

PIONEER NEWS

Phone: 759-5491

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

Phone: 759-5491

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

Registered for post as a Periodical — Category A.

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

Wholly set-up and printed in Sydney by Vaughan Douglas Printers, 2 Dale Street, Brookvale.



Treasurer:
VIC WHITELEY

Editors:
R. LAKE & M. HERRON

President:
J. (Mick) DODSON

Vol. 25 No. 1

MARCH, 1980

\$2 Per Annum



COUNTRY REUNION at DUBBO

On Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st September, the Western N.S.W. City of Dubbo is the Venue for the 1980 country Reunion, the area of the camp site where most of the 2/1 Pioneer Battalion and later the reformed 2/2 Pioneer Battalion plus reinforcements had their initial training.

Not only will this Reunion be one of renewing old friendships, but one of remembering how the people of Dubbo welcomed the Battalions to their town. For the 2/1 Pioneer Battalion members it will be one of remembering August, 1940. How proud were they as they marched through the streets led by their own band to be welcomed by the Mayor and citizens of Dubbo. Then in September, 1940, almost to the date of this Reunion they left Dubbo by train to board the ships for the Middle East. Reinforcements continued to occupy the same site in the camp.

The 2/2 Pioneer Battalion after they were reformed, plus reinforcements, were also trained in Dubbo Camp.

Here we are 40 years later, a lot of water flowing under the bridge since those days in 1940 at Dubbo Camp. Many young men who left that camp gave their lives and others passed on since the war. On the Saturday of the Reunion we will march through the streets of the City of Dubbo to the Memorial where we will pay our respects to those gallant men and women who gave their lives that we may be here to enjoy the Reunion.

BARBECUE ON CAMPSITE

What a change will be found at Dubbo, the town has now become a City, gone are old familiar places remembered by all 40 years ago. In their place are modern buildings, including the magnificent R.S.L. Club where we will be holding our dinner. This is a Club which will open the eyes of most members. The old army camp site

which is now the Western Plains Zoo is visited by many people from all parts of the World. It is here that the committee have arranged a Barbecue close as possible on the site where the 2/1 Pioneer Battalion were camped.

We hope at this Reunion to achieve what we have been endeavouring to do for many years, that is increase the attendance of the 2/2 Pioneer Battalion Members. Over the years we have held Reunions at: Port Macquarie, Newcastle (2), Grafton (2), back to Greta and last year Kyogle. Each year we have slowly increased the attendance of the 2/2 Pioneer members, so let us achieve our object this year. Now all 2/2 and 2/1 Pioneer members rally around and see that we make this a record year for 2/2 Pioneer Members.

The programme laid out by the committee is one we feel sure will meet the approval of all members. If there are any disappointed people they will be the ones unable to attend the Reunion. Social committee members have already put a lot of work and effort into arranging this Reunion, with much more work to be carried out. Thanks are never asked for by these members, but you can do your part by not only attending yourself but talk others into coming along to make this the biggest and best Reunion.

There is an insert in this issue of Pioneer News telling you all the details, so take notice and get your applications in early.

President JACK (MICK) DODSON

NEWS ITEMS by H. Montague

HARRY DUCKWORTH, A Coy 2/1 who was one of the originals from Grafton was recently visited by me at Concord Hospital.

We had not seen one another for years and had quite a lot to talk about. Harry is now residing in Sydney and is a T.P.I. He is looking forward to renewing old acquaintances on Anzac Day at the Reunion.

FRED CHARLESWORTH, ex 2/1 Band was visited by me at hospital recently and was receiving attention for his eyes. He recalled what a great band we had and remembered playing the musical theme they called "The Mayflower" each evening when changing the Guard. The words, we somewhat changed to:- Somebody laid on my doorstep — somebody said it was me

etc. — the rest we cannot print.

Fred sent his regards to all.

BILL McCARTER, ex 2/1 Band was at Gladesville hospital recently and really appreciated my visit. I gave him a nice parcel of goodies which he really appreciated. He is keenly looking forward to Anzac Day.

JOCK ARMOUR, ex 2/1 Band enjoyed my chat with him recently. Jock is a T.P.I. and suffers from his old leg injury, but still manages to get around. He would like any member of the Band to get in touch with him at 9 Paddington St., Paddington. Phone 357-6461.

Jock states he will not be marching on Anzac Day but will see all his mates at Hyde Park when the march is completed.

MRS. CLAUGHTON, widow of that great 2/2 Padre, Stan, sent Xmas greetings to all Pioneers. Thank you Mrs. Claughton.

1980 ANZAC FUNCTIONS

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 Thursday 24th April at 7 pm.

Members of the 2/1 and 2/2 are to be at 19 Hunter Street at 7 pm. Form up at 7.20 pm and move off from the corner of Hunter and Pitt Sts. at 7.25 pm to arrive at the Cenotaph in Martin Plaza at 7.30 pm for the Wreath Laying Ceremony. Members of our Ladies Auxiliary will join us for the ceremony at the Cenotaph and then proceed to have supper with Secretary Peg Herron.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Thursday 24th April at 8 pm.

Note a change in venue this year. New meeting place is The Combined Services Club, 5 Barrack Street.

ANZAC DAY MARCH Friday 25th April.

No change in assembly points for either units — 2/1 in Phillip St. near King Street and at the rear of the 6th Div. 2/2 in Macquarie St. near King St. at rear of 7th Div.

Both unit banners will be displayed at their assembly points.

ANZAC DAY LUNCH/ REUNION REDFERN TOWN HALL Friday 25th April.

At the completion of the march in Hyde Park members of both units are to make their way to Museum Station for the train to Redfern for our Annual Anzac Day lunch and Reunion.

Same address as for the past several years. Redfern Town Hall, Cnr. Pitt and Wells Street, Redfern, and just 5 minutes from the station. If for various reasons you cannot march, still turn up at the Reunion — it is surprising how many old faces you will see.

Doors will be open at 11.15 am and draught beer will be on tap. Lunch will be served at 12.30 pm and snacks brought in during the afternoon to act as blotting paper.

The same set up as previous years — food by the Association, but pay for your beer.

— GORDON FINLAY, Publicity Officer

AN APOLOGY

CHARLES GATEHOUSE was reported in the December Pioneer News as being in H.Q. Coy. This information was incorrect as Charlie was in "C" Coy 2/2nd Pioneers.



Our first publication for 1980 and the association thanks all and every writer for their letters and the donations that have come forward in response to the appeal to keep our paper going. Many letters in the mail with Subscriptions — all welcome by Editors and Treasurer. Thank you for the response to our appeal.

• **BOB AUSTIN** 2/2 now at St. Kilda, Vic. sends a very short note with a sub to the treasurer and best wishes to all. Can't make much more out of it **Bob**, thanks for the good wishes and sub.

• **GEORGE PATTERSON** 2/1 now at St. Ives, Sydney sends his best wishes to all for 1980, a cheque to the treasurer and apparently **George** has recovered a little from his health problems, perhaps we may see you on Anzac Day. What about it Sir, be glad to renew acquaintance.

• **STEVE SNOW** 2/2 writes from Arncliffe with a sub for the treasurer and the statement that the same will be forthcoming next year, and this **Steve** is just what we need from all the blokes, a certain amount of regularity is so much better than a bit today and a bit more in 2 or 3 years time. Many thanks for the letter, and treasurer has acted with regard to cheque.

• **SNOW MORRIS** 2/1 now of Dungog sends his usual, it consists of 3 words, (BEST WISHES, SNOWY) and of course included is the usual cheque, one thing **Snow**, you will never suffer from writers cramp.

• **CHARLES WILBY** 2/1 Moree sends a sub to the treasurer and the news that having a good cook can also be a problem. **Charlie** has arthritis and overweight, and that good cook makes dieting a big effort. Apologises for missing Kyogle, but he was on a tour of N. Zealand with the Northern Division footballers, the trip was a great success and **Charles** enjoyed same immensely. **Charles** has also just had a bowls fandango, 9 days down at North Haven, he didn't win any trophies but he did win a lot of friends and that's what Bowls is all about. Quite a good spot **Charles**, **Joan** and I retreated there after Kyogle to rest up for a spell. He has also received his Tobruk medal, but claims he will never be able to wear it, as he has to keep his weight down. **Charlie** also asks of **Bill Curry**, I am one that has no ideas but should any reader have any information **Charlie** would appreciate same, and **Charles'** wife did know his sister. **Wilby** is also planning a trip to New York this year, has one son over there, with a wife and two children whom they have never seen, but should remedy that this year. **Charlie** closes down a good letter with best wishes to all, and that perhaps is the reason he gets so many aches and pains in his latter days. He informs me that they have 15 grandchildren, with three more expected soon, well old mate, you beat me hands down, we only have 6, but I reckon on those I can put my mind to, would not get anywhere near you with that total. Many thanks for the letter **Chas**, and I didn't know that you spelt PALLY MALLY WAR that way.

• **CLARRIE PAKES** 2/1 now at Marrickville sends his usual very short note of good wishes and a cheque to the treasurer, how about making the effort this year **Clarrie**, after all you

could nearly walk from Marrickville to Redfern and we would love to see you.

• **DICK SEDDON** Newcastle drops a line trusting that we have all fully recovered from our Kyogle trip and passing comment of the great job by both **Peg** and **Max** regarding same. Also commented on **Griffo's** speech at the Cenotaph, again a job well done. **Dick** also forwards the address of our old mate **Bill Steers** ex Mortar Sgt now resident of the Dudley nursing home, this address has been noted and **Bill** will receive his paper, as you say **Dick**, he has never notified of his change of address, he was living at some point, just north of Swansea, is our current address for him. **Dick** also forwards the news that **Bruce Mitchell** not too good in and out of hospital but was not at home when they called. **Ted Simpson** also on the up and down list, and **Jock Russell** has not been sighted since Kyogle, **Dick** thought he may have stayed there with the nurses or **Bob Juleff**, well **Dick** he isn't with the nurses because we put them on the train, one on Sunday, and the other on Monday, so **Bob Juleff** is your last chance. **Herb Wilson** still keeping up with things as is **Nugget Laurie**, while **Glido** is still able to have his usual rum and a schooner, and the same applies to **Jack Bertram** and **Dick** himself, while they hope to look up **Jack McCracken** after his letter was posted. Many thanks for the news **Dick**, and keep sober.

• **NORM LLOYD** sends a brief thank you note to the secretary and **Monty** for the information and assistance he received from them with regards to the pensions act, and the do's and don'ts required for same and has promised to keep in touch when he gets his results, pension wise and hospital wise with regards to his illness. We all wish you the best **Norm** especially so with the Medical.

