# PIONEER

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

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## **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

#### 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 trophys 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
- 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

you spelt PALLY MALLY WAR that way.

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

around a bit and **Betty** hopes that perhaps his next move could be closer to Portland or that vicinity. **Betty** also comments on the death of **Neville Lansberg** who was a great friend of **George**, also **John Hunt** of Brisbane and she, **Betty** has written to **John** with a few enquiries. Many thanks for the letter **Betty**, living at Portland you should keep Dubbo in mind if you are interested.

- MRS DOROTHY COOPER wife of the late "Nobby" sends a cheque for the treasurer and expresses her appreciation of the News. She likes to read of the goings on of the boys with special mention of Gordon Finlay and Frank Gillian together with the other names of A Coy with whom she is so familiar. Dorothy has been on a visit to U.S.A. to see son Lawrence, wife and family, and the News was on tap when she returned. Wishes to pass on good wishes to all Pioneers and their wives for 1980 and years to come.
- **TIM McCOY** now resident at Wolumla sends a cheque to the treasurer for past and present subs, with a short note of a change of address and the information that he plans to be with us all at Redfern this year. Many thanks **Tim**, address noted, and see you Anzac Day.
- BOB BUTLER of Johns River sends a cheque to the treasurer and reads with great pleasure of the good work of Jumma Hall and his wife at Kyogle, and for Jim Hall's own benefit he asks, "How is the Pioneer Panzer Corps", that's something that you will have to answer Jim, not in my book. Bob mentions that he is recovering after a bad car accident at Xmas 1975 and is looking forward to the Anzac Day reunion.
- . CYRIL AMIES per pen of wife Doris sends a cheque to the treasurer and quotes that they both enjoy reading the News. Dorothy writes that Cyril has decided to reduce the work load a bit, and the results are quite staggering. Garden paths, concrete ramps, tiled plant areas all testify to his industry in this direction. Also acquired the Bowling vice, and trots off to Pennant Hills every Wednesday, Friday and Saturday afternoons. Doris is still of the work force, Principal of Asquith Girls High School, so week days she has plenty to occupy her time, however she does quote that anyone passing through Thornleigh would receive a great welcome from Cyril (if he is home) or the Girls High School if you care to call, apologises all girls at the school (no boys) that might stop a few. Doris, many thanks for your letter and hoping to see the old bloke at Redfern.
- **TOM MUTTON** now at Harrington writes a thank you for such a great weekend at Kyogle and both looking forward to doing the same again at Dubbo. **Tom** encloses a cheque to the treasurer and on behalf of his wife and self wish all and everyone a happy 1980.
- **DON MURRAY** of Tinonee via Taree sends a cheque to the treasurer and news that drought conditions prevail in the district with threats of bush fires, and his only good news is that he is now a grandfather, **Don** too wishes all and everyone a happy 1980.
- MRS IDA HORDER wife of the late Vic sends her usual donation and the hope that it will help someone or something for the new year. Many thanks Ida, and keep smiling dear lady.
- **GUS DALY** of North Balwyn sends good wishes to all and a cheque to the treasurer, and nought else, so I can't make much more news out of it, many thanks **Gus**.
- ERN JANSEN now at Croydon Park sends a cheque to the treasurer and the news that he moves around a bit, and goes to Queensland for the winter months, this improves his health quite a lot, and he feels so much better for same. Ern

also wishes all and sundry a prosperous new year.

- MICK TASSELL that wonderful letter writer from Hay, N.S.W. forwards a cheque to the treasurer and nothing else, now come on Mick, what about just a little effort, or better still, why not bring yourself and wife to Dubbo in September, after all, you are almost half way there, and bring your clippers, some of the blokes might just like a good old Tassell haircut.
- **JOSEPH CLARK** now at Guildford sends a cheque to the treasurer and talks of moving to Fairfield in the very near future. Good luck on the move **Joe** and don't forget to notify of your new address
- JOHN DOLAHAN of Manly Vale verbal message of goodwill and the subscription arrived in a very devious manner, John has no faith in the P.M.G., so his sub arrived per Keith Gunyon per Bob Lake to treasurer. Many thanks John see you Anzac Day.
- W.H. JONES of Bowden St., Ryde sends a cheque to the treasurer and apologises for being one of the 250 mentioned in our last editorial, we thank you for the sub and the good wishes, glad that you have been able to retire and still enjoy pretty good health, however we have one request, on your card in our files, we have only your name, as is written here, so would you like to just forward your christian names and your unit Coy etc. Many thanks for your letter and treasurer doing the right thing with the subs.
- . ERN "SNOW" VICKERY now resident of Goulburn sends a cheque to the treasurer apologising for lack of penmanship. However Snow has a very good excuse to offer, as he has a birthday on Anzac Day and it is also his youngest daughters, so Anzac Day was restricted to Goulburn for the service and a birthday party to follow up and as the years rolled by he kind of got out of the habit and claims now that he is too old. However he has got plans of being at Dubbo later this year. Has been retired some 20 months and has had a few caravan trips, both north and Victoria and a lot of odd jobs around the house that have accumulated over the years have been rectified. Snow says his cheque should help to pay for a few back numbers this year, and sincerely hopes that others may find time to do same as he would, hate to see it miss out for the sake of a few dollars. Many thanks for the letter Snow and keep that Dubbo in mind.
- MICK PUNTON per pen of wife Margaret, sends a cheque to the treasurer and the news that Mick still works all the time, has had a bad heart attack which has slowed him down a little, and this has left him with diabetes, still he plods along, gives himself a needle every morning and then on with the show. Well Mick, it's very nice to have all that energy and the will to work, but I think you should take Margaret's advice and slow down, there's no medals for dying a rich middle aged returned soldier.
- WAL BAIRD now of Collarenebri sends a cheque to the treasurer (overdue subscriptions he calls it) and the news that they are having a very good year, although very hot, but no bushfires to date, for which they are all thankful. Was expressing his regrets of the death of Charlie Gatehouse, was in same platoon and has a photo of Charlie riding a steer at Mt. Garnett rodeo before they sailed to New Guinea. Wal also met Bob Molyneaux at the council meeting held at Rowena. Bob was delegate for the Lightning Ridge Sub Branch, and also runs into Bluey Mepper (I hope that's the correct spelling) at the races and at Bellatta. Good letter Wal just keep up the good work and the good seasons.

- · FRANK CHEAL now at Moree forwards a sub to the treasurer and remarks that the "insert" reminded him of the early days of Pioneer News when with Max Law it was printed per courtesy of the Welfare Dept. (Commonwealth Bank) so many years ago when everyone had so much more energy and could afford to burn the midnight oil on its production. As quoted at the start Frank has moved from Young to the north west, and does not expect to see many 2/2 blokes up that way. Darcy Chapman is one man he has met. Shire Clerk at Boolooroo he was a 2/1 D Coy bloke. Frank continues to keep in touch with Russ Harrison and Bill Lewis and while at Young saw a bit of Clem McDonald, whose brother was mine Host of the Royal. Frank wishes us every success, and hopes with a bit of luck to make the trip to Dubbo. P.S. Note from Max Herron, still scouting and still enjoying the fun, (I hope he doesn't take his home brew when he goes with him).
- JACK COATES now at Umina writes a letter to the association and although we have not the room to fully quote Jack's letter, it deals with the late Frank Barrett one time Sgt Maj of H.Q. 2/1 and Vic Horder A Coy 2/1 who transferred to the 2/1 Infantry at Tobruk February 1941. Taken prisoner at Crete he later escaped to Jugoslavia and through Turkey to rejoin the A.I.F. in Syria. For this feat he was awarded the D.C.M. Jack was speaking to both Frank and Vic at Moresby late 1942 then we lost touch. Now Jack who apparently has been doing some heavy reading quotes a coast watching book and whose name should crop up but Lt. F. Barrett who had escaped from Crete and soon found his way around New Britain, good soldier that he was. To reduce space and save my own writing arm the story concludes that Frank Barrett and a Sgt named Carlson were killed in a skirmish with a strong Jap patrol near Awol village, betrayed by a native to the Japanese patrol nearby. The book quoted, the thread on which our safety depended was at times very thin. One native did this damage.

Jack also quotes that our own **Lofty Barlow** gets plenty of honourable mentions in the book Tobruk & Alamein — this book was given to **Jack** and his wife, so I'd say he is going to spend a few leisure hours catching up on the doings of who and what and when for the next few months. **Jack** also sends a cheque to the treasurer, hoping that same will make Whiteley say "Up the Tigers' for 1980, I'd say no way **Jack**, he is a died in the wool — Red & White, you or your money will never change that. What about the "Seagulls" and all those good players we took from you. Good letter **Jack** and as you say see you Anzac Day.

