

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 1978

Once again the Anzac Day ceremonies are upon us and your Social Secretaries and Committee have been hard at work to see that everything has been organised for the 24th and 25th April.

WREATH LAYING CEREMONY Monday 24th April at 7 p.m.

The first of our parades is for the Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony, for members of the 2/1 and 2/2 to meet at 19 Hunter Street at 7 p.m. Form up at 7.20 p.m. and move off at 7.25 p.m. for Wreath Laying at the Cenotaph in Martin Plaza at 7.30 p.m. Members of our Ladies Auxiliary will join us for the ceremony at the Cenotaph.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Monday 24th April at 8 p.m.

As it was in 1977 our Annual General Meeting will be held at the City of Sydney R.S.L. Club at 569 George Street at 8 p.m. in the Board Room.

If you have any ideas that you think may help our Association along come and join our Committee.

ANZAC DAY MARCH Tuesday 25th April, 1978

At the time of writing we have no details as to exact assembly points but would presume they will be the same as last year — 2/1 to assemble in Phillip St. near King Street at the rear of the 6th Division.

2/2 to assemble in Macquarie Street near King Street at the rear of the 7th Division.

Both Battalion banners will be prominently displayed, but check with the daily newspapers in case of a late change in location.

Both battalions will complete the march to Hyde Park then break off and proceed to Museum Station for the train to Redfern for our Anzac Day Reunion.

ANZAC DAY LUNCH and REUNION Tuesday 25th April, 1978 at REDFERN TOWN HALL

By now, most of us know how to get to the Redfern Town Hall, because it is the same as the past two years — Corner of Pitt and Wells Street, Redfern, and only five to ten minutes from Redfern Station.

The doors will be open at 11.15 a.m. and draught beer will be on tap at this time. Lunch will be served free at 12.30 p.m. and snacks will be brought on during the afternoon.

Once again lunch and the afternoon snack will be free but you pay for your beer.

GORDON FINLAY Publicity Officer

THE TREASURER REPORTS...

Once upon a time there was a Treasurer who, when reporting on finances, spoke in glowing terms on how well off his concern was . . . just a fairy tale, of course. Treasurers are the biggest alarmists and knockers in the business from the National level downwards.

Our Pioneer News cost for the 1977-78 . . . (here he goes) . . . was \$1366.57 (subject to audit) which is a 75.9% increase in cost for the previous twelve months. Admittedly we are now producing four copies a year, as against the three per year previously, which means an additional cost of approximately \$330.00.

As I have reported in previous times the cost for postage of "News" doubled during 1977-1978 to offset this additional expense, the receipts for monies received are inserted in the following copy of the paper, but this by no means covers our extra cost, but, at least it is a saving.

The time taken in inserting these receipts fall on the wrapping people. There is talk through newspaper level of a further rise in postage costs.

So . . . If the present rate of contributions continue we will be just a shade "in the red", that is of course, firstly, with no allowance made for a decrease in the number of our members, secondly, more members becoming eligible for pension rates and thirdly, possible increase in printing and postage rates.

Numerous members have sent in their subscriptions after receiving a copy of Pioneer News and many will be making their Annual Subscription on Anzac Day and we do say thank you to these members — this appeal is therefore directed to those who have neglected to send along their subscription — in other words "How about hitting the can".

HOSPITAL AND FUNERAL COMMITTEE

Northern Suburbs

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

Eastern Suburbs

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

Illawarra Suburbs

GEORGE WOOD, 97 Russell Ave., Dolls Pt. 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 Nth Liverpool Rd., Mt. Prichard. Ph. 602-8483
BOB LEE, 103 Links Ave., Concord. Ph. 73-1965.

2/1-2/2 PIONEER BNS ASSOC.
will hold a

COUNTRY REUNION for all Pioneers and their Ladies

AT NEWCASTLE

on Sat. 20th and Sun. 21st May, 1978

With the co-operation of several of our Newcastle members, Jack Bertram, Larry Robson and Jack Griffiths the Social Committee have arranged this Country Reunion and Barbecue.

The previous function held at the Cardiff RSL in 1974 was voted a huge success by all who attended, and this one will prove to be the same success.

Details are as follows:-

ACCOMMODATION: At the Premier Hotel, Broadmeadow, and 2 motels (depending on numbers) — Nominate your choice.

PRE-DINNER DRINKS and assembly point will be the Hamilton RSL Club. If you arrive early and want a quiet drink after booking into your hotel, go to the Hamilton RSL and meet up with other Pioneers. At approx. 5.30 p.m. Jack Bertram will call on all Pioneers to assemble in cars and will lead the convoy to the Cardiff RSL, Macquarie St., Cardiff.

If you have come by train, Jack will arrange a lift in a car for you.

REUNION DINNER: Cardiff RSL, Macquarie St., Cardiff, Saturday 20th May at 6 p.m.

LAKE CRUISE by local boat from Bolton Point in the morning of Sunday 21st May prior to the Barbecue Lunch.

BARBECUE LUNCH: At Bolton Point picnic grounds between Cardiff and Toronto, Sunday 21st May. Eating gear will be supplied free — meal at cost.

COSTS: The following are only approximate as at 28th February, and are subject to confirmation. Per person:- Reunion Dinner \$5, Barbecue Lunch \$3, Cruise \$1, Accommodation \$10 to \$15 per night, Drinks — depends on you.

A duplicated sheet containing all the above information has been inserted in this issue of Pioneer News, so as to make it easy to carry around and be a reminder.

If attending please cut out the lower portion, fill in particulars in block letters and post to the Secretary before the 6th May with a deposit of \$10 per person. Keep the top portion.

For further particulars contact any of the following:-

Jack Bertram, 90 National Park Rd., Hamilton.
George Walker, 30 Croydon Rd., Hurstville.
Max Herron, 3 Enoggera Rd., Beverly Hills.

GORDON FINLAY Publicity Officer

N.S.W. NORTH COAST JOTTINGS

By Larry Robson

• Here is another year and my first trip away is completed, although time has not permitted me to contact as many members as I would have liked.

• **FRED WHEATON** is now well settled in his new residence at Sawtell. Fred and Jean will be down for the Newcastle Reunion, together with Clancy Scholes and wife.

Fred, like many other Pioneers feels he has had enough of work and is considering retirement later in the year.

• **TED "Bluey" EATHER** the "Kempsey Kid" with not so much of the kid these days has just returned home from Sydney where he had a heart operation early January. Looking well and said he's coming along nicely. He may get down for the Newcastle Reunion, but depends on how quickly he recovers. We hope things progress as expected Ted and that you are able to attend the Reunion.

• **SID & MYRTLE JOPSON** of Port Macquarie are still leading a quiet life when they are not visiting Inverell or Newcastle. Sid still has to watch himself. Hope you can make the Newcastle Reunion Sid.

• **EVAN and JILL THOMPSON** are in good health and like many others with the family off their hands are able to get about more, and see the country.

Evan met up with Jack "Baldy" Edwards at Doyalson on one trip and said he looks well. How about coming to Sydney one Anzac Day Jack. Sid Vaughan is always asking after you as many others. Tom Hodge is still playing a bit of mid week bowls.

• **BOB WILSON** was out when I called but his niece told me he is well and looks forward to receiving the Pioneer News.

• **JACK and MURIEL SPENCE** of Wingham were

both well when I called and were making every endeavour to be at the Newcastle Reunion.

• **DOUG and ROMA SHEARSTON** of Forster were both looking younger than ever — must be that country air. Their son Trevor who has written a book on one of the areas he was stationed in in New Guinea is off on a travel around Australia. Their daughter Kerry is off on a trip overseas for a few months. Number 2 son, Paul has just returned from abroad. Doug says "one comes and the other goes".

Doug has seen Fred Brooks of Taree who has also retired. No excuse for not going down to Sydney for Anzac Day Fred — also the Newcastle Reunion too.

Roma and Doug will be there.

• **BILL WADE** was out when I called — he was probably at the bowling club so I left a Newcastle Reunion notice with his brother Peter — see you there Bill.

• **JACK MARSHALL** of Glen Innes was home when I called between Xmas and New Year, and both Jack and his wife are well. Jack asked after Jock Russell. I suggested Jack and his wife come to the Newcastle Reunion and then they would personally see Jack. Said he would give it some thought — don't leave it too long Jack.

• Well, this could be my last permanent report on country members as I am retiring (voluntary) on the 31st March this year. I have enjoyed meeting all Pioneers in the different areas and sincerely hope to see them from time to time with more leisure, instead of the usual rat race and working to the clock.

Looks as though some of you country members will have to put pen to paper and send in reports, letting us know of your happenings.

Best wishes for 1978. Regards,

LARRY ROBSON 2/1 Reporter

SUCH IS FAME — OR A PIONEER COMES GOOD

Someone once said, "The moving finger having writ moves on" and someone else said "Everyone should now and then take up their pen & put words on to paper".

I was prompted to put words to paper on looking through the New Year's Honours, thinking or rather hoping I may have received the "Order of the Short Arm". No such luck, however, I did see the name of Ted Brill who received the British Empire Medal.

I shared a two man tent with Ted at Penadjum, Borneo and another place before that. We used to receive a couple of bottles of beer now and again. I was not drinking in those days (sure have made up for it since), but I used to smoke and as Ted did not smoke, we used to swap, which was good in those days of scarce commodities.

I have seen Ted only twice in the last twenty years — the first time was at Yarralumla — I believe the residence of all good Governor Generals. Ted's father was resident caretaker there. The second time was in the city when he was driving one of the "Pool cars".

The article in the paper shows a picture of Ted at the wheel of a car with Senator Sir Robert Cotton beside him and states he has driven the Senator for ten years.

It's more than strange, how you can tent with mates for years, then, when it is all over you

never see them again except on Anzac Day, and sometimes not even then. Perhaps that is the way those people want it, but to me involvement is part of living.

So how about it you Pioneers, living in those outlandish places, make an effort to get down this Anzac Day, because your mates of long ago would like to see you.

Age may weary all of us, but I'm not so sure about the years condemning. We all grow, not by what is given us but what is expected of us. I don't really know just how many friends Ted had, but I hope this little bit of news finds a few who remember.

My regards to Big Jack Charters, Tiny Chapman, John Maxwell and all those other "D" Coy personnel that I haven't seen for nigh on thirty three years, but come Anzac Day 1978 who knows.

The 2/1-2/2 Pioneer Battalions will "fall in" for a jolly good day at the Redfern Town Hall on the 25th April so come one, come all, and that is an order.

Remember the Maori Farewell — now is the hour.

Regards to all Pioneers wherever you may happen to be.

JAMES A GRAY
Ex. Bandsman Ex Latrine O.C.
Ex Malaria Control

WELFARE REPORT

The past twelve months have been most interesting and extremely busy.

The hospital visitations were well maintained and not having private transport, I regularly called on Gordon Finlay, Bob Dixon & Pat Walsh for whom I thank for their services.

Also assisting me have been Red Cross, Legacy, Concord Hospital and Lidcombe Hospital. All these people have assisted me in problems presented by our members.

Our only way of finding out if a member is a patient of any hospital is by way of his next of kin, so please notify by ringing me at 76-6657.

GEORGE CREASY A Coy 2/1 from Portland has been at the Strathfield Nursing Home, Albert Road, Strathfield after being a patient at Lady Davidsons Hospital, Turramurra.

George is as bright and cheerful as ever, despite a bad trot in regards to his health. George and his wife Beth send their sincerest regards.

MRS JUNE KERR widow of our member Ken, respectfully known as "Mum" applied for a War Widows Pension but was refused because of lack of evidence of medical grounds to substantiate her claim.

Ken suffered from chronic bronchitis and apparently had been under continual medication from the R.A.P. The Repatriation Dept. has no records of his visits to the R.A.P. and as there is an appeal to the Tribunal, Mrs Kerr would appreciate assistance from any member who could give evidence regarding Ken's treatment.

If you can assist please contact Mrs June Kerr, 49 Northern Units, War Veterans Home, Narrabeen, N.S.W. 2101.

LAST POST

LEONARD "LOFTY" BARLOW who was a Captain in the 2/1sts passed away in Dec., 1977.

I had visited "Lofty" at Concord Hospital and he assured me his health was quite good so it was a complete shock to hear of his passing.

JIM WARD H.Q. Coy 2/1 passed away at the end of 1977 after spending some time at Concord Hospital. As Jim was cremated well out of the Sydney region, I was not able to attend but did send deepest sympathy to his widow.

MRS MARGARET HUGO, wife of Tom passed away in December, 1977. I had received word that both Tom and his wife were in Lidcombe Hospital and had arrived there within two hours, but was told Mrs Hugo had just passed away.

Tom is a double amputee and confined to a wheel chair and he certainly misses Margaret.

I called on Tom and expressed our sympathy and sorrow at his tragic loss.

Tom's sister came down from Cootamundra and being a stranger to our city I took the liberty of assisting her in conducting business on Tom's behalf.

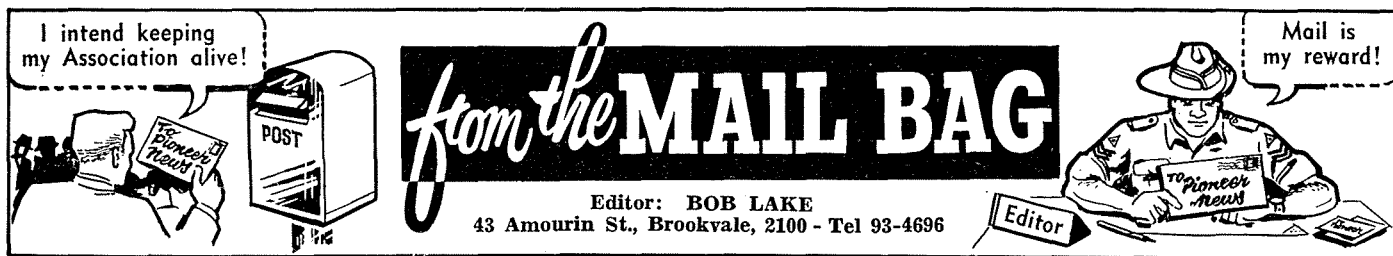
Tom has now gone home to his residence at 58 Sherwood Rd., Revesby and it has been arranged that a nursing sister call on him daily.

It would be appreciated if any of his pals would call on Tom or even phone him on 771-2136 to have a talk about old times.

HARRY MONTAGUE Welfare Officer

COUNTRY REUNION NEWCASTLE

SAT 20 - SUN 21, MAY 1978.



First edition and publication for the year 1978 and let us hope that it will be a good one for all our members and the association.

• **ALBERT WILKINSON** of Punchbowl called at our secretary's house, unfortunately **Max** was at work however **Albert** talked with **Peg** for quite some time, left a sub for his association but no note or letters, perhaps **Peg Herron** may fill us in with your doings **Albert**, but it's much better if you write the story.

• **CECIL HART** of Newtown sends a sub to the treasurer with his name and address written on a page of a pocket diary. I am afraid we are not able to inform your mates as to much of your goings on from that information **Cec**, how about a few bits of news next time.

• **BOB LONG** of Sutherland writes a letter with a sub for the treasurer and the news that he is no longer available for reunions and marches, his eyes are not the best and legs also have the bad habit of not going where he wants them to. **Bob** sees **Jack Clarke** pretty regularly where they attend the Club and help to promote the beer sales. Also sends his best wishes to **Whacka Back** and hopes that he is on the road to better health. **Bob** also has a slight dig at the Balmain Tigers, makes a remark that the last decent win they had, they had to go to Shark Territory to get their captain. Don't quite get the gist of that **Jack Coates**, but I assume you know what it's all about. Many thanks for your letter **Bob**, and we wish you well for the coming year.

• **CLANCY STRIKES FIRST** Letter from **Clancy Scholes** dated 12.1.78 with a deposit of \$20.00 for the Newcastle Reunion 21st May, 1978. Now you fellows, that is a very pleasing letter for us to receive, and as he says, the amount of work and effort put into these country reunions are only measured by the attendance we receive, so let's back up the old 'Clancy' and have a bumper roll call, it's up to you. We in turn are obligated to **Clancy** for first name on the book. Have no fear **Clancy** we will be there, come hell or high water.

• **NOEL SCHOMBERG** sends a thank you note for the sympathies extended to him with the passing of his wife **Jill**. **Joe** and **Mavis Blanche** from Beaudesert were down to see him as were **Jack** and **Olive Richards** and **Vi Flynn** wife of the late **Mick** stayed for a couple of days, it is good to have good friends in times like that, as well as in fine weather. **Noel** also sends a cheque to the treasurer and the hopes of being in attendance at the do on Anzac Day. Many thanks for your letter **Noel** and family all send their regards.

• **BOB TAYLOR** of Jamberoo sends a short note a sub for the association and the following message, "Wishing all the Association the best for the New Year, and keep the good 'News' rolling".

• **MARY MORRIS** wife of **Leo Morris** writes a letter with cheque, but this one is a little different, it's addressed to the Ladies of the Pioneer Wrapping contingent — **Peg Herron**, **Joyce Walker**, **Olive Finlay**, **Jean Dixon**. **Mrs**

Morris says that as much as we work for the paper, it would never get out only for these ladies. **Mary** would so much love to be able to join and help, but living in the sticks of Wollongong and not in the big smoke makes it impossible. Also has lots of photos and would like some time to see them in our paper, however the trouble is that old photos do not stand up to the reprocessing necessary for printing, we have tried to do this before with very little success. Many thanks for your letter **Mary**, and on behalf of the 'girls' extend to you the same good wishes.

• **MRS DAISY MCKEWEN** wife of the late **Capt. Doug McKewen** sends a cheque to the treasurer and remarks on the number of ladies receiving the magazine. Quite true **Daisy** there are quite a lot of widows on our lists, it is good for them to see names they have heard talked about, and in many instances of those they have personally been in contact with. Pleased that you enjoy good health and that little granddaughter spoils you so much, are you sure this is not the opposite.

• **NORMAN "Bill" MACE** still on the Central Coast sends a sub to the treasurer and good wishes to all for the New Year. **Bill** still works on the Toll Gates on the Northern Expressway, anyone passing through should enquire of him, although most of us are all too glad to be free of that spot **Bill**. Claims he is still taking all our money but none seems to stick to him, don't be worried **Bill**, join the mob. Many thanks for your letter and keep those tyres rolling.

