

PIONEER NEWS

Phone: 759-5491

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

Phone: 759-5491

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

Registered for post as a Periodical — Category A.

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



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Vol. 26 No. 1

MARCH 1981

\$2 Per Annum



1981 ANZAC FUNCTIONS

Well, what do you know. It is that time again, when all good Pioneers answer the call to assemble for their annual get-together. So the call goes out to all Pioneers to support the Committee who work so hard to keep you all together.

Your Social Secretaries Bob Dixon and George Walker have had their Social Committee Meeting and have finalised plans to ensure 1981 Functions will be as good, if not better, than previous years. Their only reward is to see a good roll up.

WREATH LAYING CEREMONY

Friday 24th April at 7 p.m.

Members of the 2/1 and 2/2 are to be at 19 Hunter Street at 7 p.m. Form up at 7.20 p.m. and move off from the corner of Hunter and Pitt Streets at 7.25 p.m. to arrive at the Cenotaph in Martin Plaza at 7.30 p.m. 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.
Herron.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Friday 24th April at 8 p.m.

All members are cordially invited to attend the Annual General Meeting at 8 p.m. at No.2 Meeting Room at the Combined Services Club, 5 Barrack Street. Upon completion members will retire to the "Duntroon Lounge" where they join the Ladies Auxiliary for refreshments.

ANZAC DAY MARCH

Saturday 25th April

Assembly points for both units are the same as

last year — 2/1 in Phillip Street near King Street and at the rear of the 6th Division — 2/2 in Phillip Street near Martin Plaza at the rear of the 7th Division.

Both unit banners will be displayed at their respective assembly points.

Please check city newspapers for any last minute changes in assembly points.

ANZAC DAY LUNCH/REUNION REDFERN TOWN HALL

Saturday 25th April

Upon 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.

The Redfern Town Hall is on the corner of Pitt and Wells Streets, Redfern, and just five minutes from the Redfern Station.

Members not able to march may still turn up at the Reunion — it is surprising how many faces you will see you have not seen for some time.

Doors will be open at 11.15 a.m. and draught beer will be on tap. Lunch will be served at 12.30 p.m. and snacks brought in about 2.30 p.m. This is carried out with a view to ensuring our members have a meal before steady drinking commences.

Food is provided free by the Association but members pay for their beer.

— JIM FIELD, Publicity Officer

NEWS ITEMS by Harry Montague

BILL McCARTER had intended going to Scotland, as stated by me previously, but due to unforeseen circumstances he is still at Ward 28, Psychiatric Centre, Gladesville.

I find it a great pleasure to visit Bill and he is always pleased to see me, and apart from my calls he is a lonely man. I appeal to any Pioneer who has a few moments to spare, please drop in and see Bill — I can assure you he would appreciate your visit.

NORM MITCHELL of the Mortar Platoon 2/1 recently had a stay at St. Vincents Hospital, and although he was to undergo surgery the following day, our meeting was really great as many miles were travelled down memory lane.

Norm is now home at Guildford and is progressing satisfactorily and hopes to be with us on Anzac Day.

JOHN EGAN, "B" Coy. 2/2 was recently enrolled as a new member and upon receiving back copies of the Pioneer News said it was quite thrilling to read of the doings of his friends in the unit.

He is now looking forward to renewing old acquaintances on Anzac Day.

BOB McCLOSKEY, 2/1 originally "A" Coy., comes from Lyndhurst, Cowra but is now a patient at Brentwood Nursing Home, Glebe Street, Parramatta.

Upon introducing myself and stating I had called on behalf of the Association, he was really pleased to hear of all the happenings of the people he knew so well forty years ago.

All Pioneers will remember Bob as a most formidable member of the Battalion football team. He sends regards to all his friends and looks forward to any visitors. I stated I would return within a couple of weeks.

ARTHUR SPILLANE, 2/1, is at Narrabeen War Veterans home and my visit to him was greatly appreciated.

Naturally most of our time was taken up by recalling the great games of football by the 2/1 team.

Arthur particularly requested that his best wishes be conveyed to all Pioneers, and he would be most pleased to see them at any time.

