

PIONEER NEWS

Phone: 759-5491

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

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

Treasurer:

VIC WHITELEY

Editors: R. LAKE & M. HERRON

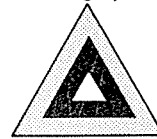
President:

J. (Mick) DODSON

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ANZAC FUNCTIONS 1977

This year we have a few changes in our locations for various functions — so take heed a little further on.

WREATH LAYING CEREMONY

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

The first of our parades is for our Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Cenotaph, no change at all. assembly point 2/1 and 2/2 19 Hunter Street, 7.00 p.m., Sunday, April 24. Form up 7.20, march off 7.25 for the Cenotaph in Martin Place where we will be joined by our ladies auxiliary for our service and wreath laying ceremony.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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

This is the first of our changes of locations as Anzac eve this year falls on a Sunday our normal meeting place of Castle-reagh Hotel will NOT be available to us.

The NEW meeting place is Board Room, City of Sydney R.S.L. Club, 569 George Street, Sydney, 8.00 p.m. Now don't forget if you have anything to say as to the running of our association be there, if you are available to join our committee and we always need new faces and new ideas. BE THERE at 8.00 p.m., City of Sydney R.S.L.

ANZAC DAY MARCH

Monday, 25th April

The 2/1st will assemble in Elizabeth Street with head on to King Street at the rear of 6th Div.

2/2nd will assemble in Phillip Street with head on to King Street at rear of 7 Div.

Both Btns. banners will be prominently displayed but check with daily newspapers in case of a late change.

Both 2/1st and 2/2nd will complete the march in Hyde Park and it is easy from here to catch a train from Museum Station to Redfern for our Anzac Reunion.

ANZAC LUNCH AND REUNION

Monday, 25th April,
Redfern Town Hall

Note the address: REDFERN TOWN HALL. This is the same venue for our reunion as last year so you shouldn't have too much trouble in finding it. It is on the corner of Pitt and Wells Street, Redfern, and only five minutes from Redfern Station.

Once again 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 be served during the afternoon. The lunch and snacks will be free but you pay for what you drink.

Hoping to see some of you at some of the functions.

GORDON FINLAY, Publicity Officer

From the Treasurer

An article from the Treasurer is usually a "whinge" — low funds, increased prices, but this time firstly a word of praise to the members who are keeping the "NEWS" afloat—those who forward "faloosh" or likewise pay on Anzac Day.

They are carrying the burden for many who NEVER contribute. Secretary Max advises it is a three figure number so we are thankful for the contributions we do receive.

We have no wish to prune our mailing list — the Pioneers lost could never be replaced, but if you fall into the "three figure category" could you spare a thought for increased postage and printing rates if not for the stalwarts mentioned.

Our expenses in publishing and posting the News doubled for 1976-77 as compared with the previous year's figure and with further increases quite a possibility, it is essential for a greater percentage of members to contribute.

In forwarding subscriptions enclose some information of a personal nature, also contacts with other Pioneers — if you do not wish to receive the News, or know of "bodge" addresses we are mailing to, could you please advise.

FRED DAVENPORT IMPROVES

- Had tidings from our good friend Nell Davenport stating she and Fred had just returned to Brisbane after a nice quiet vacation which did them both the world of good. Fred is slowly improving and enjoying much better health but his speech is still affected.

Our good wishes and hopes for still greater improvement were forwarded on behalf of the Association so thanks again Nell.

Obituaries

- Late November with Bill Tasker and Ivor Evans, "B & I" boys we attended the funeral of our respected cobbler Roy Bounds late HQ 2/1st as representatives of our Association to pay respects to a friend who was indeed most popular. This Organisation sadly mourns his passing away as Roy was one of its staunchest supporters and assisted me greatly on my many calls on visiting our sick mates. To his many relatives the Pioneers sympathies and regrets were personally paid and appreciated which was of some comfort during the sad ordeal, and we were especially requested to convey to all their very best thanks for such kindness.

- Early last December we were absolutely startled to learn of the very sudden passing away of one of the 2/1st Old Padres Allan Laing. Only a few weeks previously I had had a very pleasant conversation with Allan and he was glad of tidings of the old battalion. His late Diocese was out at Gordon, Sydney, where as usual he was immensely popular, also Allan was an executive member of the R.S.L. committee and certainly helped me when calling on him for advice whilst acting on behalf of our members. The funeral service which was held at the Northern Suburbs Crematorium was packed for the final rites, and with so many others our Association's respects were paid, and sincerely appreciated.

- We all were distressed to be informed of the passing away of another Original 2/1st Archie Starr, affectionately known as "Twinkle" or "Shining", early this year. I understand he was in "D" Coy and joined the Unit at Greta where he was always deeply respected. His cremation at the Northern Suburbs Centre was very well attended and the Association's sincere respects were tendered to the widow and family which was appreciated.

- I have been informed by the family of the late Lenny Hargraves B Coy. that our old respected cobbler passed away after suffering illnesses over these last few months.

They were very mindful of the visits made by me on behalf of the Association whilst he was at the Repat as Len with his wife and family resided at Saratoga, down Gosford way, and to save the long journeys by them, I went out and kept them in touch by phone of his condition. Again we have lost another great old China who will be sadly missed, and the Organisation's deepest regrets and condolences were passed on to his widow, and family.

— HARRY MONTAGUE



The first issue of the News for 1977, as a unit association we fared well enough in 1976 and we hope and look forward to a better year in 1977. Quite a few letters in from the troops or their wives, as the case may be, some written before the festive season and others after, to all those who wished us the seasonal greetings we thank you as a committee and we in turn hope that all our members' wives and families continue to keep good health and prosperity in the future.

Doug Shearston our ex-treasurer now retired to Forster on the central coast sends a newsy letter and the knowledge that had he known how good retirement was he may have been persuaded to join today's trend and not started work at all. Doug and Roma have just completed a month's holiday in Queensland did not chase any pioneers just lazy days and sightseeing, went as far as Shute Harbour, had a day's sailing around the reef islands and didn't get sick, although it was a bit blowy. They both liked Noosa Heads, the scenery is wonderful, as Doug writes both physical and natural, I suppose the same appeal was available for Roma. The Shearstons have now completed a year at their home at Forster and a reprimand for the Sec., who has not yet paid a visit, however, Gordon and Olive Finlay called on them just before they went north, and mentioned that Joan and I would be calling while they were away, no apologies needed, we did not call Doug, will explain why when we see you later. Larry Robson the north coast yo-yo called and took Doug and Roma to dinner at the R.S.L., cracked two small jackpots and had a great evening. Larry calls every six weeks and keeps him abreast of all the Pioneers, although he claims a lot are only names to him reckons he would have to be another Bob McGregor to be able to remember them all. Also called on Allan and Beulah Crute on the way back from Queensland had a good yarn, were offered a bed for the night, but as Doug says, he is like a milk cart horse (what's that) when he is headed for home and likes to just keep going. That just about completes Doug's news, apart from a remark about sponge cakes and comparing his wife with Peg Herron, apparently Peg gets the Blue Ribbon where sponge cake is concerned, Lakey's suggestion to Roma, make him a nice big one and add four teaspoons of epsom salts, see who gets the blue ribbon then. Many thanks for the letter Doug hope to see you in April, no shortage of beds if thoughts go that way.

Eric "Bombo" Reynolds, 29 years resident of Coogee has ripped stakes and moved up to Macksville on the north coast. Bombo and wife Joyce were up that way last year and liked the place so much decided that was the answer for them both. They have a brick home a couple of miles from town on a half acre of ground. Also finished up at MacPhersons where he had packed hardware goods for the islands for 13 years.

They have become very domesticated, have 13 chooks which give about eight eggs per day and a lawn which with so much sun and rain needs plenty of mowing. Have taken delivery of a new car and both daughters have been up and given their approval of the homestead so it's all plain sailing from here on. What's this about not going to another Anzac Day march Bombo, Macksville is not that far away you know, not quite the end of the world. You mention Mick Dodson and Vic Whitely, well Mick even goes to Brisbane just for the Queensland get together. You also mention the whereabouts of R.S.M. Smith, well he has a chemist shop at Bundanoon, he has been in that business ever since he was discharged at different places of course, for years he had a shop at Port Kembla. Many thanks for the letter Eric and we all wish you and Joyce the very best of a long and happy retirement.

Bob Long now at Sutherland sends a letter with a sub. to the treasurer and the information that he has not enjoyed the best of health for quite a long time. Bob has had eye trouble for many years so is very much confined to local habits. He does tell of the news of the passing of Arthur Dowling (D Coy.) who passed away some time ago and he used to visit Frank Gravenmaker at Grenfell on his yearly visits but has not done this for a few years now. Bob sends his apologies for non attendance at our annual smokos and reunions but wishes all and everyone the best of health and luck, many thanks Bob and keep the old chin up as always.

Clarrie Pakes our old mate of B Coy and resident of Marrickville sends a very short note of good wishes to all a cheque to the treasurer and not much else afraid we can't make a 1000 word edition of that Clarrie however we wish you the same and nice to hear from you.

Carmel Chase wife of the late Bluey Chase of the Sigs platoon writes a thank you for the copy of the news, she gets quite a thrill reading of Blue's mates and their doings and she still has close contact with Bob Burnside and Pat Noonan who were fellow Sigs with Blue right throughout. Many thanks for the letter Carmel and there is no need for subscriptions the paper shall be posted to you as long as you wish this way.

Jack Coates now of Umina and ex Balmain tiger goes into another of his raves. He has a wonderful memory and quotes 36 years ago December we were on 10 minute notice for Egypt when the late Greg Norris turned in a meningitis scare and ensuring a month's quarantine for all concerned. Jack also remarks on the revival of Scotty King he did not know if he had survived when posted missing from one of those crazy patrols they used to indulge in. Jack says

the last time he saw Scotty he was minus a boot heel shot off by a sniper on the salient, claims he was bobbing up and down like a yo yo. In referring to the passing of Johnny Clifford, Jack was with him at the last reunion and commented, pity Wheaton is not here we could have put a scrum down. Jock Gillespie's value job description is spot on, Coatesy had the same and says that if there is any better treatment in the world than 330 Cardiac Ward Concord and 3rd and 4th floor recovery St. Vincents it would need to be super, those people are the greatest. On the local scene Jack Collis Les Rose, Fred Makin, Taffy Hirst are all well on deck and regarded as good judges of a schooner, while a medical wowsler like himself can truly endorse the squash and soda. Jack really goes off when he encloses cheque to the treasurer in the hope that he will give Balmain a cheer for him, don't you know that Whiteley's a died in the wool Petersham supporter in the cricket and baseball and a Mighty Dragon in all else, and with regard to Lakey's mob having to pinch Graham Eadie from Woy Woy, we did not do any pinching we just realised his great potential and acted on same, we might even do it again this year Jack. Many thanks for a really good letter Jack although I think I'd give Sailors Curry a miss with the temperatures we have had down here lately however good luck and hope to see you in April.

Mrs. E. Levy, wife of the late George Levy from Hammondville sends a cheque to the treasurer and the word that she has had a big heart operation performed, we wish you well Mrs. Levy and will continue to keep you up to date with the News.

George Nicholls now resident at Cronulla sends a sub. to the treasurer and a very newsy letter to boot. George pays tribute to all that participate in the production of the paper and while he continues to make resolutions to improve his continuance of supply such continuance seems to get a little behind, however, George have no qualms about the writing (we gets better and we gets worse). George claims a bit of a rut, the local dawn service he has not been down to an Anzac Day for quite a few years, plays some golf in the cooler weather and as the warm weather approaches out comes the dark glasses and down to the surf, and though it does seem to be that rut he spoke of he claims to enjoy it and will continue to do so. George also makes reference to the deaths of Johnny Clifford and Peter O'Brien, Johnny for his football ability and Peter for his rendition (after a few beers) of "Mammy" on bended knee and arms stretched toward heaven. George still keeps contact with Porky Graham and wife but doubts that we shall ever entice him away from Surfers and the Sunshine Coast where they both enjoy good health and thrive on business pursuits. John Trevethick and wife Gwen visit regularly and have participated in the

Xmas festivities with them for the past 16 or 17 years and no stone left unturned to make it a great day. George keeps pretty good health, drinks plenty of home brew, which hasn't affected his eyesight up till now, nor does it worry the little ulcer that rears its ugly head occasionally while wife Jean, who had a nasty accident much earlier on is well on the way to recovery. The Nicholls family send congrats to all and we in turn reciprocate this feeling.

Claude Campbell now resident of Inverell sends a letter of appreciation of the news and thought conscience should take a glove and put pen to paper. Claude has had a short trip to Newcastle where he tangled with Jack McCracken, "Glido" and Dick Seddon a short while ago plus had Sid and Myrtle Jopson up to Inverell for the christening of Sid's third grandchild claims they did themselves well and even behaved in the church, but hard to believe with Sid making his comic remarks. Claude has resigned from the treasurer's job at bowling club, still on the board of directors of same and was handed the secretary's books on return from Newcastle, should imagine that one would be no better than the other in that respect. Claude has not been able to work since 1974 spinal and nerves with very little control of latter, had trouble even to toss a stick in the car for the first six months but has improved a sight since those days and while still having to call on same if he pushes too hard still enjoys life with Dorothy and family and has very little to growl about. Claude closes with best wishes to all and the visitations to any of the boys ever getting up to the sapphire city, don't forget to call you will be made more than welcome.

Jim Stannard now at Nambucca Heads has been talking to Larry Robson who has convinced him to enclose a few of the happenings and his army days. First concerns Sandy Abercrombie who was seated on the throne in the desert. With his pants around the ankles, Bluey Wade yelled out, "Look out Sandy, Jerry planes", he replied, "silly b—— they are red cross". When bombs were dropped Sandy let out a yell, grabbed pants and made cover quicker than any of his greyhound dogs ever moved. When the late Scotty McFarlane was wounded, Jim, who was close by, called out, where did they get you, and the Scottish accent replied "in the ass", the bullet went in one cheek and out the other, a painful experience, whether you be Scottish or Australian. Experience concerning the late Tich Senter who was transferred to the Docks Operative Coy. Sgt. named Bandy Atkins was the canteen Sgt. and each man's issue was six beer tickets, Tich, always fond of his drop would consume his quota, then approach said Bandy, throw an arm over his shoulder and say, "sing us a song sarg", Sgt. would look at Jim and say, "give him another six tickets Jim", Tich would wink at Jim and head for the canteen again. These were some of the humorous things that happened in war, be it in any unit, and helped to make the life what it had to be. Good letter Jim, many thanks, let's keep the ball rolling in this manner.

Carl Ball 2/2 of Hurstville called on the secretary over the Xmas period with a change of address, a large donation and the news that he will be with the boys, but definitely, at the reunion on Anzac Day. Carl often sees Bill Tasker and they mull over the good old days over a few ales. Many thanks for calling, Carl, and for the substantial donation.

Col Shea 2/2, per the pen of Don Lawson, with the news that Col has now retired from business due to ill health and is now working at a casual job. Col sends his best regards to his old mates of the 2/2 and to all Pioneers in General and along with his wishes a cheque to the treasurer for subs. to keep the old flag flying. Many thanks Col, we hope the health bit improves over the future years.

Wal Baird 2/2, now on the land out at Collarenebri, writes to let us know that they survived the Jan.-Feb. floods, fortunately with no stock losses, although there only means of transport was by helicopter. For all that rain, when Wal wrote his letter, I'd assume some few months later, they were then looking for rain as far too much had fallen in that first two months. Seems like you just can't get that happy medium. Wal has also had a spell in Tamworth hospital last May-June with a slight coronary, but is okay again now and able to cope with the many normal duties that bob up on a property. Many thanks for the letter Wal, and cheque, doing its best in treasurer's hot little hand.

George Stafford 2/1 now resident of Botany writes a note to the association enclosing a cheque to the treasurer and a special request to be remembered to all his mates of B Coy. with nominal mention of 12 Platoon. George also named both Jack Coates and Sid Jopson after their period of trial and wishes them both much better health in the future. He also has been troubled by some ill health which necessitated the sale of his business, however he is still on the chirpy side and adds that health is a lot better. Many thanks for the letter George would imagine both Jack and Sid would be pleased with your good thoughts and would be sure to wish the same good regards to yourself.