- **JOE OLLIFFE** per pen of wife **May** sends a sub to the treasurer, makes the comment that she hopes the **Herrons** are enjoying retirement and forwards the sad news that **Joe** has had another stroke, result badly paralysed and in a nursing home, however he still likes to read the News and they both look forward to receiving same. May closes with good wishes for everyone and is looking forward to meeting the ladies on Anzac Eve.
- DAVE DENNY now at Lismore sends a cheque to the treasurer and tells how sorry he was not to make Kyogle, not so far away but awkward shifts at work made the weekend impossible. Dave suggests that he would have probably had to give John Hunt his leave pass anyway, as protection against M.Ps police and his wife (I hope Mollie does not catch you up in the too near future Dave, she will probably require an explanation to that statement). Dave has a problem with his hearing (owing to a faulty

#### **MAIL BAG**

flag at the 19 mile) but apart from that is O.K. and sends his best wishes to **John Hunt** and "**'Kanga''**, hopes to get out his way some day, I hope Kanga knows who you are talking about, because I don't, many thanks for the letter **Dave** and the good wishes.

• F.H. "ROCKY" WATTS now at Murwillumbah writes his first letter to the Association with a cheque enclosed. Rocky has lived an itinerant and nomadic existance since his discharge from the army and never stayed in any one place long enough to actually get in step. but now he has settled down in semi retirement on the Tweed which will give him great pleasure to just sit back, read the News and send a sub occasionally. Rocky is eagerly looking forward to the Dubbo show and sincerely hopes that his great mate of the war years DICK WATTS (no relation) last heard of in Deniliquin will learn of the reunion and will attend as well. We hope so too, Rocky, and look forward to renewing acquaintance

• **BERN REINERS**, Sig Platoon 2/1, writes to say he is looking forward to his retirement in two years.

In January **Mona** and **Bern** went on a cruise for two weeks to Fiji and thoroughly enjoyed it. **Bern** said they lived on caviar for two weeks and now it is back to bread and water for the rest of the year.

**Bern** passes on best wishes to all Pioneers and would like to see any Pioneer passing through Corryong.

- **DOUG SHEARSTON**, Sig Platoon 2/1 writes in to say he and **Roma** are preparing for their trip to England in Aug/Sept and sorry to be missing out on the Dubbo Reunion. **Doug** also apologises for not being able to come down on Anzac Day as he is bowls secretary at Forster and is playing Pennants. We are also sorry to hear this **Doug** as Anzac Day will not be the same without you around. Our best wishes to you and **Roma** for your trip overseas.
- . PETER PRIEST again per pen of wife Dot. writes a really good letter. Dot quotes "that it is so nice to write to someone with a face", Dot has penned letters to the Pioneer News for many years, and it was at Kyogle where she met up with Peter's friends, and of course so many of our good ladies for the very first time. Now she knows so many faces and has even got to personalities with a special mention to Mary Lloyd, whose company she enjoyed so well. Dot and Peter still reside at Prosperpine, Qld. and at time of writing prawns were in great abundance, however the weather was on the change and this would mean the end of the prawns. Many thanks for the letter Dorothy and treasurer has cheque in his hot little hand.
- · FRED LOVELESS now at Tallangatta, Vic. sends a sub to the treasurer and a request for a badge (sent), Fred is not alone down that way and has had a couple of cups of tea with Bernie & Mona Reiners who are only about 20 miles away. They have been very considerate to both Fred and wife Edna over the last couple of years. Healthwise, Fred has his ups and downs, with frequent visits to the doctor at Corryong and occasionally to Repat at Melbourne. Has also helped out at the local sub branch, acting as Hon. Sec. for same. On the pension so has time to put a bit of time in. Fred also tells the usual story, after leaving Redfern Town Hall last time in town, he boarded the train for Circular Quay for the ferry to Manly where he was staying with friends. About 6 p.m. that same evening (approx. 3 hrs later) he was given a shake by the conductor, who asked him where he was going and telling him that he had done

Continued on foot of next column

#### LAST POST by Harry Montague

ALBERT "BIMBO" BELL D Coy and Mortar Platoon 2/1 passed away last October and was cremated at the Woronora Crematorium. The Association's deepest respects were paid personally to his next of kin.

**FRANK HIGGINS** B Coy 2/1 of Wyoming was cremated at "Pinegrove", Ourimbah in November and sincerest sympathy was extended to his wife from the Association.

BARRIE TAYLOR HQ, 2/1 was cremated at the Northern Suburbs Crematorium and six members from the Association were in attendance to pay their respects. Sincerest sympathy was extended to his widow and family. ALBERT "SNOWY" WISEMAN passed away in January and the funeral was attended by Bill Tasker and myself. Sympathy was extended to the next of kin.

### VALE — JOE WESTWOOD

The Association suffered a sad loss on the passing away of "Holy Joe", as he was so affectionately known throughout the 2/1.

One of the originals at Greta and in "B" Coy, Joe proved himself very popular and his name was a household word in the unit and was well respected by all Pioneers

Much could be written of his army career and he made a wide circle of friends, who were all fortunate in having him in their ranks.

Very soon after coming back into civilian life he joined the Committee of the Association and for many years was Social Secretary and if you remember those car trials and picnics with all our kids participating well, that was the brain child of Jack, Joe or "Holy Joe" Westwood.

The service was conducted at the Salvation Army Citadel, Bankstown and the sermon was given by a Salvation Army Major. Joe's sister, who was also in Salvation Army uniform, spoke at length on behalf of the Westwood family, and her talk was most interesting and showed us what a close knit family Joe belonged to.

Pioneers in attendance were, Gordon Finlay, Jack Dodson, Jack Pearce, Bob & Joyce McGregor, Max & Peg Herron, Pat Walsh and Harry Montague. All these people paid their respects to Joe's family and we who are left behind will always cherish the memory of Joe Westwood.

#### **QUEENSLAND REUNION**

The reunion as usual was held at John and Mollie Hunt's residence at New Farm on Saturday 27th October, 1979.

The catering arrangements were superbly carried out by Mollie, and after supper John showed slides of the Anzac functions and the Kyogle Reunion.

At the conclusion of the Reunion, Phil Cramsie moved a motion of thanks to our hosts for a wonderful evening. In reply John stated they were both pleased to see twenty Pioneers and their ladies in attendance so happy.

#### QLD. REUNION JOTTINGS

TOBY PALIN was in attendance from Maryborough and had recently received a letter of commendation from the Australian Legion, Qld. branch. The State President had referred to Toby as the backbone of the Maryborough Sub Branch which he founded three years ago. He was made a life member of the Qld. branch in 1977. He was made a State Vice President in 1978 and has held the position of Sub Branch Secretary since the Maryborough Centre was formed. Our congratulations to you Toby.

LLOYD "Porky" GRAHAM was in attendance as he has now settled down at 21a Condor, Riverview Esp., Surfers Paradise and would be pleased to welcome any Pioneer passing through.

PAT and NELL LAUGHREN came from Nambour and they had quite a long chat with "Porky".

GEORGE BROOKS came from Ipswich and had a lot of talk with Bert Beasley 2/2 who is a regular to this Reunion.

NORM and ANNE GOODCHAP attended the evening and would like Pioneers to visit them at Deception Bay. They were seen having a chat with Fred and Nell Davenport — Fred is making good recovery. Bill Hoffman was returning to Kyogle from Rockhampton so called in.

RAY and MAVIS BLANCH had recently visited Mick and Joyce Reilly and was invited to partake of some pickles Mick had produced by old family recipes. Ray needed the water bottle permanently inside his mouth afterwards — and promptly told Mick what he could do with the rest of his pickles.

Arthur Luddington was also there from Sydney and joined me in thanking Mollie & John, on behalf of all present, for a wonderful evening.

- Reporter HARRY MONTAGUE

#### **NEWS ITEMS by H. Montague**

**NORM LLOYD** "A" Coy 2/1 was visited at Sydney Hospital and was quite pleased to have a chat. He sent regards to all Pioneers.

VERA HAMILTON, SUE MALCOLM, KITTY TIDD and MABEL SKERMAN who were the nursing sisters on the Johann De Witt sent best wishes to all Pioneers and expressed

the city circle, Lord knows how many times. There is some good in everything, however, as the next day slept practically from Sydney to Albury on the coach and the driver who knew him dropped him practically on the front step. Good letter Fred. Glad you enjoyed yourself at Redfern and that you have established yourself down South, and looking forward to seeing you again at a future show. Incidentally, Fred's address is Shelley, the highest railway station in Victoria approx 3300 feet on the snowline, and anyone going that way would be made more than welcome, there are any amount of beds, but bring your own grog, remember he is now only a pensioner. (Continued on Page 4A) thanks in meeting up again with the Pioneers.