• **CYRIL SALOWAY** brother of our late member **Cecil** writes a short note asking could he be placed on the mailing list, **Cec** used to post the News on to **Cyril**, and he now wishes to continue his acquaintance with same, your address has been posted to our cards and you will receive future copies, if the P.M.G. know where to find you, I might be dumb, but where the bloody hell is Boondall, I have not heard of it, and I worked the railway goods yard for 15 years, so give us a clue next time you write.

• **COL JACKSON** now at Canley Vale sends a letter commenting on the length of time since he has been in contact with us, (now come on **Col**) only you can remedy that, just turn up Anzac Day and give us, and yourself, a big surprise. **Col** has been in touch with **Jean Hugo** sister of our late **Tom**, and sister **Jean** passes her sincere thanks to the members that attended **Tom's** funeral, and a special thank you to **Monty** who was always available to **Tom**, and who spent many hours with him over the last years. Many thanks for your letter **Col**, just keep that date in April in mind, it's not too far from Canley Vale.

• **MRS BONNIE SNUDDEN** widow of the late **Cecil** 2/2 now at Cobar sends a letter of thanks for the News, she still enjoys reading of the boys

and with a little bit of luck, hopes to attend the reunion in Dubbo in September, we all hope you do **Bonnie**, and just remember, make yourself known to anyone when you arrive, and we will look after you, top priority. Many thanks for your letter and the treasurer will deal with the cheque.

• **IAN CHENOWETH** 2/2 now a doctor at Mackay, Qld., sends a cheque to the treasurer and a short note, with an apology for not having written sooner. **Ian** was an M.O. with the 2/2 at New Guinea and on the tablelands and reports that he does see **Bluey Cook** and family often, while **Sam Cole** called in a year or so ago, apart from that, not much to report, as he quotes, he is far from the recruiting grounds of the 2/1 & 2/2. Many thanks for the letter **Ian** and good wishes are reciprocal.

• **MRS E. NIXON** wife of the late **Bob** sends a short note with a subscription to the News and the information that her husband and one of our good friends passed away on the 19th Feb., 1979. Many thanks for the letter **Mrs. E.** and our sincere sympathy.

• **HARRY HEYWOOD** 2/1 now at Fawkner, Victoria, sends a cheque to the treasurer and nothing else, many thanks for the cheque **Harry**, but how about how and what you are doing with yourself.

• **HARRY DUCKWORTH** of Dulwich Hill and a recent inmate of Concord forwarded a cheque to the treasurer via the good hands of **Monty**, not much else to tell but thanks **Harry**.

• **JACK COLLIS** our welfare officer of the Central Coast forwards the goings on of the boys in that area. One not of that district, but a very close friend of both **Jack** and wife **Gwen** had been visited regularly in the city, **Barry Taylor** but **Barry** passed away on the 21.12.79. We down at Manly way knew of this as **Barry** was a member of the D.W.R.S.L. **Jack** has also found another old mate, out at Thirlmere, **Cliff Secombe**, where they had quite a yarn and a few ales at the local. Back locally, **Harry Hutchinson** has had another stroke, but won't give in and has kicked on again. **Jack Coates** has been in and out of hospital again, but is going along steady, was with **Jack** at the local branch Rats meeting prior to this letter. **Bluey Miller** still going strong and is a regular at the bowling club. **Fred Makin** still chirpy, looking really well as does **Les 'Digger' Rose**. **Jack** sent a card to the family of **Roger Tuxford**, as he received news of his death too late to attend the funeral. To top all that news **Jack** himself is now on the pension mainly through arthritis and gout in the right hand and both legs. Thanks for the news **Jack**, begins to look as if you could have lived a clean and better life, but keep smiling.

• **MRS BETTY CREASY** wife of the late **George** of Portland writes of inability to attend the wreath laying, this was explained to us by **Monty**, **Betty's** letter was received on 8/11/79 but was just too late for previous issue. However, **Betty** did have a nice time spent in the New England Country, Inverell with her daughter, husband and No.1 grandson, where they enjoyed Anzac Day at Bingara. Writes that Son-in-law is doing quite well as a supermarket manager of Coles and as these chaps travel

• **LEN PREEDY** and wife **Joy** send along their news from West Aussie, it's that time of the year again and they have just returned from the R.S.L. Bowls carnival, this last one at Hobart, Tasmania, and as usual they had a wonderful time. Pioneer News was in the mail when they arrived home and **Joy** was very taken with the letter by **Bill Jollie's** wife in reference to her first ever do with the association. **Joy** claims she could well imagine how she felt, but also says that they intend to make one of the do's someday, and will probably feel much the same way, although she has met **Peg & Max Herron**. Many thanks for the letter **Len** and **Joy** glad your trip was a success and treasurer has cheque.

• **PETER SEDDON** Newcastle 22.2.1980, what's going on **Peter**, two letters for the one publication, do you want me to get writer's cramp. **Peter** enclosed a substantial cheque with this letter and said he had collected a couple of subs, I don't know who they are from, or whether they are from all names mentioned, however I will quote names and if it's not right he can claim on those that missed. **George Stafford** phoned **Dick** a few days ago, said guess who? **Dick** reckoned he knew the voice but had to give up on the name. Called on

George at Terrigal and claims that he is still the same **George** but he's put on a bit of weight. Now here come the names: **Jack McCracken** not too bad, still manages to have a red mill and a beer. **Stan Hodgetts** not too bad and available at the Hamilton R.S.L. **Nuggett Laurie** O.K. has to see the doctor day before Anzac Day (what for?) to get a clearance. **Jock Russell** getting bigger and still enjoying himself. **Glido Griffith** still working, keeping out of **Esme's** hair. **Vic Jones** in and out of hospital, lung problem but back at Bulahdelah now. **Jack Bertram** well and keeps himself busy. **Tom Connolly** still in circulation, not drinking now, but always a cold one when **Peter** calls. No word of **Bluey Cheers** or **Bill Wade**. **Sid Jopson** getting better than has been for the past few years. **Ted Simpson** still battling along. That's the names quoted in **Peter's** letter, now, your request for the address of **Charlie Pettit**, sorry **Dick** but he is not on our mailing list. Many thanks for the letter **Dick**, but please remember, one letter from such a reporter as yourself is quite sufficient per issue (Lahey).

That concludes the mail bag for this issue, and on behalf of the committee and the editors, may I say thank you all for the wonderful response to

our last insert. I do not intend to speak of the money side, (it was good) but to receive the letters that we have, shows that the interest of the Paper and the Association is still strong, but one and all, remember, "The paper is the life blood of the 2/1 2/2 Pioneer Association", and just the occasional letter from each of us now and again makes it possible for us to print our four pages of interest to each and every member and I should imagine the wives of same would support this statement. Again a big THANK YOU.

To finish off I would just like to say one thing, I do hope Manly Warringah win a few games of football before Anzac Day, I don't know whether I could stand another year like 1979, with to mention a few, **Frank Gillian** (Easts), **Jack Coates** telling me how we finished **Graham Eadie** and screaming "TIGERS", **Whiteby** and half the committee screaming "SAINTS" that's without all the other bums and their teams, and Manly's just got to win a few.

That's it for this issue, good health, good luck and hoping to see each and everyone at Redfern on Anzac Day.

— Lahey

PIONEER NEWS

Phone: 759-5491

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

Phone: 759-5491

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

Registered for post as a Periodical — Category A

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

Wholly set-up and printed in Sydney by Vaughan Douglas Printers, 2 Dale Street, Brookvale



Treasurer:
VIC WHITELEY

Editors:
R. LAKE & M. HERRON

President:
J. (Mick) DODSON

Vol. 25 No. 2

JUNE, 1980

\$2 Per Annum



PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

Gentlemen — at this time every year ex-servicemen and women gather throughout Australia to pay homage to those gallant sailors, soldiers, airmen and ex-servicewomen who gave their lives that we may be here today to enjoy the freedom all fought for.

The ranks of the 2/1 Pioneer Battalion have decreased by 26, while the 2/2 Pioneers by 23, a total of 49 in twelve months. "Lest we Forget".

At the Redfern Town Hall when we gather for our Reunion, one thing for sure will be that we will be showing our age, some outwardly, others inwardly. Despite this, members attend each Anzac Reunion, not only to renew their friendship with their comrades, but to remember those who paid the Supreme Sacrifice and those who have passed on since. Unfortunately if we do not remember them, most of the younger generation will not, for them it is only a holiday.

The 2/1-2/2 Pioneer Association is separated only by name, for over the years we have bonded together as one. We may not have many years left for Reunions, so let us keep up the good work already done and recruit more members into the Association.

I may be the President of a very good Association, but without the hard working committee, there would be no Association. Thank you gentlemen for making my job so easy.

SECRETARY — As always our hard working secretary Max Herron comes first on the list of hard workers for the Association. Even though he has retired he has only a little time to play golf — or is it that his good wife Peg wants to remain the only champion in the family. The only thanks Max requires is that all turn up for meetings and Reunions to support the organisers.

TREASURER — These days of inflation has our treasurer Vic Whiteley concerned that sufficient funds are available to keep the Association account in the black. For sure, he and the executive are very happy indeed with the excellent response from his appeal to members.

SOCIAL SECRETARIES — Bob Dixon and George Walker; you will notice that Bob Dixon's name is first on the list. George Walker like us all endeavouring to bring the two Battalions closer together has nominated Bob Dixon as the social secretary, instead of assistant secretary. This will make to the good work both Bob and George perform for the Association, for they both work well together.

PIONEER NEWS — The old firm of Max Herron and Bob Lake as editors, Vaughan Douglas, printers, and reporters: Gordon Finlay, Harry Montague, Bob Dixon, Reg Armstrong, Larry Robson, and Jim Field have combined well to assure the "Pioneer News" remains one of the top journals among ex-servicemen. Of course, members themselves must take some credit for their letters and articles. Keep up the good work everyone, for while the "Pioneer News" travels around Australia all look forward to reading of the doings of their mates.

WELFARE — Our welfare officers Harry Montague and Jack Collis even though they do not keep the best of health, are kept busy more than before visiting sick members in hospital and at home, besides being on tap with advice regarding pensions etc; also with others represent the Association in attending funerals of our late members. As stated previously they have to be dedicated to be welfare officers.

PAPER WRAPPING — Four times a year the stalwarts of the paper wrapping committee descend upon Max and Peg Herron's home to carry out their usual voluntary task of wrapping almost 1,000 papers, which go out to all states of Australia. This is looked forward to by the committee as it is a mini Reunion plus enjoying the work, as we know all members look forward to receiving the "Pioneer News".