John Dowd now at Sylvania writes to the secretary with the news that he has had a recent visit to Adelaide to see daughter and family. While in Adelaide John looked up old mate Joe Robertson where they had a great old yarn with much talk of dames and doings over a few beers. Joe showed great interest in the doings of the old mates and of the Association and the paper, so much so that he requested old copies of Pioneer News be posted to him. This has already been attended to, Secretary Max having a filing system second to none and I'd swear a copy of probably every issue of the news since we started to print. We hope you enjoy reading yours Joe. Back to John and apparently on his way back looked in on Jack Crouch and wife Betty in Goulburn, Jack assuring him that he will be at the March this year. John's letter so full of information but with no mention of self much so must assume that he is enjoying good health and still able to take nourishment. Treasurer has cheque, most likely squandered by the time you read this.

Dr. Desmond Green 2/1 now at Bexley North is in the same league as our other two medical professionals, Drs. Gouldston and Dynon, they have very little to say for themselves in the way of information, however, Des has posted a cheque to the treasurer, we thank you sincerely and how about a little news sometime, eh Doc.

Mrs. Ida Horder, wife of the late Vic Horder, and possibly one of our most consistent correspondents, this time with a card for the good wishes for the new year and as usual a cheque to the treasurer. Many thanks Ida, we wish you all you could wish

yourself for this year and many more to come.

Mrs. Daisy McKewan, wife of the late Cpt. Doug McKewan, another most consistent writer to the association with a cheque and the news, that while the Xmas period is a sad time for her personally, she wishes the association the very best of everything and she does have a lovely granddaughter which helps to fill the gap. Daisy apologises for missing the Queensland reunion but hopes to be able to attend next year. Many thanks for the good wishes Daisy, and I think we have said before, there is no need for the subscription and you will always receive the paper.

Charlie Wilby the Pallemelleewas Kid, now retired and living in the town of Moree sends a sub. and the notification of a change of address and makes it known that any Pioneer up Moree way would be more than welcome at 6 Mackenzie Street for a yarn and possibly a drop of the doings. Charlie's had a spell down in Lewisham Hospital around November and still has not fully recovered from the operation, still has a few problems and chores are limited however, he does continue to swim with the Moree Diggers, but has not yet been able to renew his battle with the bowling green. Fred Brooks and wife Gwen called on the Wilby's some time ago and leaving Gwen and Kitty to look after the mansion Fred and Charlie retired to the Moree R.S.L. for a talk and drink lasting a few hours. Fred Brooks boasts of a grandfather's claims to twin boys and the family of the twins lives at Maroubra while everyone knows that you can't move Fred from Taree. Many thanks for the letter Charles, sorry that you won't be on deck this year at Redfern, but look after yourself, get fit, and we shall look forward to the future.

Alan Crute per pen of wife Beulah sends along a newsy letter quite a piece more personal to the Sec. and his wife, but the news that Beulah has retired from scouting after eighteen years and that Allan is spending quite a bit of time at home, he is only part time work at "Kumbaingeri" which is a kind of animal and flora reserve. Things have been very slack at this place, however, sounds like Beulah has had her thinking cap on and the list of jobs around the house reads like something a contract builder would like to sign his name to, just the erection of a new clothes line, two bedside tables a fern house and then aluminium windows right throughout. Beulah quotes plenty to keep him out of mischief, and only 12 months before he goes on the pension, crikey, with that list before him I don't think he will be able to find time to apply for the pension. They have not had a visit from Larry Robson for a while now and they miss his smiling face (so take note yo-yo) and also a request for the tie bar, which I should imagine you would have received by now. Many thanks for the letter Allan and subs. in treasurer's hands doing good.

Charlie Kerr, now of Maryborough, Queensland, writes that he is still extremely fit although wife Zela at time of writing was hospitalised at Brisbane for surgery to one of her knees. Charlie still works for Telecom but not overdoing it, the family pretty well spread about with his son at Gladstone and daughter at Brisbane nursing. Sees Toby Palin about once a week and also met a chap Harold Blyton who did not know of the association, Charlie has passed along a few copies of old editions and chap said he would write. He is a T.P.I. and came to the 2/2 after returning from the

NOTICE

DUE TO INCREASED PRINTING CHARGES SINCE LAST
ISSUE, THE COST OF SETTING TYPE AND PRINTING
OF THIS PAGE WOULD HAVE BEEN A FURTHER \$ 48.00,
HENCE THE REASON FOR IT BEING BLANK.

THE COMMITTEE ARE PREPARED TO CARRY ON PRODUCING
THE "PIONEER NEWS", BUT CAN ONLY DO SO WITH THE
FULL SUPPORT OF ALL MEMBERS.

WE THEREFORE APPEAL TO THE LARGE NUMBER OF
PIONEERS WHO HAVE NOT CONTRIBUTED EACH YEAR,

TO DO SO NOW.

Middle East with one of the infantry battalions. Many thanks for the letter Charlie and subs. to treasurer where it's doing most good.

Gerry Collins now at Penshurst writes to have a little say about subs. and the fact that some considerable number of members who do not subscribe. Gerry appeals to these members even though quite a lot must be of pensionable age or fast approaching, even the odd couple of bob, all helps with the cost of publication and posting. Gerry also goes on to say that I 'Lakey' have never kept my promise about nine years ago to go to Penshurst R.S.L., well mate, I may have made that promise, but who the hell is going to get me home again, I'd need a seeing-eye dog once I cross over the water. Gerry does not promise anything about Redfern Town Hall this Anzac Day but he will be in at the March in the morning. Many thanks for the letter Gerry and the boost to members, keep smiling and I'll say a big cheerio to you on Anzac Day.

Jack Claypole now of Matraville sends a short note that he had visited Tom Hugo at Padstow and spent an enjoyable few hours with him and his wife. Tom gets very bored with nothing to do but keeps a cheerful grin on his face for all that. Monty does a great job with Tom and Margaret. Jack boasts of two grandchildren, both boys, so they would help to keep those two short little legs hopping about. Many thanks for the letter Jack and will certainly see you on Anzac Day.

ATTENTION 2/2 Pioneers letter from Jane Cotton (nee Howard) as written:

Dear Mr. Lake,

Just a note to let you know of the passing on of my Dad — Joseph Francis (Frank) Howard of the 2/2 Pioneers — D Coy. I thought you might include this in the Last Post section of the News. My Dad often spoke of his mates of old — many names I can't recall but some being "Speed" Gordon, Mick Bye, "Spag" Harris and Bill Fallon — Bill Fallon. I had the pleasure of meeting one Anzac Day back in the late 1960s. I met many others also who made me feel most welcome, who I hope, will forgive me for not being able to recall names.

Dad lived at Somerset Dam in Queensland and died, 28-9-76, in the Brisbane General Hospital from cardiac arrest, aged 55 years.

From my meeting with some of these gents I gathered that they were always interested in hearing of other Pioneers, and as Dad was a subscriber to the News I felt I should let you know.

Harking back to that Anzac Day (Sydney) when I met quite a lot of men who knew my father I would like to say that I have yet to meet such a nice "bunch" of fellows who made me feel completely at ease — being a rather shy country kid of about 18.

I enclose a small subscription and hope you will add me to your subscription list as often the sight of a name brings to memory others that my Dad used to talk about.

Thanking you sincerely,

(Mrs.) JAN COTTON (HOWARD)

My mother (Ruth) still resides at King Street, Somerset Dam.

That concludes the Mail Bag for this issue we hope you enjoy your paper and we hope for a good attendance on Anzac Day both at the March and at Redfern Town Hall. — BOB LAKE

NEWS ITEMS

- Had a very welcome letter from Charlie Kerr Sigs of Maryborough, Queensland, recently stating that he had brought his charming wife Zela down to Brisbane for medical surgery on one of her legs. Her leg had been getting worse for some time, and she is staying in the northern capital until her operation was over and they could go back home.

This was sad tidings and an immediate reply of acknowledgement was sent, conveying all our respects, and best wishes for an early satisfactory result.

Our old Pal gave news of Toby Palin A Coy. who he sees quite often, and from his reports Toby had a good time at John and Molly Hunts barbecue in Brisbane, and has already booked in for the next one.

Charlie sent a nice donation to our Association as he looks forward to getting the Pioneer News. This incidentally was despatched on to Vic Whiteley our treasurer. So thanks again Charlie and we wish your wife a very speedy recovery.

- Another couple of very welcome visitors to our place was Norm Goodchap and his wife Anne who came down from Tambourine Mount, Beaudesert way, Queensland, en route to their vacation in New Zealand.

Norm was in the original B.H.Q. Orderly Rooms at Greta during the formation of the 2/1st and with John Harnetty, Ces White, Doug Gray and Cyril Amies; he did a tremendous job with all the huge piles of documents in getting the Battalion going.

We all certainly had a session about the old occasions there, and am eagerly looking forward for another visit when they return from the Shaky Isles.

Norm and Anne could not praise the last reunion at John and Molly Hunt's residence enough for the wonderful time they had there, and have already planned to be at the next one.

It was great to see them again and we all enjoyed ourselves talking about old times. They have promised to call in again on their return before returning home.

- It certainly was a great privilege to be host to Lenny "Spino" O'Conner, his wife Alma and daughter Leila recently whilst they were down in the city from their residence at Tumbulgun, Tweed Heads. Really their company was most enjoyable and all had a very pleasant time.

Obviously Spino and I had a great old chat recalling old times etc. and during the debates Len stated he often sees Doug Turner, H.Q., Wal Ashten B Coy, and Harry Holland A Coy all of the 2/1st Pioneers and everyone is doing fine.

Lenny apologises for not being able to attend John and Molly Hunt's barbecue last October due to other commitments, but with his wife have already booked in for the next one.

I gave him all information at hand about our next Anzac Day reunion in Sydney, and he has promised that every endeavour will be made to meet his old pals once again there. He is going to try and get the abovementioned personnel to come down also as they would be welcome. Before departing they all passed on their good wishes and regards to the members

By H. Montague

and hope to be in Sydney again for the Anzac Day festivities.

- Old George Creasy A Coy. from Portland is still a patient at the Allambie Nursing Home, Ashfield, and the visits made by me certainly cheer our old pal up and with his charming wife, they both send their greatest thanks and regards.
- Following a couple of questions received from an original Pioneer the replies are the RQMS at Greta when the Unit was formed was a bloke named Reynolds who came from Leichhardt way, second is, who was the Sgt. in charge of the RAP there? He was a fellow named Ward who hailed from Newcastle and eventually came away with us on the Johann De Witt.

Welfare Section Annual Report

In rendering an account of the yearly activities of the particular section I am pleased to state that our Association's members who sought advice and assistance on legal, housing, residences at the War Veterans' houses at Narrabeen, pensions, etc., were given every possible aid by the various governing departments after their cases were brought before them following personal interviews following representations made on their behalf. Our Organisation is tremendously indebted for the most kind co-operation so generously given by these great friends. Visiting hospitals, nursing homes, and residences to see old coppers was indeed a real pleasure and it did so cheer them up.

All calls of this nature were promptly attended too, and everything possible to help was given, which was deeply appreciated.

My saddest missions have been in representing the Organisations at funerals of late members of both Units who passed away.

Unfortunately again for the past year the obituary list is high but every final religious service in the metropolitan area was attended by me and also others.

At each on behalf of our Association, the sympathies and condolences were personally paid to their families which was indeed a comfort and sincerely appreciated.

— HARRY MONTAGUE

TOM HUGO SENDS REGARDS

- As regularly as possible I go out and visit Tommy and Margaret Hugo at Revesby and believe me it is a real pleasure to be their guest.

Despite the ordeal of having to sit in that cripple's chair he is cheerful as ever and just loves to recall old times.

Truly one is made so welcome it becomes hard to leave after such a session, but it makes such a change for these two great people. They both have requested me to convey their best wishes and respects for the forthcoming Annual Re-Union.

NORTH COAST JOTTINGS

Once again it's nearly time for our Annual Anzac Day Re-union.
How quickly it comes around as the years roll by.

Since last writing for the November issue, I regret to say it's not been possible for me to contact many of the North Coast contingent, however, those who I have contacted with the exception of one or two are in fairly good spirits. Both ways.

• Two of our Newcastle members are headed overseas immediately after the N'cle ROTA show. Jock Russell and Jack & Jean Bertram. They have arranged to meet in London for Anzac Day. Don't know if they have Toohey's over there Jock otherwise suggest you take some with you. Best wishes and may you have a good day and trip.

• Glido Griffith leading the organisation of N'cle ROTA show. Dick & Pearl Seddon both well, Mick Flynn unfortunately not the best but has been able to spend a few days at Forster. Our old mate hasn't been well since his return from hospital prior to Xmas.

• Daryl Reed on R.A.P. sporting a bandaged hand. On enquiring, found he'd been fighting with a large hound with hard teeth, resulting in quite a few stitches. Trust Blue to use his hand instead of a pick-handle. You should have used some of the doc's tinea liquid like you enjoyed doing on us.

• Bob and Jean Juloff of Cardiff. Both well and over Xmas. Jean has been honoured with life membership of the Cardiff R.S.L. Ladies' Auxiliary for services rendered. Congratulations from the Association, Jean.

• Ivan Pepper has now moved to Tarro and we are getting quite a gathering up that way. Also advised by a member of the Waratah Rugby Club of a Harry Barton ex "A" Coy 2/1 Pnrs at Tamworth. Contacted an old "B" Coy. 2/1 Pnr member in Coopernook whilst on business. One Bob Butler. As he was unaware of the 2/1 and 2/2 Assoc. and News Letter, supplied him with last year's. He sends his regards to all "B" Coy. boys and to Gordon Osborne. Said he'll never forget being out on patrol with Gordon in Tobruk when they were pinned down. He looked across at Gordon, who had a smile on his face, with plenty of lead flying close, and quite casually our patron said, "I think they're trying to shoot us". However Bob said one of these days he'll try and get down to see the lads.

• Blue Eather in top class condition. About three times the size he was in 1945. Blue tells me he's lost a bit of weight, down to 13½ stone. Fred Wheaton and wife Jean in good spirits. Fred said had a ring from Sid Jopson, I'll bet that phone bill went up.

• Evan Thompson and wife Jill of Port Macquarie still hard at it in the market gardening. He never seems to alter much. The vegetables keep him going hence he's unable to get to our reunions, said hasn't seen Tommy Hodge lately.

• Sid and Myrtle Jopson spending a few days next week in the fair city of Newcastle viewing the latest grandchild. No doubt he'll be contacting Dick (Redmill) Seddon and co. for a few noggins. That reminds me Dick there's a certain Pioneer residing in Sawtell who is quite partial to a sip of the old Redmill about tea-time Mondays. Word has it, it's the Sawtell R.S.L. Sid spent a few days in Hay where he and a gentleman by the name of Mick Tassell helped relieve the local bank manager of some excess supplies of beer he had in his fridge. Fancy going back to work and

leaving two Pioneers with a fridge full of beer. I'll bet he didn't call them gentlemen when he arrived home and surveyed the empties, which just goes to prove you can bank on the Wales. Sid said Mick was going home for lunch for two hours. Well it was probably 20 years since they had been each other so what's a few minutes anyhow.

• Hope to see Jack and Muriel Spence next week. I saw their son-in-law at Grafton and he said everything O.K. Should also see Doug and Roma Shearston and Bill

Wade, the latter if there's no races within 100 miles.

• Unfortunately time has not permitted me to call on the western lads at this stage but hope to do so before long. To John White and Ern Smallwood of Quirindi way, see you next trip if possible.

Well this is all for April Newsletter but hope by the following one I'll have seen or contacted those I've missed. See you on Anzac Day, 1977.

Regards, — LARRY ROBSON.