MRS BALDWIN, widow of the late Bob Baldwin sent along a thank you card in appreciation of assistance given by the Association.

**MRS CROKE** widow of the late Albert Croke 2/2 sent along a thank you card and best wishes to all members of the Association.

**REGIMENTAL HISTORY** — The 2/1 Pioneers were officially gazetted as being on Active Service from Tuesday 11th June, 1940. Following cessation of hostilities the entry read "All personnel marched out on 17th February, 1946

The 2/2 Pioneers were raised in Melbourne on 2nd May 1940 and later formed into a unit at Puckapunyal the following month. They were disbanded at Borneo in October 1945.

"CURLY" BENTLEY was reported in the December "Pioneer News" as having retired as President of the T.P.I. Association. This information was incorrect. However, "Curly" has been a Junior and Senior Vice-President for short periods.

- · 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 (Lakey).

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 YOLL

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.

- Lakey

# PIONEER

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

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R. LAKE & M. HERRON

\$2 Per Annum



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

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 Pea

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

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

"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 Laving 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 enioyable evening. - HARRY MONTAGUE

#### **DUBBO REUNION**

**REUNION DINNER at DUBBO RSI** on Saturday 20th September, 1980. TOUR and BARBEQUE at DUBBO 200 on Sunday 21st September, 1980

- see further particulars insert this issue.

### **ANZAC DAY WITH THE 2/1-2/2**

#### 2/1 ANZAC DAY MARCH

It was a tremendous pleasure to meet up with our mates at the assembly point in Phillip Street, prior to the Anzac March.

As times and occasions were recalled it was more like a family gathering.

The unit was formed up by Bill Jollie acting as Marshal. The leaders were Gordon Osborn and John Gilchrist. The banner was proudly carried by Colin (Clancy) Scholes. The band was the Bankstown Police Youth Club band and they played magnificently.

On falling out at Hyde Park we received a pleasant surprise on being greeted by Vera Hamilton who was one of the nursing sisters with us on the Johann De Witte. Vera was full of praise of their stay with us at the Kyogle Reunion and already have their names in for the Dubbo Reunion.

— HARRY MONTAGUE

#### 2/2 ANZAC DAY MARCH

It was a good march! I think I voice the opinion of all who were present. I missed the help of my good friend, Reg Armstrong who, for medical reasons, was on sick parade.

Jim Field made a first class back up, so business went on the same as usual. There were some missing faces — this as the years go on must be expected. We also joyfully accept the fact of some new faces. Two Don Coy chaps, Hilton Martin and Mathew Elliott who have never attended before.

Fantastic to see Arthur Daldy, also Russ Harrison. Noted the Nicholl boys, Jimmy Germ, Silent Knight, and after a break of some time — George Perry (Paricos).

A change of banner bearer this year — Cadet Paul Livermore, who did an excellent job and we are indebted to him for his time and effort.

Good to see Jack Henderson, Don Linton, Ian Wilmore, Bill Lewis, Pat Curran and Pat Collins.

Allan McInnes and Bill Robertson led the march with Gil Short bringing the R.A.P. up as support.

Some forty three men marched, which for us is creditable, but next year we would like to see more of you.

As I said, a good march, and we trust we will see you all next year.

— BOB DIXON

#### 2/1 REUNION JOTTINGS

by LARRY ROBSON

KEVIN BINNS ex A Coy came along for the first time. He transferred to a C.C.S. and was taken prisoner. Kevin was seen catching up with Gordon Finlay on the doings of A. Coy.

JUDY and JAN from Lamaro Caterers many thanks for your usual contribution to our day.

Thanks also to our two permanent barmen — the two Terry's who kept up the supply of amber fluid.

JACK COATES' wife presented us with three lovely cakes in the shape and colour patches of the two units. Many thanks Mrs. Coates.

The following crowd, always close to the kitchen were: Bill Doney, Dick Chalmers, Jack Claypole, Bill Wright, Ted Cox, Sam Lewis (apologies from Leo Morris) and Pat Collins 2/2, who was with his sons John and Gordon, taking a bashing from George Paricos.

The D Coy boys were in strength - Bluey

#### THE BRISBANE REUNION Saturday 25th October, 1980 at 4 pm

John and Mollie Hunt's Residence 4/25 Mountford Rd., New Farm, Qld. 4005 Replies by 15th October, 1980. Walsh, Bill Turner, Bob Gratton, Punchy Bannister, Ken Oliver, George Brookes, Peter Craig, Jim Gray, Tim McCoy, Ray Hill. Mixed in with these were B Coy — Nev Woodham, Sid Kent, George Nicholls, Merv Phipps, John Grass, "Meggsie" Skeins, Harry Montague and Ted Skoyles.

In the corner were Jack Clarke, Dick Seddon, Jack Pearce, Jack Griffith, Roy Jardine and Clancy Scholes with son Ross, who we were pleased to see looking after Dad.

The old B Coy faithful Noel Trefoni looking after this lot — (and still asking where's Pepper and Crookes) Jack Harvey, Casey Brown, Russ Monahan, Bruce Smith, Perc Penrose, Bill Smith, Perc Fisk, Len Weyman and Jack Stanton.

A very quiet group were Eric Guthrie (his two grandsons march proudly with us), Bob Gales, "Whacker" Bush, Chas Bentley, Harry Robey, Jock Copland, Eric (No 9) Hawkins and Ivor Garnon. Next group were Porky Graham, Clem Cook, Beau Hannaford, Arthur White, Jock Russell, Ray Horne and again George Nicholls—he tried all tables.

Next group was Scotty Burns, Jack Corkish, Bluey Miller, Jack McGahey, Maurie McIntyre and Bluey Moxey.

At their usual table in the sun were Jack Coates, Jim Hall (relaxing after his beaut Kyogle Reunion), Noel Schomberg, "Three Course" Kelly, Henry (Jim) Hamilton, King Billy (Hoffman) of South Mole, John Hunt of Queensland, Bill Miller who we haven't seen in a long while and Albert Brown now at Harden and yours truly only long enough to sit at the only spare seat, in the turnup of 160. In the corner table near the stage were Jack Hill, Kevin Buckley, Harry Allen, Bluey Kerslake, and Dick Hodge.

The following crowd put three tables together and two grandfathers made sure all got the message — Grandpappy Frank Gillian — a beautiful blue eyed grand-daughter and grandpappy Alec George, a brown eyed grandson. Seated around were Max Law, Brian Kybert, Bill Tasker, Don Slater, Dick Blakeney, Bill Arthur, George Bates, Mick Baskett, Jack Robinson, Ron Callaghan, Ted Jensen, Clem Moroney, all finding out what transpired since 1979.

Another corner table consisted of Col. Gordon Osborn, Bill Jollie, Ken Stuart, John Gilchrist, Gordon Finlay, Geoff Williams, Earl Jones and Jock Gillespie — no sign of Fred Ness — hope he is not on the sick list.

Our hard working committee were at the table near the door — Max Herron, Vic Whiteley, Bob Lake, George Walker, Jack (Aspro) Collis and Bob Dixon — all carrying out their duties which make towards a successful day. We are lucky to have these men at the helm.

The raffle was won by Reg Armstrong who kindly donated same to the paper wrapping committee — thank you Reg.

As usual we had a few late arrivals in Jeff Braye, Pat Noonan, Bob Burnside and Jack Stone — latter trio marched with P.I.B.

Classic of the day was Bill Arthur escorting Brian Kybert, Dick Blakeney and Clem Moroney home — who escorted Bill.

About 4pm the ladies arrived — Peg Herron, Joyce Walker, Mary Lloyd, Kath Field, Jean Dixon, Joan Lake and Olive Finlay. Thank you ladies, it was pleasing to see you once again.

In conclusion would like to remind you to send your Dubbo acceptance slip to Peg Herron as the attendance is up to 105 and already one hotel and two motels have been booked out.

That is all for Anzac Day Reunion 1980. See you all at the Dubbo Reunion.

#### 2/2 REUNION JOTTINGS

by REG ARMSTRONG

A "Gammy" leg stopped me from being with the boys at the march but could not keep me from meeting up with them at the Reunion.

HORRIE SEDGER was the first person I met and because we had not seen each other for a long time we had to identify ourselves. Horrie was D Coy.

ARCHIE STANTON again and very good to see you Arch — first V sign for the day.

BILL NICHOLLS once more from Albion Park — does not seem to get any older, but said he had another appointment with Concord next June, so will be seeing you Bill. Brother George, from Ettalong also present with two hefty sons, who said they were there to carry Dad home after the show

DON LINTON was a surprise visitor from Chatswood. Have not seen Don at a reunion for some time — hope you make a habit of it now Don

ALLAN McINNES as usual was trying to have a few words with everybody and doing a very good job of it.