COUNTRY REUNION 1981 at PORT MACQUARIE

**Saturday & Sunday,
12th & 13th September 1981**

In the last issue of Pioneer News it was stated the 1981 Country Reunion would be held at Taree, but owing to a sudden decision by the RSL to make extensive building alterations, the Board cancelled the booking we had made with them.

The second choice by our Committee was Port Macquarie, so on 14/15th February the Executive Social Committee made a weekend visit to Port Macquarie and made all the necessary arrangements.

We hope that all members who attended the Dubbo Reunion, together with those who were not able to attend, will come along with their ladies and renew friendship and comradeship. Remember — old soldiers never die, but we do fade away.

Time does march on and it is a joy to say hello to your friends of long ago. The Committee have gone to great effort to create these Reunions, so as to give you the opportunity to meet your friends, sometimes for the first time in forty years. Why not take the advantage given to you as did the two hundred members who enjoyed Dubbo.

Although the Port Macquarie Reunion will not be on the same large scale as the Dubbo Reunion we can guarantee all members will have a wonderful, exciting weekend at the Port Macquarie RSL.

Enclosed in this issue is an advert covering all details of the Port Macquarie Reunion, together with a cut out slip which we would like returned promptly, as the RSL and places of accommodation want early bookings. This comes about because of the fact it is a very popular beach resort and has a high tourist turnover all the year round.

— JIM FIELD, Publicity Officer.

NEWS ITEMS by H. MONTAGUE

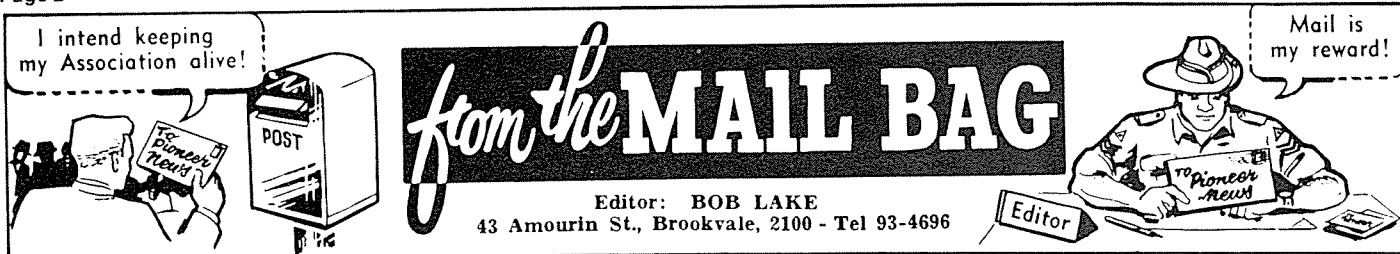
JACK DIXON, 2/2 "A" Coy., is at the Narrabeen Nursing Home and was on my visiting list. He was pleased to see so many 2/2nds turn up at the Dubbo Reunion.

Jack has a permanent cottage at the War Veterans Home and welcomes any visitor.

SID HUTCHINSON, 2/1 "C" Coy., is also a member at the Narrabeen War Veterans Home and was pleased to have a real good talking session with me.

JUNE KERR, widow of the late Ken "Mum" Kerr, made me most welcome upon my visit to her at the Narrabeen War Veterans Home. She conveyed regards and best wishes to all Pioneers.

Ken's name was a byword in the unit and was deeply respected by all who knew him.



The first issue of the New Year 1981 and we hope everybody enjoyed their festive season the way they wished to, and we look forward to a successful 1981.

• **MRS. ISOBEL FERGUSON** widow of the late **Jim**, with the information that Jim passed away in January after a long illness and nine months in a nursing home at Randwick. Our sincere sympathy is extended to you Isobel, with better fortune to follow this sad loss.

• **MRS. JUNE KERR**, widow of the late **Ken (Mum) Kerr** writes of her appreciation of the visit by **Monty** earlier in January. **June** was able to tell **Monty** that she is very comfortably situated at the units of the War Veterans Home at Narrabeen, and she is sure that she made the correct decision to become a resident of same. **June** sends her kind regards to all and best wishes for the future.

• **TED JENSON** writes from Doonside that he has retired from the P.M.G., turned 60 on 5/12/80 and retired on that day, 24 years of service. **Ted** sends his congratulations to all who took part at Dubbo, and now as a retired gent, hopes to make the next one in September. **Ted** plans a trip to South West Rocks around March, en route hopes to call on **Don Crookes** and **Ivan Pepper** at Newcastle. **Ted** sends his best wishes and will see us all Anzac Day.