MANGALORE DAYS

By "THE MANGALORE BOY"

Have been stewing these times over for sometime now and some-one (no names, no pack drill), but he doesn't live very far from me. Trapped me into putting all that I could remember into "Pioneer News".

For all those who may be interested these incidents concern the 5th Pioneer Coy ("The Filthy Fifth").

An interesting question and somewhat intriguing is "who purloined that keg of beautiful beer from the back of the Mangalore pub?"

Talking of beer reminds me of a recent smoke signal from Gippsland stating that a major surgical job is needed on Joe Bolding's posterior to remove a bar stool — property of a certain pub in Maffra, Vic. True or false, Joe?

A little bird tells me that Graham White is very chirpy about the nice living he is making from his bird seed business in Victoria Street, North Melbourne. Good luck Whitey, better than a route march, eh!

In case any N.S.W. readers are wondering what this is about, I am referring to members of the 5th Pioneer Coy, most of whom transferred to the reformed 2/2 Pioneer Bn when the 5th was declared defunct (refer History of 2/2 Pioneers, by E. A. Aitken) and formed the nucleus of HQ, A, and B Coys.

Reliable information is that Tom Gaisford is now president of 2/2 Pioneer Bn Association. Did you ever go back to flogging merchandise for Solomon's Emporium in Geelong, Tom?

Do any of you former Fifth boys ever meet up with "Big" Bern Bevan? Last time I saw Bern was in New Guinea in 1943, Bern was attached to A.N.G.A.U.. Bern had a couple of mates in the Fifth named Harry Heinz and Bob Drench. When the Fifth was declared defunct these two were transferred elsewhere. In 1947 I met Harry in Elizabeth Street, Melbourne, and we adjourned to Johnny Connell's Hotel on the corner of Flinders Lane to ease our parched tonsils and yarn about old times and funny things that happened at Mangalore. Harry has passed on since then.

Remember Mick Eadie (C.S.M.) on Anzac Day? With the entire Unit formed up on the parade ground and so many officers present Mick became so embarrassed he forgot the drill for "fix bayonets" and for the "present arms".

Underground telegraph reports that Charlie Preston has, like so many more of us, been turned out. Also that Jack French is making arrangements to join the party. Seems to me that Geelong district is about

to become a town — cops, sorry — I mean city of old-timers.

Met Syd Cathie at a trotting meeting at Melbourne Showgrounds early in the 50's, had a yarn, don't know how Syd got on but I only had one winner for the night. Next time we met Syd was in the Intensive Care Ward at Heidelberg Repat. Hospital. I was in another ward and after being rugged up like a "TV Medico" found Syd asleep so didn't have a chance for a few words.

Some works will go for years without any alteration to schedule or timetable upsets, but there is usually a first time — the "Spirit of Progress" in those days left Spencer Street Railway Station on its express run to Albury at 6 p.m. daily, stop at Seymour, Benalla, Wodonga — "oh yeah" — one conscientious soldier boarded the train, intent on returning to his unit on expiration of his leave, at Spencer Street, but could not get a lift to Mangalore from Seymour so stayed on the train. The "Spirit" had worked up to almost top speed at Mangalore when our brave warrior, not showing a morsel of fear, reached up and pulled the communication cord which brought the train to a shuddering halt near the camp whereupon our valiant hero detained and rejoined his unit. Just another incident in the history of the "Filthy Fifth".

If I have got a few christian names wrong then readers are welcome to write to me at 97 Hanbury Street, South Wentworthville 2145. All letters will be acknowledged per medium of "Pioneer News".

In compiling these reminiscences I have to rely on memory as I have no access to any records or files, so this will, I hope, help to explain my reason for the preceding paragraph.

By the way, I was in Wantirna Road, Ringwood one day when a truck pulled up alongside and Frank Faram poked his head out the door. Frank and Syd Cathie were great mates in the "Fifth" days. Wonder how they are getting on now.

Have got a touch of writers' cramp so will save other incidents for another issue of "Pioneer News", which may be coming out as a quarterly journal, but that is something for the future, also some more from Mangalore.

— REG ARMSTRONG.

PIONEER NEWS

Phone: 759-5491

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

Treasurer:

VIC WHITELEY

Editors: R. LAKE & M. HERRON

President:

J. (Mick) DODSON

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PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

Once again gentlemen Anzac Day is upon us, and it is with pleasure I present my Annual Report. By that I mean gentlemen we are the lucky ones to be here today, as over the last twelve months the Association numbers have decreased by 38 members who have passed on. "LEST WE FORGET". Again some of those members were here last Anzac Day.

As in previous years, the names of the deceased members I will place on a separate list in the Pioneer News.

To the Executive and Committee, I must again give my sincere thanks for the way they have assisted me in the past year. As most of you know I have been very busy assisting with the organising of the World Reunion of Tobruk Veterans.

Even though you gentlemen only see or hear of most of the Executives and Committee once a year we can assure you there is plenty to do.

SECRETARY

Once again our worthy Secretary must be number one in the report. Even though I might not write much about Max you can be assured he is always busy with the activities of the Association. The trouble gentlemen, is finding suitable words to express the thanks the Association owes Max.

SOCIAL SECRETARIES

George Walker and Bob Dixon — both have assured us that the Anzac Day Reunion at the Redfern Town Hall will be the best. Even though last year all enjoyed themselves, there were a few snags which they have improved for this year.

TREASURER

Vic Whiteley (money bags) is always looking for ways of increasing the finance. Again this year the finances have increased but coming up the next year it will all be needed as the "Pioneer News" costs have risen dramatically.

PIONEER NEWS

Our Reporters again have been active enough to make sure our Journal is still tops. To Gordon Finlay, Harry Montague, Don Lawson, Bob Dixon, plus Larry Robson and Reg Armstrong who have substituted for our regular reporters — many thanks for an excellent job. Of course we have the regulars who contribute to keeping the "Pioneer News" going. Still, many members have the thanks of the Association by reporting activities of

members they meet up with. This is all news of interest to others. Bob Lake and Max Herron look in the mail for any reports from you gentlemen, like all good editors.

WELFARE OFFICERS

As stated in previous years, more and more members are hospitalised. This means more attendance at the hospitals by our very good welfare officers Harry (Monty) Montague and Jack Collis. Different members have reported to me of the many times Monty and Jack have visited or assisted them. Monty regularly visits Tom Hugo our member who is confined to a wheel chair in an attempt to lift his morale. Another who visits Tom is Col Jackson. Both were close mates in the unit. I can imagine the talking that goes on. Another

HOSPITAL/FUNERAL/WELFARE DIRECTORY — Cut Out

At the Annual Meeting a Hospital Visiting Committee was formed so that when a Pioneer is in hospital he can be visited by the Committee man living closest to that hospital.

This has been found necessary, because of the phasing out of Concord Repatriation Hospital as the General Hospital, consequently our members are now being placed in hospitals in all suburbs. This means that Harry Montague who has been doing all the visitations, has too far to travel now, especially as he has to go by the Public Transport system.

Would next of kin please cut out the information slip below and keep it for future reference. By contacting the desired Committee man direct will save time on all sides. These members are also members of the Funeral Committee and can be contacted for representatives at a members funeral.

HOSPITAL AND FUNERAL COMMITTEE Northern Suburbs

ALLAN McINNES, 11/47 Milson Rd., Cremorne Pt., Ph. 90 2069
JACK PEARCE, 22 Surfers Parade., Harbord, Ph. 939 1974

Eastern Suburbs

HARRY ELLIS, 3/6 Notts Ave., Bondi.
DON LAWSON, 35 Clifton Rd., Clovelly, Ph 665 4357

of the 2/1 members who does not keep good health is Jack (Wacka) Back residing at Toukley behind the R.S.L. Club. Ivor Garnon of Charmhaven took me around to visit 'Wacka'. Anyone visiting that area can call to see him.

PAPER WRAPPING

By courtesy of Max and Peg Herron the wrapping still is carried out at their home. This evening, besides the working bee of paper wrapping, is a get together with much yarnning between the workers. It is indeed a mini reunion. It would be easier if I made a record of the great work of Max and Peg, especially the efforts Peg goes to in preparing an excellent supper for all. If this wrapping was not done on a voluntary basis, the cost would eventually price the 'Pioneer News' out of existence.

Please excuse me gentlemen if my Report is not up to scratch this year, for as I previously stated, my time has been taken up with assisting in organising the World Reunion of Tobruk Veterans, which has just been completed.

Hoping to see you all next year.

President JACK (Mick) DODSON

ILLAWARRA SUBURBS

GEORGE WOOD, 97 Russell Ave., Dolls Point, Ph. 529 6441
BOB BURNSIDE, 29 Woronora Cres. Como West, Ph. 528 7134

Western Suburbs

BOB DIXON, 26 Holdsworth St., Merrylands Ph. 637 4619
REG ARMSTRONG, 97 Hanbury St., Wentworthville, Ph. 631 5403.
GORDON FINLAY, 5 North Liverpool Rd., Mt. Pritchard, Ph. 602 8483.
BOB LEE, 103 Links Ave., Concord, Ph. 73 1965

Welfare and Hospital Committee Chairman

HARRY MONTAGUE, 46 Pomeroy St., Homebush. Ph. 76 6657

Funeral Committee Chairman and Assoc. President.

JACK (MICK) DODSON, 194 Hamilton Rd., Fairfield, Ph. 72 4091

PIONEER NEWS EDITOR

BOB LAKE, 43 Amourin St., Brookvale, Ph. 93 4696

TREASURER

VIC WHITELEY, 20 Cairns St., Riverwood. Ph. 533 4487

Secretary

MAX HERRON, 3 Enoggera Rd., Beverley Hills. Ph. 759 5491

NORTH COAST WELFARE NEWS

JOTTINGS

• **FRED WHEATON** is in the throes of building at Sawtell, but I understand he will be visiting Sydney Repat. later, so no doubt he will contact some Sydneyites. Sends his regards to all. So does **Eric "Speed" Gordon** of Sawtell R.S.L. Eric I hope you received the Pioneer news I left. Send a couple of bucks and your address to **Max Herron** and you will get your very own copy regularly. Write a few lines as well.

• **ERIC [BOMBO] REYNOLDS** and his wife Joyce gave me an inspection of their new abode at Macksville and at last Eric can have a garden and couldn't have been in residence long before planting commenced. I think it would take a bit of shifting to take Eric and Joyce back to the City now. I know they would enjoy to see any Pioneers visit them.

• **BLUEY EATHER [The Kempsey Kid]** was apparently at the races the day I called and **Evan and Jill Thompson** of Port Macquarie were away touring the Flinders Ranges. **Sid and Myrtle Johnson** of Port Macquarie were about to depart for Tamworth. Both well and send their regards. **Bill Wade** not at home at the races.

• **JACK & MURIEL SPENCE** are both well and apologise for not making Anzac Day in Sydney but had a good one at Wingham, mentioned they had heard from **Monty** who would be paying them a visit soon.

• **DOUG & ROMA SHEARSTON** gave me an enjoyable evening at their home at Forster. Roma has recovered from a hit by a golf ball and getting ready to do a tour of the near East soon - Doug is learning to cook.

• **NEWCASTLE** news is that **Daryl "Bluey" Reid** had to spend a few days in hospital immediately after Anzac Day, hence his non attendance. I haven't spent much time at home these last few months, hence not much news of the locals. **Ivan Pepper** now an office walla with OAK at Hexham, something to do with internal records. BY the way **Dick**, has **Curly Bentley** returned your pen loaned to him at the Newcastle ROTA day. Did hear that the plane taking **Jock Russell** to England spent eight hours in Azrabad having an engine replaced.

On Anzac Day in Sydney our Reunion was an outstanding success. It was good to see so many first timers. As requested by **Jock Gillespie** I passed the message to **Bert Rassmussen** who recently spent a few weeks in hospital. Bert sent his regards to you Jock and if he is in Sydney he will look you up.

Saw **Alby Barton** at the march. Also good to see **Darcy Vaughan** (first time up) and with Sid patiently waiting the arrival of the third member of the family - Ted. Surely the fish could have had a holiday for one weekend. How about it next year Ted.

Until next issue - best wishes and good health.

Larry Robson - Roving Reporter

• **JIM TROTTER**, 2/1 was called on at the Concord Repatriation hospital while he received medical attention.

Jim was quite cheerful and appreciated my visits and sends his thanks to all his mates who have sent along best wishes for his recovery.

• **TOM HUGO** 2/1 and his wife Margaret were visited recently at their home 58 Sherwood Road Revesby and I was made most welcome as usual.

Toms first question was - "how did the Anzac Reunion go" and when informed it was a complete success, both were delighted and were eager for all the news of the Pioneers.

I always look forward to a visit to Tom and Margaret as their hospitality is beyond expression and our chats certainly cheer up Tom for he does not see many Pioneers being confined to a wheel chair. Call on him or even a phone call to 771 2136 would be most welcomed.

• **WAL "BOMBO" BROWN** 2/1 ex B Coy and, later of the Machine Gun Platoon was recently hospitalised at Concord Repatriation Hospital and we had some interesting chats while he was there.

Wally was full of praise for the work being carried out by the Committee in producing the Pioneer News which he eagerly awaits each issue. He sent along a generous donation to "Money Bags" **Whiteley** and sends his regards to all his friends and stated all Pioneers are welcome to visit him at Brewarrina R.S.L.

• **MRS. ETHEL MATHEWS** widow of the late **Dave Mathews** 2/1 sends a letter expressing her gratitude to the Association for the issues of Pioneer News sent over the years to Dave.

We thank you Ethel, for your kind thoughts and for the generous donation, which was passed on to our Treasurer.

• **JACK WESTWOOD**, one of our Hon. Life Members and a very good worker for the Association a few years ago is now a sick man. Even if that is not enough his wife **Laura** has been bedridden in hospital suffering from the effects of a stroke. We wish them both a speedy recovery and if we can be of assistance please let us know.

NEW REPATRIATION PROCEDURES

Early this year the Repatriation Dept. introduced new administration procedures at Grace Building, York Street, Sydney.

Previously there were four main parts of the system eg.: Treatments, Entitlements, Benefits and Pensions, but that has been discarded and now people whose surnames within alphabetical sections of A to D and E to K report to 6th Floor - L to Q to Fifth Floor and R to Z to Second Floor. All matters will be handled by these sections.

If in doubt there is an enquiry counter at main entrance York Street - phone number is 13-0234.

MEDICAL OR HOSPITAL TREATMENT for Cancer is provided free to all ex service-men whether or not he receives any pension, but does not receive any payment whilst undergoing surgery.

SOCIAL SERVICE FUNERAL BENEFIT of \$40 is payable to the next of kin even if the

Harry Montague
Welfare Officer

deceased was in receipt of a pension. It in receipt of 100% War Disability Pension a payment of \$100 is made from the Repatriation Dept. only.

LAST POST

• **TOM "SCOTTY" ANGUS NX 1028** - 2/1 from Brisbane passed away recently and we are indebted to **Reub. Wade** for passing the information on to us.

Scotty's name was a household one throughout the 2/1 and was deeply respected by all as a thorough gentleman and one who was always out to assist his mates.

Scotty was a Cpl when he first arrived at Greta in June 1940 and did a good job in helping the unit settle in.

Since the war he never forgot his friends and came down from Brisbane each year to attend the March and Reunion but in the last two years he was not able to make it because of ill health.

In his last letter, Scotty sent best wishes and regards to all his pals, and said he regarded the years with the 2/1 as the greatest span of his life.

As far as can be ascertained he had no relatives in this country but the Association sent their sympathy to Scotty's sister in Scotland.

• **AUBREY CAMM** - 2/2 passed away in April and attending the Cremation Service was **Jim Field, Reg Armstrong, Bob Dixon and Harry Montague**.

Padre O'Brien conducted the service in the chapel and the 23rd Psalm was read by **Jim Fields**, the ode was recited by **Bob Dixon** and as our members filed past the casket they placed on it a poppy. All members wore their campaign ribbons. Padre O'Brien who came from the War Veterans Home at Narrabeen where Aub had been convalescing, concluded the service with a prayer.