• **CLARRIE GARDNER** Vacluse sends a sub to the treasurer and apologises for his non attendance at the last march, however if legs and back can stand the strain, promises to have a go this year. **Clarrie** sends his regards to all with special mention to all of B Coy.

• **MICK BYE** sends a letter with the news that he has at last decided to retire and enjoy a little bit of town life. **Mick** has been 25 years at Brahmam Stud and has enjoyed it with all its ups and downs, however he has decided to settle at Dubbo, Wheeler Parade. As they only made this move in December, have not really settled down completely, but with plenty of time at their disposal, they are not rushing. **Mick** will continue with his commitments to Legacy and the Dubbo Ambulance while his wife will carry on with the C.W.A. and Red Cross. **Mick** hopes to meet up with any of the old boys around Dubbo as they settle in and also promises some items for our paper in the future. Many thanks for the letter **Mick** and we all wish you well in retirement.

• **NEVILLE O'CONNOR** writes from Ballina with a cheque for the treasurer and words of dismay at the passing of **Don Lawson**. **Neville** extends his sympathies to **Don's** wife and family. **Neville** also attended the funeral of **Don McGill** and the wake afterwards at the Evans Head R.S.L. Also attended the funeral of **Kevin Heagney** 2/2 but this was quite some time previous. Well **Neville** the writing was not quite so hard to decipher but

will admit those last few lines at the bottom of the page were a little squashed together.

• **MAX LAW** writes from the residence at Kareela that it has been a long and trying year, with several overseas trips for his firm. Then 3 weeks in hospital in August, operation on his heel and was absent from the office for a full five weeks and as at December had not had a shoe on his right foot since April. After 4 years in the export department of his firm travelling around South East Asia, Papua and New Guinea, **Max** has now been given a new position where he remains stationary in Sydney and hopes to be able to extend a little more time and energy to the affairs of the Association. Many thanks for the letter **Max** and hope that that heel of yours recovers in time for April.

• **KEN BARRETT** Ashburton, Victoria writes for the address of **Mrs. Daisy McKewen** that he may forward copies of the 2/2's Newsletter. This address would be dealt with by the Secretary **Ken**, you would have received this by the time this goes to press, and I am sure that **Daisy** would really appreciate same and your address will be added to our mailing list.

• **MARK "Taffy" LAWRENCE** per pen of son **Des** with the information that **Taffy** has now been made resident at Monash 21, War Veterans Home and requests that future Pioneer News be posted to this address. **Taffy** reached 80 yrs last October and over the past couple of them has spent more time in Concord than at home. However he still has good wishes for all his old mates, and **Des** also expresses his regards to all of the blokes he has met over the years while attending smokos with his Dad. Your letter appreciated and address noted for postings.

• **MRS PAT GRAHAM** wife of the late **Col Geoff Graham** writes from a new address at Surfers Paradise. **Pat** has turned to the Sunshine State and still enjoys our little magazine which shall continue to be posted to you and we wish you well in your new home.

• **MRS I. HORDER** sends a donation to help keep the Association rolling and good wishes for the coming year.

• **CLARRIE PAKES** now of Marrickville sends his usual four or five lines with a cheque for the treasurer and good wishes for the coming year. One thing old mate, we will never fill a column of the paper with the story of your experiences over the past year. Many thanks **Clarrie** and cheque is where it's doing most good.

• **TED DOLLING** of Blackwall sends a cheque to the treasurer and the information that he has not been in the very best of health over the past year. **Ted** has had 2 strokes and while staying with his son in July had an attack of Pneumonia which posted him in St Georges Hospital for a month, and the chest trouble has not yet completely recovered. Many thanks for the letter **Ted** and Pioneer News will continue to roll, have no fear.

• **GEORGE STAFFORD** writes a short note with a cheque for the treasurer and a change of

MAIL BAG Continued

address from Botany to Norville on the Central Coast. **George** looks forward to the News and I reckon it will even read better than ever from that new address.

• **CHARLIE WILBY** and wife **Kit** has forwarded a letter stating that he is long overdue with news. **Charlie's** health is a little on the up and down scale these days with arthritis in the knees and a kidney infection. Plays quite a bit of Social Bowls, swims with the Moree Diggers and gets quite a few ales down in between. Quite a popular bloke is **Charles** with visits from **Roy** and **Lorna Jardine**, **Jack 'Bluey' Kerslake** and **Marj, Jack Boyd** and **Noel Schomberg**. No doubt quite a few names were swapped around on this occasion and a bit of trouble was struck over some. **Noel** and **Charlie** met up with **Roy Kelly** at the Services Club and could not remember the name of Tunbridge, that statement should nearly warrant expulsion or 6 months on the wagon or even both. Many thanks for the letter and looking forward to seeing you Anzac Day.

• **GERRY COLLINS** writes a notice of new address, has retired from work, on the Pension and found the work on the upkeep of the house a little more than easy so have purchased a unit with less work while much closer to the shops and things. I presume it's not too far from the Club. The unit sounds really good, hope you enjoy it to the fullest.

• **PAT NOONAN** with the news of the expedition of a life time. Anniversary weekend on the Hawkesbury with a four berth boat, **Jack Stone**, **Bob Burnside**, **Pat Noonan** and **Laurie "Three Course"** **Kelly**. **Three Course** was automatic choice as cook and immediately set at rest any thought that he had not improved his culinary art since he loaded D Coys porridge with salt at El Adem in 1941. Apparently the fish were absent from the river as their total catch was one catfish, a beer bottle, a fishing net frame and the boat's dinghy. That's a pretty good assorted catch with variety. They close their letter with the agenda of the Newcastle Reunion as their next sortie together. Good letter **Pat** and provides a bit of humour for all.

• **W.J. BACK** an old Pioneer who has not been in contact with the Association but has received information about same through **Ivor Garnor**. When he was sick last year he was visited by **Mick Dodson** but has had no further contact until now when he has written asking to be placed on the mailing list. This will be attended to, and we hope that you enjoy reading the News and the doings of your fellow Pioneers.

• **TOM MCGUINNESS** sends a cheque to the treasurer and a thank you to **Mick Dodson** for the plug in the December issue. **Tom** remarks on quite a few enquiries from the plug and has met some old and new acquaintances as a result. During the R.S.L. Bowls tournament **Tom** had the pleasure of meeting **Len Preedy** from the West and later on they met in the R.S.L. National Tours. **Tom** tells that **Len** has been elected President for the 1978 Carnival to be held at Perth. **Tom** also met **Fred Makin** at Woy Woy over the holiday period and he wishes to be remembered to all. Many thanks **Tom** for your letter and keep up the happy bowling.

• **GLADYS ALLEN** (Widow of **Jack Allen** 2/1) — Still residing at Kenmore (Brisbane) forwards Subs — Glad, we appreciate your donation, but must mention once again that we do not expect money from wives of our ex-members. This is a

rule we have applied generally, so don't have any qualms about receiving our "News".

Gladys is a keen gardener and in 1976 won 3rd Prize in the Brisbane Newspapers Home Garden Competition.

Glad lives with and keeps house for her elderly father **Ossie Jones**. **Oss**, recently had the misfortune to have an accident whilst crossing the street, but we believe he is getting around better now. **Ossie** has also forwarded money to the "Rats of Tobruk" and our "News" and is a keen reader of both publications.

Glad has two married daughters — one living well up north at Mackay and the other just as far south at Melbourne — not much chance of visiting one and calling in on the other on the way — a champion "mob" the **Allen** family.

• **ALLAN CRUTE** Sig Platoon 2/1 of Woolgoolga left his job at the Kumbaingeri animal farm at Coffs Harbour in 1977 and is now on the retired list. He is now a handyman for his wife **Beulah**, having put in new aluminium windows, painted the house inside and outside and laid down carpet.

Allen and **Beulah** recently visited their son **Denny** who is with Telecom at Parkes and doing quite well. They went to Lake Cargelligo and to the Dubbo Western Plains zoo which is really worth a visit according to **Beulah** who took 2 rolls of film of the animals.

Beulah has been a Cub Leader and **Allan** a Scout Leader in the Scouting Movement but have now both retired so as to allow the young ones to take over — some of the Cubs they have trained have grown up — married and now have sons in the Cubs.

Allan and **Beulah** hope to be in Sydney for Anzac Day and would like to meet all his mates from the Sig platoon. They have had visits from **Cyril Amies** and his wife, **Larry Robson** and **Tom Morrow**. Thanks for your letter **Beulah** and **Allan**.

• **BERN REINERS** Sig Platoon 2/1 of Corryong, Vic. is now working for the Education Dept. at Corryong and is talking about going on to the retiring list in another four years. **Bern's** wife **Mona** says she has a list, like all wives have, as long as your arm for **Bern** to do around the house. Their daughter **Mandy** was recently married and the reception was held at the Khancoban Alpine Inn. That now leaves **Bern** and **Mona** at home on their own.

Bern and **Mona** did a trip to Western Australia last year and then the year before they went to New Zealand — sounds like a second honeymoon **Bern**.

Bern has taken up golf now and spends many pleasant hours on the course with **Mona** — then has a few beers — tries the poker machines and then says what a great way to spend an afternoon.

Nice to hear from you **Bern**.

• **MICK ROBERTS** 2/1 of Leeton writes a short note to let us know the Leeton boys are still going strong. They all send best wishes to their mates.

Mick and **Phil Mahey** sent along a donation to help with the working efforts of the Committee which are really appreciated by all.

He sent regards to all and in particular to **Max Law** and his wife **Joy** and family.

Mick sent along the names of two 2/1 Pioneers. **Alf Gelch** and **Harry O'Callaghan** who were not receiving the Pioneer News — and strange as it may seem he said they were both fullbacks for the Battalion on the Tablelands.

Had heard of the passing of **Jim McDuff** B Coy 2/1 from **June**.

Anyone passing through Leeton is invited to call at the Soldiers Club and ask for **Phil** who works there. Thank you **Mick** for the donation and the news.

*That just about covers this issue as I write this from Ward 510 Concord where I am in for a check-up. While here I have called on **Noel Peterson** from Wyong who is situated at Ward 28. **Noel** has great problems with his breathing, bit of back trouble and a little dash of old age thrown in. Claims that he has not even been able to retain his taste for a beer.*

Good luck to all, hoping to see many faces both on Anzac Day and at Newcastle in May.

LAKEY

HAPPY EASTER

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE 2/1 PIONEER BN.

(To be presented in parts by A. Montague)

GRETA was the birthplace of the 2/1 Pioneer Bn and upon enquiries it has been found the name originated from the early settlers in that area.

They had arrived from hamlets around the small river called Greta in Yorkshire in England.

The Unit was formed at Greta on Tuesday 11th June, 1940 and Frank Sellick was the first R.S.M. while Jack Reynolds was the first R.Q.M.S.

PRE EMBARKATION LEAVE ended on Friday 27th September, 1940 and No.11 Platform at Sydney Central Station was densely packed with friends and relatives to farewell our members going to Dubbo.

Two trains were used, one to depart at 1850 and the other at 1930 hours.

On steaming out No.1 had about four stops before reaching Redfern through certain people pulling the communication cords. Eventually they got under way and reached Dubbo at 0830 the next day. Upon disembarkation the unit formed up and marched three miles along the Obley Road to the camp.

On arrival at camp, the rumours were current that the unit would be leaving for overseas the following day or on Monday.

This was confirmed by all personnel being ordered to pack up and the receipt of new equipment. Our neighbours, the Ammunition Unit, took over guard duties and immediately after breakfast on Sunday 29th Sept. a full Battalion Parade was held.

Reinforcements had arrived that day from Walgrove to bring the unit up to full fighting strength.

The unit departed Dubbo Camp at 2200 hrs and were farewelled at the station by many leading citizens who came to express their good wishes to the Battalion.

The train journey back to Sydney was a long one, but they finally arrived at Pyrmont Wharf at 1100 hrs on Monday 30th Sept.

After leaving the train the unit, with the exception of "D" Coy, were checked and then walked the gangway to board the S.S. "Johann De Witt".

"D" Coy were sent by train to Melbourne where they boarded the S.S. "New Zealand".

TO BE CONTINUED

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

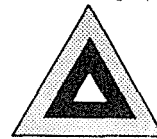
President:

J. (Mick) DODSON

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PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

Gentlemen, as I read my 1978 Annual Report let us consider what this day means, for it was on the 25th April, 1915, just sixty-three years ago that the young men from Australia and New Zealand stormed ashore at Gallipoli.

Many thousands lost their lives, but it was not all in vain, for on this day history was made, in that Australia and New Zealand had grown to manhood. Throughout Australia, Service organisations during Anzac Day hold services to remember all who did not return and those who have passed on since. This is the main theme of Anzac Day. Our numbers are decreasing each year but the remainder pay their tribute to Anzac Day.

Even though the Association lose around thirty members each year, we still continue to have good attendance on Anzac Day, so keep it up boys. To see you all attend the march and reunion gives the executive and committee encouragement to continue arranging this reunion.

SECRETARY — Our hard working Secretary, Max Herron, is always working for the Association. Since Max has changed his place of employment he has to work night shift, which makes his task of arranging meetings, etc. rather difficult but Max has always come up with an answer. Keep up the good work, Max.

PIONEER NEWS — This is the life line of the Association, if the Journal fails the association fails. It is through our Journal that all members are aware of the association's activities. Whenever one meets up with another member the conversation always gets around to reunions or of other activities. The first reply is "I saw it in the Pioneer News." Our editors, Max Herron and Bob Lake are to be thanked for their efforts in arranging the Journal. Of course, we must have reporters and thanks go to Gordon Finlay, Harry Montague, Bob Dixon, Reg Armstrong and Larry Robson who are always on the lookout for news, and all other members who contribute with their letters. Our Journal is posted around Australia and there is no doubt it is received and read with pleasure.

TREASURER — Vic Whiteley (money bags), by the reports of our financial position has again been to the fore looking after the Association's finance. Enough is in reserve to make the executive, committee and members smile, knowing the Association's future and Pioneer News is beyond doubt. This does not mean to cease forwarding donations, just keep them coming.

SOCIAL SECRETARIES — Around this time of the year our Social Secretaries George Walker and Bob Dixon are kept busy with Anzac Day arrangements. Each year at the South Sydney Town Hall improvements have been made with arrangements of liquor, seating, etc. in co-operation with the caretaker Pat Murphy of D

Coy. Perhaps this year we must include two from Newcastle as Social Secretaries, for Larry Robson and Jack Bertram have been working on the Newcastle Reunion to be held in May and from all reports working hard to assure success with this reunion.

WELFARE — This year once again has been a heavy one for the welfare officers Harry Montague and Jack Collis. Besides our thirty odd members who have passed on, many have been ill in hospital, some may not leave hospital and many have needed advice on repatriation matters and personal affairs. Both Harry and Jack have always visited and seen to our ailing members' needs. Thanks boys for a good job well done.

PAPER WRAPPING — Another most important part of the Association. Four times a year the usual stalwarts turn up at Max and Peg Herron's home to wrap the Pioneer News. The way the costs have soared, the Association would be battling if this venture had to be financed. After the paper is wrapped, the paper wrappers have quite a social gathering with much laughter and yarns. Many thanks to Peg Herron for the excellent supper provided, after the work is completed.

To the executive and committee many thanks for the work carried out during the year. Of course thanks must go also to members who turn up at our reunions, otherwise they would not be successful.

See you all again next year.

PRESIDENT JACK (Mick) DODSON

LEGACY

Legacy cares for the families of men who served overseas, no matter when they die or from what cause.

Enrolments in Sydney Legacy alone last year numbered over 25,000 widows and children and this situation is expected to continue because of the number of ex-servicemen from World War II who are dying.

In Australia, Legacy cares for 108,000 widows and children, of whom 87,000 are widows. Many of these are elderly people with only Legacy to lean on.

Will you help by sending a donation to Legacy, 169 Elizabeth Street, Sydney, N.S.W., 2000.

FUNERAL COMMITTEE

The last twelve months, the Association has been saddened by the loss of thirty-two members, twenty-four 2/1 and eight 2/2. "Lest we forget".

Among these was one of the funeral Committee and Vice President in the late **DON LAWSON**. The committee was blessed over the years by having the late Don Lawson working with them. His face and the others will be missed this Anzac Day.

It is with regret we announce the passing away of **HILARY "Ray" LESTER**, B Coy. 2/1.

Ray was an original member of the Btn. and was well known throughout the unit.

After the war, Ray was employed at the Repatriation Department in York Street and was always willing to assist all and sundry.

The Association's sympathy and condolences were passed on to relatives.

ALF "Bluey" Jones 2/1 passed away in June 1978 and attending his funeral were Harry Bentley, Stan Jones, Pat Walsh and Harry Montague. Deepest sympathy was extended to Mrs Jones.

MRS MARTHA GRANGE wrote to inform us her brother **WALLY "BOMBO" BROWN** passed away in June 1977. Please accept our sympathy Martha.

GEORGE CREASY 2/1 passed away June 1978 and his funeral was attended by Harry Montague, "Bluey" Walsh and Dave Dickson. Deepest sympathies were extended to his wife.

From the Newcastle area **W.G. "Mick" FLYNN* JOE HICKEY & NOEL PETERSON** will be missed at Anzac Services. Others will attend to remember them. Once again the Association extends their condolences to the relations of our deceased members. Many thanks to all who attended funeral services during the year.

Below is a list of the late members who have passed on since Anzac Day, 1977. We apologise if some may have been overlooked.

2/1 PIONEER BATTALION

Charles Sexton, W.G. (Mick) Flynn, J. Grogan, J.D. Hart, L.P. Lough, R.M. Rootham, W.H. Brown, Roland (Tug) Wilson, Jimmy Trotter, Joe Hickey, William Clarke, J.T. Carroll, A.W. Dunn, John Johns, Jess Dulloway, W.H. Quayle, C.D. Fletcher, J.C. Jones, L. "Lofty" Barlow, D.J. McGill, W. (Martha) Finn, S.G. Busst, Noel Peterson, Hilary Lester, W. "Bombo" Brown, Alf (Bluey) Jones.

— G. Creasy

2/2 PIONEER BATTALION

W.A. Lloyd, J.J. Marshall, B.L. Cooper, E.R. Scott, K.C. Renton, C.H.C. Stanley, Don Lawson, G.D. Switzer.