Of course we are indebted to Max and Peg for making their home available and many thanks for the excellent supper provided by Peg.

Looking forward to seeing you next year.

President Jack (Mick) Dodson

DUBBO REUNION

WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS — WHAT ARE YOU DOING ABOUT IT?

I was yarning to Bob Dixon (2/2) a few days ago and the subject, most talked about these days — the coming Dubbo Reunion was in the for-front as usual.

I asked Bob what did it mean to him to be going back to Dubbo, and without hesitation, Bob replied as follows:-

"Well Jim, it means much to me, in lots of ways, but as my mind roves back over the space of forty years, it digs in at the strange country town of Dubbo.

"The events of those days are somewhat dim now, except for one — Friendship. Friendships which have spanned those years to this very moment.

"Friendships, which will lure me back to the actual place where so much began and happened.

"This reunion will embrace all of these thoughts — memories — nostalgia — and most of all the company of fine and firm friends with whom to share this most happy time.

"I hope there will be a terrific roll up of Pioneers from Victoria and other states and not just N.S.W. and I would like to renew these friendships."

My sentiments too Bob. See you all on Sat/Sun 20/21st September at Dubbo.

— Your Publicity Officer, JIM FIELD

WREATH LAYING CEREMONY

In keeping with the Associations sacred ritual of remembering those who have passed on, the Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Cenotaph in Martin Plaza was attended by thirty six members from both units.

Bill Jollie marshalled the parade on forming up in Hunter Street and the march was led by President Jack Dodson, with the banners carried by Max Law and Jim Field.

Following a short service at the Cenotaph wreaths were laid by Bill Hoffman and Bob Dixon and Mollie Hunt from the Ladies Auxiliary.

The Associations officially adopted Bugler, Aub Brasier then rendered the Last Post which was followed by the traditional Reveille.

The Ode was recited by President Jack Dodson and after paying their respect of remembrance members were marched off.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

After paying our tribute at the Cenotaph the members proceeded to the Combined Services Club for the Annual General Meeting.

In opening the meeting President Jack Dodson welcomed all members especially those who had travelled long distances.

Following the reading of correspondence and minutes by our hard working industrious Secretary, Max Herron, the Treasurer, Vic Whiteley presented the audited Balance Sheet and reported clearly on every item of money transactions.

All positions were declared vacant by the Returning Officer, Bill Hoffman, Country Vice President, and on carrying out the elections the following Executive positions were filled:- Patrons: Gordon Osborn and Frank Allan. President: Jack Dodson; Vice Presidents: Allan McInnes, Bill Jollie, Max Law, Gordon Finlay. Vice Presidents with Country qualifications: Bill Hoffman, Doug Shearston, Jack Bertram, John Hunt. Secretary: Max Herron; Treasurer: Vic Whiteley; Social Secretary: Bob Dixon; Assistant Social Secretary: George Walker; Publicity Officer: Jim Field; Master at Arms: Bob Lake.

It was pleasing to see the change of office bearers in the form of Bob Dixon changing places with George Walker and Jim Field changing with Gordon Finlay — this puts two 2 2 members on to the Executive — nice to see.

In general business the new Social Secretary thanked George Walker for his many years of hard work and hoped he could carry on and assist him in the future. He also praised the work of the Editors of Pioneer News.

Upon closure of the meeting, all members retired to the Club Lounge and joined the ladies of our Auxiliary. This concluded a most enjoyable evening.

— HARRY MONTAGUE

DUBBO REUNION

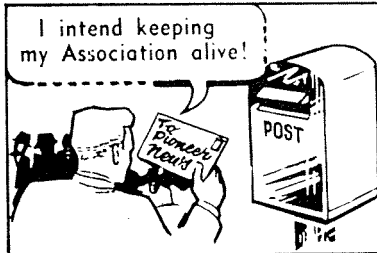
REUNION DINNER at DUBBO RSL

on Saturday 20th September, 1980

TOUR and BARBEQUE at DUBBO ZOO

on Sunday 21st September, 1980

— see further particulars insert this issue.



from the MAIL BAG

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



The second issue of the News and Mail Bag, and again I thank all that have contributed to the letter writing department, plus the subscriptions that have been enclosed.

• **MRS. S. COOK** of Louisa Creek, Mackay, Queensland sends a short note on behalf of her husband **Stan (Bluey) Cook** who is an inmate of Greenslopes Military Hospital, Brisbane and **Blue** would appreciate any 2/2 blokes around Brisbane if they were to look him up. Visitors do make a difference, especially so when you are a long way from home, so how about a bit of a response you Brisbane guys (just for **Bluey**).

• **BOB LEHMANN** now of Miami writes a letter to the secretary asking for information of a personal nature, this has been replied to by **Max Herron** and he hopes that it has been of some assistance to you. **Bob** has not been in touch with us for quite a while, but he quotes that he is the senior lines officer at the Mermaid Beach Line depot for Telecom, but is at present on sick leave, well **Bob**, we hope that you do show some signs of recovery, and that the information from **Max** does some good. No doubt, Repat is a tough nut to crack sometimes.

• **BERT HUTTLEY** now at Bloomsbury via Mackay, Qld., sends a sub to the treasurer and the news that he altered his sequence this year, and instead of the usual Anzac Service at Proserpine, **Bert** saddled up at Yeppoon near Rockhampton. He had been at Yeppoon to attend a wedding so just carried on. The parade was much the same as his local one, but familiar faces were very scarce, even though he had lived there for some time after the war. **Bert** quotes that Pioneers are pretty scarce up in those parts, with the exception of **Dr. Chenoweth** at Mackay and **Vic Norman** at Proserpine, I can give you another one **Bert**, **Peter Priest** 2/1 also at Proserpine, look him up sometime, but take a quid with you. **Bert** closes with best wishes to all and a special hello to the sig platoon 2/2 who were with him in Borneo.

• **JOHN HUNT** New Farm, Qld., sends a letter commenting on the great day he had on Anzac Day at Redfern. **John** and **Mollie** made a round trip of this holiday, and they returned to Brisbane via the West, Hill End, Mudgee, then Macksville and on up the coast. While at Mudgee, they met a couple of friends of mine at a winery, well **John** I suppose that's what most of the mob would expect, meeting **Lahey's** friends would have to be where it was wet, but what were you and **Mollie** doing there?? **John** has had a phone call from **Mick Anselme** ex B Coy and ex cook who is attending **John's** reunion in Brisbane. **John's** family are all well, and on their return to Brisbane, daughter, grandchildren and **Mollie** toddled down the coast in a caravan for a week, while **John** had to saddle up for work, however at time of writing it was not so hot, as they had had heaps of rain. Many thanks for the letter **John** and likewise, will see you at Dubbo.

• **JACK SUMMERVILLE** now at Carlingford writes a very short note, encloses a cheque for subs, but I am afraid I can't make much news from it to pass on **Jack**, how about a little more information next time you write, a full page of your doings only costs the same as your four lines. Cheque much appreciated and forwarded on to treasurer.

• **IVOR GARNON**, Charmhaven, writes in glowing terms of he and **Ena's** wonderful reunion at Kyogle. **Ivor** must have had a wonderful time over the three days and through the News would like to thank the ladies, **Bill Hoffman** for the conducted tour, **Max, Gordon, Peg, Olive** and **Mary Lloyd** for the night at the Motel room, that sounds pretty fair, (I had troubles with that crew at a Motel in Newcastle once). Don't know whether **Max** should have asked you that question re Dubbo **Ivor**, the answer reads like a tourist bureau speech, however for the benefit of all I will quote same (Question) Give me one good reason why we should hold a reunion in Dubbo, September 1980? Answer, by **Ivor Garnon**:

1. 2/1 Pioneers opened Dubbo Camp, Sept. 1940.
2. Camp of the 2/2 Pioneers reinforcements
3. 2/1 Pioneers go on final leave 20th Sept., 1940
4. 25.9.40 **Ivor** married **Ena**
5. 27.9.40 Return to Dubbo from Central Stn.
6. 29.9.40 Pioneers march out of Dubbo to embark on the Johan De Witte on the 30.9.40, sailed that night.

Ivor then goes on to say that that should be enough but if you need a back-up, **Gordon Finlay** and **Olive** became engaged over that week. Well **Ivor** it reads like an almanac but it's true, I'd reckon most blokes would remember most of those reasons, but they didn't marry **Ena**, nor get engaged to **Olive**, that's their bad luck, many thanks for the letter written from Concord, and will see you at Dubbo.

• **GORDON WALSH**, Ryde sends the usual cheque for the Trio of **Schaffer, Christensen** and **Walsh** and wishes all and everyone a great day on Anzac Day, but very little else, what happened **Gordon**, your letters are always pretty full of your doings, trips up the coast, and who you meet, don't tell me that you have got yourself embedded so well up the coast now, that you regard yourself as a local and therefore don't have to keep us informed. I am presuming of course that the Head was the popular and usual place for you on Anzac Day as has been these last few years, and I hope you had a good day there, but don't forget to keep us informed. Many thanks for the cheque and treasurer has same in his hot little hand.

• **RON SIMPSON**, Fingal Head, a new member ex 2/2 and through **Ken Barrett** has been put on the mailing list. Back numbers of Pioneer News were forwarded to **Ron** and he appreciated this very much. Last November **Ron** and wife were down in Melbourne, attended a barby at Glen Waverley where they met a lot of the old boys and wives and renewed strong friendships. **Ron** sends a cheque to the treasurer and a badge would have been forwarded by now I should imagine. **Ron** also speaks of Anzac Day and where he is at Fingal Head (Twin Towns) they have two services, one in Qld., and one in N.S.W., then back to the N.S.W. side and the club for the dinner and the refreshments. Many thanks for your letter **Ron**, don't forget, keep in touch and perhaps keep Brisbane in mind for October.

• **NORM MITCHELL** of Guildford sends a

cheque to the treasurer and a request to join **Albert Rayner** up with the association, thanks **Norm** and would assume that the Secretary has attended to that request by now.

• **JACK WILLIAMS** sends a cheque to the treasurer and apologies for his non attendance at the march and reunion, however **Jack** you don't say whether you are well, or have health problems, many thanks for the sub, and hope that you have more chance in future.

• **BILL BRACKLEY** Melbourne sends a cheque and the news that he's now on the committee at the Duckboard Club, Flinders Lane, Melb. Any Pioneer passing through that way made welcome as **Bill** quotes 'Best watering hole in Melbourne' (I always thought they called that the "Yarra"). Sorry **Bill** couldn't help it.