Mrs. Camm had only recently brought Aub up to Sydney from Melbourne and being on her own had called on the Association and the Welfare Officer to make the funeral arrangements. Aubs two daughters came up from Melbourne for the service, and with Mrs. Camm they thanked the Association for their assistance.

• **CHARLES SEXTON** passed away recently and Harry Montague attended the Funeral where he passed on the Association's deepest respects and sympathies to the family.

• **WALLACE "MICK" FLYNN** of Newcastle passed away in May and the funeral was attended by the following members:- **Jack Griffiths, Larry Robson, Nuggett Laurie, Joe Hickey, Bob Juleff, Noel Schomberg, Ivan Pepper and Dick Seddan**.

Jack Griffiths conducted the service and did so in a fine and solemn manner, mentioning Micks service with the 2/1 Pioneer Battalion.

It was a big funeral as the chapel at the funeral parlour was crowded.

Mick had been sick for a long time and deteriorated quickly in the last few weeks.

Thanks to Larry Robson & Dick Seddon for the above report.

ANZAC FUNCTIONS with 2/2 — — By BOB DIXON, 2/2 Reporter

The prelude to Anzac Day for the 2/2 Pioneer Bn., and one which I would like to see expand in numbers, is the wreath laying ceremony at the Cenotaph in conjunction with the 2/1 Pioneer Bn. on Anzac Day eve, and this year's ceremony was no less successful than any held previously.

As is our custom, we were accompanied by our women folk who participated in the event at the Cenotaph, and their presence was as always greatly appreciated.

Proudly we marched behind our banners, proudly and with reverence and respect we laid the wreaths of remembrance in memory of comrades departed. It was a thought provoking and humility producing event.

The Annual Meeting which followed was, as usual, carried out in a workmanlike manner. We were forced into change of venue, due to the fact of the day being Sunday. This however did not seem to have any adverse effects on the number there.

That stalwart Master-at-Arms, Bobby Lake saw that lubrication was issued per person as well as keeping up a steady stream of comment from the rear of the hall. As a matter of form I must once again make my yearly howl — please 2/2's turn up to our Annual Meeting, it is our Association equally to the 2/1 boys, and believe me they would welcome you.

Monday dawned — the great day. It was my joy, and I cannot call it less than that, I was able to transport two good friends who are also two very staunch 2/2 Pioneers, Jim Field and Reg Armstrong, down to Sydney for the March. Jim due to limitations could not march but had his photo gear with him and so both before,

during and after the march we are on record. We eagerly await the result.

We hit the big town and with the usual milling about, answering questions to total strangers with dazed lost expressions on their faces, asking questions ourselves of official gentlemen with large maps, etc., we finally dug in in a good defensive position behind a mass of road works and what not and waited for the troops.

I must state here that we had broken our banner pole the night before, and midnight repairs were carried out by a good Samaritan, Chippy, and runner Max Herron was to bring the injured main-mast in the next morning. So I set off to find the elusive 2/1 Bn. With a smart bit of reconnaissance, I pin pointed their position only to find that Max had not at that point of time arrived. However, a short wait and snorting and panting the Association runner arrived, delivered an excellent job of repair for which we are most grateful. On the way back to my Unit position, I scooped up a person from the footpath, by name as we called him, Silent Knight. Silent never did talk a great deal but was always there when wanted, good to see you mate.

Time is beginning to flush out a few blokes generally noticeable by their absence. Imagine my surprise, fair dinkum, when right in front of my eyes appeared the old Spruso all complete but minus the ukulele. You never know do you.

As usual, it takes time for the boys to turn up but when they do you can't stop 'em. Young Alf Ballard just kicking 70 breezed in. Ian Wilmore — watch that tummy lan — Bob Lea, not quite as chipper as usual, then Bill and Charlie Henry. You've seen those trees you can get

called evergreens - they've got nothing on Pat Collins, then Mick Egan turned up, "What was the name we called that Pub keeper, Mick? I keep forgetting."

What with talking, taking Subs. and giving receipts, the time goes but not too quick to notice Jack Crouch, Carl Ball, Tommy Bye, Bob Guinane and on the end of this line up, I'm putting someone none of us know, Don Lawson. Also noticed a very spruce fella by name Bob McTaggart — good to see you Bob, also an old mate Charlie Firth. Shades of Wodonga!! Desso Martin rode in out of the blue, plus two sons and son-in-law. Reg Armstrong nearly swallowed his dentures in surprise, it was great to see you Desso.

Bill Robertson was going to lead the march but when Alan McGinnis turned up he did a quick back out, so we had our old friend and comrade back in the saddle. It was fantastic having you back Alan, see to it that you stay. The banner carrying fell to the Don Athaldo of the troupe, namely your truly. I'm still aching in every joint, including ones I didn't know I had. However, during one of the inevitable stops who should come springing out of the crowd but the Germ — Jimmy Germ — my old mate. One of these days I'm going to see a bloke called Dick Kenniwell on these marches, you see if I don't. I'm scratching the old nude nut trying to remember if Bill Nicholls and George Paricos were in the march, I know I saw you both later, and that reminds me, what about George Nicholls, eh!! What about you George, no see, why?!!

Well folks, the march proceeded, both feet trying to follow the band of their choice, which was most difficult when one was a fast beat and the other slow. However, in true Pioneer spirit we finished the march with the thoughts of a great reunion to follow.

It was great you all being there chaps, and I hope you all enjoyed the proceedings as much as I did. Hope to see you all next year.

Cheers
BOB DIXON

PRESIDENT SPEAKS ON REUNION

Gentlemen — Members travelled from Interstate and country to join their city mates in paying tribute to those members who lost their lives during the war and others who have since passed on. That gentlemen is the theme of Anzac Day. Please remember them.

For the second year in a row the Reunion was held at the Redfern Town Hall. There is no doubt now that the Executive and Committee did the correct thing in holding the reunion at the Hall. To see the crowd that sat down for lunch (162) sure kept the smiles on their faces, enough to assure that next year the Reunion will again be at Redfern Town Hall.

This year the three English visiting members of the Rats of Tobruk Association as guests added something to our speeches. I, as President, was proud of the way you received them, especially when the President of the London Branch stated he was no longer a 'Pommy' so-and-so but now an Australian so-and-so and produced his card to prove it. Seeing them off home to England they gave me a verbal message to pass on to you gentlemen. Thanks for a most enjoyable day.

While all were enjoying themselves, one must look to the people in the background we owe many thanks to for making our Anzac Day Reunion successful. To begin with, the ladies in the kitchen — when such a large crowd arrived they rearranged

the meals so that no one missed out. As usual the meals and snacks were excellent. The meals would not have been served unless the members had not lined up to assist carrying them to the tables. As usual the boys behind the bar kept the drinks flowing to the members. The Committee always on the move selling tickets for drinks plus the raffle again, doing the right thing in selling the winning ticket to one of the Englishmen, who was promptly informed he could donate it to the paper wrapping - Many cheers. Another person I could not forget, one of our members in Pat Murphy caretaker of the Hall, also his son, who were of great assistance during the Reunion. Our reporters were prominent throughout the day, so we can be assured of reports pouring in for the Pioneer News.

Our working Treasurer collected enough money throughout the day to assure that the Pioneer News will be operating, not only three times a year but four times a year. Even though our editors have been receiving letters and news from the members there is still room for more news or stories, so let us hear from you gentlemen.

To conclude, let me say many thanks to all who assisted on Anzac Day to make it a much successful day. See you all again next year.

President JACK (Mick) DODSON

WREATH LAYING CEREMONY

Forty-two members of the two Units formed up in Hunter Street to march to the Cenotaph for the Wreath Laying Ceremony.

After renewing acquaintances, the members were formed up by Marshal Bob Lake and departed very smartly. On arrival at the Cenotaph, the contingent turned right to face the memorial and immediately wreaths were laid by Mick Dodson for 2/1, Bob Dixon for 2/2 and Mrs. Dixon for the Ladies' Auxiliary.

The President, Mick Dodson, recited the Ode and then the bugler Aub Brasier sounded the "Last Post which was followed by the traditional "Reveille".

After a moment of silence, remembering our departed mates, the members marched off with each person consciously knowing that they had done their solemn duty in the Associations eternal vow of — "We Will Remember Them".

HARRY MONTAGUE - Reporter

ANZAC DAY — 1977

Anzac Day 1977 would be the best one to date, as we had a beautiful sunny day — a good roll up to renew old friendships — good food — good beer — what more in life does a man want.

THE 2/1 MARCH

The weather treated us fine and although we will not comment on the performance of the band, at least Bill Jollie did have a band for us. Albert Brown carried the Banner very smartly and Col. Gordon Osborn led the Unit of 130 members. There was a great crowd along the way — cheers from everywhere for the Pioneers, especially at Waltons corner where quite a crowd of Pioneers wives joined with Mary Lloyd (widow of Lieut. Jack Lloyd) to cheer the 'boys' on.

2/1 - 2/2 ANZAC REUNION

After the March, members proceeded to the Redfern Town Hall and on entering, members chose their own table and settled down to steady talking and drinking.

Prior to dinner being served, the Master of Ceremonies, Bob Dixon, 2/2 Assistant Social Secretary, called the Meeting to order and asked our President, Mr. J. Dodson, to recite the Ode. The M.C. then proposed a toast to the Queen and then called Mr. Allan McInnes to propose a toast to the Association. Allan stated it was a pleasure to see 170 Pioneers from both Units join together in such a friendly manner. Bill Robertson, 2/2, supported Allan and said he was pleased to be with such a highly organised Association.

The President, Mr. J. Dodson, responded and thanked the proposers for their kind words of praise of his Executive and Committee. He was then supported by Mr. Jack Griffith, 2/1, who said he too was grateful to the proposers for their remarks for the fantastic job being done by the Executive. He said the boys from the bush were most grateful. He said to come down from Newcastle and meet 170 Pioneers at this Reunion was a pleasure, for to meet people is the greatest joy of life.

The meal was then served by Judy and Jan from Lomaro Caterers and it was indeed a delicious meal. Then again in mid afternoon they served hot food, which was really appreciated.

THIRTY-SEVEN YEARS IN EXISTENCE

When one recalls that the 21st were formed at Greta on Tuesday 11th June, 1940 and the 2/2nds were formed at Puckapunyal, Victoria on 16th May, 1940, all complete strangers to one another, yet a comradeship was formed then and today, after 37 years, is still in existence, one cannot help but say this is truly a remarkable feat.

We say thank you to all who worked for weeks arranging such a successful Reunion and please accept our grateful thanks and appreciation for the wonderful gathering made possible by your untiring efforts.

by H. MONTAGUE

2/1 REUNION NEWS JOTTINGS

• **APOLOGIES** from those who could not make it on Anzac Day came from — **Leo**

Morris, Wollongong, Jim Trotter in hospital, **Mick Flynn**, Newcastle and two Newcastle members in London for Anzac Day — **Jack Bertram** and **Jack Russell**.

• **ALBERT BROWN** who carried the banner had several Pioneers from Kyogle at his table — **Jack Sherman** on a special trip down — **Bert Herne** and a visitor **Mick Richardson**. Those Kyogle boys have lost nothing with the passing of the years. **Albert Brown** had a trip up there recently and brought back greetings from **Jim Hall, Peter Bell, Fred Blanch** and **Joe Reis** from Casino. The Secretary had also received a phone call of apology from **Bill Hoffman** — thanks men.

• **"A" COMPANY** was to the fore with **Henry Allan, Don Slater, Bruce Smith, Ron McIntosh, Geoff Robinson, Sid Kent, Harry Montague, Ned Calderwood, Lofty Hannon, Arthur Luddington, George Bates, Perce Penrose** - all from Greta days. We had a photo taken during the afternoon, 22 of us and I know we didn't get everyone in, did we Mick?

• **BEER RAFFLE** was won by one of the Rats of Tobruk boys from England and he was heartily thanked for donating the beer to the newspaper wrapping Committee. These three chaps from England were the highlight of the day and we were most pleased to have them with us.

• **GORDON OSBORN** made up a real Reunion with fellow Officers, **Jack Gillespie** and **Bill Robertson** and didn't they chew it up. (Please accept the sympathy of all Pioneers, **Gordon** on the loss of your wife — we became very attached to **Belle** at the various functions and your loss is felt greatly).

• **PAT MURPHY** did a terrific job in organising a table for **Don Coy**, and they were by far the noisiest table in the hall. Gathered around the table was **'Bimbo' Bell, George Walker, Pat Murray, Bob Gale, George Brooks** and **Jim Gray** both with grey beards. **Ken Oliver** was there too and he found a soul mate in one of the English Rats as they both came from Yorkshire. **Ken** also had a sister in the kitchen with **Lomaro's** the caterers - so no wonder they ate well. In addition there was **'Nobby' Smith, Bert Moore, Ray Hill, Peter Craig, Bill Hodges** and at times **Max Herron**.

• **JOHN HUNT** and **Rube Wade** came down from Queensland to join us — good to have you both.

• **MICK BASKET** and **Norm Cooper** came up from the South Coast. **Mick** looks to be in good health but doesn't think he is fit enough to make Easts, probably get a game with Manly though. **Norm** has retired (who hasn't) and has had a trip overseas with **Dorothy** (lucky people). Sorry if I have missed out on some people but at this stage the boys had shouted for me too many times.

• **"B" COMPANY** had a good roll up and the few I spoke to in the form of **Scotty Burns, Bluey Miller, Ted Jensen, Bill Tasker, Eric Appleton, Ron Callaghan, Bill**

Jollie and **Ray Lester** were all enjoying themselves.

• **EARL JONES**, Laurie (3 course) **Kelly, Arthur Murphy, Beau Hannaford** (he is bigger than **Wheaton** now), **Roy Jardine** and **Eric Monkton** were all at a table nearest a keg and really living it up.

• **DICK SEDDON, Jack Griffiths, Jack Collis** and **Jack Coates** were all down from the coal city. **Jack Griffith** in supporting the President, **Jack Dodson**, managed to say everything most of us feel in just a few well chosen words. Thank you **Jack**.

• **KEN STUART** managed to get together some of the old driving gang, such as **Vic Whiteley, Bob Lake, Roy Jardine, Dora Black, Jack Pearce, Col Cameron, Jack Stander, Lance Gayden, Jack (Flo) Green, and Cec Peak**.

• **VINCE FLANNERY (QM)** was a welcome visitor from **Parkes** and he was seen having a good chin wag with **Steve Clark**. Keep coming **Vince**.

• **DICK BLAKENEY, Mick Dwyer, 'Nobby' Cooper, Mick Basket, Frank Gillian** (noisy brute lost his wallet) **Don Slater, Bill Arthur, Brian Kybert, Rube Wade** and **Darcy Vaughan** — I kept well away from that mob.

• **"C" COMPANY** were well represented, especially the hardest working steward, **Nev Woodham**. He always seemed to be carrying a jug of beer on a dinner plate to the table. **Nev** has by now headed off by car and caravan for a 4 month trip around Australia. **Bill Duney** was at this table and **Bill** has retired from the Repat., so we have lost another link there. He was asking after **Ned Jennings** of **Richmond**. — **Dick Chalmers, Bill Wright, "Brickey" Wall, Sam Lewis, John Clayton** and **Merv Phipps** were also in this mad bunch. I play bowls occasionally with **Harold Whittaker** and **Cec Hart**.

• **HARRY ALLAN** and his mate **Kev Buckley** supply me each year at the march assembly point with a tot of rum. The local publican at **St. Marys** supplies it to him. It gives me strength (or something).

• **BOB BURNSIDE, Pat Noonan** and **Jack Stone** visited us again after their **P.I.B.** Reunion.

• **LEO HEALY** came all the way from **Victoria** to see the **Sig. Platoon**. He was in earnest conversation with a lot of finger tapping on the table (was that morse code) with **Max Herron** and **Doug Shearston** (two other performing seals). Nice to see you **Leo** — call again next year.

• **GEORGE MCGUIRE, C Coy. C.S.M.** and **R.S.M.** was absent, but many of your mates were asking after you **George** — so what about coming along next year, as they would like to talk to you.