• **BILL HOFFMAN** Kyogle sends a card to **Peg & Max** with best wishes to all. **Bill** attended the Brisbane reunion at **John Hunt's** and since his return has had a bit of trouble with sleeping — could be too much of that lemonade and stuff you drink.

• **JACK MCGREGOR**, Shortland sends a cheque to the treasurer and quotes that he and brother **Roy** and wives had a great time at Dubbo, and they appreciate all the assistance offered by **Peg** and the ladies. Closes with the note that they are looking forward to the News and future doings in 1981.

• **REG ARMSTRONG**, Wentworthville, made a trip south before Xmas where he did a bit of socialising in the Southern State. Managed to sprain his ankle at Delegate but pushed on to Orbest, called on **Lionel Fullerton** for a yarn and collected a donation as well. Reports that **Tod Morgan**, **Bert Brown**, **Fred Lay** and the rest of the old timers are all well, unhappily also learned of the death of his brother at Heidelberg General earlier in the year. Many thanks for the News **Reg** and will see you in March.

• **PADRE JOCK STEELE** writes from the Northern Synod Alice Springs, glad to know that the Dubbo show went off so well. **Jock** quotes that life is very interesting at the Alice, claims he feels superior when he walks down the street observing all the tourists who are only tourists, he is a resident, the humble part is when he goes to the bank to draw \$50 where the tourist is drawing \$500. **Jock** has good associations with the aborigines, many have adapted to the urban way of life, but just as many have not, and spend their money on drink, trying to return to the dreamtime. **Jock** feels a lot for the aborigines, drunk or sober, they call him "Father", "Daddy", and a few other names in their own language which could mean anything. Many thanks for the letter **Jock**, by the time this goes to print, you will have been back to the city, and I know you will

be in touch, your period of Alice expired.

• **BILL BURGER**, Emerald Qld, writes on receipt of the December issue of the News and the good reading of the Dubbo reunion, plus the photos, **Bill** tried for half an hour to try and place even one of the chaps but had to give up and look at the names in the end. Once a name was there it was oh so easy and the faces floated back. **Bill's** one great memory of Dubbo was the ice cold water from the showers before hot water was available, and his being cook's offside to **Bill Woodhouse** in the kitchen of the Officers Mess, quotes, "I sure ate well there". Also mentions the time at Zero Hill where **Three Course** dropped a match down the latrine not knowing that just previously a mixture of old oil and petrol had been poured into same, a big woof, and Kelly's hat flew about 20 feet in the air, with the same bloke minus eyebrows and half his mo, then were the days **Bill**, no excitement like that now. On the personal side, **Bill** keeps pretty well, can't travel very far, but keeps up with the mowing and the little odd jobs. His youngest son **John** has joined the 49th R.Q.R. and is progressing favourably. He likes the army and with two years behind him has been recommended for Officers Training Course. **Bill** closes with good wishes to all, and the treasurer has your sub in hand.

• **BILL WRIGHT**, Gosford, writes a letter of thanks for the organisation of the Dubbo show, "from the Civic Reception on Friday afternoon to the countdown in the 'dugout' on Sunday night the whole show was superb". This must be the best committee in the land — words are not available to really describe them, their dedication and diligence unsurpassed (**Bill Wright's** words, not mine). **Bill** closes with a big thank you, best wishes to all and will see us all on Anzac Day.

• **GEORGE PATTERSON**, St. Ives, sends his best wishes to all, continued success of the Association and a cheque to the treasurer, so many thanks. I might just add that we hope that your health has taken a turn for the better, that you have had no more troubles with those accidents that seem to find you and that you get the chance to take part with us this year at Anzac Day. Possibly **George** if the march is a bit much, then perhaps just a call for an hour or so at Redfern, keep it in mind please.