• **BOB HANNON "Lofty"** now residing at Shepperton, Vic., sends a sub to the treasurer and an apology for his non attendance on Anzac Day, his legs are not the best and they can do no more for him with regard to them. He has to be very careful with them, but is still the same cheery **Lofty**, he has photos, one of the band and one of the ship leaving Sydney in 1940 which he intends taking to Dubbo. Both **Lofty** and **Mabel** will attend, having a direct bus trip from home to Dubbo. Looking forward to seeing you both.

• **JACK (Tod) MORGAN** of Wagga sends a cheque to the treasurer and notifies of his change of address. While on addresses **Jack** could you find **Dudley Staniforth's** address, his last paper was returned from his last address, Buddigower, Barmedman marked unknown?? **Tod** sends his best regards, and hopes to make Dubbo in September.

• **BILL BURGER** now at Emerald, Qld., sends a cheque to the treasurer and the advice that he has had a few health problems over the last few months. **Bill** had great pleasure in reading of the Kyogle show, the different names and has a problem of trying to picture same and putting them in platoon and Coy order. Good luck **Bill**, I suppose I could put quite a few in Coy's but I don't think I'd back too many winners if it came to platoons.

• **JOE ROBERTSON** Findon, Sth Aust., sends a cheque to the treasurer, and his best regards to all for the festivities over the 1980's. How far is it from Findon to Dubbo **Joe**?? Keep it in mind.

• **Bill Hood** sends a cheque from Lismore and word that both he and **Marjorie** had such a great time at Kyogle that they must go to Dubbo. **Bill** reports that all Pioneers in the Northern Rivers district are doing reasonably well. At the Annual Meeting of the Northern Rivers Rats of Tobruk Sub branch the following were present **Rockie Watts, Fred Blanch, Ray Blanch, Ron Cross, Alex Cameron, Joe & Billie Leis, Alwyn & Val Black, Jemma & Lil Hall, Bill & Marjorie Hood** with apologies from **Mavis Blanch** and **Joyce Cross**. What would have happened to Tobruk without that great mob. Thanks for the letter **Bill** and will see you in September.

• **KEN COLLIER** writes from Victoria informing us of his slight stroke suffered last March, left him with bad hands and the left leg the worst affected. **Ken**, since that time has worked on these problems and with plenty of perseverance has now got 75% use of the

PIONEER NEWS

Phone: 759-5491

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

Phone: 759-5491

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

Registered for post as a Periodical — Category A.

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

Wholly set-up and printed in Sydney by Vaughan Douglas Printers, 2 Dale Street, Brookvale.



Treasurer:
VIC WHITELEY

Editors:
R. LAKE & M. HERRON

President:
J. (Mick) DODSON

Vol. 25 No. 3

SEPTEMBER, 1980

\$2 Per Annum



The DUBBO LIBERAL, Tuesday, September 10th 1940 — Price 2d

1000 PIONEER BATTALION MEN ARRIVE AT DUBBO

With fixed bayonets, 1000 men of the 2/1 Pioneer Battalion, having arrived by special trains only a couple of hours earlier, marched through Dubbo this morning to the camp on the Obley Road. The khaki-clad troops, led by the Battalion Band, provided Dubbo with the greatest military spectacle ever it has known, and created a deep impression on the many townspeople who watched the march through Darling, Talbragar and Macquarie Streets.

The men who form the Pioneer Battalion were described by their commanding officer (Colonel P.B. Macgillicuddy), at a welcome, as "tough". They look it, but theirs is the toughness of seasoning. Their military training was reflected in the carriage and demeanor of the troops as they marched past the Council Chambers, where the salute was taken by the Mayor (Ald. E.B. Serisier).

Uppermost in the minds of those who witnessed the march was the thought: "These are a fine body of men."

The troops range from all sizes. Some are so short as to cause wonder how they entered the Army, but withal they have the sturdiness and the swing about them that stamps them immediately as men who are in their right places. From this level the physical standard rises — in height only — to the six-footers, of whom there are many, and beyond these to the lofty ones.

MAJOR NEAL LEADS MEN

Colonel Macgillicuddy's decision that Major Neal should lead the march and take the salute at the Council Chambers was prompted by the fact that the major had his early schooling here.

The men were welcomed by the Mayor of Dubbo (Ald. E.B. Serisier), whose address drew subsequent praise from Colonel Macgillicuddy as "a frank and candid speech".

The soldiers, expressing their appreciation of their reception, cheered the Mayor and cheered the women. Then, in lusty song, they told them that they were jolly good fellows.

WELCOME GUESTS

"As our guests in Dubbo we welcome you just as we welcome our other guests. We know you men are our own men, the men of our people, and as such we receive you. We know you have left many good friends behind at Greta. We know you talk of the Greta dust, but we can assure you that the dust is just as good at Dubbo," the Mayor said amid a thunder of applause.

"As soon as the local contractors can turn their hand to it, the local United Services Club will be in full running order. The club will be something like your canteen, only at the canteen you have to pay for things. At the club you don't," said the Mayor.

Prolonged cheers greeted the statement.

The Mayor proceeded with his comparison: "But unlike the canteen, the club will be bone dry." The hall shook as the soldiers groaned.

Unperturbed, the Mayor continued, "But we know that you won't be bone dry when you arrive at the club. If you should have a few in, don't clutter up the footpath. Just go right through to the drunks' room at the back, and you'll be well looked after."

Cheers, whistling, clapping and laughter were the response.

TOUGH PROBLEM FOR FRITZ

"I know the people of Dubbo will be sensible enough to appreciate that if they are going to have soldiers here who ultimately will grapple with the problem facing us at present, they must have men who are men in every sense of the word. We are tough men, and we are going to be tougher by the time Fritz meets us," declared Col. Macgillicuddy.

MARCH PROVOKES MEMORIES

Crowds which lined the route of the Pioneer Battalion march this morning were strangely quiet. Some perhaps dwelt on the apparent youth of many in the march. The cheering and vociferous adulation was left to children not old enough to realise the inferno these lads have volunteered to enter for Australia.

As the troops passed the post office, hundreds of streamers were thrown from windows and balconies on both sides of the street. The parade along Macquarie Street to the turn-off to the bridge presented an unprecedented sight.

Before marching on to the bridge over the Macquarie River the troops halted and the band took up a position in the middle of the battalion.

Crowds of school children lined the bridge, and the boys marched on with the echoes of cheers ringing in their ears.

The Pioneer Battalion has a reputation for marching. its training has included many route marches over 20 miles long. The march this morning fully justified the reputation which preceded the men to Dubbo.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

The above are extracts from the Dubbo Liberal of 10th September 1940 to whom we acknowledge for printing same. Newspaper was loaned by Harry Montague.

The complete newspaper article, with photos, will be displayed by Jim Field at the Reunion Dinner.

REPATRIATION SERVICE PENSION

Following enquiries from members the following information is supplied in order to solve a few problems.

A Service Pension is an income tested social welfare type payment, similar to the Department of Social Security age and invalid pension.

It is payable to an eligible veteran who is permanently unemployable, or who has attained the age of 60 years if a male and 55 years if a female.

It was introduced by the Federal Parliament in 1935 and became law for certain qualified veterans to cover indefinable and intangible effects of war service which could cause premature ageing 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 illustrate 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 eligible if she served abroad (not necessarily in a theatre of war) or embarked for overseas service.

The Right Honourable J.A. Lyons was the Prime Minister at the time this legislation was introduced.

— H. MONTAGUE

NEWS ITEMS by H. MONTAGUE

BOB LONG H.Q. Coy 2/1 was visited at hospital and we had quite a long chat as I have not seen him since Greta days. Bob looks forward to the Pioneer News and best wishes to all his friends and hopes everyone enjoys the Dubbo Reunion.

BILL McCARTER is still at Gladesville Hospital awaiting to go to Scotland and would like to see any of his mates. He is in Ward 28 and would appreciate a visit.

JOE OLLIFFE 2/1 is a patient at Randwick Nursing Home and on my recent visit he sends regards to all Pioneers. Joe was cheerful and most interested in all the news of his mates. He expressed thanks for my visits and wished us all a good time at the Dubbo Reunion.

WELCOME to new members: John Kempnich 2/1, Roy McGregor 2/2, Clive Harris 2/1, Jack McGregor 2/2, Vince Cullen 2/1, Bob McGregor 2/1 and all going to the Dubbo Reunion.

BRISBANE REUNION

SATURDAY 25th OCTOBER 1980

at 4 p.m. at the residence of

JOHN and MOLLIE HUNT

4/25 Mountford Road New Farm

Qld 4005

Telephone 358 4349

REPLIES: If possible by about 13th October but not absolutely necessary.

— MOLLIE and JOHN HUNT



from the MAIL BAG

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



September issue and all talk relates to Dubbo. If effort has any effect on the result, it has got to be our greatest success. Kyogle was terrific, so what word will be used to describe Dubbo at a later date, I'll leave it to you all.

• **DAVID SCOTTY KING** now of Frenchs Forest sends a short note wishing the best of everything to the association and enclosed a cheque to the treasurer. Can't make much news from your letter **Scotty** but many thanks for the good wishes and cheque.

• **BETTY CREASY**, widow of **George**, writes a thank you letter to **Peg Herron** for her company at the wreath laying and again on Anzac Day. **Betty** enjoyed the morning with the ladies then went on to visit a mate of **George's**. The place is under new management and apparently the meals have improved so much, however the chap is still not very well and does not get any visitors apart from **Monty**. **Betty** has decided against going to Dubbo, her family are due for a move about that time, so will be content to wish us all a good weekend and hopes to renew acquaintances next year.

• **CLAUDE DENSMORE** writes a short note apologising for the late subscription, however **Claude** and family have had a few troubles this past year, healthwise, and has been staying at Kogarah since before Christmas and still does not know when they will get home. Sorry to hear of these problems old mate, we missed your smiling face on Anzac Day, however let's hope this next year shows some improvement for you all.

• **DOUG WATSON** per pen of daughter **Barbara** sends a cheque to the treasurer and a big hullo to all the blokes. **Doug** as usual attended the Services at Corrimal and Wollongong, he took his place in the march by car, as those old legs just won't try to improve. **Barbara** suggests that maybe she or perhaps her husband may be able to take him to Sydney next year where he could join us at Redfern and renew old acquaintances. Many thanks for the news **Doug** and daughter **Barbara**, I feel like I know you **Barbara** better than **Doug**.

• **MRS JOYCE TOMLINSON** sends a letter to **Peg** enclosing her booking for Dubbo and her two children, grown up of course, **Heather** and **Donald** to accompany her. **Joyce**, the widow of late **George**, looks forward to September and meeting with so many people that are possibly only names at present. Many thanks for your letter **Joyce**, welcome aboard, and treasurer taking good care of your cheque to the News.