PRESIDENT JACK (Mick) DODSON

ANZAC FUNCTIONS WITH THE 2/2 nds.

I have wondered many times how the Anzac Ceremony would appeal to me if there was no Battalion wreath laying on the previous night. To me this is the pivot of the whole affair.

Somehow it wouldn't be the same to march past the Cenotaph and know that I hadn't made that special effort in honouring mates who have passed on, and when I really think deeply about it, not only my mates, but all who have made the last march — my mates, my country women and country men. So it was with great pride that I and others of our Battalion teamed up with the 2/1 boys and together we marched led by our two banners.

Together we faced the Cenotaph. Together the wreath bearers placed our floral offering of remembrance on that most sacred place, together we listened as President Mick Dodson gave the Ode, and we listened as the bugle calls stirred us to thoughts of distant time and friends who have passed on. It was intensely impressive. **"We will remember them!"** — Yes, we will remember them.

I cherish the fact of our wives and women folk being present and taking part. Without them the closeness and family meaning would be lacking and this I think is something we must preserve.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting followed at the appointed place. We have streamlined this meeting to the bare essentials. It is a most necessary meeting, and again I ask 2/2's, please remember it is to your advantage and benefit to attend. This meeting went very well. The old Master-at-Arms, Robert Lake, put every one in good spirits with a few cans of the amber fluid. The business and election of Officers was carried out as per schedule. With the arrival of the "girls", the meeting concluded and a good night came to a finish.

ANZAC DAY MARCH

Came the day. The Gods ordained beautiful weather, so collecting my good mates Jim Field and Reg Armstrong we hightailed it to the great metropolis. The car was parked in the most favourable position available to allow Jim Field, who has to take care of himself these days and must not march, a retirement spot if necessary from the grinding job of photographer. Having parked the rust bucket as before mentioned, we assailed the crowds and demolished footpaths, and after much coming and going, took up a position behind some earthworks and superstructure — which to the somewhat senile senses of yours truly, looked to be the spot where we were the year before.

We hauled the banner up the pole, stood it in a prominent position, gripped the receipt book firmly, made sure the pen was working — saw that Reg Armstrong had a good empty pocket for the moola, then stood back to await events.

At this juncture I must state, in friendly tones, I repeat in friendly tones, that if it was not for me and my little Sydney Morning Herald map, and my unerring sense of direction, many 2/1 Pioneers would have been missing or lost in action. Max Herron take note. As a matter of fact Reg Armstrong reckoned I did a better job than one of the Official Marshalls — thank you Reg and thank you 2/1 Pioneers. I say

— that loud noise I heard was a note of respect to me, was it not?!!! Ah well, I tried!!

As I was saying previously, we stood back to await events. Well, we waited. I do not know how 2/2 Pioneers eventuate. They most certainly do not proceed to a gathering such as this in ordinary ways. I mean you can look — you can observe — no one in sight — you turn around to comment to Reg or Jim, about face and there they are. They sort of emerge, I don't know from where but they do.

The years do make some changes — but they look the same in most ways — some fatter — some thinner — the hats of those who wear 'em are ceremoniously raised, the hairs counted and the tally is debated as to whether the count is more or less than previously. Hands are shaken, backs are thumped, complaints are compared, names are forgotten and then with a sheepish grin comes the remark, "Ow much do I owe ya". As though by electric shock, Reg and I galvanise into action and after a few seconds organised team work our victim—ahem!! I mean our mate, lurches off stuffing his depleted wallet or pocket, as the case may be, back into their respective places, muttering dark and dire threats against all ex sergeants and staff sergeants and no doubt wondering if he is to cop a kitchen fatigue or something.

And so they came — Butch Ballard, one hair more than last year but minus his umbrella, that sort of evened things up a little, John (Silent) Knight, Don Lindon, good to see you again Don. Gill Short, the foot repair man, Bob Lee, Arthur Stafford, Ian Gilmore and Bill Lewis. By the way, I had a phone call a few days prior to the march from George Paracos. George is far from well. His main concern was to be remembered to all his mates in both Units. Thanks for the call George.

About this time in the proceedings, an endeavour was made to locate a banner bearer. It is surprising the number of displaced vertebrae—torn and shredded muscles—busted and deflated lungs—worn and twisted feet sufferers we struck until we came face to face with a stallwart muscular brute by name Jack the Ripper—I mean Jack Henderson.

Impressed by the steely look in the steely eye, we knew that the banner would be carried rain or shine, wind or no, mountain or plain. However, even though impressed, we decided on a backstop—Don Othaldo Armstrong, in other words Reggie. The stage (as it were) was set, the die was cast, and by adding the following names we were ready to go into action. Jim Muir (Jimmy Germ), Bill Coe, Jack Williams, Bruce Metcalf, Bob Ginnane, John Samuels, Charlie Firth, L. Graham, Pat Collins (Evergreen), Jack Williams, Mick Egan ("I still say Mick that — !!!"), Gordon Sheen, Bob McTaggart, Carl Ball, Charlie Gatehouse, Bluey Locane, Clive Madrell. If I have missed any names, I stand by the block ready to have the head taken off—but knowing my afore stated senile senses and a somewhat watery eye,

you will I am sure make allowances for me.

I made a statement here — Bill (Major) Robertson was designated leader (troops for the use of) and this lusty (young) fellow bowed to the call of duty. He had no choice anyway. The march started with the usual milling about, backing and filling, and went well until the first inevitable pause. Up front Jack Henderson went into a whirling, dervish dance, shrieking for foot treatment from Gill Short. Gill produced a somewhat questionable weapon, namely a pocket knife, and intimidated to all and sundry that he was ready to proceed with the operation on the twinkling feet of the old Henderson.

Jack was saved by the bell—I mean bagpipes—as the march moved off. Round into George Street, the notes of three different bands giving us a fantastic chance to execute some of the most difficult forms of footwork ever seen in connection with marching. Were the Pioneers downcast? — No!! Frustrated? — Yes!!, but with heads out thrust and a vision of success dancing in front of us, we followed the somewhat wavering legs of the great Henderson. Near Town Hall we were cheered on by a group of beautiful sirens?!! Whether this intrusion of beauty was too much for the Henderson complex up front I do not know, but it was noted that a most military take-over of the banner was performed by a somewhat involved co-operation of movements that would have brought tears of pride to the eyes of any Sar-Major honoured to be present —and all without losing a step.

I will admit that personally by this time the leg muscles were beginning to slide down into the boots, a glazed look coming into the eye, but we plugged on regardless. The wheezing of lungs and the creaking of joints tended to subdue the band music, but what matter we were nearing the end, the cool green haven of the Park appeared before our dimming sight—we were there, the end of the 1978 March.

Redfern Town Hall with the thoughts of the Reunion was now the oasis in our lives. For this part of the day I leave you in the competent hands of Reg Armstrong. Before I close I must make the following remarks. I always have said and still do, that when the Nicholls Bros., Bill and George, turned up, then the day was ready to start. Well Bill plus son turned up but where oh where was—is—George?!! On parade George!! Boots or no boots, gear or no gear. Let's hear or see from you son—on the double!!

Now—Spruso—we missed you. Mick Dodson put in a good word for you as to why no come. Nevertheless, I am sure I heard the ghostly tinkle and strum of a ukulele somewhere—maybe from all those years back. Next year perhaps Spruso, Eh?!! And finally it was good to see Jim Field finish the day so well, right on top of all disabilities. Good show Jim.

2/2 Reporter, BOB DIXON

KYOGLE REUNION

22nd/23rd September 1979
Make a note of date NOW
Full details later issues

2/2 ANZAC JOTTINGS

JOHN SAMUELS Ex P.O.W. Original A Coy. 2/2 on parade again and a very welcome sight. John did not like the look of the heavy wooden poles supporting the banners, so offered to make light but strong aluminium poles, if measurements were forwarded to him. With the lighter A.I. All. poles John may rest assured of the lifelong gratitude of all banner bearers.

JIMMY FIELDS well to the fore with his camera working. Jim did not march but met up with all the boys at the Reunion where his camera may sometime in the future be called upon to give evidence that YOU were there. He got quite a lot of shots at assembly point before we moved off; attempts will be made to reproduce some of these snaps in some future issue of "Pioneer News".

BOB DIXON was another chap who was rather busy between writing receipts and making announcements and other comments, some of which were official and some — "AHEM!"

JIMMY MUIR, having given bowls a rest for the day, turned up on Parade much to Bob's delight. Sorry that, owing to unforeseen circumstances, neither Bob or myself could be his guests at Bankstown R.S.L. Maybe next year, Jim, if invitation still stands.

"**BLUEY**" **LOCANE** not looking any older than when last seen a couple of years ago. "Blue" has been doing a spot of travelling and brings news from Lismore that **Dick "Stonewall" Walker** still playing a straight bat.

• News to hand of the sudden death at Dubbo of our old mate "**Poj**" **Sullivan**, and, from Orbost, Vic., the sudden loss of **Jean Fullarton**, wife of **Lionel Fullarton**, H.Q. Coy. 2/2. To the families of both the deceased, the 2/1-2/2 Pioneer Bns. Association extends deepest sympathy.

BILL HENRY played a lone hand this year as brother **Charlie** did not make it. Hope to see you on Parade next year **Charlie**.

GEORGE PARICOS was unable to attend because of ill health. Also have news that **Roy Stubbs** of Moruya not enjoying best of health at present. Hope both of you soon recover and are able to join the boys again.

"**LOFTY**" **HANNAN**, original 2/1, put in first ever appearance at March and Reunion and reports that he is the only 2/1 Pioneer member of the Shepparton, Vic. R.S.L.

KEV ACHURCH, **BRUCE METCALF** and **BOB GUINANE** were on their best behaviour with **Bill "Robbie"** keeping a fatherly eye on them.

DICK KENNEWELL and "**SPEED**" **GORDON** were welcome attenders once again. When last seen at Reunion, they seemed to be enjoying themselves. Hope so, as they may be encouraged to come again.

Evergreen **BERT BEASLEY** made his usual annual pilgrimage from Brisbane and was last seen having his usual chin wag with young **MICK EGAN**: we know that you are an O/A Pensioner Mick, so how do you manage to look younger than you are?

CHARLIE FIRTH and **CHARLIE GATEHOUSE** like twin brothers but I have, at long last, managed to remember which is which and tell my receipt clerk (you

know who) the correct name. Last seen with a group of C Coy. boys at Reunion.

BILL NICHOLLS all the way from Wollongong, hardy annual Bill. Had his son - spitting image of the old man - with him to keep the Nicholls family flag flying in absence of brother **George**. Bill marched this year with 9th Div. The main thing is Bill, you came along.

BOB McTAGGART was very much to the fore and like all others it was very good to see you Bob.

PAT COLLINS giving plenty of cheek as per usual. Can't keep a good man down but did not notice any of the "On Guard—Off Guard" business.

ARTHUR STAFFORD was noticed at the March but couldn't sight him at the Reunion, so never had a chance of a yarn.

The following 2/2 members present at the Reunion requested their names and phone numbers be published in the Pioneer News so that the members who did not "front" can ring them and make arrangements for next year or maybe to visit one another.

Charlie Firth - 412 2905, Brian Neiberding - 635 0953, Bob Dixon - 637 4619, Reg. Armstrong - 631 5403, Pat Collins - 605 6310 (Kerry), Bob McTaggart - 043-25 1800 (Gosford), Herbert (Bert) Beasley - 130 Allen St., Hamilton, Q'ld., 4007. Mick Egan - 59 2277, Charlie Gatehouse - 642 3327, James W. Muir - 70 5811, Bill Nicholls (Bobby Hove) - 7988913, Frank Locane (Andy Locane) - 602 6844, Bill Robertson - 665 2586, Arthur Stafford - 949 1105, Speed Gordon - 771 1576, Bob Guinane (Campbelltown) - 046-25 6469, Bruce Metcalf (Condell Park) - 708 1973, Jim Field - 636 1404, Max Herron - 759 5491

• This just about "Winds Up" the Annual Reunion for 1978 from me, so here's hoping to meet you all and other 2/2 Pioneers next year.

REG ARMSTRONG

Reporter

WREATH LAYING CEREMONY

Thirty members attended the Ceremony at the Cenotaph on Anzac Eve.

We were formed up by Marshall Bob Lake and after a short march we were at the Cenotaph where floral tributes were placed by Jack Bertram for the 2/1, Bob Dixon for the 2/2 and Miss Ann Hall, daughter of Jim Hall, for the Ladies' Auxiliary.

President Mick Dodson recited the Ode and this was followed by Aub Brazier on the bugle with a rendition of Last Post and Reveille.

It was a pleasure to be with our Pioneers for this hallowed occasion to personally pay respects to those whom we sadly miss.

"WE WILL REMEMBER THEM"

HARRY MONTAGUE

PRESIDENT'S REPORT OF ANZAC DAY REUNION

Another Anzac Day over, another year older. The latter part did not deter many members from Interstate, Country and City turning up to pay their respects to members who lost their lives during the war and others who have passed on since the finish of the war. While ever we can manage to do so the spirit of Anzac will not be forgotten.

This year, without doubt the 2/1 Pioneer Batt. despite the thirty odd years since the end of the war, marched as spritely as in the early days. This was due to the Bankstown Police Boys and Girls Band who led our Battalion. What a difference such an excellent band can make to the marches, and I feel sure all members are behind me when I speak so highly of this band. At the Reunion at the South Sydney Town Hall, the executive and hard working committee were rewarded for their efforts with the usual large attendance. This year the number of Interstate members exceeded all other Anzac Day attendances, some regulars, other there after a long break and a few for the first time.

Since we have held our Reunion at the South Sydney Town Hall it has been held in a formal way, with speeches etc. This year we produced a real orator in Jim Field who proposed the toast to the 2/1 - 2/2 Pioneer Association, a speech in which he really spoke from the heart. Many thanks Jim.

Our Patron Gordon Osborn was with us early this year, so naturally was called upon to speak, which was appreciated very much by the members. All the speakers and our M.C., Bob Dixon, added that bit extra to our Reunion.

As usual the ladies from the caterers excelled themselves in the kitchen. It seems they class themselves part of the Reunion. That reminds me of the young fellows busy dispensing of the amber fluid. Their motto "No waiting no delay". We cannot speak enough of these volunteers who come along annually to help in the work to allow us to enjoy our Anzac Day Reunion.

Many thanks to the executive, committee and members always on the move, collecting of money, running the raffle, selling of beer tickets, serving of meals, reporting of activities in fact anything to assure the success of the day.

A notable absentee at the Reunion after promising each and every one he would be there was Bub (Spruso) Spruce. At Fairfield R.S.L. Club after the dawn service on Anzac Day Bub was the recipient of a Certificate of Appreciation presented by the President of the R.S.L. for his work in the Bowling Club section. Something to be proud of and I feel sure one and all extend their congratulations to Bub. Maybe the celebrating after the Presentation was the reason for not arriving at the Reunion.

Our stalwart member Pat Murphy, caretaker of the hall, always of assistance to the Association. At the next committee meeting, there will be discussed ways of rectifying some minor faults which occurred during the day. Once again, my personal thanks to all the willing workers and members who attended and made the Reunion so successful.

See you all again next year.

LATE COPY RECEIVED

Next issue we will print replies to letters received from Messrs. E. Reynolds. also article from H. Montague on the retirement of Rev. A. Pitt-Owen.

ANZAC DAY WITH THE 2/1

Once again in glorious sunshine we moved off from Phillip Street led by Colonel Gordon Osborn and carrying the banner was Laurie "Three Course" Kelly — the man who has become a legend within the unit.

Even though our ranks have thinned out by the passing away of 30 members since Anzac Day 1977, we still had 120 members in attendance.

This year, we were very fortunate to have a good band and we moved along at a pace suitable to the ageing legs of our members.

Two people who will not forget the March — namely, Jim Hall from Kyogle (first time up) and his daughter, Ann, who was marching proudly side-by-side with her father. Ann was an ex-service woman who served in Vietnam as a nursing sister in charge of a hospital with the rank of Captain. The previous evening at the Wreath Laying Ceremony, Ann laid the wreath for the Ladies Auxiliary while Jim was the Standard Bearer. We were proud to have Ann in our ranks and she was made most welcome by all members, including Colonel Osborn.

Assisting our Leader of the March, Colonel Osborn, was Gordon Finlay on the left flank and Barry Watts on the right. Barry had made this his first appearance since the war. He was one of C Coys. original Platoon commanders and was wounded in Tobruk and when recovered was posted to an Engineering Unit.

From Hyde Park they went by train or car to Redfern Town Hall for a sit down meal and find out once more what has happened to various mates since Anzac Day 1977.

This year we had one Victorian and seven Queensland members present. Certainly good to see the interstate members. As the years roll on many more Pioneers are attending, although mid-week Marches do stop some of our Country members attending. There are still many left in the work force.

ANZAC REUNION

Whilst thirsts were quenched, subs paid to Vic "money bags" Whiteley, the few formalities necessary at this function were conducted — The Ode, Toast to the Queen, Toast to the Association by Jim Field 2/2, supported by Bill Robertson 2/2 and response by Max Law and Col. Gordon Osborn.

With these formalities completed, we settled down to a very enjoyable meal and the meeting of old friends and talk of the years doings.

ANZAC REUNION JOTTINGS

One table well in form and I mention them first only on account that one member said his wife was a little dubious about his attendance — this consisted of Bill Tasker, Harry Robey, Mick Reilly from Queensland — think this was Mick's first trip down — Max Law making up for his absence of last year, Bruce Smith, Vince Petrich, "Bluey" Moxey, John Dolaghan, Cec Peak and every now and then trying to get a word in was "Whacka" Back, whom we haven't seen for a long time. During all this we received information that Ivor Garnon is now Vice Pres. of Toukley R.S.L. and was tied up for the day so sent his apologies.

The Transport Platoon made the most of Jim Hall's presence to get together and at the table were "Snowy" Jardine, Jack Clarke, Jack Pearce, Bert Herne, Noel Schomberg, Joe Barker, Bob Lake, Vic Whiteley, "Dora" Black, Bill Robertson, Laurie Kelly and "Lofty" Hannon.

"C" Coy had a few together in the form of Jack Claypole, Arthur "Punchy" Bannister (who sends his regards to Harold Whittaker and "Jock" Russell). This was Arthur's first for a long while and he said if Charlie Rock had been there it would have made his day. Dick Chalmers looking more distinguished every year, Bill Wright, Sam Lewis, Arthur Luddington, Neville Woodham. One who nearly missed the March was Bill Doney. Also at this table was Geoff Williams — nice to see you along Geoff.