• **DOUG SHEARSTON**, our hard working Country Vice President, may not have spread himself around a lot because he was too busy counting money for **Vic Whiteley**. A few hours after **Vic** deposited the Pioneer money in the Rural Bank vault at **Hurstville** it was blown up — don't worry, the Bank has honoured all the cash deposited.

• **MANY THANKS** to the four young lads who assisted **Bob Lake** in serving the beer, namely **Terry Bird** (son of our late **Joe Bird**), his two friends **Peter** and **Terry**, and my son-in-law **Keith Bannon**. Thank you fellows. **GORDON FINLAY** — Reporter

2/2 PIONEER BN - ANZAC DAY NOTES

• Haven't got the slightest idea as to how time got away from us, since that day in 1976 - must be the Government or something - maybe daylight saving - I don't know, just haven't got a clue. Anyway now for some news with a couple of nice surprises thrown in for good measure.

• **ALAN McINNES** is again living in Sydney and put in an appearance at the Wreath Laying Service, and the Annual Meeting where he was elected to the position of Vice President. All members were pleased to see Allan and Mary back with the Sydney crowd. Allan said they were now permanent although they had changed their address twice since their return. The Association and Ladies Auxiliary also hope they stay.

• **DES MARTIN** from Wodonga put in an appearance at the march looking fit enough to do the TSILI - TSLI to NADZAB slog. Again Des was guarded by two solid sons and a hefty son-in-law. Hope they make this a regular event even if they have to do it without horses (P.B.I. not L.H.)

• **JIM MUIR** reported on parade this year with a very good excuse for absence (so he thinks) last year. He was playing bowls in Kempsey. Jim, you will have to do better than this to square off with "Dixo".

• **JIM FIELDS** was at the starting point of the march. Good to see you up and about again Jim. His camera worked overtime at the assembly point and although he was not in the march he was very much to the fore with his camera at the Reunion.

• **CHARLIE HENRY** up from Bodalla again. Good to see you Charlie. He collected brother Bill and presented a united front at the assembly point and again at the Reunion. Charlie repeated an invitation to ALL Pioneers, bowlers or otherwise to visit Bodalla Bowling Club. Thank you Charlie. So remember chaps if you call in to Bodalla, you will find him at the Bowling Club or at home in main street.

• **ROY STUBBS** of Moruya sent along a donation per favour of **Charlie Henry**. Thanks Roy. How about delivering some personally next year Roy? **Charlie Henry** would be able to show you around and we at this end would be very pleased to see you.

• **GEORGE PERRICOS** was at the Reunion, but not saying much about trips to Dubbo this year. Health has not been real good so hope you come good soon George.

• **CHARLIE GATEHOUSE** was on deck again after a heart attack. Reckons it warned him into looking after himself. He was at Dubbo (why is everybody going there) recently, and met **Tom Reynolds** and **Tom Foley**. Both looking fit. He was also on a trip to Cooma and met **John McPhail**. Charlie sure has been travelling some.

• **"CLACKERS" CLARK** (without an E) was present and enjoying himself with the boys at the Reunion (This was a once in a Blue Moon event).

In walked **Eric Smith** who said it took 4 hours to find us. Eric came up from

Melbourne for his wedding. While speaking to me "Clackers" recognised Eric and then it was on. I would say it would be one of the best Reunions "Clackers" has had for a long time.

• **JACK CROUCH** made it from Goulburn and said that Pioneers are always welcome at his place, provided the party was not more than four as that is all the spare beds he has - so any more than that would need to bring their own straw and palliasses, I presume.

• **BILL NICHOLLS** again on deck from Wollongong with instructions to give brother George a "sharp talking to" for his absence for the second year and letting the Nicholls family down.

• **ARCHIE STANTON** was really missed this year so hope the legs haven't given up altogether. If so, how about attending the Reunion if not the march. Looking forward to seeing you next year Arch.

• **BILL "ROBBIE"** looking fit and well at the March and Reunion. Bill abdicated leadership of the march in favour of 'Allan McInnes'. A the Reunion Bill got boxed in by a few of the boys from "Don" Coy, but managed to keep a fatherly eye on them.

• **BOB GUINANE** now assistant manager of Campbelltown R.S.L. assures all Pioneers a royal welcome and an enjoyable evening at Campbelltown. Have had good reports by other people, about this R.S.L. Club.

• **MICK EGAN** and **BERT BEASLEY** were noticed having their usual Pow Wow. Bert is a very hardy Annual visitor and made his usual trip from Brisbane. Good to see you again Bert and hope the same happens again next year. Bert reports all Pioneers in his area are fit and well.

• **PAT COLLINS** was on hand again after a couple of years absence through legs not behaving too well. Did not notice if he and **Bill Nicholls** had a go at the "on guard - off guard".

• **BRUCE METCALF**, "BUTCH" **BALLARD**, **CARL BALL**, "SPEED" **GORDON** and **TOM BYE** (speaks good Australian now) keeping good watch over "YOUNG" **ACHURCH**, or was it the other way around.

• **CHARLIE FIRTH** was again present at the March and Reunion and he doesn't seem to get any older. What's the secret Charlie?

When last seen Charlie was having a good ear bash with **DON LAWSON** who is another regular. Somehow the Reunion would not be the same without Don.

• Have not mentioned the March, Wreath Laying, Annual Meeting or the Ladies Auxiliary meeting as **Bob Dixon** has covered this.

As far as I can figure that about wraps up the 2/2 Pioneer notes for Anzac Day 1977. So here's hoping to see you all, and others who didn't make the grade this year, at the next March and/or the Reunion.

by Reg Armstrong - 2/2 Pioneer Reporter

REMINISCENCE OF A PIONEER

I leave to others to write officially in this issue of a 2/2 Pioneer who has recently passed on to the great beyond, Sgt. Orb. Camb. I suppose of every person that we personally knew in our Unit, there would be many other views and opinions, plus known experiences remembered by others besides our own, and so what I write is just a few personal jottings of this whimsical man.

Orb to me was a very unusual, quiet, somewhat deep kind of person. He had his own whimsical brand of humour which surfaced on many many occasions. His strategy on how to live to Army requirements and needs was at times hilariously funny. Asked why it was always so hard to find him and practically never in his own tent, he replied, "A knowledgeable soldier never hangs around his own tent, that's where they always head when they have a job for you. It doesn't always work but its surprising the number of times it does!!!"

I asked him one morning as he went through the motions of shaving before a somewhat battered and cracked mirror, how long it would take him because he had a fair growth of whisker up - "Well, if the handle of the razor holds and the skin of the face holds - say ten minutes!!" This was said in the quiet manner he had and relieved it with a faint smile visible through the lather.

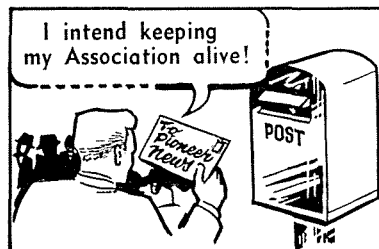
New Guinea. At Markham Point on the Markham River where the Unit was bogged down for a period of time, I was detailed by one Col. Joe Lang to take a bunch of 3 Platoon boys down river and take a native village some miles away - that is another story - but on our return we found the Unit had moved on towards Lae. All we found at the position was a huge stock of provisions and seated on top was one lonely soldier - Orb Camb. "Never in all my Army days have I seen so much food and so few to use it!!" was the quiet remark from the top of the heap. Asked could we use some of the goodies, we were told to go ahead, by the sack full by the case full, or both. We were also told in true Orb manner that if not relieved of his post even for a couple of months, he had no food worries. Also to find the Unit - "Just follow the Sig wire!!"

As we took off in search of the Unit and Orb was left to his lonely vigil, I wondered what would happen to him and his great heap of munga. Come to think of it, I never did find out. I look back on my association with Orb as a great happiness and something I will always treasure remembering as I do these words of his whimsical philosophy, "When the going gets more than you can handle - head for the bush!!"

Vale Orb Camb.

BOB DIXON

WHAT: BRISBANE BAR-B-QUE
WHEN: SATURDAY 29TH OCTOBER 1977
WHERE: HUNT'S RESIDENCE
WHO: ALL PIONEERS AND FRIENDS
TIME: 4P.M. TO ????
REPLIES TO: JOHN HUNT 22 LUPTON ST
 CHERMSIDE BY 24TH OCTOBER IF
 POSSIBLE
TELEPHONE: 59 5941 Area Code 07
LATE STARTERS ARE WELCOME



from the MAIL BAG

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



Second issue of Mail Bag and the response to the Treasurer's statement was wonderful, while the members continue to respond to these occasional appeals for assistance, I feel sure that the "Pioneer News" will continue to flow, and strongly as always.

• **KEITH REYNOLDS**, 2/1, and with a statement to the fact that he has moved his domicile from Wentworthville and gone west, out into "the wild blue yonder" of Coonabarabran. Apart from this information and a cheque to the Treasurer, "Ghandi" is a great believer of the old adage 'No news is good news.' Many thanks for the cheque and new address noted.

• **NOEL HIBBARD**, 2/1, now of Meadowbank sends a cheque to the Treasurer and apologises for his non attendance at the Anzac Day functions and he sincerely hopes that everybody had a great day. Noel really enjoys the 'NEWS' and extends his congratulations to the whole Committee of the Association on the function that keeps the situation rolling.

• **PAT LAUGHREN**, 2/1, and long resident of Nambour, Q'ld. writes another letter to tell all who may be wintering in the north state that they would make welcome visitors at Lamington Terrace. Pat talks of the approach of Anzac Day and the memories of the great bunch of wonderful fellows and, under the circumstances, the many happy times. Also pays tribute to 'Monty' and his habit of frequent visits to the Sunshine State and the wonderful work that he performs on behalf of the fellow members of the Pioneer Association. Pat closes off with best wishes to all Pioneers with a special mention for those of mighty 'C' Company and enclosed was a cheque to help keep the Treasurer's blood pressure down. Many thanks for the letter Pat and your many plugs for the Sunshine Coast makes me think that you really love the place.

• **JACK AINSWORTH** of Sans Souci sends a note of four lines wishing the Association every success and enclosing a Subscription cheque to the Treasurer. Can't make much news of that Jack but many thanks for the good wishes.

• **BILL HOLMES**, 2/2, now of North Ryde sends a cheque to the Treasurer and an apology for his non attendance on Anzac Day. Bill sees Don Linton and Charlie Firth quite frequently and Don has finished building a boat after two years of very hard work so now spends most of his time sailing. Bill also had a tingle from Wal Baird at Easter. Wal was down for the Show and mentioned that he had had a bumper year. The late Jim Drummond was a member of Bill's North Ryde R.S.L. and a rose has been dedicated to the memory of Jim in the Memorial Garden. Many thanks for the letter Bill and we all wish you well in your retirement.

• **FRED SCANES** now of Cooma writes that he had received his copy of the 'NEWS' and expresses his sympathy to those who have passed on. Quotes, "That he also notices that the Treasurer was having a bit of a whinge", so thought he had best do something to rectify same enclosing a cheque. Apparently there are not many Pioneers down Cooma way. The last chap Fred met was Tim McCoy and that was many years ago but with good living and a little self-denial claims he hopes to renew many acquaintances in 1978. Many thanks for the letter Fred, your good wishes extended to all and looking forward to seeing you in 1978.

• **PHIL CRAMSIE** now of Clayfield, Q'ld. writes an apology for not having written sooner and suggests that perhaps the Treasurer should publish more frequent reminders about funds to just jog the memories of chaps like himself. Phil claims the Queensland Pioneers are getting better organised, thanks to Fred Davenport and Nell, and John and Molly Hunt, with the Barbecues gathering momentum every year. Phil recently visited Fred and Nell and reports that Fred is progressing favourably and eagerly awaits any Pioneer News. Many thanks for the letter Phil and Treasurer has cheque where it's doing most good.

• **FRED CALLAWAY** now of Wahroonga sends a cheque to the Treasurer apologising for his absence at Anzac Day, however, we all know that Fred has a pretty busy schedule. Many thanks for the note and the cheque. Your phone calls to Max would keep you close in touch.

• **ROD HAMILTON** now of Picnic Point sends a short note, three lines with cheque attached for Treasurer. Afraid I can't write too many volumes on the strength of that lot Rod, but many thanks and keep in touch.

• **CEC HART** of Newtown, per Gordon Finlay, of death of Jack Hart and a cheque for Treasurer. Many thanks Cec, we hope you enjoy the paper.

• **NOEL "Schooner" PETERSEN**, our old mate from Wyong, writes to say he is still able to knock over the usual few of the amber fluid. Intended to come to Sydney for Anzac Day with Tom Morgan, 2/2, however, the old back gave a bit of protest so decided against it. Lakey is still going along okay and most of the troops are quite good. Sorry to hear about the Secretary, still you will get by and we know that you will always keep your chin up. Many thanks for the good wishes and Treasurer has cheque doing most good.

• **TED SKOYLES**, now at Mittagong, has to forgo the Reunion this year, I would imagine that this would be the first miss that Ted has had for many years. Ted had the misfortune to injure his back and had to spend a month in hospital, home again,

now, but back is still not A1. Ted also mentioned that he hoped all mates that attended the 'Rats of Tobruk' Reunion had a good time. We sincerely hope that your back problems are cleared up by the time this goes to press and we thank you for the cheque to Treasurer.

• **TOM FAWCETT**, now at Bankstown, send a cheque for the Treasurer and congratulations to the Committee for keeping the show going. Tom remarks on the sorrow of reading of those that have passed on, but of course this is offset by the cheery newsy reminiscing of the humorous correspondents that subscribe the different letters and items. The Committee appreciates the good wishes offered by all the boys and wives that write into the News and we thank you for yours. Hope that we can continue to fulfil the job for as long as mail flows in.

• **JOHN DOUGLAS** of West Wyalong sends a nice letter and cheque to Treasurer and mentions the fact that it's amazing how many chaps get to take things for granted. As John says, 'We just know that the News is there, it comes regularly and we think of it as some divine right that it should continue to do so.' Promises that regularity will be his second name in the future. John wishes to be remembered by B Company Boys and special mention to 12 Platoon, John Trevethick and George Nicholls, both of whom were mentioned in the last paper. Tom Blamey also in mind and the day in Borneo when he climbed a tree just to have a look and the Nips nearly had a victory. Good letter John, keep them coming in.

• **TOM MCGUINNESS**, now at Auburn, writes a letter with a cheque for Treasurer and the news that he has a few contacts around his district. Fred Makin had a few ales with Tom and looks well, keeps good health and they will be getting together again later on in the year at Woy Woy. Tom also sees Lew McGowan and his wife at Auburn. Also contacts Pat Noonan, Doug Evans, Jack Stone and a few others who had transferred to the Papuan Infantry Battalion late in the forties. Many thanks for your letter and the news that you forwarded.

• **GEORGE PATTERSON**, now at St. Ives, has been a very good supporter of our Association for many years, and unfortunately over the past few years, health has started to create problems for him. As reported previously, George broke his leg last year and now he has had a spell in hospital with a heart attack. On the mend now but still restricted to the house and apologises for his lack of attendance on April 25. Many thanks for your letter George, your cheque in the hands of the Treasurer and we all wish you well and a speedy recovery.

MAIL BAG Cont'd.

• **STEVE SNOW** now at Arncliffe, writes that the Treasurer's appeal has struck a chord. **Steve** enclosed a cheque for same and reports that he has no contacts around his area apart from **Mick Egan**, whom he does see on odd occasions. Many thanks for the news **Steve** and hope you enjoy the News as it comes.

• **MICK TASSELL**, now of Hay, sent a cheque to the Treasurer with not even a note. Come on **Tassell** you can do better than that. Why don't you write us a story on how you handled those bullock teams and those wonderful words of endearment that you used on them? (Special request from **Bob Lake**) We could probably print some of them.