• **JACK COLLIS** our Central Coast correspondent writes of the great day Anzac Day was this year, new faces we had not seen for years, plus the regulars, all went together to make it A1. **Jack** reports that both **Jack Coates** and **Bricky Wall** have had renewed spells in hospital since April, **Jack Coates** with a problem of the ticker, and removal of a bad toenail, and **Bricky** for the removal of his gall bladder. Visited them both while they were in hospital and is pleased to report that both are on the mend and are back at home. **Blue Miller** is also going along ok as is **Les Rose** and **Harry Hutchison** although **Harry** does have lots of ups and downs. Thanks for all the information **Jack** and will hear from you later.

• **"BRICKY" WALL** with a follow up letter to the above writes of his intention of being at Redfern on the 25th, however was not to be, instead spent two weeks in hospital at Gosford, and a further two weeks in bed at home. Was in the new section of the hospital at Gosford, claims it's the best motel he has ever stayed at, where they looked after him like a king. **Bricky** is on a strict diet, Doc's orders, has to get the weight down. See you abide by the rules "old un" and keep sober.

• **PAT LAUGHREN** now resident of Nambour Qld, sends a cheque to the treasurer and does not think they will be able to make Dubbo, however, he wishes the occasion every success and hopes that everything goes off smoothly. **Pat** and wife have had a trip to Adelaide, where they both had a wonderful time, and closes his letter with good wishes to all members and wives. Many thanks **Pat**, we shall miss your smiling face and rather rotund figure.

• **ALEX DURIE** of Coffs Harbour writes that his conscience has finally overcome his laziness to writing letters and sends a cheque to the treasurer as compensation. **Alex** was sorry to hear the news of **Joe Olliffe** and extends his sympathies to the family. **Alex** spent a long time with **Joe** in the same section through the Service. **Alex** has retired some five years now, and wonders how he ever found time to go to work. He has a big garden, his wife takes him as an offside to 'Meals on Wheels', and still maintains his interest for the RSL and Legacy, however this still does not interfere with Golf and Tennis. The family is scattered, at Narrandera, Canberra and Chinchilla Qld, and they visit them all periodically, so we can now understand your rather busy programme. Many thanks for the cheque **Alex**, glad to hear from you and wish you well with your activities.

• **AUB BRAZIER**, Honorary Bugler on Anzac Eve, writes an apology for his non-attendance at the Annual Meeting which followed the wreath laying, however his son was to be married the next day, Anzac Day, and he had to fly home to help out. The wedding was a garden one, at the home of the bride's parents, and a first for **Aub**. Glad you enjoyed same **Aub**, and we wish you all good luck.

• **OSSIE THURLING** now at New Lambton sends a cheque to the treasurer and states that the Repat has accepted his claim for Osteoarthritis and this with his other disabilities restricts his travels somewhat, so he does not see too many of the Newcastle chaps. Also has to have a hearing aid which is a further restriction to contend with. Many thanks for your letter **Ossie**, and treasurer has cheque.

• **KEN BARRETT** writes from Victoria with a sub to the treasurer and states that the association under the guiding hands of **Ted Hansen**, **Col Shea** and **Jack Hocking** is going very well down south. The Shrine Pilgrimage was held on the 15th June and the address at the Memorial Tree was given by **Col Mitchell**. Many thanks for the news **Ken**, and we all wish the southern club every success.

• **ALEC GEORGE** writes from Lismore with a deposit for Dubbo and both he and **Jean** are looking forward to the trip. **Alec** reckons Anzac

Day was the best ever, he has never seen the fellows enjoy themselves so much (**Jean** reckons this may be due to a pair of starry eyes, again due to a little help from **Dr Tooth**). However **Ray Horne** and **Alec** made a stop over at North Sydney where they renewed acquaintance with **Frank Dynon**, and found that **George Nicholls** had beaten them to the punch, was already present and pretty happy about it too. The new grandson has arrived, **John Robert**, and is thriving. **Alec** and **Jean** had to go home finally, the purse was decidedly skinny, and he quotes that he will have to do something about retirement, he started back to work and found it was not one bit better than it ever was, feels himself getting more unfit by the minute. **Alec** closes with a special thank you to **Peg** and **Max** and both are looking forward to September.

• **BILL TURNER** with a change of address, now a resident of Canowindra. A bit of a change from Penrith, **Bill**, you must favour the wide open spaces. We all wish you well at your new home and treasurer has your cheque where it does most good.

• **VINCE DIGGES** also with a change of address, has decided to move back into the town of Coonamble, claims that with a 75th birthday coming up in August he is getting a little on the slow side and town's the best place. **Vince** also adds a cheque to the treasury and will see us all at Dubbo.

• **BEULAH CRUTE**, wife of **ALLAN**, sends a letter with thanks for the Dubbo booking and the change of address of **Tom Morrow** who is too tired to do same himself. They were both interested to see the list of nominations for Dubbo and **Allan** looking forward to seeing more new faces as well as the usual ones. Many thanks for the letter **Beulah** and I think **Peg Herron's** plants are ok. **Max** sometimes drains his home brew dregs around them but they still survive.

• **TOM BYE** also with a change of address, **Tom** has moved from Sydney to Yorkeys Knob, 11 miles north of Cairns and next to Trinity Beach, where we all spent some happy and unhappy periods of time through the war years. **Tom** is still employed by the same company at Cairns as at Sydney which allows his service to continue and is quite happy with the warm weather, and he quotes "the best beer in Australia". It had to improve **Tom** but I doubt the bit about it being the best. **Tom** will not be attending Dubbo, but offers an invitation to any Pioneer doing the far north to call in and have a few at any time. Many thanks for the news **Tom** and cheque in treasurer's coffers.

• **FRED LOVELESS** now at Corryong, Victoria, sends the information of the death of **Frank McInness**, died 6th June, was P.O.W. for three years, ex 2/2 Pioneers — some of the boys may recognise the name. **Fred**, although retired, is still active voluntarily and at time of writing, secretary of the local Sub-branch at Corryong, closes his letter with a 'be seeing you at Dubbo'.

• **DOUG SHEARSTON**, our ex Treasurer and now resident at Forster, writes that he is sorry to be missing Dubbo, but on that day he and **Roma** are off on their way to Scotland. **Doug** was also very pleased to receive his Vice Presidency of the Association. Writes that he missed the old

mob at Redfern on Anzac Day, but the local show was very good, very impressive, and well looked after by the RSL. In the afternoon he was tied up with the Bowls, a big day, as are all bowls days, and will enjoy the break from Bowls Secretary as from 28th July 1980 when he retires from the position. In his year of office nearly 36,000 bowlers have played on the Forster Greens, and at times it has been quite a problem trying to keep people happy, quotes that his many years selling shoes probably helped a bit, at least it taught him patience. Well **Doug**, I don't know who the Bowler from Brookvale was but at least some of the story is correct — I reckon on retiring at the end of October but as to going up that way, that remains to be seen. We are staying at Brookvale for the first year or so and decide how we adjust, then the decisions are to be made. Have no fear that we will call in if and when we come up, just try and make a point of being home sometimes, that helps. Many thanks for the news **Doug** and we all wish you a very pleasant and enjoyable trip in September.

• **REV JACK STEELE** sends a letter of explanation as to his non-attendance at Redfern. As he explains he is now old enough to be allowed out on his own. Being keen on travel, he accepted a Parish at Ngarwawahia, New Zealand (winter time), the year before he accepted for Queenstown, Tasmania (winter time) and has now accepted Alice Springs for October-December (heatwave conditions). Padre, you have got to be Irish. Last April **Jack** and wife went down to Melbourne for the March where he met men he had not seen since 1946. Had a reunion supper on the night of the 23rd, and speaks highly of the job that **Col Shea** is doing as secretary of the southern State members. Also speaks of the March on the 25th, also a success, led by two members of the Light Horse both in their late eighties mounted on police horses. **Padre** quotes they led, by possibly 10 minutes but they looked fine. Many thanks for the newsy letter **Jack**, your cheque will be passed on to the treasurer and we all wish you well for your stint at the Alice and hope that the heat and flies don't get to you.

• **JOHN KEMPENICH** of Nelsons Bay per pen of wife **Maisie**, saw the article published in *Reveille* of our Dubbo reunion and immediately contacted **Max Herron**. **John** did not know of our association until now but has quickly made his intentions known sending a sub plus his bookings for he and his wife at Dubbo and an extra bit for the association. **John** hopes to meet up with **Jimmy McDonald** and **Roy Roach** plus others to refresh memories of the smuggling of refreshments on the embarkation trip to Sydney. Many thanks for the letter **John**. **Max** has posted you 1979 and 80 back issues of the News so you should be able to really take stock by Dubbo.

• **WAL BAIRD**, Collarenebri, writes to thank us for letter confirming Dubbo booking and states he is looking forward to the reunion as it was his home town before the war and still is his business centre. **Wal** says they are still in the throes of a drought in his area, only receiving 80 points of rain of late and none since January before that. He is hand feeding some stock and will be hand feeding all stock from July. Thank you for the letter **Wal** and for your kind regards.

• **JACK COATES**, Umina, sends in letter regarding his booking for Dubbo and states he recently saw **Jack Collis** and **Ivor Garnon** at the Ettalong Memorial Club for the 1st Annual Meeting of the Central Coast branch of the Rats of Tobruk. **Jack** states he is very keen to return to Dubbo again for the 40th Anniversary and to visit the Western Plains Zoo on the old campsite. **Jack** says there is no more grandchildren in the offing to upset the arrangements as for Kyogle.

• **BILL HOFFMAN**, Kyogle, writes in to make all arrangements for his trip to Dubbo and lets us know that also coming from Kyogle are **Jim** and **Lil Hall**, **Albert** and **Margaret Rayner** and **Jack** and **Flo Shearman**. **Bill** also lets us know that **Maurice** and **Joan Powell** were leaving for England in June, and **Bill** was going to Brisbane to see them off. **Joan** was the happy lass who owned the Kyogle florist shop and made those lovely bouquets for the ladies — the ribbons for the cars and the wreaths. Thank you for the Kyogle news — we all think it is terrific to see so many from Kyogle travelling all that way to Dubbo — that is real Pioneer spirit.

• **JACK HENDERSON**, Blacktown, sends a note regarding his booking for Dubbo and says he appreciates the work and effort carried out by the booking clerk (**Peg Herron**). Thanks **Jack** for your kind remarks.