BERT BEASLEY made his annual trip from Brisbane and reports all Pioneers in his area in good condition. Mick Egan and Bert were having a good yarn together.

CHARLIE FIRTH of Cardiff made himself very welcome. Charlie had previously resided at Chatswood

BILL ROBERTSON was having a hard time keeping D Coy in order — reckon "Hilt" Martin from Dapto, Matt Elliott from the "Gong" and Russ Harrison from Epping had something to do with it

BOB DIXON did his usual excellent job as M.C. for which all were grateful.

JIM FIELD was very busy with his camera so hope everyone smiled when camera clicked.

ARTHUR DALDY from Cootamundra after a long absence — had a great time with Bob Lee and Tom Wood who had been missing for a long time

BLUEY LOCANE and Jimmy Muir had a great time — took their leave early so as to pay a visit to the Bankstown RSL.

CLEM (Grocer Boy) McDONALD was in fine form as Bill Lewis and "Blue" Curran were giving him a good hearing.

BRUCE METCALF, Reg Cairns, Bob Guinane and Kev Achurch were seen with their heads together, catching up on events since D Coy last meeting.

DICK KENNEWELL and John McTaggart made a welcome appearance and another face seldom seen was Bryan Neiberding. Bryan is S.I.L. of late Ted Stokes, C Coy hairdresser.

C Coy complained about lack of table space which comes about by the fact more C Coy boys turn up each year — almost back to full strength.

This winds up another reunion — so hope to see you all, and some more, next year.

#### WELFARE REPORT by H. MONTAGUE

With 1980 being the year of members reaching the average of sixty a number of enquiries were received regarding the Service pension. This pension applies to personnel who served in a theatre of war, and all assistance was given to all who sought.

Upon members notifying, I attended to all visitations in hospitals.

All funerals of our late members in the metropolitan area were attended and on all occasions our respects were passed on to the next of kin.

Many calls were made to the Veteran Affairs Dept. in Sydney to assist members in their problems.

If any assistance can be given, please ring me at 76-6657 and it will be a pleasure to assist.



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 guid 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 Lakey'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:
- 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.
- 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
- 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 apologises 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, Jumma & 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 COLLER writes from Victoria informing us of his slight stroke suffered last March, left him with bad hands and the left leq the worst affected. Ken, since that time has worked on these problems and with plenty of perseverance has now got 75% use of the

#### MAIL BAG

hands and a limp with the lèg which he hopes will show more improvement. Has bought a small place in the country down there, where he does a few odd jobs while wife is very keen on the gardens. Ken looks forward to the News and sends a cheque to the treasurer to help its support.

- TOM CONNOLLY writes from Waratah saying he hopes to make the trip to Dubbo providing the health holds out, Tom suffers with asthma and that is no respector of place or person. Tom sends his regards to all the boys and enclosed a cheque to the treasurer.
- JACK WILLIAMS now at Newtown sends a cheque and the thought that Dubbo brings back many memories. Jack was encamped there 1941 and the camp site was owned by the Baird family, Wal Baird became a member of the Pioneers and married a girl from Jack's home town, Hanging Rock near Nundle. Jack first became acquainted with Wal at Cairns where he and Charlie Griffy joined them up. Many thanks for the letter Jack, you don't say whether you intend to go to Dubbo or not.
- FRED CHARLESWORTH per the pen of the good wife, writes thanking Monty and Pat Walsh for their visits to Fred during his stay in Concord. Fred has eye problems and wife was dependant on family for her long trip from Stokes Point, so the visits by these two chaps were so very important to both of them. Enclosed was a cheque for the treasurer and we all wish you both better health.
- BERT MOORE our "Battalion Daddy" sends his sub to the treasurer, and his apology for non attendance at Anzac Day, only his second non appearance in over 30 years, Bert had to go to Melbourne and this was the only reason. We of course forgive you for this lapse "old timer" but just don't let it happen too often, as usual sends his best regards to all, especially Don Coy.
- TOM SLEEMAN sends a cheque, apologises for not being available for functions, Tom has leg troubles but he does see Gordon Walsh, Vince Christensen, and Nev Schaffer on occasions, reports that they are all well, but all getting that little bit older where troubles seem to pop up more frequently.
- GEOFF LLOYD writes from South Aust. wishing to be remembered to all the troops and hopes to attend the reunion next year. Geoff is researching a book and is finding the same very interesting. Back copies of Pioneer News have also been of some help and he has promised to forward names of any members that he may come across. Many thanks for the cheque, treasurer has same, where it's doing most good.

   ERIC "Bombo" REYNOLDS writes from
- Macksville and has decided to go to Dubbo. September is quite a month for Bombo, not only from the reunion point of view but will be four years in Sept., since they left Sydney for the North Coast. Both Eric and Joyce will travel via Dorrigo, Tamworth, and onto Dubbo via the west, should be a good trip. They are still playing golf, he has joined the R.S.L. Sub branch and met several new mates, also attained that ripe old age of 65. Many thanks for the letter Bombo, will see you both in September.
- BRUCE RICH sends his usual couple of lines from Narrandera with best wishes to all for a good Anzac Day and a cheque for the treasurer. Many thanks Bruce.
- PHIL BARNETT of Lismore sends a cheque to the treasurer and the information that Bill Hood is to retire in July and is considering settling in the Gosford area instead of Lismore.
   Phil also congratulates the committee on the success of our association.
- KEITH REYNOLDS sends a letter from Coonabarabran notifying of his intention to be

present at Dubbo, **Keith** was not at Redfern on Anzac Day but did attend the local function at Coona, and looks forward to renewing acquaintances at Dubbo.

- TED "Bluey" EATHER the Kempsey Kid sends a letter with a sub and the good wishes to all Pioneers. Blue feels o.k. had a big heart operation some two years ago, Aortic valve replacement and is on the pension. Blue has not had a drink for five years (you are not to read that bit Frank Gillian) Blue reckons the shock might be too great for you. All the 8 girls of the family are grown up, the baby will be 20 in August, makes him feel old (I reckon by the time you marry them all off, they will make you feel poor) but with 8 girls and a metal valve, you have got to be all heart. Blue has not called on Bombo Reynolds as yet, only 30 odd miles away, but will get around to it sometime in the future. Many thanks for the letter old mate, and may your membership of A.A. remain strong.
- . ARTHUR STAFFORD of Fairlight sends his cheque to the treasurer and his reason for non attendance at Redfern. Arthur took 2 weeks off work as part holidays in March to paint the windows of the second storey of his house. Went extra well until the lunch time of the 2nd day, when, with the extension ladder up 20 feet from the decking 2 litres of paint hanging off a butcher's hook, he got that feeling of a fast descending lift. The ladder had slipped and he crashed 20 ft to the decking. Result - (1) broken ankle (2) right shin ripped open on butcher's hook (3) badly bruised left heel (4) sprained right wrist (5) 2 bloody litres of paint all over him. Final count, 1 week in Manly hospital plaster on leg till 2nd May, so all in all, I'd say, a very fair effort, I wonder what you could do if you really tried Arthur, you would probably qualify for at least one blue ribbon. Many thanks for the letter, and in all sincerity we hope that you are fully recovered by the time you are reading this.

That concludes the mail bag for this issue, not a lot of comments to make. Manly still keeps up with the top teams, I think everyone enjoyed their day on Anzac Day at Redfern, I know the publican supplying the beer did, and a special word of thanks to my two barmen, who work for us every year giving their time free, so that we can make the most of our get together, the 2 Terry's.

See you all at Dubbo.

- LAKEY

#### **NEWS ITEMS** by HARRY MONTAGUE

**KEVIN BINNS** A Coy 2/1 joined us at the Anzac Reunion for the first time. Kevin joined the unit at Greta and then transferred out of the unit at Tobruk in 1941. We had not heard from Kevin for many years but feel sure he will now be a regular.

**HEC PAGE** D Coy 2/2 is in a nursing home at Gordon and although health wise he could be a lot better, he was very cheerful on my visit. Hec was one of early hard working committee men and sends his regard to all his friends.

JOE OLLIFFE is a patient at a Randwick Convalescent home and was happy to see me and chat about old times. He was most disappointed he could not attend the Anzac March, but saw the 2/1 on Television which made him very proud. Joe thanked me for all the best wishes from all his friends. It was also nice to see May Olliffe (Joe's wife) attend the Wreath Laying Ceremony with her young ones. Kind regards to both May and Joe.