• **NORM GOODCHAP** and wife Ann have written a note with a cheque for Treasurer and a change of address to Kallangue, Queensland. (Well I suppose the postman knows where that is, but I am sure I don't). Both enjoy reading the News and they do keep personal contact with **Monty**, also hope to look up **Fred Davenport** and wife **Nell** in the near future. Many thanks for the letter folks and we all wish you well at your new address.

• **BOB TAYLOR**, now of Jamberoo, sends a letter of appreciation for the news and the word that he would not be at Redfern this year. A problem with the ticker and Doctor's orders are to 'take it steady.' **Bob** meets **Jack Hamilton** occasionally at Kiama, claims he is in the same paddock. **Jack** and wife on holiday up the North Coast at time of writing. **Bob** also mentions that he receives 2 copies of 'Pioneer News' and that there is only one **Bob Taylor** in Jamberoo. That will be attended to. (Don't suppose Jamberoo could stand more than one). Many thanks **Bob**, and Treasurer has cheque where it's doing most good.

• **BILL FALLON**, 2/2, now at Barraba, apologises for his lack of letter writing and like most of the troops claims he is the worlds worst. **Bill** has broken the ice and he hopes that all Pioneers will rise to the occasion so that the only link between old mates will never be broken. **Bill** deeply regrets the passing of **Frank Howard**. He and wife **Daphne** had the pleasure of calling on **Frank** and **Ruth** some years ago as they travelled through Queensland and **Bill** certainly remembers daughter **Jan** on that Anzac Day many years ago. **Bill** and wife are still on the land and are fortunate that daughter and family live in the home town. Still has not found the need nor necessity to take things easy, so still keep plugging along on the property. A good letter **Bill**, one we can fine some news for the troops of the 2/2 and your cheque is in the Treasurer's capable hands.

• **ERN LUNN**, 2/2, now at Carinda, sends a cheque to the Treasurer for Subscription and a Badge, and the news that he was out at Lightning Ridge at Easter hoping to see **Bob Molyneux** but did not have the luck. Also attended a sheep sale at Bourke but sale had ended and **Ern** was on the way home before **Harry Sullivan** knocked off work, so had to give him a miss on that trip. Better luck next time **Ern**, keep trying.

• **PETER PRIEST**, now at Proserpine, Queensland, per the pen of wife **Dot**, who

claims that **Peter** still has a broken arm where writing letters is concerned, tells us that they have sold the caravan in which they spent 8 years travelling and working around the Alice and the centre. At the mouth of Proserpine River and the edge of Repulse Bay, they have bought a house to retire in. **Peter** hopes to attend Anzac Day next year in Sydney and wishes all the best for this year. They are fortunate that daughter **Pam**, husband and family also live at Proserpine where they have their own business and are doing quite well. **Dot** encloses a cheque, both enjoy reading the News. Change of address noted. Have a very long and happy retirement and anyone that knows **Peter** would be more than welcome if going through that way. Many thanks for the letter **Dot**, will take your advice and walk at all times, for what it's worth.

• **MRS. DOROTHY EDWARD**, wife of the late **Jim 'POPEYE' Edward** sends a letter of thanks for the News with a cheque to the Treasurer and the information that it is 18 years since our old "SAR MAJOR" passed away. **Mrs. Edwards** was very sorry to hear of the death of **Padre Laing** and realised that we are all getting that much older. The Padre officiated at 'Popeye's' Service. Many thanks for the letter **Mrs. Dorothy**, and we all wish you very good health and luck.

• **DES MARTIN**, 2/2, now at Wodonga, Victoria, sends a cheque to the Treasurer and an apology for the writing. Claims his gets worse every year - that goes for all of us **Des**. However, **Des**, I have to admit that yours has got me a little bit stumped, still while ever you can afford the "faloosh" for a few schooners. I am sure that you wont have to write many letters.

• **Jack Collis** of Umima writes a letter prior to Anzac Day mentioning that **Harry Hutchinson** had had a spell in Woy Woy Hospital after a heart attack, back home but a long way from well. **Jack Coates** also in hospital for a couple of weeks, however, both the **Jacks** were at Redfern Town Hall on the big day.

• **TED DOLLING** is home again after a spell at Concord and Gosford hospitals. **Ted** was hoping to get to the Reunion as also **Bluey Miller**. So thanks **Jack** will leave you to write your ideas of the Town Hall on Anzac Day.

• **CLAUDE DENSMORE** now resident of Wallsend, decided to put pen to paper with a little news of self and wife. **Claude** has joined the Newcastle Branch of the 'Rats of Tobruk' but has only met 'Glido' **Jack Griffiths** to date. Can assure you old chap there are plenty more of the blokes up there to be found if you want to. Newcastle had a really great day on the big Reunion but the only chap **Claude** recognised was **Jack Pearce**, our one and only 'Old Split'. Just goes to show you **Claude** you have got to keep more in touch, as there were quite a few Pioneers there that day. By the time you are all reading this, **Claude** and wife, **Elvie**, will have been to Sydney where they were visiting old friends, **Bob** and **Doreen Baldwin**, where I'd reckon the old stories would have nearly run dry, or do your two wives correct you by now. Many thanks for the letter **Claude** and we are smiling all the way to the Bank with that cheque to the Treasurer.

• **JACK WILLIAMS**, 2/2, now at Newtown, sends a cheque to the Treasurer for Subscription and an Association Badge. **Jack** enjoys the news but claims he does not remember many of the boys. **Jack** did not get the chance to really get to know too many, however, he does wish to be remembered to **Tom Skeey** who came from Nundle. **Jack** was up at Nundle and met **Tom** who has a farm property out there. **Jack** also has joined the 'Don't drink' mob now. You did not say why, but if it was Doctor's orders, I'd suggest you change the doctor. Many thanks for the letter **Jack** and keep smiling.

• **BILL WRIGHT**, now at Wyoming Central Coast, writes after Anzac Day and comments on what a great day was enjoyed by all who attended, and **Bill** passes on thanks on behalf of all to the great job performed by the Committee and the helpers that volunteered. **Bill** had the pleasure of meeting **Jack Palmer** and his wife at the Royal Show and a great yarn ensued about C Company. **Jack's** first enquiries were regarding **Jack Claypole** and **George Nicholls** and **Bill** comments, "Like many others, he would love to see **George Nicholls** attend a Reunion". (Best keep that in mind, you sun worshipper!)

Bill goes on to report that he is really enjoying his retirement and good health. Last year spent 4 months in North West, West Australia with his son and went as far north as the Ord River Scheme and had a great trip. This year has ideas of a trip to the old home town, Blackall, Western Queensland. Just see that you don't get mixed up with any other ("ALLS") while you are up there. **Bill** asks for addresses of **Ted Stratford** and **Tom Hugo**. I shall have to acquire these from **Max Herron** and will forward. Many thanks for the letter **Bill** and just keep on enjoying.

Owing to such great response to our appeal for support, this Issue does not contain all the references to the Mail received, however, to keep the Issue to eight pages, we close this with a further issue to be printed in September where the balance of letters held will be attended to.

That's it for now.

Good Health LAKEY

PIONEER NEWS LIVES ON

Due to the response after the appeal in the April issue of the Pioneer News we have been able to print a full six page issue.

Forty two subscribers sent in donations with a letter and thirty five were from people who admitted they had never subscribed before or who had not done so, for a long while.

To these people and to those members on Anzac Day who subscribed so generously we say thank you.

Among those received were quite a few from widows of our members and we particularly thank these ladies - but please in future appeals, ignore us, as we do not expect donations at all from our widows - it is a pleasure to issue them a free copy of our paper.

WORLD REUNION — RATS OF TOBRUK 1977

Reported by President Jack [Mick] Dodson

The first World Reunion of the Rats of Tobruk took place during April, 1977 N.S.W. Branch and Newcastle Sub-Branch of the Rats of Tobruk were co-hosts to the visitors.

Members and visitors came from England, France, U.S.A., New Zealand and all states of Australia to answer the call of the first World Reunion.

They came not only to enjoy themselves at the 36th Commemoration March and Service, but also to remember their mates who lost their lives in Tobruk and those who passed on since.

What a Reunion it was — as co-organiser I felt proud of being involved in organising such a successful World Reunion. Even the weather, though cold at times kept fine over the entire days of the Reunion. Over the different day's activities many 2/1 Pioneers attended, many assisting in the work involved that made this first World Reunion so successful.

The visitors began arriving Saturday, 2nd April, and the English contingent (the last to leave) left on 29th April. All arrived home broke but happy after enjoying themselves in N.S.W.

After Federal Congress was completed on Tuesday and Wednesday 5th and 6th April at Five Dock R.S.L. Club, saw the beginning of the main activities with a Civic Reception at the Sydney Town Hall midday Thursday. Again in the evening at the Town Hall all gathered for the Civic Welcome plus artists in Dorothy Barry (Australia's Dame Vera Lynn) and Ian Davies on the magnificent organ.

Friday morning was set aside for individual church services. The afternoon entertainment was coach trips to the South Coast and the Lion Safari and dolphinarium.

On Saturday morning, about seven hundred men began the 36th Commemoration march from Oxford Square to Hyde Park War Memorial where a most impressive service took place. The service claimed by Sir Colin Hines as the best service he had attended at the Memorial. Visitors then adjointed to the Koala Motor Inn where refreshments were provided by the women's auxiliary, plus a different kind of refreshment by the men. It was there that many old friendships were renewed.

Saturday night at the Sydney Town Hall saw the biggest crowd to ever attend for dinner in the main hall. 1124 sat down for dinner, quite a crowd. One could imagine why we organisers had a grin a mile wide on our faces.

Twenty coaches transported over 1,000 people on Sunday, 10th April to Newcastle where all joined in with Newcastle Sub-Branch of the Rats of Tobruk at their annual march and service where a Civic welcome was given to all visitors. Luncheon at the Police boys club at Broadmeadow brought much comment, enough to have their Committee led by President Jack Griffiths (2/1 Pioneer Battalion) strutting proudly around with their chests out. On leaving Newcastle, the coaches split up calling at one or the other

R.S.L. Clubs on the Central Coast where they were guests for the evening. It sure gave the visitors something to talk about for months to come.

Monday began with a tour of the Opera House a first for all visitors. This was followed by a harbour cruise (five launches) calling in at Garden Island for a Bar-B-Que lunch. The harbour was as calm as a mill pond making many people to remark that someone was on our side. After the harbour cruise all gathered at the Koala Motor Inn for final farewells. Most last words were, "see you in Victoria 1980".

The overseas contingent stopped over until the end of April, which meant they had to be entertained for that time. This began on Tuesday 12th April at the Five Dock R.S.L. Club where 9th Div. Council entertained them to Dinner. Many interstate visitors joined in at the dinner.

A ten day tour was arranged touring the north coast, parts of Queensland and the far west of N.S.W. This left Sydney, Wednesday morning early. First stop was at Taree R.S.L. Club for lunch where the visitors eyes were opened when the officials really turned it on. Overnight at Kempsey R.S.L. Club where they were entertained at the Club for the evening meal. Thursday we stopped for lunch at Grafton R.S.L. Club. Local dignitaries and R.S.L. members turned out to welcome the visitors. Among the R.S.L. members were four of the 2/1 Baft. Ballina R.S.L. Club entertained the party for the evening meal, even to some winning on the pokies. After staying overnight at Ballina we set off on Friday escorted around the Gold Coast by a member of the Gold Coast Rats of Tobruk Sub-Branch. A visit to the bird sanctuary, even to the Council's magnificent building.

To see the overseas visitors busy writing, it looks like there might be another book on the market very soon.

On to Brisbane staying overnight where the State Branch of the Rats of Tobruk entertain all to dinner at one of the local hotels, owned by a member. The English members claimed this evening one to remember for it reminded them so much of the pub setting at home.

Through the south east of Queensland to Goondiwindi where in a very friendly atmosphere the R.S.L. entertained the party to lunch on Saturday. The feature of the stay was no pokies, so the effort of the Club was outstanding.

Over the border then through to Moree where we stayed overnight. Sunday morning before breakfast, down to the Artesian (Spa) baths for a early dip. After breakfast a tour of Moree and a inspection of the cotton fields.

Midday at the R.S.L. Club, joined in a wreath laying, then adjointed to the Club where their Anzac Day smoko began and the beginning of a very heavy day. I was welcomed by a very pleased and happy man in no other than Charlie Wilby of the 2/1 Pioneers. Lunch, official speeches, entertainers and liquid refreshments loosened the tongues and when we left the Club late at night I maintained it was

through heavy barrages that we escaped. tired and not needing any rocking when we settled back at our motel.

On the way again Monday morning where the first stop was Collarenebri R.S.L. for morning tea. The lunch stop, something different again, this time at the Lightning Ridge Bowling Club, then to the opal fields for an inspection where one of the ex-miners gave a grand description of the activities of the fields.

(To be continued next Issue)

FUNERAL COMMITTEE

From Anzac Day 1966 to 1977 Anzac Day, the Association was reduced in numbers by the sad loss of 41 members who passed on. "Lest We Forget". The Association passes on to their families our condolence I was only able to attend two of the funerals but Harry (Monty) whenever possible was there with others to represent the Association. Many thanks to Monty and the others who attended funerals throughout the year.

Gentlemen, if anyone hears or reads of one of our members passing on please phone myself or Monty, if we cannot attend we will endeavour to see that there is a representative available. Monty's phone number is 76 6657 and mine is 724 4091. Below is a list of our late members from Anzac Day 1976 to 1977.

P.J. McKeig, 2/1, A.R. Furness, 2/1, J. King, 2/1, W.C. (Bill) Lowe, 2/1, R.A. (Reg) Sweeney, 2/1, Peter O'Brien, 2/1, E. McLean, 2/2, H.F. Heagney, 2/2, A.S. Knappe, 2/2, A.P. Simmons, 2/2, A.G. Butcher, 2/1, Phil Rubie, 2/1, H.W.C. Knight, 2/2, L.A. Phillips, 2/2, J.P. Jones, 2/2, F.C. Ryan, 2/1, C. Seaton, 2/1, Johny Clifford, 2/1, Fred Dunleavy, 2/1, Ron McFarlane, 2/1, Doug McKeever, 2/2, Joseph Howard, 2/2, K. Carr, 2/1, Ken (Mum) Kerr, 2/1, A.W. (Alf) Carter, 2/1, J.F. Cotter, 2/1, H. Cannon, 2/2, D.T.P. Collins, 2/1, P.J. Croghan, 2/1, Roy Bounds, 2/1, Padre Allan Lang, 2/1, F.W. Senter, 2/1, C.H. Mitchell, 2/1, Archie Starr, 2/1, G.P. Evans, 2/1, C.W. Reid, 2/1, Len Hargraves, 2/1, Scotty Angus, 2/1, J. Hart, 2/1, E.W. Donaghy, 2/1, Doug Painter, 2/1, Aubrey Camm, 2/2.

President JACK (Mick) DODSON

ASSISTANCE IN FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS

A well known funeral parlour has agreed to assist the wives of our deceased members in arranging the funeral of the member. The concession is quite a substantial one.

In keeping with Association policy we do not print advertisements in the "Pioneer News", so cannot print the name of the Funeral Parlour but if requiring this service please ring me at 76 6657 and I will make all arrangements.

Harry Montague. Welfare officer

PIONEER NEWS

Phone: 759-5491

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

Phone: 759-5491

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VIC WHITELEY

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WE MUST REMEMBER

(An Epitaph to Joe Hickey, 2/1st)

For many years now, people of the age group to which I belong have been told "you live in the past, look ahead or you'll get lost in the rush."

Who wants to rush anyway, causes ulcers, we can't learn from the future, we don't know it, sure we look to the past; we learn from it, we recall many happy moments and fine people we have known. They tell us that if we live in history we are in danger of losing one eye. I prefer to think that if we refuse to learn from the past we will certainly lose both eyes.