• **DICK SEDDON**, our Newcastle correspondent, sends a letter of Good Luck, Good Health for the New Year. He and **Pearl** have just about recovered from the festive season activities and are settling down to normal life again. **Dick** quotes on the good show at Dubbo and of some faces whom he had not seen since 1945. Reporting in the Seddon fashion, hasn't seen **Scotty Burns** for a while but no news is good news. **Frank Bartley**, a new member ex D.Coy, should have been in touch with us by now. **Tom Connelly** and wife both well. A card from **Claude & Dot Campbell**, both well and have had a drop of rain. **Roy Cheers**, no word for quite a while. **Jack Griffiths** just back from a month on the Gold Coast — "I presume that this was holidays and that **Esme** was with him". Still working hard and still arrives for the

usual few on Friday nights. Sees **Max Hartwell** on occasions, who enquires about some of the old boys. **Stan Hodges** ok and still able to take a little nourishment. **Bob Juleff** and wife were at the Xmas meeting, both well and **Bob** has retired just turned 80 (I wonder why). **Vic Jones** still ok, **Nuggett Laurie** sends his regards to all and hopes to make it in September. **Bruce Mitchell** also keeping fairly well, but runs out of puff pretty easy. **Micky Hollis** and **Jack McCracken** have passed on, mentioned last paper I think, **Clive McLachlan** and wife **Helen** are licencees of the Golden Fleece Hotel, Scone, always pleased to see any of the troops that may pass through. **Ted Simpson** still ok, doing it easy at 80, **Herb Wilson** and **Anne** may be moving back to Gloucester, both ok, if possible they will contact **Don Galvin**. A letter from **Charlie Wilby** telling that the operation on legs was successful and is now able to bowl better than ever. **Jack Bertram** ok, as lively as ever, and he saw **Ern Hayden** when they were in Adelaide in November. **Dick** closes this documentary with the quote that the photos in the News were just great, but it was as well that names were supplied, otherwise he wasn't sure whether he could have picked himself and **Pearl** out of the groups. You must be getting a bit short sighted **Peter**, might need a seeing eye dog perhaps. Many thanks for the missive, keep smiling and hope to see you Anzac Day.

• **BILL HOOD** writes with notice of his new address "Wamboral" and notice that although they have a house but due to drought no lawns or gardens as yet, an unusual situation for **Bill** and **Marge** after so long on the North Coast. **Bill** and **Marge's** chances of Dubbo became remote with the death of **Marge's** sister in early September, however he did enjoy the write ups from the News and noticed many that he had met at Kyogle were again present at Dubbo. Many thanks for the letter **Bill**, and address noted and adjusted on mailing list.

• **JACK SHEARMAN** and wife **Flo** sends a letter of thanks to the secretary, and expressing his thoughts on Dubbo, they had a wonderful time and an enjoyable week at Barmedman on the way home. Met the **Fields** and **Dixons** at Bathurst on the way home, enjoyed a cup of tea and another good yarn. Saw **Alwyn "Dora" Black** at Evans Head and **Dora** had not received his paper, did he write in his change of address?? **Jack** also passes on the news that **Lil Hall**, wife of **Jim**, has not been very well, we all wish **Lil** a speedy recovery and hope that she has well and truly regained her old touch by the time this paper is posted. Many thanks for the letter **Flo**, notice that you do the writing also. **Max** says thanks for the photos, and perhaps we may see you again at Redfern this year.

• **BOB LONG** of Sutherland sends a sub to the treasurer and is sorry that he is unable to attend any of our functions. **Bob** is almost blind, however he still manages an ale or two at times with **Jack (Dog Tired) Clarke**, that is between visits to Concord where he is a regular outpatient. **Bob's** family have got a bit of a scatter on, one son in Brisbane, one at Newcastle and the other nearer home at Caringbah.

March, 1981

PIONEER NEWS

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2/1-2/2 PIONEER BNS. ASSOC. invite all PIONEERS and their LADIES to the
COUNTRY REUNION at PORT MACQUARIE

on Saturday, 12th September and Sunday 13th September, 1981

MINI REUNION - Friday 11th September, 1981 at 5.30pm.

Members arriving Friday may partake of a meal at the RSL restaurants
Afterwards for drinks in the front section of RSL auditorium, set
aside for Pioneers sole use, with full bar facilities...

TOUR OF PORT MACQUARIE - Saturday 12th September 1981

Members will be issued with booklet and map, showing places of
interest, so as to arrange own private tour in car. Appreciated if
members with cars would invite members without cars on tour with them

WREATH LAYING CEREMONY - Saturday 12th September 1981 at 5.15pm

Members line up at the Soldiers Memorial. No march. Medals to be worn

REUNION DINNER - Saturday 12th September 1981.