PAT LAUGHREN from Nambour, Qld., sent us a telegram of apology for missing out on the Anzac functions, also apologising for Bill Simpson. Thanks, Pat, it was a nice gesture and very much appreciated.

#### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

from GEORGE NICHOLS, 2/1 Cronulla

Мах,

As this is my original contribution to the Pioneer News, and further seeing that I had not attended a city march for nigh on thirty odd years, I feel it only fair and fitting, that I should briefly record my feelings, and tender my appreciation to your Committee for the marvellous day that I had.

I must admit that I had mixed feelings, after all these years of ever being able to recognise a single soul, and it was really only due to the persuasive powers of my old friend "Porky" Graham, that I finally made my "entrance" as it were — but I can assure you, I shall never miss another.

Naturally there were dozens of chaps that I could not place immediately — many more quickly recognised me, (and the manner in which many of them expressed themselves towards my lack of hair etc. was anything but complimentary), but to me, it was one of the most rewarding experiences that I have had in many years — just to swap gossip with so many that I haven't seen for so long.

Sure there were odd sad moments — I will never forget talking with Jim Hall of Kyogle, prior to the march and suddenly realizing that neither Leo Ferris or Ray Smith of Kyogle will never be around any more, and later on at the reunion, I drifted to another table and came face to face with Jock Russell, only to wonder why Sandy Abercrombie wasn't sitting on one side of him and Stumpy Curtin on the other side — the only time that I can ever remember seeing one of the trio singularly.

There were many other occasions, too numerous to mention, possibly, this is why the day created such a memorable impression upon me

I guess I am indebted to "Porky" for originally getting me there, and for his assistance in identifying so many unfamiliar faces, and also Max Law, who unfortunately for him, "copped" me early at the reunion, and even though bleeding freely from his left ear, bravely stood up to a constant barrage of questions, till I finally staggered off to another table, and behaved similarly there.

I guess my most sincere thanks must go to you and your committee for the marvellous administration that surrounded the whole day — from the time that one arrived at the marshalling area, one felt "at home" and whoever was responsible for "slotting" the Pioneers in behind such a "beaut" band, certainly deserves a pat on the back.

The arrangements at the reunion reflected many hours spent in prior planning — from the Patrons speech, which was brief, sincere and excellently delivered, to the quality of the meal supplied, and particularly to the method of distribution adopted by the volunteer stewards. It all reflected great credit upon those of you who planned and controlled this particular section of the exercise.

In conclusion Max, may I offer to yourself and your band of workers my congratulations for the effort that has gone into binding the battalion Association together, and maintaining over so many years, such a healthy interest among its members, but more importantly Max, may I thank you all personally, for making the 25th April, 1980 such a happy occasion for me.

My most sincere thanks and congratulations to you all.

- GEORGE NICHOLS

# PIONEER NEWS

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# 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



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 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 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 offsider 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
- 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 guotes 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 BSI. 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 Ngarwavahia, 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 KEMPNICH 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 — DUBB
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Surname	Christian Name				
Ladies Name	PhoneUnit				
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 Btns. 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 earnt 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

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DECEMBER, 1980

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# 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 smoroasbord. 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 cobbers. 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 momento 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 we're 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.

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#### **DUBBO REUNION** — Continued

Law finally showed up — think wife Joyce gave him that extra push and wanted to meet some of the boys she's heard so much about. Fred and Edna Loveless from near Tallangatta, Vic., also made the long trip. Now Fred has more time on his hands we could see them both more often. From Victoria also came Col and Frances Shea, Leo and Mary Cornelius, Dick and Heather Marshall, Des Evans and Phil Bawden. Nice to have you along and do come again. Bill and Win Tasker were seen chatting to several groups. From Macksville came our old mate Eric (Bombo) Reynolds and wife Joyce. Hope my direction re the short cut was on target, Eric, and you had a good trip home.

Allan and Mary McInnes brought along two of Mary's friends, Angela Fraser and Claire Martens, who had nursed with Mary at Dubbo Hospital. Nice to have you girls. Jack and Emilie Coates from Umina were remembering old times, and sorry to hear Jim (Jumma) Hall and Lil could not make it. Jack and Wyn Hayden were disappointed that they could not stay longer — had to leave early Sunday as Jack had to report for work on Monday.

A group who stayed at the Royal Hotel and mostly first-timers were Vince and Eve Cullen, Bruce and Enid Mitchell, Frank and Alma Hallam, Wally and Marie Parsons and Betty Creasy. although we have seen Bruce from time to time. Jim McDonald was also there from Tuncurry, Believe Jim and John and Maisie Kempnich had a lot of news to catch up on, as John did not know the Association existed until recently. Don't forget the next reunion. Of course, the two "quiet" fellas of our mob, Joe Blanch (with Mavis trying to subdue him) and Frank Gillian and wife Bervl (who's had to put up with him for so long). could be heard without much trouble. Frank decided to bring along reinforcement in brother Charlie and his wife, Ronnie, Great to have you all along and sincerely hope it won't be the last. No. 1 son looked after Frank on Sunday night. Nev. Woodham also brought along brother Eric and his wife, Sybil. Hope you and Betty enjoy your new life in the Sunshine State, Nev.

Another group of first-up were Bill and Irene Hodges, Snowy and Gert Vickery, Keith Reynolds (sorry Eileen was unable to come), and Kevin "Frosty" McLean. Now you've made the effort it's easy and gets better each time. As usual, and more than welcome, are the widows of our members, Betty Creasy, Bonnie Snudden, Joyce Tomlinson and of course, a worker with the Ladies Auxiliary, Mary Lloyd. (Someone tells me Mary has a very sweet tooth.)

Now it's time to mention a few of the regulars. First I guess could be Mollie and John Hunt from Brisbane. They run the Queensland reunions and doing a tremendous job keeping the Qld. boys together. John was busy all week-end taking photos. Once again the Kyogle "Flasher" strikes again. During the trip up, Bob Dixon occasioned to shower, wash his undies. On the way back to his caravan the wind blew his glasses off — grabbing for them his robe flew open and over his head — and he's done it again. Lucky Bob — there was a lady passing — always the optimist!!

#### PIONEERS TRANSPORT PROBLEMS

It is obvious we were not a transport crowd — Harry Shiels, Jim Purse, Jack Pearce and Ron Foley (a 6th and 9th Div. Sig. visitor) doing two tyres on the trip up, plus a \$60 fine for "slow" driving, "Three Course" Kelly and Daph trying to drive a diesel motor on petrol, and our Treasurer Vic. Whiteley being "bumped" by a local. Also a certain officer who had only to drive his car two blocks to his destination and got lost. Thank goodness Sue Malcolm and Vera Hamilton decided to go to Dubbo because they had to

direct him where to go. Never mind, Frank, we won't say any more.

Renewing old friendships were Alec and Jean George from Lismore, Nev. and Mary O'Connor from Ballina, Fred and Jean Wheaton, Clancy and Irene Scholes, Ted and Nell Skoyles (heard about your tablet episode, Ted), Allan and Beulah Crute, Jack and Jean Clarke, Wal and Lal Page, Bob and Joyce McGregor, Ivan and Mabel Pepper, Noel and Rita Trefoni (well Noel we finally got Pepper moving), Ray Horne and friend Joan McIntyre, Ivor and Ena Garnon, Eric Guthrie, Jock Copland, Bill Hoffman (King Billie of South Molle), Bill Wright, Arthur Ludington, and Bert Wilkinson

Another group included Bill and Phyl Jollie, Gordon and Olive Finlay, George Bates, John and Josie Gibson, Tom and Pat Mutton, Roy and Phyllis Jardine, Jack and Marge Kerslake, Harry Montague, Flo and Jack Shearman, Gloria and Paddy Gray, good old "Rocky" Watts and friend Thelma O'Neill, and Bob Burnside still waiting for Jack Stone. (I think he must have called at the Gallipoli Club first, Bob.) Claude and Dot Campbell were busy renewing friendships from Newcastle and Kyogle. The Newcastle mob included Jock Russell, Jack and Esme Griffiths, Dick and Pearl Seddon, Tom and Linda Connolly, Jack Bertram and yours truly.

Nice to see so many 2/2nds among the new faces at our reunion and all seemed to be enjoying themselves — Colonel John Williams (thank you for coming, Sir), Bill and Margaret Barnes, "Speed" and Isabel Gordon, Jack Morgan (who I think were all staying with Joyce Tomlinson for the week-end), Wally and Margaret Baird, Ernie Lunn, Eric and Norma Lindsay, Fred and Evelyn Bellingham, John McKnight and friend Alice Byrne, Jack and Doris McGregor and brother Roy with wife Marion, Bob McGregor (nephew of Bob 2/1), Bryan and Marian Neiberding, Merv and Daph Howarth and Tom and Em Reynolds.