• **MOLLIE HUNT**, New Farm, Queensland, writes in to thank **Peg** for making accommodation arrangements for the reunion and states she and **John** have been very busy of late with a string of family birthdays, and following football fixtures. **Mollie** is looking forward to seeing all the Pioneers at Dubbo. Thank you for your letter **Mollie**.

• **CLAUDE** and **DOT CAMPBELL**, Inverell, writes to say they are looking forward to a good weekend at Dubbo with all the folks again. They had an inch of rain in June so now can expect winter, in fact at the time of writing, it was down to 7 degrees. It will be nice to see you too, **Claude** and **Dot** — I don't think you have missed a reunion over the past three occasions and living so far away, you must have clocked up a lot of miles attending them.

• **PADDY** and **GLORIA GRAY**, Barmedman, write in to say they have been very busy of late and had their hands full minding a 2½ year old grandchild — keeping Grandma and Grandpa really hopping. The young people say that's what grandparents are for — but I always say that it is nice to see them come and visit and it is also nice to see them go — however they are lovely aren't they? Thank you for your letter **Gloria** and we look forward to seeing you at Dubbo.

• **JACK GRIFFITHS**, Mayfield, sends a letter and cheque covering accommodation for the reunion and is bringing **Dick** and **Pearl Seddon** with him. Your request to be at the same motel has been attended to by **Peg**. **Jack** is keenly looking forward to returning to Dubbo as after being there originally in 1940 he was fortunate to return to the training battalion there after the Middle East before going on to New Guinea. He was welcomed with open arms and had a great time, but has never returned there since. Thank you for your offer of help **Jack** — I think already **Max** has lined you up for a job.

• **JACK** and **FLO SHEARMAN**, Kyogle, send a note to make a third night's stay at Dubbo so they can go to Barmedman with **Paddy** and **Gloria Gray** — what a foursome. Nice to hear you can make the Civic Reception on the Friday afternoon after your couple of days at Orange **Jack**. **Flo** mentions in her letter that **Fred Blanch** has not been well, but is improving and all others are well at Kyogle. **Flo** is pleased to hear so many are going to Dubbo and is looking forward to seeing everyone again. Thank you for your letter **Flo**.

• **ALLAN** and **BEULAH CRUTE**, Woolgoolga, sent in two letters and a cheque as deposit on accommodation for the reunion. **Beulah** and **Allan** had spent three weeks at their son's (**Denny**) place at Parkes and really enjoyed giving him a hand on his house. On their way home they called on friends at Wyong who are keen gardeners like **Beulah** and a few more plants were loaded into the car, then they stayed at **Beulah's** sister's place at Forster and a few

more plants were loaded into the car. You will have to get a bigger car next time you go away **Allan** so **Beulah** can call into more friends with gardens. **Beulah** mentions she is saving a "Black-eyed Susan" for **Peg Herron** — you had better get one for **Max** too **Beulah**, and I don't mean the plant type. While at Forster they called on **Doug** and **Roma Shearston** and heard the grand news that **Doug** and **Roma** are to be grandparents, twice, before the end of the year. **Beulah** and **Allan** also called on **Jim McDonald** at Tuncurry but he was out, so were able to have a long chat with **Jim's** wife — and in **Beulah's** words — we found her to be as nice a person as **Jim**. Thank you for your two breezy letters **Beulah** — I don't know how we would fill this paper without the support of all the lovely wives of the Pioneers — you are all doing a terrific job of keeping us alive — in more ways than one.

• **JIM HALL**, Kyogle, writes to say that "Nobby" **Felton's** youngest son, **Brett**, was killed in a car accident in July and together with **Jack** and **Flo Shearman**, **Jim** and **Lil** attended the funeral at Grafton. Please accept our sympathy "Nobby". All the Kyogle group are well including **Jack Shearman**, **Fred Blanch**, **Cecil Blanch**, **Albert Rayner**, **Toby Hale**, "Colt" **Black** and "Banjo" **Martin**.

Jim sends regards to all at Sydney and trusts all is going well for Dubbo, and knows it will because the right people are concerned about it. He sends compliments to the Executive and Committee of the best association about.

That's the Mail Bag for this issue. I would like to make one request, don't stop writing, but would appreciate if all members would post their cheques direct to the Secretary and not to me — only a small favour, but it would help. Not much else to say, my football team are having one of their ins and outs periods but they will come good, keep sober and I'll see you at Dubbo.

— LAKEY

NEWS ITEMS by H. MONTAGUE

TOM SLEEMAN, A Coy 2/1, was recently in Concord Hospital with leg trouble and although many years since I saw him in Tobruk he was as cheerful and happy as ever. We had quite a session recalling old times, events and personalities, and it was good getting together again.

Tom sent his regards to all Pioneers and thanked me for the visit on behalf of the Association.

GEORGE RYAN, HQ Coy 2/1, was visited and it was pleasing to see him again. **George** was enrolled into the Association and already the Secretary has sent him back issues of the Pioneer News.

BILL McCARTER, 2/1 Band, is leaving shortly for Scotland and is quite excited about returning to his native country and on behalf of the Association I extended our best wishes for the future.

His last request was that the Pioneer News be still sent to him, as he wants to keep in touch with his mates.

DR. STAN GOULSTON M.C. and original Medical Officer of the 2/1, was recently awarded the Australian medal for his progress in medicine and this Association extends their congratulations to Stan on his award.

THE CROWN AND COMMONWEALTH was the 2/1 regimental march tune and was played at the Dubbo Civic Centre on the unit's arrival on Tuesday 10th September 1940.

2/1 — 2/2 PIONEER BATTALIONS ASSOCIATION

PROGRAMME — DUBBO REUNION**Friday, Saturday, Sunday, 19th, 20th, 21st Sept. 1980****FRIDAY 19th September****CIVIC RECEPTION, 4 pm Friday 19th Sept.**

Alderman Norman Cox, Mayor of Dubbo extends a Civic Reception to Lt. Col. Gordon Osborn, M.V.O., E.D. and the members of his Association, at the Civic Administration Building, Church Street. Medals and decorations to be worn.

MINI-REUNION, 6 pm Friday 19th Sept.

At the "Dugout", Dubbo RSL. Cost \$4 per person. Buffet style meal then informal evening with members free to arrange own entertainment.

SATURDAY 20th September**OLD DUBBO GAOL 10 am Saturday 20th Sept.**

Gaol is situated in Macquarie Street and was constructed in 1887. A visit has been arranged for our members for one hour.

MARCH/WREATH LAYING 4.45 pm Saturday 20th Sept.

Departs from Dubbo RSL Memorial Club. Troops fall in at 4.45 pm. Medals and decorations to be worn.

REUNION DINNER 6 pm Saturday 20th Sept.

Pre-dinner drinks then at 7 pm Three Course Dinner with wine for Toasts at total cost of \$10 per person.

SUNDAY 21st September**TOUR/BARBECUE LUNCH 9.15 am Sunday 21st Sept.**

Assemble in Dubbo RSL Car Park 9.30. Depart for tour of Dubbo in coach then out to old campsite for tour of Western Plains Zoo. Cost of coach, Zoo entrance fee, barbecue lunch, \$8 per person. All eating gear supplied. Refreshments available at cost.

FAREWELL GET-TOGETHER, 6 pm Sunday 21st

At the "Dugout", Dubbo RSL which has been booked solely for our members. Come and enjoy a barbecue or bistro meal and have a free and easy evening.

TRAINS will be met by a welcoming committee consisting of Mick Bye, Bob Dixon, Gordon Finlay, Jim Field and Vic Whiteley. On alighting from train watch for large sign "Pioneers report here". Cars will then transport members to place of accommodation. — **JIM FIELD, Publicity Officer.**

CUT OUT — FILL IN PARTICULARS — DUBBO REUNION

Surname Christian Name

Ladies Name Phone Unit

Address

Transport Car Train Number Attending Reunion Tour/BBQ

ACCOMMODATION — If required to be booked by Association. Insert number of people for each night alongside Hotel or Motel.

	FRID.	SAT.	SUN.	MON.
HOTEL				
MOTEL				

POST BEFORE 3RD SEPTEMBER with DEPOSIT of \$10 per unit for Hotel, \$20 per unit for Motel, to Mrs. P. HERRON, Booking Clerk, 2/1-2/2 Pioneer Btms. Assocn., 3 Enoggera Road, Beverley Hills, 2209. Phone 759-5491. (Cheque payable to PEG HERRON.)

DUBBO REUNION

The attendance is now at 180 and this is the final call as acceptances close on the 3rd September.

Due to requests from so many members arriving Friday and staying over to Monday the programme has been extended since the June issue of "Pioneer News".

The final programme, together with map and brochure in an envelope from Dubbo Council will be issued to members as they arrive. Failing contact with members, such as those with private accommodation, the envelopes will be left at the reception desk of the following: Amaroo and Castlereagh Hotels — Atlas, Merino Green Gables and Sunset Motels — state you are a Pioneer Assoc. member when enquiring.

LAST POST

JACK BENSON 2/1 passed away recently and at his funeral I extended sympathy to his next of kin from the Association. Jack joined the unit as the final intake from the Showground to Greta in June 1940 and was respected by all his mates.

GWEN TIDD of the 2/5th A.G.H. passed away in June and I attended the funeral, representing the Association. Gwen Tidd was one of the nursing sisters on the Johan De Witt when that troopship left Sydney for the Middle East on Monday 29th September 1940. I was accompanied by Vera Hamilton who was also one of the nursing sisters.

Gwen did a tremendous job, en route to our destination and fully merited the appreciation of all on board the ship, in caring for the sick. In fact all the sisters endeared themselves to the Troops in working around the clock and attending to patients in the sick bay.

As a representative of the Association I extended our sympathy on such a sad occasion. To me this was our way of expressing thanks for service rendered, and the tribute was really earned by this wonderful person.

In return, Gwen's family personally thanked Vera and myself for attending, and our reply was "We will remember Gwen Tidd always".

KEITH WHITELEY, youngest son of Vic and Peg Whiteley was accidentally killed in a car accident on 31st July. Our very sincere sympathy is extended to Vic and Peg and family.

VALE — CAPTAIN HEC PAGE

It is with great sorrow and deep regret that we report the passing of Hec Page who had been ill for some months.

Hec, 2/2 Pioneers, was well known to both units and assisted greatly in the inauguration of the Pioneer News, when he was President of the Association in 1952.

Hec toiled tremendously to bring the two units together as one Association so as to maintain the great strength of comradeship endured during the war years. It is because of members like Hec Page that we are enjoying membership of the greatest Association in existence.