At another table was Bob Scott, Bill granger (over from Mt. Tom Price), Mick Reilly (a cousin of B Coy's Nick), together with his son Neil. Sid Kent had a seat there also getting ready to do a trip to England in June.

Gordon Osborn and Ken Stuart were at a table with Jack "Mick" Dodson, "Bluey" Miller, Jack Collis and Jock Gillespie. Nice to see you along Jock, even if we couldn't understand some of your jokes.

A Coy had a corner table again and seemed to be making a lot of noise even without Frank Gillian, who sent along his apologies, as he was away on holidays with his son. Tom Crossman was amongst us again and said it won't be long before he is retired and able to devote time to the Committee. There were also George Bates, Perc. Penrose between visits to the races, Brian Kybert, Mick Dwyer, Jack Robinson, Ted Jensen, Len Weymark, Don Slater, Bruce Smith, Henry Allan and Dick Blakeney.

Two Queenslanders who came down again were Ruben Wade and John Hunt and at their table were Lance Gayden, Bill Arthur, Ted Skoyles, Eric Hawkins, "Monty" Montague, Mac McKinnon — all ex R.A.P. and wanting to know where was Ron Irwin. There was also Eric Guthrie, Tom Hodge and Ted Stratford down from Lismore.

D Coy seemed to have the largest gathering of all. It was from here that the Pioneer News Wrapping Committee collected their dozen of beer from the raffle won by Peter Craig — thank you Peter. Pat Murphy had them well organised, and they were still soldiering on after everyone else retired — people like Ken Oliver, Jim Gray, George Walker, Max Herron, "Bimbo" Bell, Bill Hodges, Ray Hill, Ken McGregor, Bob Gale, Bob Morrow, Bert Moore looking younger than ever was in earnest conversation with Gordon Osborn, George Brooks down from Ipswich sporting his usual beard, was enjoying a real good yap with Jim Anderson.

Trying to enjoy dinner amidst many questions were Vic Whiteley, Max Herron, George Walker, Doug Shearston and of course that little bloke Bob Lake. I doubt if the many out of town visitors realize just how much work this little fellow does prior

to our arriving. Many of us may dwarf him in height but the old saying "Many great things are wrapped up in small parcels" certainly applies to Lakey — his great assistance to Max Herron and George Walker is greatly appreciated — thanks Bob.

A few latecomers, who firstly visit the P.I.B. Show then come to our reunion are Pat Noonan, Bob Burnside and Jack Stone.

We had a surprise visit from Jeff Braye who has been kept away because of the pressure of business. Also Jack Harvey arrived with son Bob, who is a pilot with the R.A.A.F., and he certainly enjoyed meeting some of the crowd Jack was with in the army. Another who came from nowhere was Jack Coates — apparently Balmain weren't playing or he has given them away as a bad job — however good to see you Jack.

Late in the afternoon we were visited by four ladies — Peg Herron, Joyce Walker, Joan Lake and Mary Lloyd — that cut down some of the tall tales.

We say thank you to our helpers without whom our function would not succeed — Terry Bird (son of the late Joe Bird) and his two mates Peter and Terry and Keith Bannon (son-in-law of Gordon Finlay). Thanks fellows, we certainly could not function without you.

Well, that rolls it up for Anzac Day 1978, so hope we have not missed out on too many, if so please accept our apologies.

Regards to all for the rest of 1978.

Reporters —

LARRY ROBSON and GORDON FINLAY

LAST POST

President Mick Dodson, Bluey Walsh and myself represented the Association at the funeral service of the late **CHARLES "Nobby" SMITH** (A Coy. 2/1) in May.

"Nobby" was an original member of the 2/1 and was deeply respected throughout the unit.

We passed on to Mrs. Smith the Association's sympathy and in return she thanked us for being present.

On 3rd May, Geoff Robinson and myself gathered at the United Church Balgownie to pay our last respects to **NORMAN ERIC (Nobby) COOPER**, 2/1st.

Together with thirty bowlers from the Fairymeadow Club, a bus load of his former workmates from B.H.P. and numerous friends and relatives we said farewell to Nobby.

After the service, Geoff and I returned to his family home at Balgownie and had refreshments with his family and friends and had the opportunity of meeting his wife Dorothy for the first time.

Dorothy asked that the "Pioneer News" be still sent to her.

We passed on condolences from the Association.

GORDON FINLAY

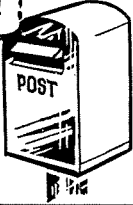
FACES AT THE ANZAC REUNION 1978

1ST ROW: Noel Schomberg, Roy Jardine, Joe Barker, Bob Lake, Harry Montague, Bert Herne, Jack Clarke. 2ND ROW: John Dolahan, W.J. Back, Bruce Smith, Bill Tasker, Max Herron, Bob Dixon, Vic. Whiteley. 3RD ROW: Max Law, Austie Ronan, Jack Bertram, Reg. Armstrong, Doug. Shearston, Jack Coates, George Walker. 4TH ROW: Jack Collis, Jack Dodson, Gordon Osborn, "Bimbo" Bell, Pat Murphy, Ken McGregor, Bert Moore, Jim Gray, Ray Hill, Nev. Woodham. 5TH ROW: Bob Burnside, Laurie Kelly, Gordon Finlay, Jock Gillespie, George Brooks. 6TH ROW: John Dowd, Bob Guinane, Arthur Stafford, "Curly" Achurch, Jack Coates, Jim Hall.

Anyone wishing to purchase copies may contact Jim Field, 155 Darling St., Greystanes, 2145.



I intend keeping
y Association alive!



from the MAIL BAG

Editor: **BOB LAKE**

43 Amourin St., Brookvale, 2100 - Tel 93-4696

Editor



• **JACK COLLIS**, Umina, sends his usual report of the 'wells' and 'not-so-wells' from the Central Coast. First, the passing of **LOFTY BARLOW** and then **NOEL PETERSON** from Wyong. I visited **Noel** in Concord when I was there for my check up in March and he did not look well at all. To the families of both these great chaps, we extend our sincere sympathy. Still Central Coast, and **TED DOLLING** still on the up and down trail, while the Balmain Tiger **JACK COATES** has had a couple more visits to hospital. However, the "Tiger" was in good form on Anzac Day at Redfern and left no stone unturned telling me that Manly had pinched one of their star footballers.

• **HARRY HUTCHINSON** and **LES "Digger" ROSE** have also been in hospital since the last edition of the News, and **'BLUEY' MILLER** still goes well per medium of a push-bike past Collis' door pretty regularly. Many thanks for the News **Jack**, hope you enjoyed yourself at Newcastle.

A telegram from **PAT LAUGHREN** on Anzac Eve to the Battalion reads as follows:

"TO ALL PIONEERS, EVEN THOSE ON DIETS, MAY YOUR SHADOWS NEVER GROW LESS" — **PAT**

Letter also from Pat with a sub to the Treasurer and congratulating the Committee and Members for the efforts that help to keep "PIONEER NEWS" alive and to the ladies of the Wrapping Committee, also the wives of all that help to push us along to see we get things done. **Pat** still continues to plug for the Sunshine Coast round Nambour for a good warm suntan holiday but doesn't mention whether the town is wet or dry. I suppose it would be wet!

• **JEAN HUGO**, sister of **Tom Hugo** writes a note of sincere thanks to "**Harry**" **Monty** as we all refer to him. **Jean** had not met **Monty** until the untimely passing of **Margaret**, **Tom's** wife, and being from the Country, Cootamundra, expresses the gratitude of the attention shown to **Tom** by the boys of the Unit and "**Monty**".

• **ALBERT BROWN** ex Kyogle and now at St. Marys had a trip up the coast recently but only met a few of the boys. **Joe Leis** of Casino seemed much improved and sends his regards to all with special mention **Len Humphreys**.

• **FRED BLANCHE** at Kyogle has been very sick and has had a couple of strokes but is battling along.

Visited **Doug Turner** at Kingscliffe, whose address has been noted, although we can't say why he has not received the paper, as that has been **Doug's** address for quite a few years, however, we will pay special attention to this issue.

• **MRS. MARTHA GRANGE** sister of **Wally "Bombo" Brown** writes a letter of the

passing of **Wally** on 10th June, 1977. **Wally** had been in Concord several times prior to his death and had been visited by **Monty** and **George Wood**. **Wally** remained a bachelor and would read the News with his sister **Martha**, passing on to her the many anecdotes and happenings with the different names and incidents relating, providing many hours of happy times over the years. **Martha** requests that "Pioneer News" still be posted to her.

• **ALF "Bluey" JONES** per the pen of wife **June** with the news that **'Blue'** was to be admitted to Concord within the next few days of 24/4/78. He has been ill for months and apologises for not being able to attend Anzac Day, however, he wished us a happy and sunny day (which we had) and closes with good luck to all.

Received information that **'Bluey'** died in May.

• **GEORGE PATTERSON**, St. Ives sends a cheque to the Treasurer and the information that he was not able to March on Anzac Day but intended viewing same on T.V. and wished all and sundry a good day and a happy reunion. Many thanks for your letter **George** and we in turn wish you a free from accident and sickness future. You have had more than your share of the other kind.

• **JOHN WILLIAMS**, Sefton enclosed a cheque to Treasurer and apologises for his absence on Anzac Day. That was it, two lines, so can't make any more news from this **John**. How about a little more effort next time.

• **HARRY HUTCHINSON**, Woy Woy sends cheque to the Treasurer and the news that while we enjoy ourselves on Anzac Day, he and his wife will be in Perth for a few weeks leaving on the 12/4/78. We hope that you enjoy your trip and that it gives your health a bit of a boost.

• **NOEL HIBBARD**, Meadowbank, another with a sub. to the Treasurer and good wishes, but nought else. Hard to make news of this **Noel**.

• **KEN COLLIER**, Essendon, Vic. writes a letter with good and bad news — the loss of his son (eldest) by accident while they, **Ken** and wife, were on a short holiday. Police notification did not help their holiday in this matter. April saw the wedding of **Ken's** eldest daughter but with the first happening and the second, too much for **Ken's** nerves, he collapsed, tried a holiday in the bush, no benefit, so finally ended up at Heidelberg Hospital for a period of time. Fortunately **Repat.** has

accepted **Ken** for nerves for which he is very thankful. With all those problems, **Ken** closes wishing the boys a great day at the reunion and enclosed a cheque to the Association, "Just to help things along". Many thanks **Ken** and we know, while that spirit continues, your wife, family and the Association will have letters from **Ken Collier** for many years to come.

• **BILL HOFFMAN** our Kyogle V.P. and great supporter sends a letter with the information that he has not enjoyed the best of health lately, had a prolonged Cardiac Arrest, which has affected his balance, makes work difficult and has applied for the Service Pension hopefully for August this year. **Bill** forwards the following items of fellow members, **Brian Jackson** now living at Evans Head, **Peter Bell** still at Kyogle and having trouble with his leg but still manages to visit the boys at the local hospital, **Cec Blanch** has retired from the garage and still keeping fit, **Fred Blanch** does not enjoy the same good health (bad heart) and cheques from **Jim Hall** (who was present for his first Anzac Day this year) and **Merv Andrews** ex D Coy. Many thanks for your letter **Bill**, and we hope to see you when that retirement comes through.

• **GEORGE CREASY**, Portland sends a cheque to the Treasurer per medium of **Monty** and a personal letter to same for his many visits to **George** while an inmate of Concord last October. (Since receipt of above, news was received that **George** passed away in June).

• **IAN KIRKWOOD**, Wollongong writes of his inability to attend the Reunion and quotes an "aversion to the conditions at Redfern Town Hall". I would like to ask what these aversions are **Ian**, the period of time from Wars End has no connection with this. If you have a gripe, let's hear it, after all we don't get many, so let's know what is the problem. Many thanks for your letter and your cheque is in good keeping with the Treasurer.

• **BILL HOOD**, Lismore, a cheque to Treasurer and verbatim, "Regards to **McInnes** and all Pioneers" signed **Bill Hood**. Now come on **Bill**, you must be able to add to that little script, what about some of your reminiscences of that eventful period. Treasurer has your cheque.

• **GEORGE PARICOS**, Eastwood writes that owing to an attack of Bronchitis was unable to attend the March and Reunion. Now what was the real story, **George**? Was it your year to attend the opposition, after all it's not everyone that can attend both.

Jokes aside, sorry to hear that you were not well and your best wishes are appreciated by all.

• **BOB GALES** of Toukley writes that he was pleased to read of **Doug Watson**, 3 years since **Bob** has seen **Doug** and they both have the same trouble with legs, but **Bob** is still able to move around. For what it is worth, last year **Bob** visited his daughter and son-in-law at Penang for about 8 weeks and while there he was introduced to Acupuncture and it's made a hell of an improvement. Unable to walk up or down stairs previously, now with a rub of linament from the Doc and he is able to get around quite well. Worth some thought **Doug Watson**, daughter **Barbara** could do a little enquiring perhaps. **Bob** was not to be present at Redfern as he had high hopes of visiting N.Z. with a contingent of 20 members from the R.S.L. We hope that you made the visit and we wish you every success for the future.

• **DICK SEDDON**, Newcastle writes a letter — good to hear from the "Oldie", however his Battalion News related to **Noel Petersen**, **Jack Coates**, also dealt with by **Jack Collis** from the Central Coast. **Dick** also writes of **Clancy Scholes** down for Tobruk Sunday. Had a good time and looking forward to Newcastle Reunion. Phone call from **Syd Jopson**, apparently not been the very best, probably needs another visit from Dr. Lake to fix him up. Early October **Syd**, you will be my first appointment.

• **NUGGET LAURIE** also had been on the off list but we saw him in May and he kept the chin up as usual. If it was an act, he should go on stage because we all enjoyed seeing that cheery grin, topped by that impressive grey curly hair.

FROM ENGLAND

This is an open letter to the "Pioneer News" to say hello to any of my old pals that might remember a young red headed Pommy who couldn't grow whiskers that was one of the 2/1 Pioneers about 36 - 37 years ago. I had a wonderful thrill when I came home from work last August and found **Jack Bertram** sitting on my doorstep, I hadn't seen him for 31 years. **Jack** gave me two copies of "Pioneer News" and I am still devouring every word. The wonderful names that have come back to me; **Jack Coates**, **Sid Jopson**, **Fred Wheaton** and a cheeky kid with a driver's cap on the side of head named **Bob Lake**. **Gordon Osborne**, **Wally Page**, "**Bricky**" **Wall**. I owe **Bricky** an apology, he wrote to me about 23 years ago when I was in Baghdad in the R.A.F. but I lost his letter and never replied.

Incidentally, I went back to Tobruk in 1952 when I was returning from Iran, the aircraft had trouble and we spent the night at El Adam, which was then a R.A.F. Station. Following day, I went into Tobruk by bus along the El Adam Road. It still seemed the same old heap of rubble.

When I came back to England in 1946 it was only for a short trip to see Mum and Dad, had my return ticket back to Aussie, then Mum became ill, couldn't leave then. Then started courting my wife, she did not want to travel so I just never got around to that return ticket.

I read **Jack Coates** article about the Meningitis scare at Julis in 1940 and his

reference to the late **Greg Norris**. Reminded me that I helped to carry him to Coy H.Q. when he was wounded, cannot remember who was at the other end of the stretcher.

P.S. I wonder if **Col. Gordon Osborn** could still render a couple of stanzas of the "Lavatory Man". **Jack** has promised further copies of Pioneer News. All the best to everyone.

"Bluey" SIMMONDS

• **JACK RICHARDS** per pen of **Olive** and I am not sure as to whether this was published in an earlier edition, if not, I apologise to you both, can't understand why, I know I kept the letter because of your address. **Jack** has been on the Repat. Pension for some time now, still has off days but is able to potter around doing odd jobs for all and sundry. As **Olive** quotes, he may be retired but he still eats just as much, so can't be going too bad. The second grandchild would be more than keeping you both on the go by now. Still two is not so bad, we have 6 and all help to keep my hair falling out. **Jack**, while restricted, still manages to have a couple of cans, so perhaps sometime in the future when we get around Lennox Head, we shall just pop in on you both. Many thanks for the letter **Jack** and **Olive** and just keep up the good work.

• **T.W. WALL**, and I am sure he must have chaffed at the bit when informed that he was booked on the Melbourne Bus Tour on the 24th April, however, decided to make the best of the situation and proceeded to enjoy the trip. Liverpool to Goulburn, lunch, Gundagai for a cuppa, overnight at Tumut. Made his way to the R.S.L. enquiring for Pioneers but had no luck, the same applying to Eden, Bega, Narooma on the way home, no Pioneers, or else they hibernate with the cooler weather. Many thanks for the letter, I am sure it must be "**Bricky**" but with **Max Herron** on holiday, I am not sure, however, if I am wrong I shall apologise in the next issue.

• **LEN PREEDY**, Shenton Park, W.A. sends a letter. Has not written since seeing **Max** and **Peg Herron** at Xmas, however, he has been busy putting a pool in the yard for son **Greg**, will be ready right on time for the winter — well judged. **Len** has also been very occupied with the R.S.L. Bowls' Tournament to be played in the West this year. No doubt you bowlers play it hard. One game will be played at Mandurah, a coastal town some fifty miles south of Perth. Should be an ideal day, ladies will be cared for with a local tour, then later crab feeds for all. You certainly look after them over in the West. Could not imagine many complaints on that score **Len**, and as you say the renewing of friendships formed through earlier tournaments would make up for most problems. Many thanks for the news **Len**, no trouble to decipher same, just keep up the good work.

• **REV. ALBERT PITT-OWEN** writes of his intention to retire from the Ministry in June after 42 years. The Padre thanks the Secretary and Committee for the issues of Pioneer News over the years and has enclosed an invitation to numerous chaps to attend his final service. **Bob Dixon** and wife, **Monty** and wife attended this service, while **Max Herron**, **Mick Dodson**, **Gordon Finlay** wrote apologies. owing to earlier commitments. We all wish you well in retirement Padre, and with your

good wife hope that you really enjoy your 11 acre farm "Highfields", Hume Highway, Picton, and as the Padre says, "Just a pleasant Saturday afternoon drive". As a P.S. on one of his last duties performed at Gloucester House he had the pleasure of meeting **Doctor Stan Goulston**, also on a visit to different patients.