The group we must never forget are our hard working committee under the leadership of President Mick. To each and everyone of you our heartfelt thanks for what was to be a tremendous week-end. Our treasurer Vic. Whiteley was kept busy all week-end looking after all that money.

The usual toasts were carried out and our M.C. Bob Dixon kept things rolling and our guest speaker Gordon Osborn was in good form. The Mayor, Ald. Norm Cox was unable to attend, but was capably represented by Ald. Norm Ammitzboll and his charming wife, Pauline.

After more getting-together, the gathering started to break up in readiness for Sunday and our visit to the Western Plains Zoo.

#### **TOUR OF DUBBO AND ZOO**

Sunday saw us on buses for a tour of the City and then off to the Zoo where 160 members and wives witnessed the unveiling on the old grenade wall of the plaque presented by the 2/1 and 2/2 Pioneer Battalions Association, in appreciation of the welcome given the Unit by the Mayor and citizens of Dubbo in 1940. Jack Bertram 2/1 and Wal Baird 2/2, assisted by Mick Bye 2/2, carried out this duty in the presence of the Zoo Curator David Butcher, who later explained the set up and what was to happen in the future. The situation of the plaque will be noted in the new Tourist Guide pamphlet.

All animals in the Zoo are in their natural habitat and each section represents the area or country from where they came.

The barbecue lunch once again provided more opportunities to move about and meet those whom we had missed seeing on the Saturday night. Plenty to eat and, as usual, more cameras appeared. Kodak must have been laughing all the

way to the bank. To the ladies who made sure everything was ready and to the cooks we say thanks — a job well done. The hygiene parade to clean up was the only time I've not seen Pioneers grumble to do this job. We thank you, gentlemen. Then it was to the gift shop and a roaring trade they did. Doubt if many did not secure at least one souvenir of their Dubbo visit. And so back to the R.S.L. for a farewell gettogether.

#### **FAREWELL GET-TOGETHER**

All good things must come to an end — and 167 people turned up at the Club for a final evening. Still the talk continued until after 10 p.m. when many started to say their farewells and spoke of hopes of making the next reunion.

During the evening we were honoured to be visited by our R.S.L. State President, Sir Colin Hines, accompanied by Dubbo R.S.L. President and President of Western Districts Vern Traeger and Vic. Sauls, District Councillor. Our popular Patron, Colonel Gordon Osborn, together with Vice-Patron Frank Allan, President Mick Dodson and our two nursing sisters Sue Malcolm and Vera Hamilton, entertained our distinguished guests.

Later in the evening Harry Shiels, 2/1, and President of Dee Why R.S.L., entertained a few of us. I think Mick Dodson, Jock Russell, Ron Foley, Jack Bertram, Don Slater, Bob Gales and self made up this crew. By the way, I omitted to mention that Bobby Gales presented a very lovely tablecloth for the lucky bus door ticket, which was won by Olive Finlay. Many thanks, Bob, for your donation.

Well, as I said all good things must end, so finally it was back to our billets and Monday saw the troops disperse, going their separate ways, some to visit more places they remember.

Once again another successful reunion — they seem to be getting bigger and better — so members this is all until next time. Keep smiling, keep healthy and best wishes.

Your Reporters,
JACK BERTRAM and LARRY ROBSON.

#### **CAR REGISTRATION CUT**

In the September issue of 2/2 Newsletter Victoria it was stated the Victorian Government had introduced in January 1980 a 50 per cent reduction in motor car registration and third party insurance to Pensioners.

Unfortunately this does not apply to N.S.W. but on contacting R.S.L. headquarters I was informed this was being presented to Mr. Cox of the Transport Commission, as a recommendation for N.S.W. Pensioners.

#### FOR ADVICE

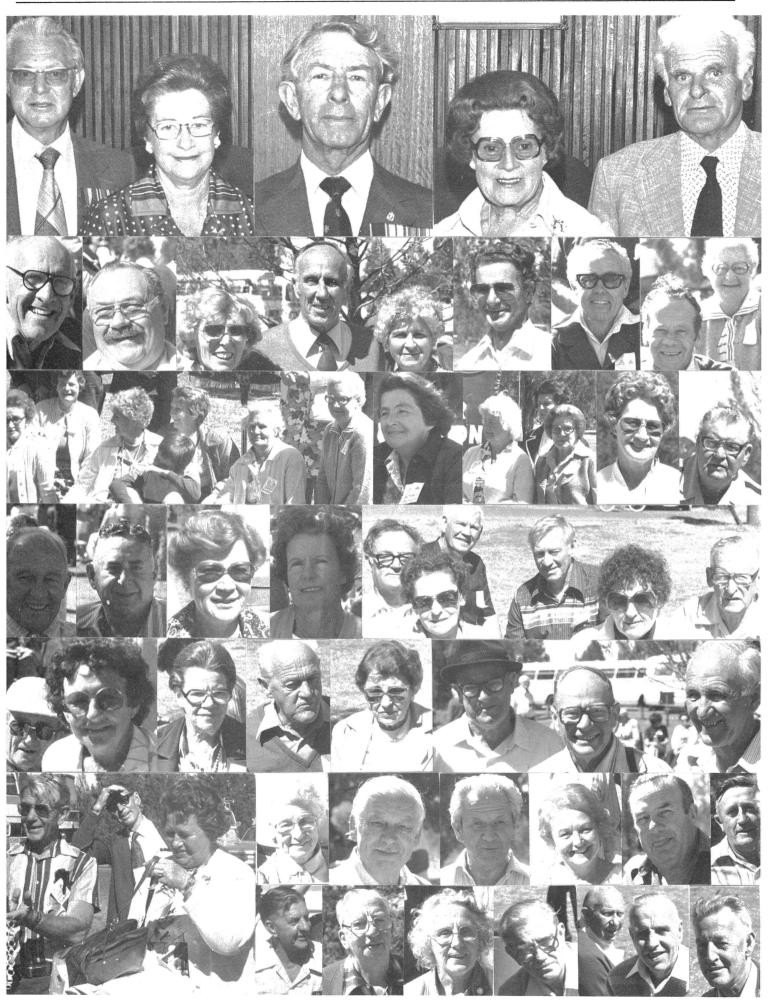
Our independent auditor, Mr. Arthur Watson, A.A.S.A. keeps a strict watch on our three accounts — General Fund, Pioneer News, and Welfare Fund.

He is available to the Executive Committee at any time and carries out the liaison work of our balance sheets with the Chief Secretary's Department.

#### FACES AT THE DUBBO REUNION 1980

1ST ROW: (Civic Reception) Jim Field, Kath Field, Gordon Osborn, Frances Shea, Col Shea, 2ND ROW: (Western Plains Zoo) Bob Dixon, Bryan Neiberding, Margaret Barnes, Allan McInnes, Joyce Tomlinson, Bill Barnes, Mick Bye, Jack Morgan, Hilda Bye. 3RD ROW: Ev Bellingham, Isabel Gordon, Joyce Tomlinson, Stella Daly, Doris McGregor, Hilda Bye, Bonnie Snudden, Marion McGregor, Norma Lindsay, Frances Shea Josie Gibson, John Gibson. 4TH ROW: Arthur Ludington, Bill Hoffman, Phyllis Jardine, Joyce Reynolds, Ivor Garnon, Jean Clarke, Laurie Kelly, Roy Jardine, Daphne Kelly, Jack Clarke 5TH ROW: Ray Horne, Joan McIntyre, Vera Hamilton, Frank Sue Malcolm, Don Slater, Allan Crute, Jack Bertram 6TH ROW: Gordon Osborn presents Peg Herron with travel bag in appreciation of her efforts as Booking Clerk (Bill Wright in background.) Pearl Seddon, Dick Seddon, Jack Griffiths, Esme Griffiths, Fred Wheaton, Nev Woodham, 7TH ROW: Joe Blanch, Lofty" Hannon, Mabel Hannon, Bob Burnside, Bob Gales, Jock Copland, Eric Guthrie

Thanks to — Bruce Mitchell, Photographer & John Hunt, Recorder.



#### LETTER TO EDITOR

Dear Max,

The Reunion at Dubbo was a "first" for me, but any misgivings I had about attending were soon dispelled by the friendly greetings on all sides, beginning with Gordon Finlay's warm welcome at the Caravan Park. I was soon made to feel part of the "family".

What a rewarding and memorable experience it all turned out to be! From the Civic Reception and the warm welcome by the Mayor and people of Dubbo on Friday, to the final get-together in the "Dugout" on Sunday night; there was not a dull moment. Of course, there was the added bonus of a "do" on Monday night with the remaining "strays".