6pm Pre-dinner drinks in the front section of RSL Auditorium.

7pm Buffet dinner in large function room. Costing: Pre-dinner drinks,
wine/squash for toasts and Reunion dinner, per person, total- \$12.50.

COACH TOUR and PICNIC LUNCH - Sunday 13th September 1981

9.15am- Assemble in RSL car park. 9.30am Depart by coach for tour-
Wauchope, Comboyne, Ellenborough Falls, then return via Kew and Camden
Haven. 12.30pm Picnic lunch at Ellenborough Falls. Refreshments at
cost. Costing: Coach tour, gear and picnic lunch, per person total \$9

SMORGASBORD - --Sunday 13th September 1981 at 5.30pm

5.30pm to 7.30pm- The RSL provide a Smorgasbord each Sunday evening
with pictures to follow at 8pm. members may assemble in Mixed
Lounge for a drink and a get together afterwards.

ACCOMMODATION - Hotel; including bed & breakfast; \$28 double, \$14.50
single. Motel; room only, \$22 to \$25 double, \$20 to \$22 single.

EARLY NOTIFICATION - is necessary in order to book accommodation, so
post slip below as soon as possible, or hand to Sec. on Anzac Day.

--- CUT OUT --- Fill in particulars --- Port Macquarie Reunion

Surname _____ Known name _____ Ladies name _____

Address _____ Phone _____ Unit _____

Accommodation: If required to be booked
by Assoc. insert number of people for
each night alongside hotel or motel:

	Frid	Sat	Sun	Mon
Hotel				
Motel				

Own Accommodation, if booking, state place of staying
and fill in number of people and nights in panel above.

Attendance: insert number of people: Mini Reunion....Reunion Dinner.....
Coach tour....Picnic lunch....Smorgasbord.... Train..... Car.....

POST at your earliest: Mrs. Peg Herron, Booking Clerk, 2/1-2/2 Pioneer
Battalions Assoc. 3 Enoggera Rd. Beverly Hills, 2209. Phone 759 5491
Deposit of \$20 motel, \$10 Hotel will be called for in June, Pioneer News

• **PETER PEILE**, per pen of wife **Erika** (I hope that is correct), sends a cheque to the treasurer, doesn't know whether that puts them in advance or not. I can't tell you either, however **Pete** is still fairly well and still working, **Erika** thinks that perhaps the time is fast approaching where that last bit may be altered, getting very near the time to be seeing **Monty**, can only add, don't leave it too long, we can thoroughly recommend the retired stage and can assure you, there are no problems with it, just don't get under **Erika's** feet, and keep out of the kitchen.

• **MRS IDA HORDER** sends a cheque to the treasurer, a very nice card wishing all Pioneers a good festive season and a very happy and prosperous New Year. May we say per medium of the News that these good wishes are most reciprocal to your sweet self.

• **FRANK ALLAN**, our one and only Pinocchio, sends a letter to **Max** with a cheque for **Vic** to do good with, and claims he is still giddy from driving around Dubbo. Just take it easy **Frank** and just get yourself oriented for September coming up, can promise just as good a reception, possibly a few different faces and a bloody good time. Your thanks to the working committee accepted, and the result is always thanks enough.

• **LEN PREEDY** and wife **Joy** writes a letter of good cheer for the New Year and passes on a bit of news to **Max & Peg** personally. At time of writing, December, the weather over West Australia was still very cold, Joy still in sweaters, and longing for a bit of warmth. Their younger boy has become engaged, makes them realise that time is racing by. While **Len** has still some three years to go to retiring, he has a business to get rid of, **Joy** thinks he would go tomorrow if it were possible and as it gets closer so the patience starts to wear thin. **Len** and **Joy** were off to Brisbane for the bowls this year, and after this time, are giving it a break for a while, there are so many other things they want to do and they just can't take the time for both. Many thanks for the letter **Joy**, keep smiling and happy travelling.

• **STEVE SNOW** of Arncliffe sends a short note to the treasurer enclosing a cheque for his subs for Pioneer News, but not much else, many thanks **Steve**, but you are not helping to fill it up much.