• **PEG** and **MAX HERRON** wrote to say they had a pleasant "PIONEER" holiday in June using **George** and **Jay Walkers** caravan. Their first call was to Forster where they stayed with **Roma** and **Doug Shearston** and apparently they had a wonderful stay but alas no fish. Next port of call was a stay at a caravan park at Coffs Harbour alongside the van of **Gordon** and **Olive Finlay**. In between outings they visited the Bowling Club to watch the Rats of Tobruk NSW branch play Queensland branch. Here they met **Jack "Mick" Dodson**, **Jack Pearce**, **Charlie Wilby**, **Jack Bertram**, **Fred Wheaton**, **Dick Seddon**, **Horrie Saunders** and **Gordon Finlay**. With the **Finlays** they called on **Allan** and **Beulah Crute** at Woolgoolga where they all had a most pleasant meal and then a jolly old sing song around **Beulah** and her new Yamaha organ. Next on the list was **Kyogle** where they stayed at the property of **Lil** and **Jim Hall**. On arrival they were ushered into town for tea at the **Kyogle Golf Club**, the purpose being to discuss a proposed Reunion in 1979. It really turned out to be a mini **Kyogle Reunion** for the following were in attendance — **Toby/Nera Hale**, **Jack/Flo Sherman**, **Jim/Lil Hall**, **Alec/Jean George**, **Bill Hoffman**, **Fred Blanch**, **Nita Ferris** and **Max/Peg Herron**. It turned out to be a most enjoyable dinner — contrary to the belief of everyone at the dinner **Lil Hall** was NOT collecting the scraps from plates for the **Herrons** breakfast but for her dogs. From here they toured down to **Scotts Head** with the **Finlays** and on the way home called in to **Port Macquarie** to see **Dolly Latham** cousin of the late **Les "Jossy" Denham**. They had intended calling on **Sid** and **Myrtle Johnson** but lack of time and plenty of rain prevented them.

That just about wraps it up for this Issue. I won't mention Newcastle, it's been dealt with in other pages. **Joan** and I enjoyed ourselves, I was the bum that got lost, I also had the beer for supper in my boot, that's what the biggest worry was. The good news was that I tossed **Fred Wheaton** for a double rum, and **Clancy Scholes** was too lousy to give me a little dab of hair oil, I got square on the Sunday when I was dosing out the beer. A great weekend, to those that could not make it, bad luck, but keep it in mind for the next one, my thanks to the Newcastle crowd, both men and wives, and keep the ideas generating.

Good luck, keep sober and keep writing.

LAKEY

Its on again

THE BRISBANE REUNION

Date: Saturday 28th October 1978

Time: 4 p.m.

Please note NEW ADDRESS

Unit 4, "Abbottford"

25 Mountford Rd, New Farm,

Qld 4005

Phone Area code 07-358 4349

Your hosts, **JOHN & MOLLIE HUNT**

NEWCASTLE REUNION — MAY 1978

After meeting at Hamilton R.S.L. at 5.30 p.m. Saturday, we went per convoy to Cardiff R.S.L. where a Smorgasboard dinner awaited us and all must agree it was a fine spread. Thank you Cardiff R.S.L. Caterers.

Naturally the formalities, i.e. Loyal Toast, Toast to Assoc. were carried out by our President, Mick Dodson, assisted by Jack (Glido) Griffiths with Bob Dixon as M.C. Welcome to visitors by Jack Bertram and response by Ken Perry - Cardiff R.S.L. President and Dist. Councillor and seconded by Ald. Henderson, ex 2/3 rd Pioneers on behalf of guests.

During the evening a phone call was received from Dave Cook - Past Pres. of Newcastle Rats of Tobruk Assoc. - wishing all a happy and enjoyable weekend. Thanks for the call Dave, perhaps you can join in next time.

With these necessities over, it was down to Wine - Dine and Dancing and much talk as we had many people who were attending a Country do for the first time, which we hope will be the commencement of many to follow.

Two members who really enjoyed themselves were Bob (Fred Astaire) Lake with Joan and "Twinkle Toes Snowy" Morris from Dungog. Don't know if "Snowy" was doing the jitterbug or a fine weather dance but must have been the latter, as Sunday turned out fine after early showers.

Charly Wilby from Inverell, also Claude and Dot Campbell from that area, Tom and Pat Mutton, John and Mollie Hunt all the way from Queensland (lovely to see them), Alan and Beulah Crute Woolgoolga, Fred and Jean Wheaton - Sawtell, Bill Wade - Buledelah, who spent most of the evening with Jock Russell and young Nugget Laurie, and of course Clancy and Irene Scholes, who are now resident in an outer suburb of Newcastle - Rutherford, Ted and Nell Skoyles from Mittagong, and four 2/2 Pioneers - Jim and Kath Field and Bob and Jean Dixon, Reg Armstrong and Charlie Firth.

Max Herron, during proceedings, presented Doug and Roma Shearston with an array of flowers to celebrate their 35th Wedding Anniversary. We didn't find out until the end that Claude and Dot Campbell were to have theirs on the Monday, 22nd May. Best wishes to both families and may you have many more anniversaries.

It was very pleasing to have had in our midst the wives of 3 Pioneers who have passed on, Vi Flynn, Mary Lloyd and Rita Pritchard. We hope you enjoyed the evening and will be most welcome at any of these functions held in connection with the Association.

Of course quite a number of the ladies who have not attended our functions before (particularly the country ones) wanted to see our "Man of Legend" (Three Course Kelly). How often they have heard and read about our mates escapades. Well ladies, you have now both seen and spoken to him and I just wonder if your mental picture of him tallies?

On leaving about midnight for our billets, a certain city slicker decided he knew the way home. Off he went and half an hour later ran out of Street Lights. Naturally his passengers copped the



Pioneers and Wives at the Bolton Point Home.

blame and instead of reaching the Motel in Hamilton about 12.45, he didn't arrive until 2.00 o'clock. Usually we go sightseeing in daylight hours.

Sunday off to Bolton Point Park where 60 members boarded the launch "JULIE" for a trip around parts of Lake Macquarie and few realised just how large an expanse of water we have. Our thanks to Warren Hollis for making it such a pleasant outing. Back then to Bolton Point Ex-Servicemen's Home area and the Bar-B-Q lunch.

Through this paper, we extend our sincere thanks to Sister Yvonne Robinson (Sister-in-Charge of the Home) and Fred Hissey - a Director, also Secretary of Newcastle Rats of Tobruk Assoc. - who assisted us in making this a success. We really enjoyed having them join us for lunch and a talk about the working of the home. Thank you both for this assistance. It was most gratifying to see our members supplying a few beers free to the ex-service residents and having a talk to these men of times which we all shared earlier in our lives. This, gentlemen, showed the true Pioneer spirit and may it never die.

However, all good things must come to an end and about 3.00 p.m. goodbyes commenced and our Sydney and country friends began wending their way home.

Here again, one country member took the wrong turn (he knew the way - so he thought) and ran out of road. Fortunately, one of his passengers remembered the area from her younger days and steered him back on the right road. I hope "Jumma" knows his area when we come up his way to Kyogle. Thought you'd missed out getting this reported, "Jumma"?

Our thanks for Sunday must go to Jack Bertram's Son-in-Law, Mick. Without his utility and his assistance in cooking, we would have been in trouble. Thanks a lot Mick for your tremendous help.

As some were spending Sunday night in Newcastle, it was back to "The Waratah" Rugby Union Club for a Smorgasboard tea and still they talked on, even with our young lady Nellie Adam clearing the tables. She hopes you all enjoyed your tea and was worried whether you had enough. Any time in town we extend a welcome to all Pioneers and wives to the Club.

I know there are many names I have not mentioned but space and time will not permit this, as Max Herron is going on a well earned holiday and the report is urgent. However, he has a list which could be printed in a further issue.

This about winds things up for the 1978 Newcastle Reunion and from Jack, Dick and myself, we hope your stay over this weekend has been up to expectations.

One person I did omit who attended Sunday and had a photo taken of the group, was Alan Bickle - President of Newcastle Rats of Tobruk. Sorry Alan but at least you got a mention.

Once again, thanks for coming and remember the next Reunion is in October, 1978 in Queensland, where our hosts will be John and Mollie Hunt. Now you Northern members, how about it.

Regards to all — LARRY ROBSON

NEWS ITEMS

Apologies were received from the following for non-attendance at the Annual Meeting, due to illness — Alf Jones, Beth and George Creasy, Nell and Fred Davenport and Tom Hugo.

In Hyde Park after the Anzac Day March, many members made straight to the Legacy stall for a cup of tea.

Upon conversing with one of the ladies serving, I was surprised to learn she was the daughter of Colonel Brown 2/1.

We had quite a yarn about old times and she promised to pass on my news to her mother, with the promise I would forward her copies of the "Pioneer News".

Garden Island dockyard was at one time noted for the number of members of the Association working there. After Don Slater, A Company, and Charlie Walker, Don Company, retired recently, to our knowledge there remains only two members left working there. Those members are Curly Conners, Don Company, and Jock Gillespie, Don Company and A Company. Jock is always looking for someone to have a yarn over old times. When one thinks of the many Association members retired enjoying life, Garden Island must be a Paradise.

— HARRY MONTAGUE

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

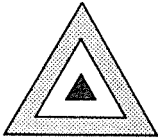
President:

J. (Mick) DODSON

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VALEDICTORY SERVICE FOR REV. ALBERT PITT-OWEN

In acknowledgement of an invitation from the Church Committee of St Oswalds Church, Haberfield in June to the Association, it was indeed a pleasure for Bob and Jean Dixon (2/2) and my wife and self to attend.

The occasion was on the conclusion of Albert's forty two years in the ministry, three years of which was as Padre of the 2/1st Pioneers.

The Church was completely filled with a huge gathering of people who came from all professions and walks of life to express their thanks and appreciation to Albert and his charming wife. Despite the crowd Albert was there to welcome us and escort us to a front pew. In his service Albert recalled some of his travels and incidents during his tour of duty and paid great tribute to his role as Padre of the 2/1st Pioneers.

Many gifts, tributes and speeches were made on Albert's behalf and on being called to speak for the Association I expressed the best wishes of all members of the 2/1 and 2/2 Pioneer Association.

Bob Dixon followed and endorsed my remarks and presented the Padre with an Association badge which gave Albert quite a thrill.

Jean Dixon then presented a badge to Mrs Pitt-Owen on behalf of our Ladies Auxiliary and one could see she was most pleased with the gift as she immediately pinned the badge on the lapel of her dress. She expressed thanks for the badge and the kind words and thoughts of the Association.

Later on departing Albert and his wife again expressed their sincerest appreciation of our attendance and for the badges which would be a lifetime treasure.

Since the service we are also in receipt of a letter to the Association from the Padre in appreciation of our attendance.

We were given to understand all Pioneers are welcome at the Padre's new address at "Highfield", Hume Highway, Picton, so if anyone is in the vicinity be sure you will be most welcome, as they consider it an honour to entertain their friends of years gone by.

— Reporter HARRY MONTAGUE

PRESIDENT REPORTS ON...

NEWCASTLE REUNION

Reports have been published on this wonderful Reunion on 20th, 21st May 1978, and I feel that I must add my bit towards expressing thanks to the Newcastle Organisers. All members and wives who attended still talk of the most successful weekend.

I am writing this report as I feel the reporter of the weekend who was one of the organisers would not lavish enough praise upon himself and fellow workers. This Reunion was indeed a credit to Jack Bertram, Larry Robson and Dick Seddon and their assistants.

To see so many members, their wives and widows of our late members turn up for the weekend Reunion all enjoying themselves immensely was to the organisers sufficient thanks for their efforts.

From Sydney, as far south as Mittagong, from Brisbane, from North West Moree and in between they began arriving at Hamilton from Friday night onwards.

At Cardiff 83 sat down to a delightful meal and the evening was so successful and such a beautiful night.

After leaving the club one car load on the way back to the motel, decided to take into the country and according to the passengers they could smell the cattle at Aberdeen, but the driver

insisted they were not lost but enjoying the country air.

After inclement weather Sunday morning the weather cleared enough for the launch trip on the lake, enjoyed by all. Back to the Bolton Home for a Barbeque lunch. Jack Bertram and his son-in-law turned out very good cooks as was seen by many backing up for seconds. The ladies from Newcastle were there assisting on the mess parade and carrying out a good job.

George Walker was enjoying himself taking the money from the drinkers but more so when the patients from the home were invited to have a drink on the Association.

After most of the party had inspected the home it was breakup time, and another enjoyable weekend was about to finish. Some remained overnight, the others wearily wended their way home, thankful to the Organisers and helpers for a most enjoyable weekend.

If you missed one, you have a chance to renew acquaintances with your mates at the next Country Reunion which is on at Kyogle 22/23rd September, 1979.

— President, Jack (Mick) Dodson

WHERE IS JOE KYFFIN?

A remembrance notice for "Scotch" W.M. AITKEN was placed in the July 1946 issue of "Sydney Morning Herald" by Joe Kyffin.

For many years "Scotch's" sister has been wanting to write to Joe Kyffin to thank him for his kind thoughts but has not known where to contact him, so at the Kyogle Reunion Committee meeting she asked the Secretary to make this request in the Pioneer News.

If you know of Joe Kyffin or of his whereabouts would you contact Max Herron on 759-5491.

QUEENSLAND REUNION SATURDAY 28TH OCT. 1978

TO ALL PIONEERS — NEAR and FAR

THE "EXCUSE" is the same — Queensland Reunion Time.

THE HOSPITALITY is the same — John and Mollie Hunts.

THE TIME is the same: 4 pm or near.

THE DATE is the same: Last Saturday in October — 28th.

BUT ADDRESS is different —

Unit 4, 25 Mountford Road,
New Farm Park 4005.

ACCOMMODATION: As required at South Pacific Motel, Langshaw St.

HOW TO FIND IT: Is shown on map below — which is taken from NRMA folder Brisbane District map.



REPLIES: If possible about 15th October but not absolutely necessary — just phone 358-4349.

We are looking forward to seeing you.

— Mollie and John Hunt.

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE 2/1 PIONEER BATTALION

To be presented in parts by H. Montague.

Part 1 (March 78 Pioneer News) dealt with Unit being formed at Greta, June 1940, the units final leave Sept. 1940, and embarkation Monday 30th Sept.

PART 2 — UNIT ARRIVAL AT DUBBO

On Monday 9th Sept 1940 the unit arrived at Dubbo Railway Station after a 14 hour journey from Greta in two special trains.

One train was late, but it was decided to keep to the arrangement of a march through the town with the first contingent as the streets were packed with the townspeople waiting to welcome the unit.

After forming up, the Troops moved off headed by our band and led by Major "Nugget" Neal and what a tremendous ovation and enthusiastic reception they were given as they passed down Darling, Talbragar and Macquarie Streets.

Passing the Town Hall, the Mayor of Dubbo took the salute from Major Neal and then continued on to Victoria Park where all gear was stacked.

The unit was then ushered into a large hall where Ladies and volunteers served a very enjoyable meal and light refreshments. During this meal the Major and the Band proceeded back to the station where they met the second contingent. They too were given a tumultuous welcome as they marched through the streets to the hall where the meal awaited them.

After the whole Battalion had been fed the Mayor officially welcomed the unit to the town of Dubbo on behalf of its citizens and congratulated Lt. Col. McGillicuddy on the unit's great military bearing they had displayed during their march through the town. He stated the unit would be honoured guests by all.

In replying, our Colonel thanked the Mayor and the citizens of Dubbo for their reception and hospitality so generously given.

After our Band had given an impromptu Concert to the crowd we marched off to our camp. It was a historic occasion which I feel still lives in the memory of both the citizens of Dubbo and members of the unit, for we were made very welcome.

PART 3 — BOARDING S.S. JOHANN DE WITT.

Monday 30th October, 1940.

After all embarkation formalities had been complied with, the unit finally proceeded up the gangway of the S.S. Johann De Witt.

Following the routine of being checked and numbered the members were conducted to the converted ships cargo holds where they were to sleep for the duration of the voyage.

At 1430 hours a full parade of all military personnel was held on the various decks and were addressed by Lord Gowrie, Governor of N.S.W.

The adjoining wharf was crowded with wives, relatives and friends who had come to farewell the ship. The Eastern Command Band were playing and it was a really wonderful carnival gathering until about 1630 hours when the mooring lines were cast off and the ship got under way, leaving the Pyrmont wharf with tremendous cheering from the multitude of well wishers.

However the ship did not immediately proceed on the voyage, but anchored at 1815 hours in the area of Shark Island to refill oil tanks. This was completed about 2300 hours and then she

was on her way and on clearing the heads, met up with HMAS Perth who was waiting to escort the Johann De Witt to the Middle East.

The list of officers with the unit as she sailed were as follows:- Lt. Col. McGillicuddy, Major A. Brown; Majors: Harold White, Norm Neal; Capts: Stan Goulston, Bob Egan, Harry Tope, Padre Dransfield, Dave Coleman, Jeff Graham, Herb Braddon, Vic Tunbridge, George Patterson, Tom Ledgerwood and Bill Proven; Lieuts: Rod Pegg, Harry Ellis, Chas Richardson, Bob Wilson, Gordon Osborn, Barry Watts, Harry Hughes, Bill Robertson, Frank Allan, Jock Gillespie, Robby Farlow, "Lofly" Barlow, Wally Copp, John Riley, Ted Carter, Jack McAdam, John Gilchrist, Johnny Wheeler, Henry Nicholls and John Tooker.

PART 4 — NURSING STAFF

When the troopship H.M.T. SS Johann De Witt sailed from Sydney in Oct. 1940 the ship was loaded with Military personnel including the 2/1 Pioneers, except 'D' Coy who had departed from Melbourne.

The Medical section on the ship who were also bound for the Middle East were indeed a most efficient branch of the Services and certainly worked hard to maintain the health standards on the ship.

There were four nurses in this group and they were Sisters Vera Hamilton, Sue Malcolm, Kitty Tidd and Gladys Sherman.

Over the last few months I have conducted a long search and many enquiries as to the whereabouts of the four sisters and have been successful in locating all except Gladys Sherman.