Owing to the unique setting for the Reunion, it was a nostalgic "walk down Memory Lane" for most of the men, and Time would have turned back, briefly, 40 years!

If one facet of the week-end stands out more than another, it would be the march on Saturday, culminating in the very impressive and moving wreath-laying ceremony at the War Memorial.

As the men marched, I'm sure, there were echoes of marching feet 40 years ago and memories of a different Dubbo.

On the lighter side there was the tour of the Western Plains Zoo, which, no doubt, revived many memories, and the barbecue, where our genial cook dispensed steaks with happy abandon and tried to comply with even the smallest request!!

As a result of the Reunion I feel I have gained a better understanding of the term "Mateship" and have made some very good friends. I'll look forward to reading "Pioneer News" with added interest now as I'll be reading about *real* people and not just names.

Thank you for bearing with me, Max. Congratulations to you and Peg and all involved in the organisation of a great Reunion!

Kind regards from Snow and myself.

Yours sincerely, **GERT VICKERY** 

#### **NEWS ITEMS by H. MONTAGUE**

WALLY COPP was visited recently while on my sick calls and gave me a most welcome reception as he had not been in touch for years.

Wal was an original 2/1 and later transferred to the 2/2. He is now a T.P.I. and although not in perfect health, he is quite cheerful.

I had quite a session bringing him up to date with our activities and he really enjoyed recalling our long travels down memory lane.

Wal and his wife were most anxious to attend the Dubbo Reunion but his doctor did not think it wise so he extended apologies and hoped all had a good time.

He expressed thanks by phone to Max Herron for sending back issues of the Pioneer News, and hopes to be in attendance on Anzac Day.

JIM MUIR, 2/2, was visited at Lidcombe hospital, where he was receiving medical attention and was as cheerful as ever.

Later I contacted Bob Lee and Bob Dixon who both visited Jim and brought back pleasant memories of times they had together.

MRS. PAGE, widow of Hec. Page, 2/2, was extended a personal invitation to attend the Dubbo Reunion but could not accept because of a prior engagement. She thanked me for the invitation and extended her apology.

JOCK ARMOUR, 2/1 Bandmaster, could not make the trip to Dubbo but extended his apology and hoped the Reunion would be an outstanding success.

#### **QLD REUNION 1980**

A warm welcome was extended to the thirty members by hosts John and Mollie Hunt at their residence in October

Among those in attendance were — Mick Anselem, Ray Blanch, Mick Riley, Pat Laughren, Nev. Woodham, Arthur Ludington, Bill Hoffman, Betty Creasy, Phil Cramsie, "Mack" McKibbin and Fred Davenport.

The star performer of the evening was Norm Stephenson (Fred Davenport's relation) who entertained us on the piano with community singing.

All members thanked John and Mollie for a wonderful evening.

- HARRY MONTAGUE.

#### LAST POST by H. MONTAGUE

"TAFFY" LAWRENCE, 2/1, passed away recently and it was my sad and sorrowful commission to represent the Association at the funeral service.

Taffy was one of the Greta originals and he was without a doubt a man whose name will never be forgotten and was indeed a good friend to all who knew him.

His health had not been of the best for some time, but whenever I visited him, Taffy was always cheerful and eager to hear news of his friends.

Much could be written of this great First and Second War digger, but we will always remember him as a great mate whose name was a household name with the Unit.

On behalf of the Association I paid our tributes to son Des, daughter Merle and their families and in return they thanked me and said they appreciated having along a representative from the Association.

BILL PROSSER, HQ, 2/1, passed away in October and I represented the Association at the funeral service. I tendered sincere sympathy and sorrow at the loss of such a great friend, to his widow and members of the family.

Our tributes were deeply appreciated and extended their thanks.

Editor's Note'; From Mrs. Prosser we have received a Return Thanks card and a very nice letter thanking Harry Montague for his attendance at the funeral and for his kind words on Bill's behalf at the service. Mrs. Prosser said Bill's loss was a shock to them as he had only been in hospital five days. They would have been married thirty-seven years next month.

We thank you for your thanks and letter Mrs. Prosser and have kept your name on the roll so as to receive the Pioneer News but if you prefer not to receive the news just drop a line and let me know.

JACK PAUL, 2/1, and known to many of his friends as Jeep, passed away in July this year and we are grateful to his friend, Mrs. Frandsen in supplying us with the information.

Jack had been in hospital for four months and during that time Mrs. Frandsen had visited him daily.

We were fortunate in Don Coy 2/1 to have Jack as our mate as he was always cheerful and happy at all times. I really think the name "Jeep" Paul was known right throughout the whole of the Unit, and not just D Coy, for he was such a good hearted chap and would do anything at all to help his mates.

He came to the Anzac Day Reunion last year and was surrounded all day by his mates — Yes, he was indeed a good friend and —

- "We will always remember him".

#### **DUBBO REUNION THANKS**

The following letters of appreciation and thanks have been received by Secretary, Max Herron, and his wife, Peg, from several members who attended the Dubbo reunion. Many thanks for your kind thoughts, and the wonderful attendance at all functions made the long hours of organising a most rewarding task.

LEX and JACK COATES:— We thoroughly enjoyed our week-end in Dubbo. The organisation was wonderful and everything went off so well. It was really a credit to you. Many thanks for a delightful week-end to Peg & Max and your helpers.

PAT and TOM MUTTON:— Just a few lines to say how much we appreciated all your efforts on our behalf at Dubbo. We missed saying farewell. You both do a really wonderful job for all of us and I can assure you it is greatly appreciated — keep up the good work. There was some talk of having the next one up at Port Macquarie, if this is so Tom and I would be glad to assist.

CLIVE and BETTY HARRIS:— Just a note to say we survived the wonderful Dubbo Reunion. Both Betty and myself thoroughly enjoyed the whole week-end and the company of all those who attended. It is quite easily seen what we have been missing out on, having only just joined the Association after seeing your advert in "Reveille". I can see it is a wonderful organisation. Kind regards to you and Peg from Betty and myself.

VERA HAMILTON (Johan De Witt nursing sister):— The recent anniversary celebration of the Pioneers at Dubbo was a most enjoyable occasion. Your committee is to be commended for its splendid organisation and success. I did enjoy being included in the celebrations and would like to say thank you very much.

ERIC and NORMA LINDSAY:— Many thanks for a wonderful week-end at Dubbo — we really enjoyed the Reunion. Enclosed is a series of photo cards of Coonabarabran so you can "view our town from your arm chair".

BONNIE SNUDDEN (widow of CECIL):— I think we must all agree that a good time was had by all at Dubbo. The Reunion will have a place in our memories for a long, long time. Many thanks for the invitation, as it was a wonderful weekend

BETTY CREASY:— With many thanks and appreciation to you Peg, and the committee and its officers. Words just can't describe the good times we had.

MAVIS HALL, daughter of Mrs. O'Malley-Woods contacted Peg at the Wreath Laying ceremony and was promptly invited to attend the Reunion and the Barbecue but was unable to do so. We thank you Mrs. Hall for your letters of congratulations and the numerous newspaper cuttings of our week-end.

MARY LLOYD:— Thanks and congratulations to the committee and also a big thank you to Peg and Max for the transport by car and their company.

GORDON OSBORN:— Congratulations to the Executive and Committee and thanks to Peg, Max and Mary Lloyd for the enjoyable passage by car—have enclosed photos taken at Dubbo.

JACK and EMILIE COATES:— I can only say in a few words "You were all magnificent".

Editors's note: Jack wrote a very long letter and enclosed a batch of photos. Thank you Jack — your letter arrived too late for publication for Pioneer News but will hold over for next issue.

LETTERS OF THANKS from the Association were sent to Vern Traeger and his staff at Dubbo R.S.L., Alderman Cox, Dubbo Mayor and his secretary, Bronwyn Sams, Mick and Hilda Bye, Tom Culkin, Liberal newspaper, and David Butcher, Curator of Dubbo Zoo.



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 STANIFORTH 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 Johs 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 Penshurst, 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 Penshurst R.S.L. The bit I don't like comes now, quote, "Lakey you sure are taking your time re that trip to Penshurst, 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

powers that be discovered a disturbance of the balance of the middle-ear, this may eventually right itself, but then again he may have to wear it. Does not make him ill, no aches and pains, but on bad days can start off with fuzzy head and off balance. Jack and Wyn have attended Dubbo.

Max Herron also wrote to you personally, so I will not dwell on his letter, however on behalf of us all, thank you for a very nice and newsy letter.