I remember many years ago, I went to a meeting of a group, a group not long in existence, but already firmly in history. I found my way up the dark stairs into a well lighted hall. A little fellow came up to me, so far as I can remember his opening assault was; "You're new here mate, what's your name, what mob were you in, come over sport, meet me mate YOUNGMAN, Jack to you". We are the workers, you'll meet the others later mate, what do you drink? "black or white"? Black I said, another one of TIERNEY'S mates he said. Drink it up sport the presso is looking over here wants to get the bloody meeting started, what did you say your name is, I'll introduce you." And so I attended my first meeting of THE RATS OF TOBRUK NEWCASTLE SUB BRANCH.

This little bloke, he was sprightly, chirpy, ready to fight or laugh whatever was on the menu, he wore the countenance of a natural comic. It might be said he wore the map of IRELAND on his face. Yes he had his say at the meeting, no idle back bencher here. No I'm not afraid to look back, not to remember chaps like these two, Hickey and his mate Youngman, you don't forget fellows like them.

We all remember those yesteryears, when we were young and vigorous and saw little left for those old folks over their forties. Well, my friends, they were the years when my new friend, with his mates, Lofty Reckenberg, Norm Alker, Battles Allen and Col. Norm Neal exhibited their brand of persuasion by convincing the enlisting officers that some awful mistake had been made in the Registration of their birth, some stupid clerical mistake, one could see that any one of them was not a day over thirty five, and twice as good as any of those young brats out there. My new friend in the prime of his life did what he wanted to do, HE WENT WITH HIS MATES. I feel sure that, that would apply to JOE for the entire eighty years of his life, he went with his mates.

COMPLETE LOYALTY FROM JOE

I'm sorry I don't know much of JOE'S record in his unit, I heard that once when warned by his Platoon Cmdr. for a fighting patrol, Joe advised

his officer that he "DIDN'T COME OVER HERE TO GET SHOT, CAME FOR A COOK'S TOUR, YOU BETTER GO YOURSELF MATE." But I wonder what Joe would have said to him had he omitted him from the show. I know others know more of JOE, they too have their memories. JOE and his mate YOUNGMAN, expected only the best from their Branch, from their mates or any other group for that matter.

Woe the President, Secretary etc. who couldn't come up with the proper answer. Yes, he would let you know, he would attack you as a member of the executive, but he NEVER attacked the man. Any President can tell you he has come under attack from JOE, he WILL also tell you with pride that from JOE he always got complete loyalty from this old compaigner. In these days when the quality of loyalty is sneered at, we can do with a lot more JOES.

Youngman was quiet, resolute, intensely reliable, loyal, the type no organisation can afford to lose, his mate, chatty humorous, a born stirrer, never afraid to have his say.

I remember once when I was on the executive Joe lodged his annual complaint about doing all the work, waiting on the tables, I suggested at the meeting, that some of the younger brigade might like to relieve Joe for once to allow him to relax at the dinner, no I won't write what Joe said, but to those of you who knew him, I guess you know, did we think he was bloody useless etc etc. Yes chaps like Joe gave character to their organisation.

Do you remember the CANBERRA Re-Union, who returned to the hotel after the dinner, somewhat late, with the use of the key he opened a bedroom door. Hell! a lady in the bed. Gently (for Joe) he advised her that she was in his bed, a lengthy conversation ensued, I don't know yet who won, but at breakfast next morning all the women were looking for JOE, and not to cut his throat. You and I my brothers I venture to suggest, would have fared somewhat different. That was our JOE. You would also recall the Queensland Blue Groper he caught in Lake Burley Griffin, or so Joe said.

I think it was Henry Lawson who wrote these lines.

Old Friend in the past, gusty weather
When our hopes and friendship were new
In the years we spend wearing our leather
I found you unselfish and true.

I wonder if he knew Joe.

It is a really beautiful day today, not a cloud in

the sky, no annoying westerly winds to chill your body and depress your spirit, a beautiful sunny warm day, the type you wish for when on holidays, new leaves showing on the trees, new life.

I with many other chaps took time off from our normal activities to have an outing today, an outing born of friendship, memories, loyalty, an outing decreed by duty and service, a duty impelled by our own very personal feelings. We gathered at the appropriate time and place, there was Jack Griffiths, Dick Seddon, Bob Juleff, and Nuggett Laurie who served in his unit, Rard Tierney and Bob Walschuszky who supplied his need in TOBRUK, Rusty Gorton, Norm Alker and Dave Cook who protected him with mines, Fred Hissey who repaired his truck. There was Rex Burns, Col Crawford and self who sometimes gave his team a rest in the salient. Yes my friends, we were forming a Guard of Honour for the Final discharge of Private JOSEPH JAMES HICKEY. You see Joe is on transfer to higher formations and I'm sure when he gets to his new unit he'll have a guard from Norm Neal, Frank Farrow, Lofty Reckenberg, Bob Duncan, Fred Hannan, Battles Allen to plead his cause.

VALE: JOSEPH HICKEY, a beautiful spring day. I know it's the kind of day Joe would have picked for his final farewell, he always wanted the best.

AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN
AND IN THE MORNING,
WE WILL REMEMBER HIM.

Yes it was a beautiful day, and yes it was a sad day. Joe has handed in his badge.

"QUINNEE" 2/9 Bn.

NEWS ITEMS

In the June issue of Pioneer News I left out several names somehow and I would like to bring them to the fore now.

- Firstly our old committee stalwart "Pasha" Jackson, now residing on Norfolk Island. He was present at both the Wreath Laying ceremony and our Anzac March. Sorry I didn't get time to say more than "good-day", Pasha, but it was good to see you again.

- Another I shouldn't have missed out on was Con Bush. Con hails from Murrurundi and was one of the "A Coy." boys at Greta. Be there next year, Con, and I shan't forget you.

QUEENSLAND REUNION

WHAT — Brisbane Barbecue

WHEN — 29th October, 1977

WHERE — Hunt's Residence
22 Lupton St., Chermide.

REPLIES — to J.B. Hunt by 24th October if possible.

PHONE — 59-5941 Area Code 07

LATE STARTERS: Quite welcome.



• **MRS. JUNE KERR** Widow of the late **Ken (Mum) Kerr** sends a note of appreciation to both **Monty and Arthur Murphy** who attended **Ken's** funeral last September. Mum, as we all knew him, had been ill for quite some time, **June** was able to care for him at home for which she was very thankful, misses him so very much but like a good Pioneer's wife, is trying to adjust and keeping the chin in a good upright position. Many thanks for the cheque and good wishes to the association and if in doubt at any time have no hesitation in making contact with us.

• **HARRY FITZGERALD** now at Margaret River Station via Derby West Aust. sends a cheque to the treasurer and the knowledge that we have been posting his "News" to the wrong address for 18 years, meaning that it has had to be forwarded on each time. Don't know who is at fault there **Harry**, whether it was our filing system or your lack of communication, however it shall be attended to forthwith. **Harry's** station is halfway between Derby and Wyndham 300 miles from each place, and 70 miles Derby side of Halls Creek, so if any of the boys are out that way for a stroll, look him up, could possibly strike **Sid Hadley** at the same time.

• **DOUG WATSON** per pen of daughter **Barbara** writes on behalf of **Doug** with the information that he attended the Dawn Service at Corrimal this year, then onto the march at Wollongong. He took part in the march by car this year as his legs just wouldn't make the distance any more, but his heart was in Sydney with the Battalion as it always is on this day. **Barbara**, who writes from her own home at Unanderra quotes "When we were young kids (years ago) he used to tell them he would go to the march in Sydney if he had to crawl all the way and they believed him as he did so, rain, hail or shine", **Barbara** also enclosed a cheque for the treasurer and the statement that he keeps pretty well except for those really bad legs.

• **JOE ROBERTSON** 2/2 now living at Findon South Aust., writes his first letter to the association. **Joe** was not aware of the association until visited by **John Dowd** last Christmas where over a few coldies the news came up. **Joe** has received back copies of the paper and has sent the following items of interest along. He has corresponded with several 2/2 blokes over the years, **John Dowd**, **Ross (Darby) Dawson** of Sydney, **Les (Bushy) Saddlington**, **Fred (Snackers) Karney** of Melbourne, while at home **Len Norman** of Normans Wines is local. **Joe** is an associate member of the 2/43 Battalion Social Club and like the Pioneers they have members scattered to all states, they also have a club newspaper, S.I.T. — REP which helps them to keep in touch. **Joe's** only sport these days is bowls and as he quotes, "I do not profess to be good at it but as long as he can keep them on the right bias and find the green occasionally, get a taste of the amber during the afternoon, he considers he has had a good day win or lose". He is hoping to retire early next year after 27 years with Phillips Electrical and both he and wife **Jean** are looking forward to this. As he says, "Who knows, they might find there way to the next Anzac Day

functions where he could meet old friends again. Many thanks for the letter **Joe**, we hope that this can eventuate, can assure you that the welcome would be really laid on, your best wishes extended to all Pioneers with special effort for **D. Coy** and your cheque with the treasurer doing good work.

• **MRS. JEAN CLAUGHTON** wife of the late **Padre** sends a cheque to the treasurer and best regards to the association, also **Peg** and **Max Herron**. We in turn return the good wishes and remind you that donations are not required from the ladies and wives of late members.

• **MRS. RUTH HOWARD** widow of the late **Frank Howard** writes from Somerset Dam, Queensland with a donation to the News and that she still enjoys reading the letters from the members and often sees names of the boys that **Frank** used to speak of. We are very glad that you enjoy our little paper and would suggest that you keep the Brisbane get together in mind, no doubt you would be well looked after by the Queensland ladies should you get the opportunity to attend.

• **LEN (LOFTY) BARLOW** per pen of wife **Dorothy** sends a cheque to the treasurer, and the pleasure **Len** gets from reading the news. **Lofty** and wife are residents of the Central Coast, where a lot of good Pioneers hang out, and where one could get into a lot of trouble without much effort if you felt that way inclined. Has been a patient at Concord for some three weeks but had high hopes of being free over the Anzac weekend, we sincerely hope you enjoyed it "Lofty", and that you have no further problems with Concord for a long time.

• **MRS. MAE JAKINS** widow of the late **Alf Jakins** sends a subscription to the paper and the information that she still likes to recall the news and the doings. We thank you **Mae**, and as stated elsewhere in the paper, we do not expect you ladies to forward subscriptions and you will receive copies whenever you wish as long as the paper is published. We can only wish you good health and keep smiling although that may sound a bit corny as far as your thoughts are concerned, there are no other words to fit the occasion.

• **JACK CLEMENTS** 2/2 now resident of Baukham Hills writes an apology for his non-attendance at the march over the past few years, a cheque to the treasurer, and the statement that, while he enjoys reading the News is afraid that he has very little to contribute in way of same, however he does promise that maybe later on he will strike some information that we can put into print. Many thanks for the note **Jack**, and just keep working on that News item.

• **SNOWY MCKIBBON** now resident of Burley Heads sends a short note to the association with a cheque to the treasurer, and the fact that owing to work commitments has not been able to attend any Anzac Day functions for many years, but has now retired and promises to be in attendance at the next Reunion. **Snow** wishes to be remembered to all Pioneers in general and a special mention to all the R.A.P. boys. Many thanks **Snow**, and will look forward to seeing your smiling face next April.

• **EWEN CAMERON** now of Blackalls Park sends a few dollars to help keep things moving and the news that was in MacLean recently where he met up with brother **Alec** and **Bill Pound** who are both well. **Ewen** does not have much else to report, sends his best regards to all hands, and we in turn exchange the same.

• **MRS. BELLE ROBERTS** wife of the late **Wal Roberts** writes a nice letter from Mudgee, saying she still enjoys reading the News and the names of chaps who **Wal** so often spoke about. **Belle** has had a call from both **Monty** and wife, sends her regards to a wonderful couple and who have done so much for the Association and its members.

Belle has daughter and son-in-law in a residence at Mudgee with three grandchildren to help keep her young (so they say), I'd be more inclined to say (keep you hopping) still we all know how they do help so very much. **Wal** also has a brother in business at Mudgee, **Athol Roberts**, also a Pioneer of A Coy and **Belle** keeps regular contact with **Athol** also. Many thanks for the letter **Belle** and cheque is with the treasurer doing lots of good. As mentioned elsewhere **Belle**, donations are not required from wives of members, paper will always be posted.

• **DICK SEDDON** of Newcastle writes a letter telling of the death of **Mick Flynn**, this was noted in the last issue of Pioneer News in the last post. **Mick** had been very sick for quite a long time and we offer our sincere condolences to his wife and family. The funeral was well attended by Pioneers of the Newcastle district with representatives also from Newcastle Rats of Tobruk. Pioneers present were **Jack Griffiths** who conducted the service at the Crematorium, **Larry Robson**, **Nugget Laurie**, **Ivan Pepper**, **Joe Hickey**, **Bob Juleff**, **Dick Seddon**, **Noel Schomberg**.

Dick writes on a more cheerful note that most of the boys are in reasonably good health and most are able to still take a little of the amber nourishment, **Ted Simpson** is not too bad, although the cold weather does not help him much with his complaint. **Jack** and **Jean Bertram** are still enjoying their trip overseas. **Peter** had a card from them from the Isle of Skye and **Jack Russell** also over that way but no knowledge as to whether they have met up with one another as yet. **Peter** closes off with saying what a great day he and **Jack Griffiths** had on Anzac Day, great to meet all the boys again, and a very good idea holding the reunion at the Redfern Town Hall, with so much more comfort and room to move around. **Glido** and **Peter** both arrived home eventually, in one piece, and reasonable condition, claims they are getting a bit old for that caper now. What rot **Peter**, you are only as old as you feel, and I don't think **Glido** will ever feel that way. Many thanks for the letter **Pete**, just keep up the good work, you won't be sorry.

• **MICK BYE** of "Brahman Stud" sends along a letter with a cheque for the treasurer and the fact that he enjoys reading of the doings of the boys in their respective areas. **Mick** resides out of

Walgett some thirty miles from Lightning Ridge and suggests that it is only a hop, step and jump from there, so if anyone going up there to make a fortune on their holidays should proceed that little extra distance and pass the time of day with **Mick**. Quotes that he has been having a wonderful season so cannot even have a moan about that, plenty of water and a possibility of even being isolated with approaching floods, but they take that in their stride nowadays and cross those bridges when they come to them. **Mick** does see **Bob Barnes** occasionally who calls when out that way with his job with the Water Conservation and Irrigation Commission. **Mick**, I do not know whether **Max** contacted you about the badges, however I shall bring the question to his notice. I think they are about \$1.50 each which includes postage. Many thanks for your letter and donation **Mick**, and we hope that the cattle business continues to flourish for many more years to come.

• **TED STRATFORD** now of Lismore quotes of the great day he had at Redfern on Anzac Day and that his intentions are such to be there again next year, with high hopes of persuading a few more of the Lismore fraternity to accompany him. We hope that you can succeed in this **Ted**, as there are quite a few of the troops in your area and would be really good to see some of them again. Many thanks for the letter **Ted**, and just keep up the good work in the district.

• **BOB BUTLER** 2/1 Johns River writes a short note concerning the June issue and mentions names of Ray Lester & Jack Coates then claims that they will make an effort next Anzac Day. **Bob** then enclosed a cheque to treasurer addressed to the 'Rats of Tobruk'. Now come on **Bob**, there is a difference you know. These words from the treasurer as written.

MEMO ROBERT (OLD BOB) BUTLER —

Your cheque 059152 addressed to Max Herron and made out to "Rats of Tobruk Assoc" was cashed by our Pioneer Batts Treasurer. You mentioned Robert, of receiving our "June" issue and mentions of names of Lester — Coates — Corbett — Seddon. Lucky we had Companies other than "B" otherwise we still might be in conflict. Let me know Robert if you wish us to forward some money from your cheque to the "Rats".

P.S. Hope you don't get involved in any more motor accidents **Bob** — If you come to Sydney next Anzac Day come by TRAIN.

• **GORDON WALSH** now of Ryde sends a letter on behalf of himself and **Neville Schaffer** with subs. to the treasurer, and the news that he spent Anzac Day at Evans Head with and in the company of **Brian Jackson "Jacko"** ex Kyogle boy and seems they spent happy times over a few ales in the period of one month. **Gordon** sends his regards to all with best wishes and happy drinking.