On introducing myself to each of the ladies with the best wishes of the Association they were really delighted to hear about our members and their doings, for they all had happy memories in meeting the 2/1 Pioneers on the ship. In particular they said what great enjoyment they had derived from the concerts our band performed while on the ship. They even remembered such items as Wind mills turning — nurse, Col Bogey.

It was nice chatting to these ladies and as they were most interested in the Association I have contacted the Secretary and arranged to have their names put on the mailing list. I explained about all our functions and with the Committees permission have invited them to our Reunions.

It was well worth the effort in locating these ladies and I was thrilled with the way they welcomed me on behalf of the Association.

HOSPITAL AND FUNERAL COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN:

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

NORTHERN SUBURBS

ALLAN McINNES, 11/47 Milson Rd., Cremorne Pt. Ph. 90-2069

JACK PEARCE, 22 Surfers Pde., Harbord. Ph. 939-1974

EASTERN SUBURBS

HARRY ELLIS, 3/6 Notts Ave., Bondi.

BILL ROBERTSON, 5 Barry St., Randwick. Ph. 665-2586

JIM GRAY, 63 Fletcher St., Bondi

ILLAWARRA SUBURBS

GEORGE WOOD, 97 Russell Ave., Dolls Pt. 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 Nth Liverpool Rd., Mt. Pritchard.

Ph. 602-8483

BOB LEE, 103 Links Ave., Concord. Ph. 73-1965

PAT WALSH, 136 Rawson Rd., Greenacre.

Note: Would next of kin please contact above member nearest to persons domicile — otherwise contact the Chairman.

WELFARE OFFICER:

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

OVERSEAS TRIP BY MARY & ALLAN McINNES

Left Australia on April 15th and had 4½ months overseas, and we would have liked more

Started in Greece — 7 days boat trip through the Greek Islands and to Istanbul, which I must say was the highlight of the trip — 2 weeks in Greece and we then went up The Adriatic coast through Yugoslavia and over through Italy to Monte Carlo. Here we were fortunate enough to see Princess Grace at close quarters and she is still absolutely beautiful. We then went through France to Paris and eventually to London and after a few days we went back to Europe where we did a 30 day Eurail Pass holiday and we certainly got value for money on Eurail as we travelled from Norway, Sweden and as far as Italy and East-West as well. We had a month in England — 2 weeks in Wales — 3 weeks in Scotland, so saw a lot of Great Britain.

Scotland was great and we attended a Highland Games at Lochinvar on N.W. Coast and Sheep Dog trials at Peebles. We didn't see The Monster in Loch Ness.

Also went to The Trooping of the Colour in London and it was a marvellous military display.

GALLIPOLI — ANZAC DAY 1978

On my recent overseas trip one of the most moving and emotional experiences that has ever happened to me occurred whilst on a cruise of The Greek Islands and Istanbul.

Leaving Istanbul at noon on April 24th we cruised into The Dardanelles and with dusk closing in we passed the town of Gallipoli, a surprise to me was the much larger town than I had imagined. The Dardanelles narrowed here and at the narrowest section we arrived opposite the landing beaches of April 25th, 1915 with the cliffs behind. A large marble memorial has been placed on the cliff top, brilliantly floodlit with figures of servicemen around the sides. Here the ship's Purser came on the loudspeakers telling the passengers the history of the landing in four languages commencing with English. The ship was Greek but the Purser gave the Australians top priority for their bravery and tenacity under impossible conditions and like me the Australians on board all felt very proud of our nationality. Even though Gallipoli was a defeat with enormous loss of Allied lives we all know that our A.I.F. wrote history and we came of age in this battle. Of course the Purser mentioned The British, French and New Zealand forces who fought here.

The fading light in which I saw this area would have been similar to that which our gallant A.I.F. would have seen as they stormed ashore on Anzac Day 1915.

I consider this trip to be one of the most wonderful experiences in my life being 63 years to the day since our forces were also on boats in these waters awaiting landing.

Anyone looking for a travel consultant see....

ALLAN McINNES

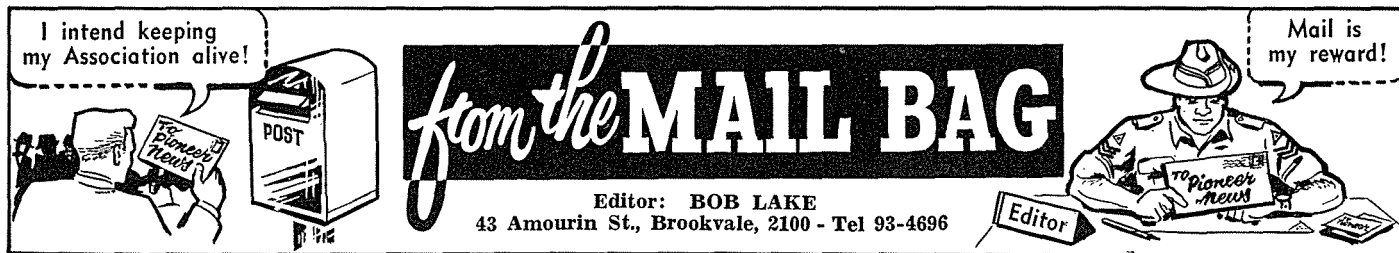
LAST POST

It is with regret that we announce the passing away of **William Fergie Jeffries**, 7th Platoon A Coy. 2/1.

"Speed" as he was respectfully known passed away at the Princess Alexandra Hospital, Brisbane, in early September.

The Associations deepest sympathy and condolences were forwarded to his widow & family.

— HARRY MONTAGUE



October issue and quite good response from the members. Many letters and lots of donations and subs to keep the flag flying which is all that we the committee ask for at any time.

• **GORDON WALSH** of Ryde sends along a newsy note with the information that he spent Anzac Day at Evans Head, a couple of sore feet, but nothing wrong with the elbows so was still capable of doing some damage. Spent some time with **Brian Jackson "Jacko"** who wields a mean stick at Snooker and had quite good entertainment. Also saw **Ted Vaughan**, had a beer or two, but missed **Joe Leis** who is not very well. Was told that **Joe** has to use a stick and he was always a live wire. **Vince** and **Tom Sleeman** are going along OK although **Tom** also has to resort to a stick for a little assistance. **Gordon** enclosed the usual subs for himself, **Vince Christianson** and **Nev Schaeffer** with the good wishes that it helps the cause. Many thanks for the letter **Gordon**, why don't you delegate **Vince** or **Nev** to do the honours sometime.

• **BOB GALES**, Toukley, sends a letter with the news of his recent trip to New Zealand with the Lidcombe R.S.L. The Bowlers made their visit a really memorable one, cars at the Motel each morning, a four day trip to Rotorua and then a weekend at the Bay of Islands; all really great trips and they were made so welcome where ever they visited. Some of these N.Z.'s are coming to Australia over the next Anzac period and **Bob** hopes to have a few attend our day. Also reports that he is off to Thursday Island for a few weeks, his niece and husband have the lease of the Federal Hotel and as they are not renewing same, is spending some time with them prior to their return to the mainland. **Bob** enclosed a page from the Lidcombe Sub-branch News, however, I am afraid our space will not let us print same, your letter covered the main interests for Pioneers.

• **NITA FERRIS** wife of the late **Leo Ferris** writes a very nice letter to the Sec. and wife, **Nita** was present at dinner with **Max** and **Peg**, **Jim Hall** and possibly others when the Kyogle Reunion came up for discussion and planning of same. **Nita** also encloses an article which will be published in reference to the Reunion next year 1979 at Kyogle. Funny things happen at Dinners and apparently the Kyogle one was no exception, seems that **Lil Hall** went around collecting bones after the meal, **Lil** claimed for her dogs, but **Nita** enquired as to whether **Max** and **Peg** may not have got them for breakfast.

Nita also speaks of her family, and their families, would imagine, I think, with your children, their husbands and their little ones, you would not have any time for moping around as the little ones certainly do keep ones mind occupied. It is pleasing to know that the family are all well both boys and girls well established in their chosen ways of life, and we are glad that you get some satisfaction from the News and the many names that have been mentioned over the years. All being well, a few more of those names

will become faces and personalities next year at that Reunion.

• **FRED BROOKS** at Taree has written what he calls a strong protest note about the gradual infiltration of Pioneers to the Manning District. Claims that for 30 years, he alone has enjoyed the peace and simplicity of the city of Taree. However while enjoying a nice drop of the amber fluid at the club, noticed a familiar face at the bar, none other than **Alex "Briberie" Boyd**, after several beers he informed **Fred** that he had sold his assets in the west and decided to retire in Taree. His reason for this decision was that the Taree 'Boob' was the most up to-date in the state, you get clean sheets and a pillow if you happen to stay overnight. **Alex** hasn't changed very much, now plays Bowls instead of football. To watch him bowl does not seem any different, he bowls, then chases the bloody thing half way down the green, swearing, and throwing that loose leg in the air, as **Brooksy** says "A typical **Alex Boyd** knock on". Strange things happen at Taree also, **Alex** went home from the club some time ago for a quiet sleep, on awakening he found his old shaggy white hair had turned to a beautiful brown, seems his daughter had a new hair rinse she wasn't quite sure of so tried it out on the old bloke. Made him look 10 years younger, but the cops are a bit worried, they think there might be 2 like him in town. **Fred** has only seen old Bow Legs **Wilby** once since he retired, doesn't get down Taree way since selling at Crowdy Head. The last time **Wilby** was in town, they adjourned to the Club, but the profit from the extra beer sales did not offset the cost of staff to clear away the wild pigs and the wheat from around the bar. **Charlie** had a good property at Crooble, as **Fred** says, "Everywhere you looked there was evidence of great wealth with the exception of a few cold cans. However they decided to duck into town for a few, 107 miles return, longest duck in that Brooksie ever attempted. Took **Fred's** car, he is hopping along about 60 on a dirt road when **Wilby** says with a bit of a frown, **Brooksie** I hate speed but if you don't jazz her up a bit we wont get many drinks today. **Fred** claims that every one in town knows **Wilby**, even the old gins used to smile and say morning **Charlie**.

Another Pioneer who has infringed on the district is **Doug Shearston**, **Doug** wanted a phone on and for special services a promise was made regards a feed of fish, apparently **Doug** is of the opinion that if **Roma** can go down the Golf Club and shoot a couple of Birdies, he thinks he should be able to hook flathead and bream at the Forster Bowling Club bar. Great letter **Fred** and one I am sure will bring a smile to a few faces when it is received in the near future.

• **ERIC "BOMBO" REYNOLDS** of Macksville and at time of writing enjoying a tour of the continent, left Sydney on 4th May to Singapore, Bahrain then London. **Joyce** and **Eric** had six days in London then a 28 day tour of Europe, Germany, Austria, Italy, Switzerland then Paris. No shortage of any description in the shops, the roads and tunnels separating the countries really were magnificent. Strolled along the Promenade

at Nice, took a look over the wall and "wow" topless girls, the further he walked the better they were, ("no doubt you kept walking"), sitting up, standing up and one at a table having a meal. On the last night in Paris they (a party of 13) went to the ?? lounges (sorry **Bombo** I cant make that name out) where there were more girls, and the old bloke had a box seat right at the end of the stage, a terrific view. From Paris they returned to London then a 2 week tour of England, Scotland and Wales and booked for home on the 15th July. Prior to his trip **Bombo** had a spell in Macksville Hospital, operation a success, and I'd say so was the trip. Very pleased to receive your letter and we hope that you and **Joyce** are able to settle down to the more placid way of things at Macksville.

• **COL SHEA** Victorian secretary of the 2/2 writes that they have had a unit tie struck and are very pleased with the result. The tie is of blue material with the colour patch woven into the material. **Col** has suggested that any 2/2 member up here in N.S.W. that may like one of these could obtain one by sending \$6.00 to 367 Geelong Road, West Footscray 3012, this is postage included. **Col** also informs us that the treasurer of 2/2 **Tom O'Brien** has passed away, happened toward the end of June. **Col** sends his best wishes to all of the Association with special mention to **Ivy Lawson**.

• **JIM McDONALD** at present staying at Tuncurry writes of his pleasure at receiving the paper and with so much mention of the D Coy boys, also the photo of **Ben Hall** (he would never have recognised him) otherwise, **Jim** had intentions of attending the Newcastle Reunion, however the white ants got in and he had to cancel. Pretty quiet at Tuncurry at the moment, no fish about through the day time, and after a few beers in the afternoon no way that he is going to try for them at night, while the cold weather is still with us. Intends to stay at Tuncurry for a year, then hopes to take a trip to Cooktown and on the way have another look at the Tablelands. Many thanks for your letter **Jim**, you should cross over the bridge to Forster sometime and look up our ex treasurer, I believe he can be found holding up the bar at the Bowling Club quite often.

• **VIN MOHONEY** of Geelong writes a letter of apology for not having been in contact with the Association and has suggested that we cancel his copy (as names so far away and so long ago does not do much for his memory). Well **Vin**, you can please yourself about this, however, I would suggest that after a couple of issues perhaps names would start to ring bells, so lets just send you a couple more and see how you go. **Vin** works as a steward at a Reception Centre and it was while serving drinks that he met one of our mob, they got talking and then discovered they had both been in the Pioneers although they did not know one another. It was through this chance meeting that the copies of the News were forwarded. For your information **Bob Fogarty** is still well hale and hearty, and no doubt items of interest such as this will help stir the memory.

MAIL BAG

• **JACK SPENCE** per pen of his wife **Muriel** sends a letter to keep us in touch, now that their regular mailman **Larry Robson** has retired. **Jack** still keeps well and has much to keep him occupied, his garden, and a 6½ year old grandson, who plays soccer. The coldest winter for many years at Wingham, so the open fire gets plenty of company. **Jack's** garden, with tomatoes up to 14 feet high is still his pride and joy, but as **Muriel** says "They sure take some covering up to keep the frosts away. I'd reckon at 14 ft high, they should be big enough to look after themselves. Many thanks for the letter **Muriel**, and I have suggested to **Larry** that he should do a trip periodically, after all you just can't stop when you have been calling in on people for some ten or twenty years, he did not really seem to appreciate the suggestion.

• **JACK STONE** of Earlwood sends a message with the passing of **Bill Fynn** and this quotation from that article will be published away from Mail Bag. Many thanks **Jack**, how did you recover after Newcastle, we all know that you blokes made it a long weekend.

• **JOHN TAYLOR** per pen of wife **Heather** sends a short note with a sub and the information that "John is definitely not a writer" but he keeps well, enjoys the Pioneer News, and has eight grandchildren — 4 boys, 4 girls, plus **Heather** so why wouldn't he. **John** expresses wishes for good luck and success for the future.

• **MRS BETTY CREASY** wife of the late **George** writes a letter to the secretary expressing her thanks for the great help of "Monty" prior to the death of **George** in June. Thanks also to the mates that attended the funeral at Rookwood, **Monty**, **Bluey Walsh**, **Dave Dixon**, who by the way comes from Portland, **George** and **Betty's** home town. **Betty** makes mention that she intends coming to Sydney for the Wreath Laying Ceremony next Anzac Eve, if you do make the trip **Betty**, we wish you to make the acquaintance of **Peg Herron** who will be standing at the Cenotaph with possibly quite a few ladies, and you are invited to join these wives and attend the little function they have together on this night. Many thanks for your letter and we wish you satisfaction in the future with your wish to keep things going at Portland.

• **COL JACKSON**, no message, a cheque to the treasurer per **Gordon Finlay**, not much news to be made out of that **Col**, however I suppose its better than nought, how about a little bit of effort **Col**, you can do it.

• **MRS DOROTHY COOPER** wife of the late **Norman "Nobby" Cooper** sends her sincere thanks to the association and to **Gordon Finlay** for his attendance at Balgownie on that sad day.

• **MRS MAY HICKEY** wife of the late **Jack Hickey** of Lithgow sends a change of address to 6 Clarise St., Lithgow and a cutting telling of the death of **Scott Mitchell** a Rat of Tobruk with the 2/13 and a most popular and respected man of the community.

• **BOB BURNSIDE** 2/1 reports that readers may be interested to hear that the 'Fearless Fishing Foursome', **Pat Noonan**, **Jack Stone**, **Laurie (Three Course) Kelly** and **Bob Burnside** decided to make a long week-end out of the Country Reunion at Newcastle last May. They made a leisurely trip, leaving Sydney on Friday and returning on Monday. **Noonan** at the wheel. On their way back they called in to see **Fred**

Continued next column

2/2 PIONEER JOTTINGS

• On a recent trip through the Riverina Area in S.W. of NSW I put up for the night at Hay, where I was made very welcome at Services Club, but did not contact any Pioneers. My next stop was Mildura, Vic. in the heart of the Sunraysia area where I set up camp for a week and had a good tour around the country.

• Driving around the district one day found myself at Red Cliffs and being a bit dry called into Red Cliffs Club. The Secretary's assistant asked me if I knew anyone in town and upon replying I knew **Eddie Morey** she went away and after making enquiries came back with the reply that **Eddie** was working at the Bowling Club. So in no time I was whisked over to see **Eddie** and we had quite a yarn.

• **EDDIE MOREY** passed on the news of the death of **Joe Keagan & Ivor Heuston** — both drivers in **Norm Curley's** platoon. The last time I saw these two was in early 1950 when **Joe** was driving a Yellow Cab and was working at Victoria Barracks.

Eddie, am I right in saying that **Len Moebus** and **Arthur Cregan** had also passed on.

• **ALAN MAAS** and the famous "AJAX" **NICHOLLS** are still going strong. Wonder if "Ajax" is still good with the "Old Soft Shoe". He would remember the incident concerning the doormat of a high class hotel in Bathurst in 1942. The heel and toe act was good to see, especially when **Joe Keagan** joined in. The applause was even heard at the other hotel down the road.

• **DAVE MITCHELL** (Believe it or not **Ripley**) has had many a drink with me at the pub at Irymple where my brother drinks — in fact **Dave** and I took a long time to realise we had been in the same unit.

• Returning from Mildura I called in at Forbes just as the drought broke so I pushed on home then left a few days after to join **Kath** and **Jim Field** at the Newcastle Reunion. I really enjoyed myself there and many thanks to the organisers. It fell on the broad shoulders of **Bob** and **Jean Dixon** to lead me back to Sydney — thus bringing to an end the details and news for the present of the 2/2 Pioneers.