PETER PRIEST per pen of Dorothy (how else

- PETER PRIEST per pen of Dorothy (how else would we get a letter), sends a cheque to the treasurer and the news that they would not be able to make Dubbo, terribly sorry to have to miss this one, I'll say this Pete and Dot, when you have read this issue, I'd imagine you would both be a lot sorrier. Dot, reading the last issue, says how great it was to read of Bert Hutley, as Dot works for his son John in Proserpine, and Pete knows John very well, it's a small world Dot. With regard to your other question, you have had a full how to get it and do it from Max Herron, should not imagine you having any problems so we all wish you well, keep smiling and sober.
- BERT RAYNER Kyogle, per pen of Margaret, with the regret of having to cancel the Dubbo trip. Seems like the old chap has problems with the winter and at his age decided to give it a miss. Well Bert, as you will have read through the paper write ups we all had a wonderful time, your apologies were noted at the dinner with a few of the other unfortunate ones, Margaret closes her letter with special regards to Kathy and Jim Field, Jean and Bob Dixon, one thing about the Rayners, they get to know all the noisy
- . JO THOMAS wife of the late Bill Thomas, our well known Q Master sends a sub to the Association and many thanks for the issue of Pioneer News. There were some names mentioned in the Sept. issue that struck a chord in Jo's memory, the likes of Ivor Garnon, Frank Dynon and Stan Goulston. Jo wonders if Frank's hair is still the same colour, well not actually, there is quite a lot of grey sprinkled through now. Incidentally, Frank Dynon is about to retire, some six more weeks or so, after a wonderful job at North Sydney Anzac Club. Jo also mentions names of Farlow, Graham Talburg, and Steers, you really are stirring up memories aren't you. Many thanks for the letter Jo, I hope you had your rendezvous with Colgate Dodson on the date mentioned.
- CHARLIE WILBY now of Moree and formerly of Pallamallawah, I hope that's how you spell it, sends a sub to the treasurer and the following hot line news. As everyone knows our Charles, he of the crooked leg, decided after (I don't know how many years) so long to have same leg straightened. The operation was performed at Moree by a visiting Macquarie Street specialist and for the record the same crooked leg is now straight. (Nobody will bloody well know you.) Jokes aside, he claims that he must knock minutes off his times with the Moree Diggers Club Swimmers, with 2 straight legs to drag through the water. Problems did arise, not necessarily through the operation and he spent some further 41/2 weeks in hospital, but is o.k. now and just starting to show form. Was in Brisbane at the time of Dubbo Show, has 2 sons up there, and was renewing acquaintances with them. Charlie will be at North Haven over the Melbourne Cup week. I presume that this is to do with Bowls. Bad luck Charles, I will be at Laurieton from about the 10th November for a couple of weeks, I have 2 sisters and their husbands in residence there. From North Haven to Taree where he hopes to contact Fred Brooks then to Newcastle where there is a great possibility of running into Jack Griffiths and Dick Seddon, well mate, it does not take a great deal of effort to run those two down, plus a few others, but you want your Rum boots on, there is

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT ON DUBBO REUNION

Gentlemen, in my estimation there are not enough words in the dictionary to express thanks to all the executive, committee, members and ladies, plus people outside the Association who assisted one way or other to make the Dubbo Reunion on 19th, 20th, 21st September 1980 the most successful and entertaining Reunion yet undertaken by the Association. This was a good example of committee, members and ladies working well together.

Other reports have covered all sections of the Reunion, but as we know at one time or other some names by mistake are omitted to be included in the thanks. I am endeavouring to cover all sections and names.

Plenty of time and work went into this organising, both by men and ladies. Even though they appreciated the many thanks extended to them, their best thanks were to see all thoroughly enjoying themselves. The men were led by our dedicated Secretary, Max Herron, and the ladies, by Peg Herron, an equally dedicated person. Both really enjoyed working on this Reunion and are looking forward to working on many more.

Now that all have recovered from being involved with the Dubbo Reunion the conversation centers around a prospective Reunion in 1981

The advance party led by Gordon Finlay and Olive Finlay, Jim and Kath Field, Bob and Jean Dixon, Vic and Peg Whiteley, with locals Mick Bye and Tom Culkin, had arrangements set down to a tee when the first of the visitors arrived.

All acclaimed the Civic Reception by the Mayor of City of Dubbo, Alderman Norman Cox, was the beginning of a most successful weekend, especially as this was the first Civic Reception

"Red Mill". Your question regards Jack Brown in "Rota". I may be wrong Charlie, but I think the transport driver in our platoon was Harry Brown, I can't place a Jack, as I said I may be wrong, but Jack Brown was an elderly bloke in those days, and I'm sure he was not transport. If you find out different, it will be something to write back about. Charles also had a visit from Joe Blanch and Mavis on their way home from Dubbo, claims Joe looked a bit worn after those few days, however with his tongue hanging out, Charlie acted doctor, and soon had the tired one sparking, marvellous what a can or two will do. Many thanks for the letter old mate, and I hope that leg does everything it is supposed to.

• ALLAN STONE of Raymond Terrace, says after a lapse of many years he has picked up the pen and wishes to be remembered to all his friends of D. Coy 2/2. This has come about by a chance meeting with Bluey Anderson 2/1 of Shoal Bay, who gave Allan back numbers of Pioneer News. Allan is retired now and although he had a stroke two years ago, has made a complete recovery. He met Jack McIntyre D. Coy 2/2 recently and he lives at Tanilba Bay (we would like his full address Allan). Thank you for your letter and your regards.

Well that concludes Mail Bag for this issue, a really gratifying response from writers, the necessary subs continue to arrive and that is what the paper is all about. At Dubbo, we, as an Association were rated second to none, our name is still good, the conduct of all our members over the full period was exemplary (they're not my words) the President of Dubbo R.S.L. said it. By the time this reaches you all I will have retired, however, Herron reckons that will give me more time for the paper. With best wishes to each and every member, their wives, their families, on behalf of Mail Bag, I wish each and everyone the happiest of Xmas', the greatest New Year, and good health, long life, See you, LAKEY and lots of luck.

attended by many of our members and ladies.

First the March by our members. Our marshall Bill Jollie and his assistants soon had the parade on the way even though we were not marching as spritely as forty years ago. Then the impressive wreath laying service at the Memorial, impressed the people so much they asked how long we had practised. Jack Griffiths' explanation of the proceedings was excellent, again people had not heard explanations of this nature at a service.

#### **REUNION DINNER SPEAKERS**

Speeches to some may be boring, but to the executive a necessity to thank people and to give other members a chance of taking part in our Reunion Activities. To the speakers at the Reunion dinner — Mick Bye, Max Law, John Williams, Col Shea, Alan McInnes, Gordon Osborn, Frank Allen; Vern Traeger, President of Dubbo Sub-Branch and Club; Alderman Norman Ammitzboll, representing Alderman Norman Cox, Mayor, City of Dubbo — thank you all for your part in our activities.

Frank Allen, his pleasing gesture in presenting the two framed maps to Dubbo R.S.L., was received by President Vern Traeger with many thanks.

After a very enjoyable bus tour of the Western Plains Zoo, all arrived at the centre for a Barbecue lunch, dry and peckish to be met with the pleasing refreshments handed out by Bob Lake and George Walker. Many were not aware that a hurried trip had to be made back to the R.S.L. Club for gear which had not not been loaded on the initial trip.

#### COOKS TO THE KITCHEN

Members were recruited to assist with the cooking of excellent steaks and sausages, while the ladies looked after the salads and tea, carrying out their usual job in a proficient manner. Maybe many may not have realised the work that was carried out before and after the Barbecue by Tom Culkin, Gordon Finlay, Wal Baird plus other recruits who loaded and unloaded the vehicles with gear from the R.S.L. Club.

Gordon Osborn made an excellent speech at the Barbecue when he presented, on behalf of all present, a travel bag to the much surprised Peg Herron for the part she played throughout the year seeing all were booked in for accomodation.

Another person I consider contributed something of note was Jack Bertram, who designed and painted the special banner for this Memorial Reunion. Gordon Finlay saw more of the banner than anyone else, he carried it around with pride for all who attended the Reunion to place their signatures upon it.

To top off the evening we were honoured with the presence of State President Sir Colin Hines, and Vern Traeger, President of Dubbo R.S.L. Sub-Branch and Club plus the District Councillor.

We were indeed lucky to have a Master of Ceremonies of the calibre of Bob Dixon who officiated throughout the Reunion in a manner that may have had people thinking he was a professional.

The successful Reunion was a good example of the committee, members and ladies all working well together.

Thank you all, Jack (Mick) DODSON.

#### PRESIDENT — LIFE MEMBER

JACK (MICK) DODSON was presented with his certificate of Life Membership by Allan McInnes at the Dubbo Reunion.

All members congratulate Jack on receiving this very high honour and extend their thanks for the effort he puts into the Association.