• **BOB TAYLOR**, Jamberoo, again in the same strain as **Steve** sends a cheque to the treasurer and good wishes to all for the coming year, doesn't anything happen down at Jamberoo **Bob**?

• **CLARRIE PAKES** of Marrickville sends a cheque to the treasurer and remarks on the last issue of the News and the amount of interest it gave him. Suppose a few of those photos would bring back a few memories mate. Many thanks for the note and how about making a trip to Redfern this year.

• **JOHN HUNT**, Queensland, writes a note on the success of the Brisbane reunion. Thirty people attended John's home on this occasion and everyone enjoyed the slides shown by John of the Dubbo show, these same slides will be forwarded to **Jim Fields** as arranged previously. Via John's letter was also a cheque from **Mick Anselme** as dues and subscription to the Association, many thanks **Mick**. Also reported that after the reunion at John's, **Toby Palen** was involved in an accident on his way home. Light rain falling, **Toby** had to brake, apparently brakes locked and car skidded sideways into oncoming vehicle. **Toby** was in hospital for quite a while, but there was no one to tell John what had happened till much later, however pleased to report that **Toby** is now at home. With regard to your query as to the youngest member of the

Pioneer Battalion, I, **Lakey**, cannot place **Darkie Norton** or **Shorty Briscoe**, that's not saying they were not with us, however, I would like to say that **Billie Nicholson** of HQ Coy would have been our youngest member, **Bill** was just over 16 years of age when he sailed on the Johann DeWitt in September 1940, he had his 17th birthday in Tobruk. That's about all I can add to that John, **Frank Soars**, the bowler of some fame (lawn bowls) was also in our unit, but was shipped out of Tobruk early April or May because he too was only 17 years old. That's all I can add to that subject, others may know of more, however I hope it doesn't start an argument over the years to follow. Many thanks for your letter **John**, good news, and he closes with best wishes to all, they are all well north of the border, the only trouble too much work interfering with the social life.

• **PETER PRIEST** per pen of wife **Dorothy** sends a short note to the Secretary and enclosing some papers that **Max** had made available to them in the pursuit of the Service Pension. Also a thank you to **Vic Whiteley** who also had help to offer. On their behalf, many thanks **Dot**, for your kind note, and we hope that it is not long before you become one of the lucky couples.

• **MICK PUNTON** again per pen of wife **Margaret**, sends a cheque to the treasurer and explains that Mick does not have time to write letters, too much work, however he does find time to read Pioneer News, it's his way of keeping up with the doings. They close their letter wishing everyone the very best for the New Year.

• **BONNIE SNUDDEN** of Cobar sends a thank you to the Secretary for the photos that he forwarded to her of the day at the Zoo, Dubbo. Bonnie feels that the Association is just one big happy family, and is happy to be associated as part of, also hoping to see all again at a future function. Well, Bonnie, that's easy, just watch your social bookings around September 1981.

• **TOM BLAINEY** and wife **Vi** also send a thank you letter for the wonderful weekend at Dubbo, claims they are still talking about it. From their time of arrival to the time of departure, one great success, and Tom so very glad to meet up with some of his old company after such a long stretch of time, bet there were a few stories there.

• **ERIC REYNOLDS** and wife **Joyce** writes of the enjoyment they derived from Dubbo and they had a very good trip home. Taking **Larry Robson's** advice, they took the road through Sandy Hollow to Maitland, stayed with eldest daughter for the night, then an easy passage to Macksville the next day. This letter from **Eric** was written in October and he mentions that they need rain badly, however I think since then that there has been quite a lot of rain on the mid and north coast, so should think that things would be better for those vegetables now. Also building a new fernery and the hens are doing the right thing laying eggs, so all in all **Eric** has not got too many problems. Thank you for the letter and we reciprocate with the good wishes.

• **JACK COATES**, Umina, writes his usual really good letter. Just sometimes, I wish he would slow his writing down a bit, it gets a bit hard to follow, however onto his notes. Comments were that after a 1960's election, Menzies (Prime Minister) said to Jim Killen, "You were magnificent". After Dubbo **Jack Coates** says of the Dubbo organiser, "You too are magnificent". Jack has a wonderful memory and he related to **Frank Allan's** after dinner speech to the widows and wives who waited, and on to **Gordon Osborne's** more lighthearted run down on how an army ticks ... **Three Course Kelly** not looking a day older, **Gordon Finlay** as the super star of public relations. While he quotes that "Soc. Sec.