— Reporter **REG ARMSTRONG**

Makin at Woy Woy and managed to drag **Fred** down to the local water hole, for a natter about days gone by. **Fred**, they report, is looking fine and still retains the sardonic sense of humour that made him the wit of the old 2/1 Sig. Platoon.

That just about winds up the Mail for this issue. I expect plenty of congratulations in the near future on the magnificent effort by **Manly Warringah** in taking the 1978 Competition, just keep them coming.

Good luck, good health and keep sober.

LAKEY

1979 COUNTRY REUNION AT KYOGLE

REUNION DINNER at the Kyogle Golf Club
on Saturday 22nd Sept. 1979

TOUR and BARBECUE in the Wiangaree
State Forest on Sunday 23rd Sept. 1979

FURTHER PARTICULARS in future issues of
Pioneer News — just make sure you make a
note of the date.

— **GORDON FINLAY**, Publicity Officer.

THE SERVICE PENSION

The Budget resulted in an increase of Service pension to \$53.20 per week for a single person and \$88.70 per week for a married couple.

The single person may have an extra weekly income of \$20 and the combined extra weekly income of both veteran and spouse is \$34.50.

Only one-half of any Disability Pension received is treated as income for the means test for Service Pension.

Fringe Benefits: Eligibility for fringe benefits will be lost where income (including the FULL amount of any Disability pension received) equals or exceeds \$57.50 per week for a married couple and \$33 per week for a single person.

An ex-serviceman who has served in a theatre of war and is permanently unemployable, because of war disabilities may obtain the service pension before the age of 60 years.

An ex-serviceman may obtain the Service Pension at the age of 60 years if he has served in a theatre of war by applying to the Dept of Veterans Affairs, Box 3994 G.P.O., Sydney, firstly for confirmation of the fact he did serve in a theatre of war. This confirmation could take up to four months. The letter should take the form as follows: "I served in the Wartime Forces as regimental number.....between (enlistment on).....and (discharge on).....I was born at.....on.....and married at.....on..... Would you please check my service records and advise me if my service includes service in a theatre of war please."

The letter will produce a reply in time to plan your pension application.

For a full summary of rates of pensions, allowances and benefits, write to the Dept of Veterans Affairs, Box 3994 G.P.O., Sydney.

EPITAPH TO BILL FYNN

• **JACK STONE** 2/1 of Earlwood wrote and enclosed an article from their Club newsletter on our member **Bill Fynn** who passed away recently.

It is an excellent epitaph to any member and although we have not the space to include the whole article we will quote the following:-

"The recent passing of **Bill Fynn** has left a space in our Club ranks, and in our hearts, which will never be filled.

Bill was a really lovable figure — a great mate, with the same share of faults we all have, yet with a boundless zest for life that made every day a wonderful, happy event, with every minute to be savoured to the utmost.

Who ever coined the phrase "A Perfect Gentleman" obviously had someone like **Bill Fynn** in mind, and his kindness and consideration, the ever-present twinkle in his eye, and all-round sense of good fun made him a wonderful friend and companion to so many of us in the Club.

He served with the 2/1st Pioneer Battalion in the Middle East during World War II — a unit which saw plenty of action — and the inimitable, never-say-die spirit of the "Rats of Tobruk" can well be understood with men of the calibre of **Bill Fynn** among their ranks. Bearing in mind that **Bill** was in his late 30's at the time of his enlistment, one wonders just what good tale "Finners" must have spun to be accepted.

LAST POST

IAN KIRKWOOD 2/1 passed away in Sept. and the funeral was attended by **Harry Montague** and **Jack Kerslake**. **Ian** had recently retired from the Lottery Office at Wollongong. Deepest sympathy was extended to **Ian's** brother and family.

PIONEER NEWS

Phone: 759-5491

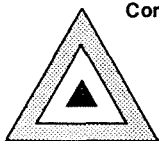
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Correspondence: MAX HERRON Hon. Sec., 2/1-2/2 Pioneer Bn. Assoc., 3 Enoggera Road, Beverly Hills 2209



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VIC WHITELEY

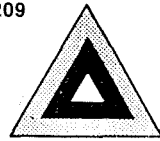
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QUEENSLAND REUNION OCTOBER 1978

Firstly let me say hearty congratulations and thanks to John & Mollie Hunt for the tremendous effort both in time spent organising this event and the enjoyable evening we all had in their home.

I know many more would have attended had it not been for the NSW Rail Strike and many apologies were received mostly at the last moment because of this. They are as follows:- Ted & Mrs Skoyles — Mittagong, Harry Montague, Pat & Mary Noonan, Tom Manuel, Jack Marshall, Don Boyd, Daisy McKewen (think Daisy hasn't been the best lately), Ted Stratford, Rube & Mrs Wade, Charlie Kerr and Mick & Mrs Rielly, the latter away south on holidays. I know Ted Skoyles & Monty were really disappointed as they thoroughly enjoy their reunions and meeting old friends of yesteryear.

However back to the arrival in Brisbane of the four adventurers from Newcastle & what happened.

After settling into our accommodation at the Royal George Hotel, our two amber liquid experts (Dick Seddon & Jock Russell) plus Jack (one glass) Bertram and yours truly (no glass) proceeded to the bar for refreshments where NSW KB cans only available at 80¢ can. Following lunch we decided to find a relative of Jock Russell's. Brisbane to those who haven't been there since 1945 is a completely changed city as regards motorways. It's quite easy to go up ONE WAY streets (the wrong way) and not know it. All the signs are in the country. Talk about a non drinker being caught. The 4 of us decided we'd have a stroll in the city. As 2 of us were feeling a little dry spotted a bar and went in. 3 cans of KB and a Claytons Tonic (wait for it) 30 cents change out of \$5.00.

Friday night we spent a very enjoyable few hours with the Hunt's who were later joined by their son and daughter-in-law and over a couple or more bottles of the amber Jocky Russell entertained all with some of his escapades of 39-45 yrs. I'll bet the Hunt Juniors wondered how we ever won the war.

Saturday we 4 decided to sightsee so went for a run to Caboolture. How it has changed. The old pub like so many other places these days has had a face lift, the few old shops that were there replaced by modern buildings. By the way, the cans were much cheaper than in Brisbane.

Then back to the reunion. On arrival at the Hunt's we saw displayed from the balcony the 2/1-2/2 Pioneer Assoc. sign and entering found quite a number getting into the swing of things. The following members & visitors were present. Fred & Nell Davenport plus daughter Kay and it was great to see the young fellow (Fred) back on his feet again and enjoying himself. Phil & Mary Cramsie still looking as young as ever, Mac & Lettie McKibbin — Mac ex RAP 2/1 who is now a resident in the Far North Coast area, Pat & Nell Laughren from Nambour, Toby Palin with his

neck in a brace (tried to stop a runaway rail truck — so he said). Who do you think you are sport "Hercules"? Hope the neck is OK again by this Toby. George Brookes & Bill Simpson who spent the night with Jock Russell trying to remember things of the past and incidents which happened 30 years ago. The only 2/2 was Herb Beasley who brought along some friends, Clare Sang, Joyce Gow & an ex 72 Dental Unit member Les Blake. Les enjoyed himself as it's the first time he's been to any reunion of ex-servicemen as his mob were from another State. Arthur Luddington & cousin Olive Lovegrove, Norm & Ann Goodchap & I know I'm going to get the payoff because he's last but that quiet little fellow Ray Blanch with his good lady Mavis. Blanche certainly enjoys himself and makes sure everyone else does. Every now and then brings up some incident that happened during those years and the fun starts all over again. During all this John & Mollie kept supplying food and drink. What a tremendous couple.

As like all things it must come to an end. However before parting Phil Cramsie moved a vote of thanks and appreciation to John & Mollie and seconded by Jack Bertram for a wonderful show. We from Newcastle sincerely hope to make it again next year as do all those who were present. How about it you members from the far North Coast stretching a point and making it next year.

As Max wishes to get this into an early edition for 1979 I leave our trip up and back to Q'land and those we were able to see until next bulletin.

Once again many thanks to John & Mollie Hunt for a wonderful time from all those who attended.

LARRY ROBSON 2/1 Reporter.

HOSPITAL AND FUNERAL COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN:

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

NORTHERN SUBURBS

ALLAN McINNES, 11/47 Milson Rd., Cremorne Pt. Ph. 90-2069

JACK PEARCE, 22 Surfers Pde., Harbord. Ph. 939-1974

EASTERN SUBURBS

HARRY ELLIS, 3/6 Notts Ave., Bondi.

BILL ROBERTSON, 5 Barry St., Randwick. Ph. 665-2586

JIM GRAY, 63 Fletcher St., Bondi

ILLAWARRA SUBURBS

GEORGE WOOD, 97 Russell Ave., Dolls Pt. 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 Nth Liverpool Rd., Mt. Pritchard.

Ph. 602-8483

BOB LEE, 103 Links Ave., Concord. Ph. 73-1965

PAT WALSH, 136 Rawson Rd., Greenacre.

Note: Would next of kin please contact above member nearest to persons domicile — otherwise contact the Chairman.

WELFARE OFFICER:

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

March, June and October editions of our "NEWS" cost for printing and postage \$1236.50 — a costly item in dollars and cents, but invaluable in reading, communication and comradeship.

This amount is not for the entire twelve months span covering four editions — still one edition to be added resulting in a yearly expenditure in excess of \$1600.

I appeal to all members to support our valued "NEWS" and am fearful otherwise of the ultimate result if contributions are not kept up. Costs are rising and as more of our members are becoming pensioners the effort will have to be a maximum one by all.

Help to keep Bob Lake and secretary Max Herron busy with your personal communications. "Lakey" thrives on work ... Pioneer News work anyhow ... so drop a note and send a donation if you have been lagging.

Some Unit Badges are still for sale, the cost of the badge is \$1.00 with added 'faloosh' for postage.

SECRETARY'S REQUEST

Please address mail to Secretary as follows:

M. HERRON Hon Sec
2/1-2/2 PIONEER BN ASSOC
3 ENOGGERA ROAD
BEVERLY HILLS, NSW 2209

This will assist in separating Pioneer mail from his personal mail.

2/1-2/2 PIONEER BATTALIONS ASSOC.
will hold a

COUNTRY REUNION

for all Pioneers and their Ladies

at KYOGLE

on Saturday 22nd Sept. and
Sunday 23rd Sept., 1979

With the co-operation of the Kyogle Reunion Committee members Bill Hoffman, Jim Hall, Fred Blanch, Toby Hale, Jack Sherman and Alec George, the Social Committee are pleased to announce the following details:-

ACCOMMODATION at the Commercial Hotel and the Exchange Hotel, Kyogle.

REUNION DINNER at the Kyogle Golf Club on Saturday 22nd Sept. at 5.30 p.m.

TOUR AND BARBECUE LUNCH on Sunday 23rd Sept. departing at 9.30 a.m. Tour will be a round trip to Wangaree State Forest with a barbecue lunch en route.

COSTS will be supplied in the March issue of the Pioneer News.

— GORDON FINLAY, Publicity Officer.

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE 2/1 PIONEER BATTALION

To be presented in parts by H. Montague

Part 1 March 1978 dealt with the unit being formed at Greta, June 1940, final leave 1940 and embarkation Sept. 1940.

Part 2 dealt with arrival at Dubbo 1940.

Part 3 dealt with Boarding the Johann De Witt Oct. 1940 and Part 4 dealt with the Nursing staff on board the Johann De Witt.

PART 5 — DEPARTURE FROM AUSTRALIA

On leaving Sydney on Monday 30th September, 1940 we had the cruiser HMAS Perth as escort and as the Johann De Witt ran, into rough seas many of us who had not been afloat before certainly felt its effects.

At midday on Wednesday 2nd October we met up with the H.M.T. "New Zealand" which had sailed from Melbourne with a full complement of troops including our "D" Company. Greetings were sent across from our lines to the "New Zealand". After a more smoother voyage across the Great Australian Bight land was heralded on Monday 7th October which turned out to be Fremantle.

With our sister ship we tied up at the main wharf alongside the "Mauretania". Leave was granted for a few hours for those who could be spared and it was really nice to get ones feet on ground again. A great welcome was extended to all troops by the townspeople.

Next day a full parade of the whole ships complement of military personnel was held and after this, with the New Zealand we continued our voyage to the Middle East. We were again

escorted by the Perth until relieved by the H.M.A.S. "Canberra".

On leaving us the Perth's band played "Roll out the Barrel" whilst our troops manned the ships side and cheered the navy fellows for the wonderful job they had done in escorting us across that vast ocean. In reply the Pioneers Band played "Advance Australia Fair" and the traditional "Hearts of Oak" as a tribute to them.

Our convoy after a very smooth voyage entered Colombo harbour early on Wednesday 18th October and once the usual formalities were dispensed with and we were paid in rupees, leave personnel were taken ashore.

Here we were formed up and marched through the city to the British Army Headquarters at Grail Barracks where we were greatly welcomed. On arrival here we were lectured by an officer on the conditions of the town and the recreation facilities that had been arranged for us, such as tours and sightseeing of the city.

On Thursday 21st October our convoy departed from this famous port and after farewelling the H.M.A.S. Canberra with all troops lining the decks, we were joined by the H.M.S. Caledon.

Later on our two ships joined up with about eight other vessels and five escort vessels including the H.M.A.S. Parramatta. As we were in the extreme danger area all hands were ordered to remain on deck fully fitted out with lifebelts and water bottles full.

Every available watch was kept for the hostile aircraft which was expected, but thankfully did not eventuate.

To be continued.

RATS OF TOBRUK BRANCH FORMED AT LISMORE

Recently, the Executive of the N.S.W. State Branch of the Rats of Tobruk Association including myself, travelled to Lismore R.S.L. Club to meet servicemen who served in Tobruk with the view to open the Northern Rivers Sub-Branch of the Rats of Tobruk Association.

Forty three members turned up for the inaugural meeting among them eleven 2/1 Pioneer Battalion members. This is the main reason of writing to inform you of the names of those members;

Bill Hood 2/1-2/2, Lismore, became the foundation Secretary; Ron (Bluey) Cross, Ballina, Committee; Joe Leis, Casino; Jim Hall, Kyogle; Viv (Curly) Hooper, Tenterfield; Joe F. Blanch, Baudestert, Qld.; L.F. (Toby) Hale, Kyogle; A.J. (Jack) Richards, Lennox Heads; Fred Blanch, Kyogle; Peter (Dick) Seddon, Newcastle Sub-Branch Treasurer; Jack (Mick) Dodson, Sydney.

Bill Hood sent a brief report on 2/1-2/2 members;

Phil Barnett 2/2 — now retired, on deck again after a hip operation.

Terry McGuire 2/1 — not seen very often, for as a champion bowler spends a lot of time on the bowling green.

Ken Wilson 2/2 — President of the Workers Club Bowling Group, sends his regards.

Peter Bell 2/1 — not a well man these days, but is always available to yarn with over old times.

"Butcher" Butcher — playing bowls and looking forward to retiring in the very near future.

After the meeting all adjourned to the dining room — many had not met for a great number of years — names were easily known but appearances had changed with the times. This did not deter all from chatting over the early days and when some names and places were

mentioned, one had to stop and think as memories are not as good as in the early days. At one stage of the yarning and stories, the R.S.L. executive were worried that damage might be done to the Club. The bullets and shells that passed over head were the least of their worry, but the dud shells and bombs were the trouble, as the club bomb disposal crew were away. However it was indeed a pleasure to see so many old faces again.

Alec George came in later to join in a yarn over a few beers. He had been attending a district R.S.L. meeting as the representative from his own club, South Lismore R.S.L. Naturally Anzac Day came up and Alec informed me he will be in Sydney next Anzac Day.

Gentlemen, no doubt most of you know from the Pioneer News of the Kyogle Reunion 22nd September, 1979. Over discussions with the 2/1-2/2 members at Lismore all have indicated they will be attending the Reunion. This will be an opportunity for you to meet those members mentioned, plus others so start now to arrange parties to journey to Kyogle on 22nd September, 1979.

— JACK (MICK) DODSON, President.

NEWS ITEMS

DON LINTON 2/2 is on the staff at the Lady Davidson Home at Turramurra and we do thank him for his assistance to Tom Hugo who is a patient. As I have no private transport it is quite a long journey by bus, and Don certainly does a great job in attending to the needs of Tom and saving me the trip.

BOB BALDWIN 2/1 HQ orderly room is a patient at Concord Hospital and received a shock when I called on him during my rounds. Having not seen him for years we did have a good old chin wag.

NEWS ITEMS

NURSING SISTERS of the Medical Section who sailed with the Johann De Witt have now been located and are receiving the Pioneer News.

Invitations will be forwarded to them seeking the pleasure of their company at the Wreath Laying Ceremony, the Annual Reunion and the Kyogle Reunion.

These ladies have sent their best wishes to all members of the Association.

MRS JEAN CLAUGHTON, widow of Padre Stan of the 2/2 nd was forwarded a Xmas card from the Association and in return she expressed her thanks for such a kind gesture. She stated how pleased she was to continue receiving the Pioneer News as it was as interesting as ever.

Jean wishes all members the best for 1979 and sends her regards to all Stan's friends.

GORDON FINLAY our popular publicity officer has had two trips to Concord Hospital recently and we do hope he is fully recovered by now. While there he met up with Bob Lee 2/2 so you can imagine the chatter that went on between two Pioneers.

REGULAR VISITS are still being made to Bill MacArthur who is a patient at the Gladesville Psychiatric Hospital, Ward 13 and to Tom Hugo, 58 Sherwood Rd., Revesby, phone 771-2136 and both have sent best wishes to all members.

If anyone happens to be in the vicinity of the above address a call would be much appreciated.

JACK FERGUSON M.L.A. Minister of Works and Deputy Premier NSW son of Jock Ferguson, late RSM 2/1, was at a function I attended recently and on making myself known to him we had a great chat about Jock.

During the discussion I mentioned our Anzac Reunion and stated he would be made very welcome. Jack informed me that as a returned man he attended his unit's Reunion but if possible he would come along to our Reunion.

HECTOR PAGE 2/2 is in a Ryde Nursing Home and would appreciate visits from his mates. He was a great mate of Max Law so I feel sure Max will be a visitor when he learns Hec is in hospital.