On my numerous visits to Hec in hospital recently he was always eager to hear news of members and the progress of the Association. Despite the sufferings he endured he was always cheerful and keen to hear news of the members.

At the funeral I represented the Association and to Jean Page I extended our sympathy and said, "We will always remember Hec Page".

— **HARRY MONTAGUE**

Editors Note: Letter received from Mrs Jean Page expressing her many thanks for the many visits and Harry's kind words at the service as a tribute to Hec. Thank you for your donation and your kind letter, Jean, and the donation you sent covers you for the next twelve years — so once again, many thanks.

PIONEER NEWS

Phone: 759-5491

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

Phone: 759-5491

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

Registered for post as a Periodical — Category A

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

Wholly owned and printed in Sydney by Vaughan Douglas Printers, 2 Dale Street, Brookvale



Treasurer:
VIC WHITELEY

Editors:
R. LAKE & M. HERRON

President:
J. (Mick) DODSON

Vol. 25 No. 4

DECEMBER, 1980

\$2 Per Annum



THE "RED EARTH" DUBBO REUNION, 1980

To the Red Plains of the West they travelled by car and train to renew acquaintances and sites of yesteryear. Not the young eager faces and bodies of those years, but men who still remember the bond of comradeship formed 40 years ago. Some had arrived earlier in the week, whilst others began filtering in Friday, and some Saturday.

From 3.30 p.m. until 4.30 p.m. on Friday afternoon, 130 members, wives and friends made their way to the Council Chambers in preparation for the Civic Reception. There three Council officers directed us to the chambers and welcomed us in the typical friendly country way which was to be the trend throughout the whole week-end.

CIVIC RECEPTION BY LORD MAYOR

Promptly at 4.45 p.m. the Lord Mayor, Ald. Norman Cox and the official party entered the Chambers to commence proceedings. The Mayor then spoke on the early history of the Association, Dubbo and the expansion of the Municipality and extended to Colonel Gordon Osborn, M.V.O., E.D., our Patron, a warm welcome on behalf of the Councillors and townsfolk, to members, wives and friends of the 2/1 and 2/2 Pioneer Battalion Association. His remarks were supported by the Deputy Mayor and the R.S.L. President, Mr. Vern Traeger.

In reply, Colonel Osborn thanked the Mayor on behalf of the Association for his welcome and said it would be a day long to be remembered.

On completion of the ceremony, an invitation was extended to all to partake of refreshments supplied by the Council. This was in the capable hands of our three Council officers. Those present sincerely express our thanks to the Dubbo Council for the welcome and best wishes for a successful week-end.

MINI-REUNION IN THE "DUG-OUT"

From the Council Chambers it was around to the local R.S.L. for a mini-reunion smorgasbord. Here old acquaintances really got together, although it did take a little time for many to try and remember the younger faces of yesteryear, particularly as there seemed to be a large number of first-timers, this includes Anzac Day shows. Now here is a plug for the wives. How often during the week-end did Jack and self hear "Oh! The wife read about it in the paper and made arrangements". Thank the Lord some of you jokers got married, otherwise we may never have known what became of you. You've made the break, so keep it up as long as possible, and to all those wives we say thank you, it was wonderful seeing so many attend.

Some of the name tags confused many. Now Bob Hannon — he was always known as "Lofty" and a first-timer from 8 Platoon Cliff Blainey — he was known as "Tom", or "Back up Tom", both from Victoria. Also we were to meet a young fellow, Robert Farlow, who turned up to meet his late father's old coppers. Robert marched with us on the Saturday wearing his dad's medals. Well done, Robert, and hope you enjoyed the proceedings.

However, as most people had travelled long distances on Friday, many decided to wend their way to billets early to recoup for the two days ahead, so it was not possible to catch up on identities — nevertheless Saturday would rectify this.

OLD DUBBO GAOL — SATURDAY

Here 136 Association members gathered at the entrance and paid to be admitted. Someone remarked that it was the first time the Pioneers had paid to see the inside of one — we weren't *that* bad. This proved very interesting and gave us an idea of the life style in the early days of the colony. The gift shop did a roaring trade, with everyone securing a memento of the visit. Then the majority dispersed, some to visit the local shops, others to the R.S.L. for a visit to Dr. Tooth until lunchtime and then a rest before the march.

MARCH AND WREATH LAYING

Pioneers began assembling about 4.45 p.m. Saturday for the march. Bill Jollie and Bob Lake then formed marchers into three ranks and with the Dubbo Band in the lead marched off, headed by Col. G. Osborn, 2/1, followed by the banner party, wreath layers, the Executive of the Association and the troops in fine fettle. At each intersection our Police escort made sure of our safe passage to the Memorial.

At the Memorial, our secretary Max Herron introduced Jack Griffith who spoke to all assembled of our Units' presence in Dubbo in 1940. Following this the parade was called to attention as the wreath party — Tom Culkin 2/1, Mick Bye 2/2 and our President Mick Dodson — moved forward to lay the wreaths. President Mick then recited the Ode and the trumpeters from the band played the Last Post, followed by Reveille.

This completed the memorial service and troops then moved off back to the R.S.L. to be dismissed.

Quite a few local residents turned out to watch the march — some of these had been young girls in Dubbo when the troops had arrived in September, 1940. Among the assembly at the Memorial was Mrs. Mavis Hall of Dubbo who was the daughter of Mrs. L. O'Malley Wood, President of our Comforts Fund during the war years and former Patron of our Association. Thank you for your visit, Mavis, and we were sorry you could not attend the dinner. To the band and the police, our thanks for your assistance.

THE REUNION DINNER

On entering the upstairs foyer of the R.S.L. Club, our Ladies Committee had tables arranged with name tags ready. The two "bouncers" on duty, Olive Finlay and Kath Field, saw to it that

everyone was made welcome. Assisting at the tables were Joyce Walker, Joan Lake, Peg Whiteley and Jean Dixon, with Peg Herron ever ready to answer any queries. What a job Peg has done in arranging accommodation for everyone for this week-end. Words could not express highly enough our thanks. Well done, Peg.

Once inside, it was pre-dinner drinks and groups forming up to see photos and look through albums. These were arranged by Jim Field and Bob Dixon, ably assisted by George Walker. Some were of bygone days, Anzac Day reunions etc. and were there some guessing games going on. As I said earlier, there were quite a few first-timers present and that includes Anzac Days, plus interstate visitors and those who live in country areas.

REUNION DINNER JOTTINGS

At 7.00 p.m. Bob Dixon, M.C., called troops to dinner and approximately 187 members, wives and friends sat down to a 3-course meal. The wives were asking many questions as to who was who — names they'd seen in the Pioneer News. Now ladies, what about a few words from you regarding your thoughts on the reunion.

I was told that we had a couple of sharp shooters present — a pistol packin' mumma and pappa, Hilda and Mick Bye. It's their first visit to a "do" as they have been living way out in the mulga and now live in town. (Think it was Nev. and Betty Woodham who gave me this info.) Don't leave it 30 years until we see you again, Hilda and Mick. What about the bloke who called himself Cliff and finally on Sunday night informs us we knew him as "Tom". His wife Vi joined in the joke. Hope it's the first of many visits Tom and Vi Blainey, even if you do live at Noble Park. Vic. Tom said he tried to get Ted Budge along, but old Ted wouldn't be in it. Righto Budgey, get motivated and come along next time.

It was also good to see Lofty Hannon along and Mabel. Now you know what Lofty had to put up with, Mabel. Other first-timers were Clive and Betty Harris, Vince and Gwen Petrich, Eric and Leila Barber and Frank Allan — good to see you after so long. Frank, Tom and Linda Connolly were there — Tom certainly enjoying himself, but it's better when Linda is along too. Bernie and Stella Daly came from Taree. Look out Bernie and Stella, now that those 2/2 mob are retired, you'll be getting lots of callers.

You wouldn't believe it, seeing he's been involved in the Association for so long, but Max

Continued on Page 2

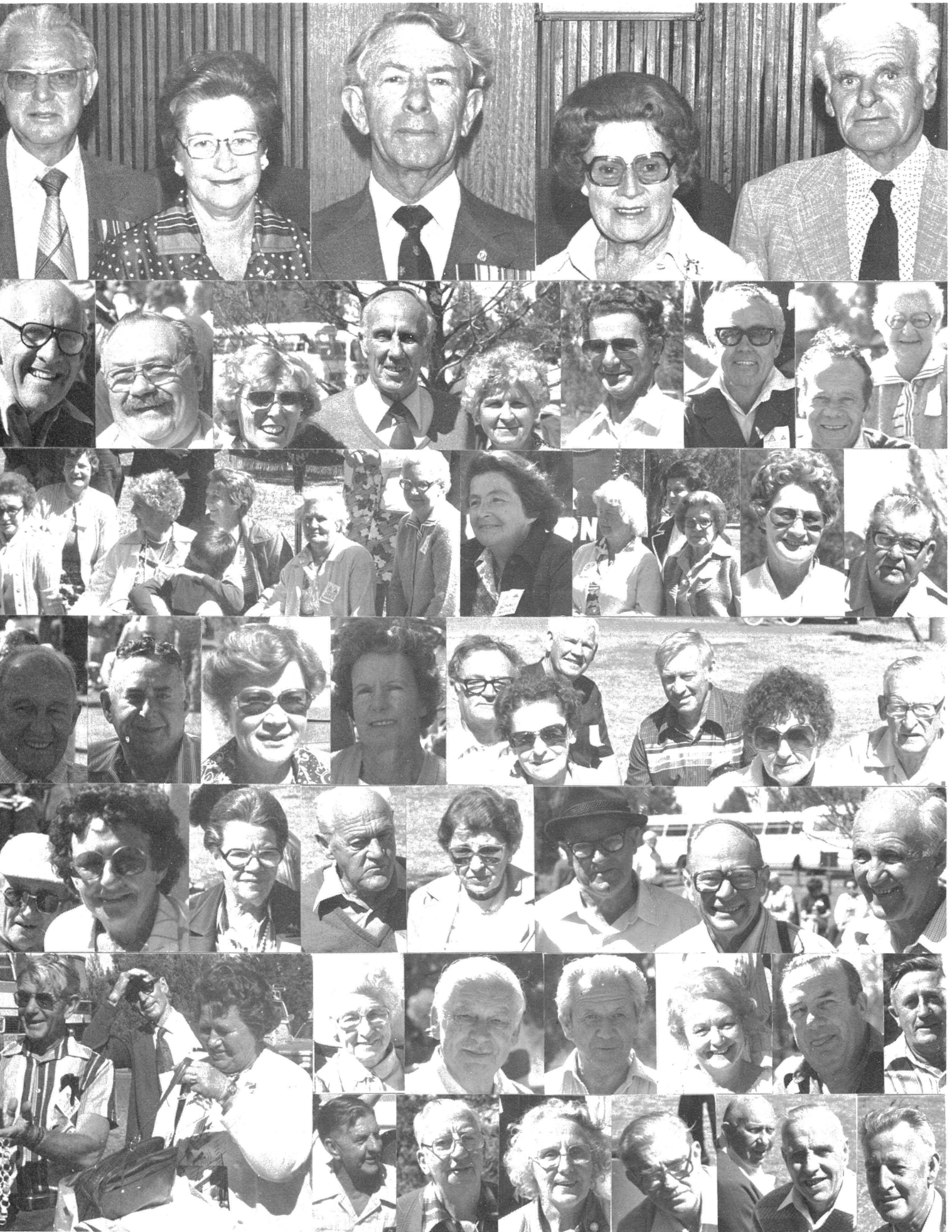
COUNTRY REUNION 1981

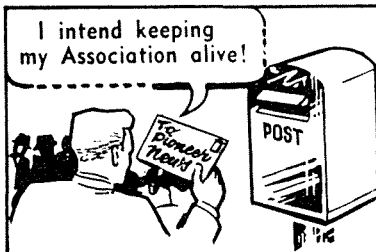
REUNION DINNER at TAREE R.S.L.

on Saturday 12th September, 1981

FURTHER PARTICULARS in future issues of Pioneer News. Make sure you note the date.

