onto us! By the time this goes to press Max will have been to New Guinea, Papua and Manila for the Company, so readers can imagine how much he has at his fingertips through business. Many thanks for the letter, Max, no doubt the secretary has been in touch with you since your return and has put you in the picture. "Mudguts" Whiteley has cheque where its doing most good!

NEWCASTLE NOTES

Dick Seddon sends a note to say that all is well in the Coal City, and all are still able to sit up and take a little liquid nourishment as it is required. Larry Robson keeps us well posted on the Far North Coast boys and Dick does same at Newcastle. "**Nuggett**" **Laurie** and **Joe Hickey** at the RSL, Nugget is up and about after his operation but is not putting on any weight (most blokes want to take it off) and was reporting back to the doctor at the end of June to get a result. back to work or retire. Joe is still bouncing around but has some bad days as well. **Jack Bertram** has been to Norfolk Island, enjoying part of his retirement leave, was also in Grafton prior to Norfolk, playing bowls, saw a few Pioneers including **Fred Wheaton**, who has been having some trouble with rheumatism and is going on a special treatment. **Sid Jopson** has been in Newcastle with his daughter, managed to attend the Rota meeting while there and they spent a pleasant few hours and beers together.

Noel Petersen has had his wife in hospital but we have had no report on her progress. **Claude Campbell** wrote to Dick short time ago, he is now retired, has one or two social jobs and is treasurer of the Inverell Bowling Club at present. Has not seen anything of **Roy Cheers** for some time but he is still at Topi Topi. **Claude Densmore** a new member to Dick was looking for "Rats" on Anzac Day. Claude was a transport driver, Dick. I remember him well and was a good mate of Bob Baldwin.

Mick Flynn is making good headway after his operation, he attended the meeting a few weeks ago. **Mick Hollis** still at Long Flat and still bearing up under the strain. **Bob Juleff** still batting strongly, 76 this year and still has a noggin occasionally. **V. Jones**, Bulahdelah another new member turned up on Tobruk Day, but Dick does not know his Coy. **Bruce Mitchell** still at Greta, keeping well, but having a rough time with regards work, has been out for quite a while. **Jack McCracken** still hobbling down to the RSL for a Red Mill and a beer, Dick met him a couple of weeks ago and got into a lot of trouble. (We all know that Dick is partial to a Red Mill himself!) **Jock Russell** still bobs up every now and again, enjoys life and a few beers. **Ted Simpson** is still playing bowls and sun baking (when the sun shines!) is keeping well and sends his regards.

Billy Wade still bowling, having a few beers and playing the horses. Bill really loves to have a go at the gee gees. **Herb Wilson** is getting around, has had a little trouble with one of his hips and is to go into hospital, but we have no information on this as yet. **Charlie Wilby** has joined the ranks of the retired and has settled in town, away from the wheat dust. **Dick and Glido** just about complete the compliment of Newcastle, they are both very well and manage to meet every Friday, where they exchange pleasantries over the usual Red Mill and a few schooners.

Many thanks for the news, Dick, I must compliment you, the writing is definitely improving, jokes aside, you really keep us posted and we appreciate same and I am sure that all who read the news, really get a kick when they see all those old familiar names.

Ken Celler, 2/1, now at Essendon, Vic., writes that he is still progressing along favourably with a few minor complaints (like broken ribs and injured foot), but he thinks they are on the mend. Ken's wife has also been hospitalised, but is on the recovery road and must just take things easy. Ken is a grandfather three times and with three daughters to go could easy go to the top of the class. Ken has been retired from the Fire Brigade and is still having trouble with Repat. I am afraid that is about the par for the course where they are concerned. You can only just keep on plugging at them, try to wear them down. Many thanks for the letter Ken, badge has been dispatched and subs are with the Treasurer.

Well, that completes the Mail Bag for this issue. Will sign off, wishing all Members and their Families the very best for the Christmas and a Prosperous and Happy New Year.

LAKEY.