• **PETER PEILE** 2/1 now of Caringbah per the pen of wife **Erika** sends a sub. to the treasurer and the information of 4 operations on **Peter's** back and possibly due for another spell in hospital in the near future. **Peter** is still able to work as a manager of a firm at Miranda not very far to travel, and not very far from the R.S.L., so would be pleased to meet any of the crowd in that neighbourhood. **Monty** has been along to see him on numerous occasions, however as he is now reduced to public transport the difficulty to continue this has been greatly increased. **Peter** speaks or refers to names as **Don Slater**, **Darcy Selwood**, **Bruce Smith** and **Joe Roberts**, so it's up to you blokes to put him in the picture, hope you get some response to this call **Erika** & **Peter**.

• **JACK COLLIS** writes from Umina and Central Coast reporting of **Jack Coates** (hospital), **Ted Dolling** (hospital) also **Les Rose "Digger"** (hospital) while **Jack** has also had a couple of weeks of same. Fortunately there is a wing of Repat. now at Gosford which does save quite a lot of travelling for some of the boys. You win some, you lose some, but I suppose the losing of those addresses would have been par for the course for you on Anzac Day **Jack**, did you look for them in the right wallet or perhaps down the heel of the sock, just thought I'd mention those two odd spots.

• **BOB DONALD** 2/1 of Glen Innes sends an apology for the period of time between letters but goes on to say that they have quite a few of the boys around the area, **Tom Manuel**, **Jack Marshall**, **Harry Rogers**, **Eric O'Hara**, **Vic Donald** and **Cobber Cain** of Inverell who has retired and lives in the town. Cheques from both **Bob** and **Tom Manuel** were included in his letter, plus changes of address which have been duly noted by secretary.

• **DAVE DENNY** Lismore sends a sub. to the treasurer and claims that **Peter Priest** is not the only one with a broken arm where writing is concerned, however **Dave** goes on to say that if any of the fellows find themselves short of a Palliasse when up Lismore way, it's a big house, plenty of beds, and "Welcome" on the mat at James St.

• **BOB PRICE** 9 Div. Engineers sends a sub. for the continuation of the News to be posted to him. **Bob** and his contingent joined with us at a reunion one Anzac Day some years ago, I think it may have been a Sunday, however they really enjoyed themselves and have been in receipt of the News ever since. Many thanks **Bob** and News will continue to flow.

• **JOHN CLARKE** Rockdale sends the News that he made Anzac Day at Bega this year. Had a good march and the club put on a very good day afterwards, not only for the marchers and members, but the whole town was invited which made for quite a day for all. **Jack** has his few drinks at Bexley where he often contacts "**Bimbo**" **Bell** and **Bob Long** the last named in good spirits despite health problems. Many thanks for the letter **Jack**, and subs doing most good.

• **MRS. B. SNUDDEN** wife of the late **Cecil** of Cobar writes a short note complimenting the News and the receipt of same, also requesting some personal information which has been dealt with aside from the paper. We sincerely hope that the help and information passed on to you was all the help and knowledge you required and that the problems are to be overcome in the very near future.

• **PAT MacFARLANE** widow of the late **Ron** sends a sub. to the News and would like to thank all **Ron's** mates that helped in the hour of need especially **Monty**, **Bill Jollie** and **L. Humphries**. **Pat** has settled down now keeping pretty busy with gardens and lawns, her mother living with her, and son **Ray**, living at St. Marys keeping a watchful eye over all. Many thanks for the letter **Pat**, and further subscriptions are not necessary from our ladies.

• **JOE BLANCH** Beaudesert Qld., sends a cheque to the treasurer and the news that **Joe** and **Mavis**, **Noel Schomberg** and **Jill** spent a few pleasant days at Lennox Head with **Jack** and **Olive Richards**. It is with regret that we have to report the death of **Jill Schomberg** a little later in the year. Have since had a phone call from **Joe**, (he was in Sydney) where he had been in contact with **Noel**, and spent a night with him, and he was going along o.k. — **Joe** also spoke

of looking forward to the reunion at **John Hunt's** home in October, and hoping for a few more new faces to be present. Has also had a lot of trouble with his eyes, and nose, can't suggest anything for the eyes, stay with the Doc on that one **Joe**, but that nose, although you have had it for a long time was bound to get you into trouble someday, remember "**Old Popeye**" said it was **Blanch**, I felt his noise in the dark. Joke that, hope **Mavis** does not take to me over it. **Joe** has got one leg in for the old diggers pension and looking forward to the day that he can say, Well that's it, "now **Mavis** lets live". **Joe** was also able to contact **Ted "Nobby" Felton** and wife **Jean** also **Bruce McNaughton** and wife **Molly** while in Grafton in February, so has lived a pretty active year this 1977 and retirement still to come. Just keep it up old mate.

• **DAVID "SCOTTY" KING** Frenchs Forest sends a sub. to the treasurer and expressing regret at the passing of **Tommy Angus**. **David** recalls his getting his first stripe, naturally a guard duty to follow, and **Tommy**, happy, wandering into the guard tent suggesting the wetting of the head. Suggestion acted upon and that stripe had the shortest life of any stripe in the 2/1. **Scotty** sends his regards to **Jack Gillespie** and all D. Coy and we appreciate the feelings he expresses when he reads the little paper.

• **EDDIE MOREY** Red Cliffs, Victoria sends a sub. to the treasurer and the news that he and wife plus another couple are off on a six months trip around Australia. Taking his last copy of the News with him and hoping to look up some of his old 2/2 mates, their locations being mentioned in the last few issues. **Eddie** has just completed his fourth year as President of the Bowling Club at Red Cliffs so hopes to throw a few down while on their safari. Good letter **Eddie**, now some time in the future we want a report on that trip and how many blokes you managed to find.

• **OSSIE THURLING** New Lambton sends a cheque to the treasurer for the subs. and a Battalion Badge, which you would have received by now, and quotes that the little whinge over costs did not fall on deaf ears. **Ossie** does not have much in the way of news, health and disabilities prevent his getting around very much and would have only travelled 1500 miles over the last twelve months in his car. Sorry to hear about this, **Ossie** but keep the chin up and you are never too far away from friends in the Newcastle area if you have a phone or a car, give it a go mate sometime.

• **CYRIL AMIES** Thornleigh sends a very brief note, a cheque and not much else, you can't be that busy **Cyril**, however the offer is greatly appreciated and no doubt **Max** will be giving the offer a lot of thought and I should imagine that he will have a talk with the executive about the matter. Many thanks and the cheque where it is doing most good.

• **JACK COATES** ex Balmain Tiger and now at that haven of rest, Umina, writes that he has had another spell at Concord about a week, mainly for a check-up after his big operation last year. Only there one day and in bowled **Monty**, even conned Sister into letting him into the ward at rest period. While at the hospital **Jack** saw **Fred Charlesworth**, was in next ward up with a fractured kneecap and very much grounded. Also enjoying a spell at the country club **Pat "Bluey" Walsh**, however as a walking wounded **Pat** was allowed to go visiting the other wards and called pretty regularly on **Jack**. Good letter **Tiger**, your other news has already been covered by **Jack Collis**, so good luck keep the chin up and keep sober.

• **LEN PREEDY** Shenton Park, W.A. sends a letter with doings from the West, State Congress

MAIL BAG — Continued.

of the R.S.L. was in progress at time of writing with a 2/2 Pnr. **Major Kidd** on the state exec. W.A. Bowls section did very well on their last flutter to Adelaide. Returned home with the **Jack Hamilton** V.G. Trophy and will be defending it somewhere in Sydney in December, venue clubs are not yet known. No doubt **Len** enjoys his bowls and they certainly travel around. In closing **Len** wishes to be remembered to **Bernie Daley**, still talking of that lovely daughter, and expresses his sincere sympathy to **Frank Howard's** wife and daughter. Many thanks **Len** for the letter, best of luck in the Bowls tournament and cheque safe with treasurer.

• **"SNOW" MAYFORD MORRIS** Glenlea, Dungog writes a short letter in appreciation of the Pioneer News and the committee and members that make the whole thing go. Your suggestion was given a lot of thought and I think same was worked upon with a result as yet to come, sometimes these things take as long as two to three years to follow up. Many thanks for the letter **Snow** and cheque will be forwarded to the treasurer in the usual way, and looked after the same.

• **PAT NOONAN** Bellevue Hill writes of a trip to the Atherton Tablelands and Cairns, on the return trip called on **Phil Cramsie** and wife for a few hours. **Phil** is in fine fettle and looking forward to the Queensland do in October. Pat also decided to visit Kyogle for the first time, on arrival and alighting from the car, standing to greet him was **Peter Bell**, don't know who got the biggest shock. Spent about an hour with **Peter** who told him that **Jack Shearman** runs a couple of hundred head of cattle some little way out of town; **Bruce McNaughton** is the Tick Master at Casino, (I thought he was Grafton). Had a look at Caboolture but has big changes since we trucked through there in 1942. Many thanks **Pat** good letter, and hope you enjoyed trip.

• **DICK "PETER" SEDDON** from Newcastle sends the usual letter re the goings on at Newcastle. While **Peter** has been very busy he has managed to see **Ted Simpson** who is having treatment for skin cancer on the hands. **Nugget Laurie** is also having the same treatment on his face, **Nugget** must have been in Sydney a few weeks back as **Frank Dyon** told me he had called at the North Sydney Club to see him. **Herb Wilson** has been posted the back issues of the News and his new address has been noted. **Jack and Jean Bertram** home again from the 5 months tour, also **Jack Russell** who went to Scotland about the same time. **Jack Bertram** while in England looked up **Bluey Simmonds** who happens to travel for a Brewery over there, so a bottle of "Queens Jubilee" brew was despatched per **Jack** for **Glido** and **Dick**. **Tom Connolly** has not been sighted for a while and **Claude Campbell** while not the fittest bloke in the world still manages to get around. **Roy Cheers** present on Tobruk Day and still able to take a little nourishment, **Bob Juleff** and **Vic Jones** still attending the meetings while **Bruce Mitchell** has had a slight accident and is not working. **Dick** owes **Jack McCracken** a visit (you'll have to go soon or it will be too hot for the "Red Mill", you have got to watch that blood pressure old buddy. **Peter** closes with the word that he and "Glido" **Jack Griffiths** are both well and still able to stand up and take a little rum with an ale chaser. Many thanks for the letter **Peter** and **Lahey** is still like you both still able to take that little necessary nourishment when available. (Like regularly).

With only one other letter of great interest I will close the Mail Bag with its own heading and hope you enjoy reading it as much as I did.

Good luck — LAKEY

OVERSEAS WITH THE BERTRAMS

We had a wonderful trip overseas and was particularly fortunate to locate "Bluey" **Simmonds** ex B Coy. He sends his regards and will be writing. He now lives at Maidstone, Kent, England. He returned to England in 1946 — joined the R.A.F. and served in Iran and El Adem. Is at present a Rep. for one of England's oldest breweries, has a lovely wife, a daughter 15 and son 19. He asked after many of the fellows, **Peter Bell**, **Jack Coates**, **Fred Wheaton** and **Sid Jopson** (definitely B Coy.) He was not known as "Bluey" at the brewery when I asked — the English don't cotton on to the Bluey bit, but was well-known as **Bernard** which is his real name.

We are on our way back to London after a wonderful week in Israel. It is fantastic what they have accomplished since their 1948 war, but more particularly since the 6 day war in 1967. Many of the bare hills as we knew them are now covered with trees, one forest having 6,000,000 trees, a gum tree for each adult and a pine tree for each child killed in the holocaust.

R.O.T.A. WORLD REUNION — Continued from last issue.

The next stop Walgett where after tea and entertainment at the R.S.L. Club it was again a tired party who moved back to the motel.

Next day, Tuesday, we motored to Brewarrina. This part of the country the visitors saw many kangaroos, emus, wild pigs and bird life much to their pleasure, as for most had only seen them in photos. After lunch at the R.S.L. Club a trip was arranged over one of the local properties pig shooting. Unfortunately, the pigs (many of them) won the day, the total bag one sucker caught by the dogs. At the R.S.L. Club the local members entertained all to dinner, plus artists.

Bourke was our next place to visit, lunch at the R.S.L. Club, sight seeing in the afternoon, visit to the Bowling Club for refreshments, then a Bar-B-Que by the river bank. Unfortunately, the river had been in flood, so no fishing.

Thursday we left the outbacks of N.S.W. on the return trip to Sydney. Lunch at the Nyngan R.S.L. Club, from there to the biggest R.S.L. Club in the State, Dubbo. They honored us there by having their Anzac Day smoko on that night, with much food and entertainment.

After breakfast Friday, we set off on the last day of the tour to reach the R.S.L. Club at Bathurst for lunch, where it was turned on once again. Another 2/1 Pioneer Batt. member was there - known to the early members of 8 platoon - Henry Bourke.

So it was back to Sydney with a coach load of tired but happy visitors, travelling ten days with the scenery changing every day, a trip that most Australians have not taken. The English contingent's comment, a trip unbelievable, one they will not forget for many a long day.

This was not the finish for the Englishmen for on Anzac Day, they led the 9th Division then split into groups to attend different unit reunions.

Beersheba now a city of 100,000 has a chemical factory, pottery, tyre factory, brick making and several other industries, a university and is mainly high rise buildings. Tel Aviv is a huge city with over 1,000,000 people while Jaffa has been levelled and being rebuilt. Jerusalem is the same, and around the Dead Sea, kibitzs are being established. Water is channelled from near Tiberius through hills and channels down to the Negev and Sinai, where there are many kibitzs. It's an incredible place and the people with their terrific love for Israel and what they have achieved. All the area from Quastina down past Deir Suneid, orchards — cotton — sunflowers. Hill 69 is a huge waving field of wheat, corn and vegetables, really incredible and they told us they have had to do this and fight five wars. We have enjoyed our visit and will be going back again, and hope as the Israelis do — that they will have peace. They do not have any hostility to the Arabs, treating them equally as full citizens, allow complete freedom of worship and help their villages with all technical experience.

We are now back at Hamilton, Newcastle and we hope that our trip has created some little wondering in the mind of all of our chaps that have travelled over these same places some 35 years ago. Our regards to all the boys and **Jean** said, don't forget the girls.

Jack, Jean Bertram

Tuesday 26th, they were again guests of a suburban R.S.L. at Ryde where again the entertainment was tops.

On Wednesday morning a trip was arranged to the War Veterans' Home at Narrabeen, where they were escorted around on an inspection of the grounds. To them, they were amazed that such a place existed.

In the evening Fairfield R.S.L. Memorial Club entertained the party, which was the last full official visit. This Club really opened the eyes of the English party, with every room a different feature wall.

So on Friday 29th, the party left for home with memories of a most wonderful visit to N.S.W. on their four weeks visit to the First World Reunion of the Rats of Tobruk. For the following few weeks much spine bashing.

President Jack (Mick) Dodson

NEWS ITEMS

• During the long week-end in June I had the pleasure of playing bowls at Coffs Harbour with the Rats of Tobruk Memorial Bowling Club in N.S.W. against the Queensland "Rats" and ran into Horrie Saunders, ex 10 Pln., B Coy. Looks well — and played well too.

• On the Saturday afternoon, Mick Dodson and I ran into "Smiler" Burns in the Bowling Club. He was staying at Sawtell on holidays and had seen Fred Wheaton. (I think he came to Coffs to get away from helping Wheaton on his house.)

• I stayed at Port Macquarie for a few days on the way home, and had several meetings with Sid and Myrtle Jopson — both looking well.

• One of our country Vice-Presidents, Bill Hoffman of Kyogle, has recently returned from his 30th consecutive annual holiday on South Molle Island. In recognition of Bill's long association with the Island, Bill was "knighted" and will now be known as Sir William of Molle, this ceremony being performed by a young lady who was chosen as Queen of the Island during her stay. — Must be some attraction on South Molle, Bill, to have kept you returning after so many years. You might let us in on the secret.

Gordon Finlay