WAL ASHTON C Coy 2/1 passed away recently and his funeral was attended by Alma and Len O'Conner and Doug Turner and his wife. We do express our sincere sympathy to Mrs Ashton and her family in their bereavement. Many thanks to Len for notifying us and in representing the Association at the funeral.

REPATRIATION SERVICES PENSION ACT

This particular Parliamentary Law was introduced and became effective during 1935 by the then Prime Minister Mr Joe Lyons, UAP Government and was, "that a service pension is an income tested social welfare type payment, the same as to the Department of Social Security Age and Invalid Pensions".

It is payable to an eligible veteran who is permanently unemployable, or who has attained 60 years of age if a male or 55 years if a female, to cover the indefinite and intangible effects of war service which could cause premature aging and the loss of capacity to earn a living. The eligibility conditions under which a female veteran may be granted a service pension are more lenient than those which apply to a male veteran.

To emphasize this, a male veteran must have served in a theatre of War before eligibility for the grant of a service pension may be conceded, whereas a female veteran may be entitled if she served abroad, and not necessarily in a theatre of War, or embarked for service abroad.

— HARRY MONTAGUE, Welfare Officer.



Another issue last for 1978 and we hope that 1979 remains as good to the Pioneers as the previous years.

• **DICK SEDDON**, Newcastle sends a letter to **Mick Dodson** with news for **Rota** but also of interest to us. **Ted Simpson** has been in hospital for a stomach operation and has recovered reasonably well. **Jack McCracken** has also been in for tests and observation. Out and around again **Dick** met him for a couple of beers and a "Red Mill" at Stockton R.S.L. **Tommy Mutton** also wrote to **Dick** still enjoying life and looking forward to the Kyogle reunion. **Dick** together with **Jack Bertram**, **Jock Russell** and **Larry Robson** called at Kyogle on the way home from John Hunts party at Brisbane. **Jim Hall** is very busy working on same, has already been in contact with the Golf Club where the main events are to take place so don't forget "keep this date open on all your calenders".

• As all troops who sailed on the **Johanne De Witt** would remember, there was a party of Nursing Sisters also on that ship, well our **Monty** has been at work and has contacted three of these ladies. They apparently are still all occupied with hospitals. **Sister Vera Hamilton** 2/CCS Blakehurst, **Sister Sue Malcolm** 2/5 A.G.H. now of Coffs Harbour and **Sister Mabel Skerman** 2/5 A.G.H. now of Toowoomba Q'land. **Monty** has been in contact with these ladies and has offered invitations to them to attend the Kyogle Reunion, of which **Sister Hamilton** so far has accepted. **Monty** has also had these ladies added to the Mailing List and all enjoy reading our little sheet. Many thanks for your letters Sisters and looking forward to seeing you all in the near future.

• **ALBY BARTON** Yagoona sends a Xmas good wish, a cheque to the treasurer and quotes that it has been a very full year for our old Stalwart. First, he got tired of working with the Navy and retired on the Service Pension in July, then after 30 years, repat finally agreed to operate on his leg so he is in plaster for eight weeks. During his stay in Concord **Alby** met **Jack Shepherd** and he passes on his best wishes to all who remember him. **Alby** closes with best wishes from **Gwen**, **Rob**, **Steve** and self to all the members.

• **DAVID KING (Scotty)** of Frenchs Forest sends a sub to the treasurer and an apology for non attendance at the reunion. However **Scotty** did make the march and claims he did not know it was so far or that he was so out of condition and by the time he completed the walk he had had it, but he hopes to do better next year. Many thanks for the letter **David**, and looking forward to better conditioning in 1979.

• **WAL & LAL PAGE** "Desso" sends a letter with the following information. After 5½ years of caravanning around Australia (they have done the lot), they have decided to settle down and have chosen the rural area of the Tweed River District. They have purchased an old house to keep themselves busy at doing the place up to what they want. The town of Cudgen is seven miles from Tweed Heads and three miles from Kingscliffe beach, rural area, so less houses, and no high rise, the climate is just right all the

year round. A further advantage is a brother of **Wals** not far away and his son at Bilambil Heights so all in all, I would think that **Desso** and **Lal** have decided on there "Goldmine in the sky" for a while anyway, and we wish them both every good thing that life can offer to two very fine and wonderful people.

• **RON CROSS (Bluey)** sends a cheque to the treasurer, his address for the mailing list at Ballina, and the short news that **Sid Sweeney** is an inmate of the Queen Victoria Memorial Hospital Repat Sect., Picton. Not much news for the troops in your letter **Bluey** but many thanks for the info on **Sid**.

• Subscriptions to the Association have been received by the Secretary with no information for news. The troops mentioned are **Col Jackson**, Canley Vale, **Jack McCracken**, Stockton, **Rowley Javes**, Dundas and **Alec Cameron**, Maclean. Many thanks chaps for the subs, but how about a little news as well.

• **BOB TAYLOR** of Jamberoo sends a sub to the treas, and the news that things have been a bit rough for him this year — 3 weeks in Port Kembla hospital for an operation and about 5 weeks in Convalescence, however he thinks life is going to be worth going on with now. **Bob** also asks could we tell him how many of the old Greta Silver City mob are still on deck. I am afraid we don't keep those sort of records **Bob**, but the three names you mention, **Bob Fogarty**, **Jack Hutchison**, **Tommy Fowler** and three course **Kelly** are all hale and hearty.

• **CLARRIE PAKES** of Marrickville sends his cheque to the treasurer and good wishes to all of the Association for a good Xmas and a bigger and brighter New Year than the last one. Many thanks for the note **Clarrie**, and the wishes are reciprocal.

• **MRS IDA HORDER** wife of the late **Vic** sends her best wishes to the Association for the festive season and as usual, her donation to the Association, which we appreciate so very much, and our good wishes to yourself.

• **COLIN** and **RON KIRKWOOD** brothers of the late **Ian Kirkwood** send a reply card thanking both **Monty** and **Jack Kerslake** for their attendance at his funeral and of the brief reciting of the "Obe" to their late brother was very favourably commented upon by other personnel attending.

• **HORRIE SAUNDERS** of Queensland sends a cheque to the treasurer and how pleased he is to be receiving the News, looks forward to reading of the old boys and likes so much to read about the doings of the old 10 Platoon. Hopes to see all the blokes again at Coffs Harbour.

• **NORM GOODCHAP** sends a cheque to the treasurer as a token of the memory of his happy days from the 28 May, 1940. His appreciation, and wife **Anne's**, of the receipt of the News and the doings of all the old blokes. **Norm** also had a very happy time at **John** and **Mollie Hunt's** reunion with such a big gathering of the old regulars. Many thanks for your letter **Norm** and long may they continue, maybe we will see you both at Kyogle.

• **CURLY BENTLEY** Ashfield sends a letter of apology for his late return, however **Curly** has always been a good worker for the mob but now has trouble with his knees. **Curly** enclosed a cheque for the treasurer and how he looks forward to receiving the News, also sends his regards to all the gang with good wishes for the New Year.

• **JIM DARRAGH** South Melbourne per pen of wife **Norma** sends a cheque for a few bob to help with the postage. **Norma** reads the News as well and finds out that quite a lot of the wives do the writing for the men folk, thinks perhaps that our men folk are too lazy, or perhaps spoilt would be a better word. Also sends the address of **Bob Austin** of St Kilda Road, this address has been added. **Bob** and **Jim** have been great mates since their D Coy days, was **Jim's** best man at their wedding, and now classes himself as a wearing out old cop (one of the good ones?), getting long in the tooth, moans about his sciatica, change of life, his inability to pinch the girls bottoms, and as **Jim** says his feet are that flat you could land a Liberator on them. Apart from all that he is pretty well and they still enjoy a glass of ale together. Good letter **Norma**, one that should bring a smile to all that read it, even if only from memories.

• **BILL PROSSER** per pen of wife **Mary** from Campbelltown writes a cheery note wishing all the best wishes for the Festive Season and the news that **Bill** although not always feeling the best is still able to carry on. He still has his garden, still makes his home brew. **Mary** quotes that the garage somewhat resembles an "Old Bills Brew Shop". Second son **Phillip** has just passed his Chiefs exam in the Navy and as he went in as an A.B. they are both very proud. Youngest daughter **Christine** has also passed her exams and is a nursing sister at St Vincents Hospital. Together they have five grandchildren which sounds a good round figure. They are both off to Shoal Bay in February for a holiday, so while there, enquire at the public bar for one **Bluey Anderson** ex Pioneer, who may just put you onto the right fishing spot. Many thanks for your letter **Mary**, and cheque in good hands of treas.

• **CLARRIE PIKE** son of our old original of the same name and a chap that has attended quite a few of our turnouts at different times has sent a cheque to the treasurer with the quotation "A small donation to the Association". Many thanks young **Clarrie**, I suppose you still chew those cigars, or have you joined the "knocked em off brigade".

• **MONTY REID** Cessnock sends a cheque to the treasurer and tells how he enjoys so much receiving the news, although sometimes almost scared to turn the page to the Last Post. **Monty** is just one more of the members who complain of the commentators of the Anzac March he watched on TV last year and quotes "Edward Aitken wrote a book of the unit and the best they can come up with is 2/2 Pioneers last of the 7 Div Corp troops. We all agree with you **Monty**, but we do all we can, a full and comprehensive statement of both units history is forwarded to R.S.L. headquarters every year and this is

MAIL BAG

supposedly distributed to all Radio and TV Stations, so what happens when they receive same is anybody's guess. Many thanks for your letter and good wishes, keep up the good work and look after Cessnock.

• **ERIC REYNOLDS** ex world traveller and now back at Macksville. Thanks **Max** and **Gordon Finlay** for calling at his home in June, he was so pleased that they had seen the new home. Actually while **Max** and **Gordon** were at the homestead, **Eric** and **Joyce** had just arrived back in England from Europe and were then off for a two week tour of England and Scotland. They enjoyed the tour immensely then back to London prior to the trip home. First port of call on the Jumbo was Bombay 8½ hours thru Perth 8.40 minutes, this part of the journey was pretty rough, seat belts on all the way, then Melbourne Sydney, to Maitland where they picked up their car from daughter and so home to Macksville. He enjoyed a few good old Aussie beers when he got home, the beer in England was not the best, and the pubs close for so long in the afternoon so the poor old tourist is of the forgotten people. **Eric** arrived home with his Cuckoo clock as he says it was called quite a few names from the time of purchase until it took its place in the lounge room at Macksville, but it really looks the goods now, and all the way from Munich. **Eric** enjoyed his copies of the News when he arrived home and was pleased to read that his old mate **Shaggy Craig** won the beer raffle on Anzac Day. Many thanks for a great letter **Bombo** and we are pleased that both you and **Joyce** had such a wonderful trip.

• **JACK O'NEILL** of Bankstown sends a cheque to the treasurer and the sad news that his wife had passed away on the 5th Oct. As **Jack** said it's possibly the first time for years that he opened the paper himself, as she had always had first read in the past. **Jack's** brother **Bert** was a member of the 2/1 with **Jock Gillespie** while **Jack** was a member of Don Coy with the 2/2. In the past it has been a problem for **Jack** to attend any of the functions but with a bit of luck, he has hopes of being able to remedy this in the near future. **Jack** closes off with best regards to all and signs it **Hay Seed**, that has got to mean something to you 2/2 blokes.

• **DAISY MCKEWEN** 2/2 Kedron Qld., wife of **Doug** (deceased) writes to send Seasons Greetings to the Committee and all members and may 1979 be a good year for all. Xmas is a sad time for **Daisy** as **Doug** passed away on Boxing Day six years ago. She has not been well of late and has had to forego her game of bowls but is hopeful 1979 will be a better year for her. **Daisy** is very proud of her daughter, son-in-law and granddaughter **Tracie** who will be 8 years old in January. (It is a strange thing but we all seem to go very clucky over our grandchildren — you should see all the grandparents at the Pioneer News wrapping night comparing their latest photos of their grandchildren.) Sorry **Daisy** about rambling on but your letter touched me deeply — Ed. Thank you very much for your letter **Daisy** and also for the generous donation to the Pioneer News. We all wish you the very best of health and happiness.

That's the Mail Bag for this issue so it's a very big Happy New Year to all with a little special mention to **Sid & Myrtle Jopson** and **Fred & Jean Wheaton**, who both **Joan** and I missed on our last holidays.

Good health.

LAKEY

UNOFFICIAL HISTORY OF THE 5TH A.I.F. PIONEER COY. 2ND A.I.F.

• This was the official name of this unit bestowed upon it by the powers that be at Victoria Barracks, Melbourne. I could never understand the need for the letters A.I.F. in the name but, who am I, a mere footslogger that I should have the nerve to question decisions of the top brass. The boys who comprised this unit had their own names such as The Forgotten Fifth, The Filthy Fifth, etc., etc.

• The allotments to the unit allowed for one vehicle and, after a lot of talk and persuasion, B.O.D. Transport Section, Seymour, finally came good with a Ute and very good use was made of it while we had it. By the way, I don't recall returning it to B.O.D. when cleaning up after unit was disbanded. Wonder where it got to? Would not be surprised to learn that some enterprising soul had "flogged" it to some of the local squatocracy.

• Talking of that Ute reminds me that when we acquired it, I was given the job of getting all the paper work, so beloved of beaurocracy. In order: Work orders, Daily running sheet, Log, book, Petrol requisitions, etc., and when I had completed same Lt J. Richards (remember "Fat Jack") appointed himself O.C. Transport. He appointed a certain young hopeful surname Preston, as the driver and I was given charge of No.1 Platoon. I am not naming which of the Preston Brothers was driver, they can argue that out themselves.

• We had with us a chap Jack Gibbs whose father was a poultry farmer, and the mere mention of egg powder to "Gibbsie" was like "waving a red rag at a bull", especially when we had been on a steady diet of bully beef, biscuits (Army type — dog) and egg powder for several weeks, and that leads up to another story.

• Some of the boys tired of the bull & beef—Egg powder diet commandeered the Ute and went on a foraging expedition into the East Murchison-Nagambie country. They arrived back late at night with a truckload of live meat which was promptly slaughtered, skinned, cleaned and in the cooking pots in double quick time and was a very welcome change in diet. This was in the days before Myxomatosis and the dreaded 1080. But I am not committing myself when I say the load was not entirely "underground mutton" as there happened to be a few turkeys and ducks in this country as well as sheep and cattle. The load comprised a variety.

• We had with us, at this time, a chap named "Splinter" Lowrie who came over to the 2/2 Pioneers and was allocated to "C" Coy. When we were holding a position near Shaggy Ridge, an artillery O.P. warned us that a Jap patrol was headed our way so the "Coy" promptly set up a welcoming party. As the Japs approached one of our Bren Gunners became somewhat excited when he got them in his sight and let off a short burst of shots. The Japs apparently didn't appreciate this kind of welcome so promptly "about turned" and high tailed for home. In their hurry one of them dropped his sword and "Splinter" Lowrie, being smart on his feet, was out of his fox hole, swiped up the sword and was back in his fox hole before the sound of the shots had finished echoing around the hills.

• Keith Faure and "Ginger" Gay were a couple of the boys who made the transfer to the 2/2 Pnrs. While in the 5th they were paired off into the same platoon and became fairly close mates but got split up in the 2/2 Pnrs. Keith, I think, was in H.Q. Coy whilst Ginger was in C Coy. While still dug in to hold the perimeter position mentioned in the previous paragraph, Ginger and

some of the boys were detailed under Lieut White to patrol forward and try to find out if any Japs were in the area.

Sure enough they found out. When rounding a bend in the track they ran slap bang into a Jap ambush. In the hurry to get out of trouble Lieut White lost his hat and stopped to pick it up and that was the last ever seen of him (refer "History of 2/2 Pioneer Battalion" by E.A. Aitken). It seems a strange coincidence that, while C Coy was hanging on to this perimeter position, both occasions, when contact was made with the enemy, involved boys from the 5th Pioneers. I met Keith one day in 1947 in Middle Park, Vic., we had a yarn for a while but he had not seen "Ginger" for some time. I have not seen either of them since.

• A couple of triers from South Merbein, McLean Brothers, made me smile one day. I was making out 7 day leave passes and these two, to try and get extra leave, put over a sad story about the train arriving at Mildura in the morning, which was true. They would have to waste the day in the town before they could catch the bus that would take them home. They would then have to catch an early bus on their return thus spending another day of their precious leave waiting for the train. What these young innocents did not know was the fact that I had some years previously gone to the San Mateo Ave., Mildura, State School with the lad who was destined to become the founder and owner of the Mildura District Pioneer bus service. So I was able to explain the bus timetable to them. Others who tried the same story was a lad named "Bluey" Hansen from Timboon with the tale that he would have to catch a bus from Camperdown. Not realising that I was aware of the fact that a train stopped at Timboon Rly Stn, as that was the end of the line. As I was not footing the bill for their fares or pay and, on the principle that "it was worth a try", I tacked a couple of extra days on to the passes. "Bluey" came across with us to the 2/2 Pioneers and was, if memory serves me rightly, in the Mortar Platoon. the McLean Brothers were transferred to a Signal Corps and I met them once when we first landed at Tsili-Tsili, N.G., and then, a few years after the War, in Mildura, V. about 1948.

• Another person whom I have never seen or heard of since those days is Capt. McQueen, Coy C.O. He was a very mild mannered man who was quite contented to leave the running of the unit to a couple of officers and N.C.O.s and was very happy if nobody worried him. I have often wondered if any of you meet up with him.

• Whilst waiting at railway gates at Moorabbin Station, Vic. to open after a train had passed through a "gentle tap" on my shoulder caused me to turn and face Tom Indian. Tom came across to the 2/2 Pioneers with a lot more of us. At the time of meeting him at the railway gates Tom was manager of the Moorabbin Branch of the C.B.C., this happened in 1954.

• Mention has been made on several occasions in these yarns about the 5th Pioneers of reference to "The History of 2/2 Pioneer Btn" by E.A. Aitken. So, not possessing a copy of this book, my thanks go to Lionel Fullarton, president, Orbost District R.S.L. (Vic) for the loan of his copy. Lionel was not in the 5th Pioneers but was in "HQ" Coy 2/2 Pioneers.

REG ARMSTRONG, 2/2 Reporter.

NEWS ITEMS

ROLL OF HONOUR at the Aust. War Memorial, Canberra contains the names of 81 members of the 2/1 st Pioneers.

It includes those personnel whose death before 30th June 1947 were attributed to the cause of war.