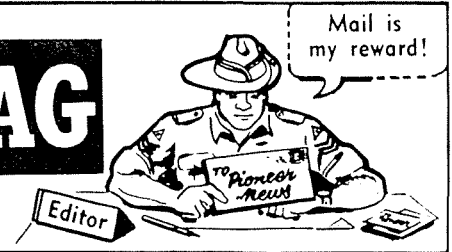
— Jim FIELD, Publicity Officer.





from the MAIL BAG

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



December issue coming up and I assume that there will be plenty of articles on Dubbo, so I shall say very little, except that Joan and I had a wonderful time, both at Dubbo and then later with the Herrons and the Whiteley's down at Nowra.

• **JIM STANNARD** of Nambucca Heads writes that he is still able to think back to the night we sailed from Sydney, over forty years ago now and **Jim** reckons he is slowing down a bit now, will be 79 in January. **Jim** has had a trip to Queensland recently, took the coach to Nambour in the hope of meeting up with **Pat Laughren**. Booked at the Hotel and made enquiries, plenty of people know him but **Jim** was just unlucky. He rang twice on two different days, but no answer so assumed that **Pat** was away somewhere. **Pat**, you would remember **Jim** as **Laddie**, and if you are ever around Nambucca, you are to look him up, there will always be a bed and a feed for you if you can make it. Many thanks for the letter **Jim**, and your cheque doing its good work already.

• **CLIFF BLAINEY**, Noble Park, Victoria, writes for information re the Dubbo show, well **Cliff** your letters are here for reporting in Mail Bag, I hope you enjoyed yourself at Dubbo, and I hope you managed to meet a few of the blokes that you know, probably sooner or later you will write again, telling us your feelings of that really great reunion.

• **ERIC REYNOLDS** writes that he called at Dubbo on his way home from Victoria at the end of July, patronised the Club, meals were excellent, and the machines at least paid a dividend. **Eric** and **Joyce** had been to help receive a new grandchild, and everything went according to plan, a little girl, and their first Grand-daughter, so everyone was happy. We all saw **Eric** and **Joyce** at Dubbo, hope you had as good a time as we all did.

• **BLUEY SIMMONDS** all the way from England with a letter and a healthy cheque to the Association, claims it is to cover 35 years of subs, I guess that should make you square **Blue**. **Blue** claims he will really make the trip back one day, all I can say to that is don't leave it too long as none of us are getting any younger. Many thanks for the letter **Blue**, and I hope you continue to enjoy the Pioneer News.

• **BOB BUTLER** of Johns River, sends a cheque to the treasurer and wishes good luck to all, says he cannot make the grade but keep up the good work. Possibly before you read this, I will be at Laurieton in November **Bob**, and I intend looking you up, will see you then I hope.

• **FRED BELLINGHAM** of Belmore sends a cheque to the treasurer for subs and donation and wishes to be remembered to all the boys with special mention to 16 Platoon D. Coy. Consider it done **Freddy** boy.

• **PAT MACFARLANE** of Blacktown, wife of the late **Ron** sends a note with a sub to the secretary and apologising for being late, your apology accepted **Pat**, but was never really required, we are extremely grateful to all the wives that continue keeping in touch and we thank you sincerely for doing so.

• **JACK SPENCE** of Wingham per pen of wife **Muriel** sends a cheque to the treasurer and a newsy note that the old bloke is still keeping up the good work. His gardens are still looking

lovely, even with a drought. **Muriel** wishes us all success at Dubbo, and they both still have contact with **Larry Robson** and **Monty**, both these terrific workers for the Association continue to call on **Jack**, who incidentally had his 80th birthday last March. Many thanks for the letter **Muriel** and **Jack** and may we be fortunate to receive many more.

• **DUD STANFORTH** of Wagga sends a cheque for subs and his thanks to **Jack Morgan** for putting him on the mailing list. **Dud** sees quite a bit of **Jack** and helps to keep in touch. Apologises for him not being able to attend Dubbo, but wishes all and sundry that they had a wonderful time.

• **JACK COLLIS** our Public Relations man of the Central Coast writes that **Jack Coates** has been in hospital for a couple of minor operations (skin type) and **Harry Hutchinson** was due to go in again, he has not been the best, but the operation is a must, and further news, it was successful with **Jack** waiting the phone call to take him home. Also struck another of the boys, **John Robinson** who has been a patient for a short while, and **Jack** hopes to see more of him and seeking further information. **Jack** also writes re photos taken Anzac Day, but I would imagine that that would have all been attended to at Dubbo.

• **NEV WOODHAM** writes with a change of address, he has absconded to **Johns** country and has bought a 2 year old brick and timber place at Thornlands and with the elevated position, can see the waters of Morton Bay about a mile away. **Nev** claims not much work to do with the house but lots of scratching around in the yard, as it is as nature made it, (that looks like a lot of scratching). The Cleveland R.S.L. and Bowling Clubs are about 3 kilometres away although he has not been able to front up to either as yet, still very busy getting things settled in. **Nev** and **Bett** were both at Dubbo and I think they had a wonderful time, they stayed with **Nev's** brother who resides there, so that solved a problem, saves writing letters every day.

• **FRED SCANES** of Cooma, sends a sub to the treasurer and the news as follows, he could not make it on Anzac Day, on the sick list, but hopes to remedy that next year. **Fred** has not had a beer for nearly 12 months but hopes to remedy that next time around. Off to Merimbula for a few days and was hoping to look up **Tim McCoy**, however as **Max** has written you, **Tim** now lives at "Rangali", WOLUMLA 7C, N.S.W. **Fred** with the rest of the crowd says that the garden is not doing too well, no rain, but that is applicable all over the state, let's hope it changes for the better soon. Thanks for the letter **Fred**, **Max** has been in touch, and we wish you well for the future.

• **ROBERT FARLOW** son of the late **Major Raleigh Farlow** writes for information of his father, and applied for an invitation to attend the Dubbo Reunion. This was granted of course, and it's old history now that **Robert** attended, spoke to all and sundry with his enquiries, and I sincerely hope managed to have a reasonable good time with us at the same time.

• **DOUG SCOTT** West Wyalong, sends a cheque to the treasurer and apologises for his non-attendance at Dubbo. On those particular dates, **Doug** would be enjoying a trip to Canada

(free) because he purchased a versatile tractor. Well **Doug** I don't know just what a versatile tractor could be, I thought they were all built that way, but we of the Association hope you have had a wonderful trip, and that you come back and buy another one.

• **GERRY COLLINS** of Peshurst, sends a cheque to the treasurer and wishes all members of the Association the very best. **Gerry** has missed the last two Anzac Days so it's quite a while since he has seen any of the old faces, apart from **Whiteley**, **Ivor Evans**, **Max Herron** and **Keith Medaris**, who are members of the Peshurst R.S.L. The bit I don't like comes now, quote, "Lakey you sure are taking your time re that trip to Peshurst, there is no worries, we will supply a seeing eye dog for your trip back over the water. Perhaps as a Manly fan you are reluctant to get with the strength of the Dragons, poor old Manly, haven't Wests done well since they got rid of the dead wood" unquote. **Collins**, I hate you, the only little satisfaction I got out of that letter was that the mighty Dragons didn't do much better. **Gerry** wishes he was to be with us at Dubbo, but not to be, and still enjoys reading the news to see who lives where and what they are doing, and quotes that **Monty** must be the most travelled Pioneer of all time, and he would also like to know your recipe for endurance **Monty**. He also doubts the truth of the statement that grandchildren keep you young, but he reckons they do make you wish you were young again. Many thanks for the letter **Gerry** and while I am not promising anything, Pear shape and I might make that trip sometime.

• **ALEC CAMERON** of MacLean sends a cheque to the treasurer with the news that he had intended to make the trip to Sydney for Anzac Day, but a minor illness put paid to the idea, however **Alex** intends to try again next year. **Alex** sees quite a few of the blokes when he goes to the Rats of Tobruk meetings, and often sees **Harry Duckworth** and **Bill Paine** who reside at Maclean. Was also very sorry to read of the death of **Nobby Cooper**, who was a good mate of **Alec's**. Many thanks for your letter **Alec** and keep smiling.

• **WYN HAYDEN** for **John**, **Jack** or **Chum** whichever you may remember writes a great letter from Orange on behalf of herself and you know who. First she apologises for the long delay, sends a cheque, and quotes, kept off doing this till tomorrow, which never arrived. The news as follows, they have always lived in Orange. After the war **John** continued service with the C.M.F., where he rose to the rank of C.O. for some considerable time. Their son **John** following in the same footsteps was also a member of the C.M.F. Son **John** now resides at Menai with a lovely wife and two beautiful girls, that sounds like a Nanna talking. Their daughter **Helen** is a school teacher, has been doing same for three years and was married in January this year. **John Snr.**, is still working on, now a security guard at Email, this involves shift work and is one of the reasons he has not been able to attend Anzac Days in Sydney, however he still keeps his hand in by being March Marshal of the Orange show over the past many years. It was not until last October that **John Hayden** struck any health problems, but a collapse at work, hospitalisation, leading to many tests, where the