Bob Dixon missed his vocation, should have been a politician", wants to know have you been getting a few pointers from **Fred Daly**. On the visit to the Zoo with that Big Tiger eyeing off the good tucker represented by some our more plump personnel, he just couldn't resist it. To **Whiteley** and **Lakey**, this is the Year of the Tiger. That casts the omen for "Balmain", speaks of **Tom Mutton** coming back on board ship at Colombo, with a tiger head tattooed on his arm and underneath McGillicuddy's Circus. **Jack** reckons that Colonel McGillicuddy had Tom paraded just to have a peep at the tattoo. Claims that at the risk of being shot at dawn by **Peg Herron** and the committee, might he suggest a 50-year Reunion.

The march to the cenotaph, the memories of a much the same march only loaded with gear and rifles out across the old bridge, was it 40 years ago? I've got the answer to that **Jack**, "Too bloody right". Still talking names he speaks of **Snow Vickery**, **Vince Petrich**, **Jack Griffiths**, **Dick Seddon**, **Big Wheaton**, **Claude Campbell**, all old 12 Platoon from the bottom hut at Greta, **Bill Tasker**, **Max Law**. What I'd like to know, how did that Newcastle North Coast mob ever let a Balmain Tiger into their camp?? **Jack** brings his letter to a close by saying, the greatest thing that happened at Dubbo was that all those wonderful wives were present, and how such a show must help them to understand their husbands a little bit more, and the friendship and camaraderie that exists after all these years. Many thanks for a great letter **Jack**, just bear it in mind, a little slower, and our very best wishes to yourself and **Emilie**.

• **MRS. ETHEL STARR**, widow of late **Arch**, sends a subscription to the paper and explains that she still enjoys reading of the doings that go on, and looking forward to the future copies of same.

• **BERNIE DALY**, Taree, sends a sub to the treasurer. By the way I received this news, I'd say **Bernie** must have paid this to some person or persons who had been in contact with him.

• **DAVID WELLER**, Bomaderry, sends a note expressing his apologies for non-attendance at the 40th Anniversary, but explains that he is very restricted with regard to movement and must respect this problem, however he assures us that he is always there in spirit. Many thanks for the good wishes **David**, and treasurer has your cheque.

• **JOHN & WYN HAYDEN**, Orange, with a letter expressing their enjoyment of the Dubbo reunion, their first, but by no means the last. Their only problem that they had to forgo the Sunday because of Jack's shift work with Email. This will not be so anymore, as Jack retires from the job in May this year. **Jack** will be in attendance at Redfern this year and could possibly be accompanied by son John. **Wyn** and **John** also had another good experience in November, a 40th Anniversary, where family did the right thing with a lovely photo of the complete group plus the necessary red roses in special liquid so they remain everlasting. **Wyn** also passed **Gordon Osborn's** message on to her neighbour Terry, a friend of Gordon's, and spoke of her own pleasure at seeing **Bill** and **Phil Jollie** after all those years. Many thanks for the letter **Wyn**, look forward to seeing you again at Port Macquarie.

• **LAURIE FITZHENRY**, 2/1 of Paddington, writes in to say he enjoyed reading all about the Dubbo Reunion and did not realise all the names he knew so well were still around. He met "Smiler" **Burns** at the Paddington RSL when "Smiler" came down from up north to visit his brother who is also a member at Paddington RSL. He is still the same "Smiler" — a grin all

MAIL BAG - Continued.

over his face. **Laurie** has been retired a couple of years now, and hopes to see all his mates on Anzac Day. Thank you for your congratulations Laurie, on a good job being carried out by the Secretary and Committee. Many thanks also for your subscription.

• **BOB AUSTIN**, 2/1 of St. Kilda, writes to say he was pleased to see such a good response from the 2/2 members at the Dubbo Reunion, and from the Pioneer News he could see everyone enjoyed themselves. Thank you **Bob** for your subs and letter.

• **TOM SLEEMAN**, 2/1 of Eastwood, sends regards to the Secretary and wife Peg and enclosed his subs for 1981. Tom wishes to be remembered to all Pioneers including **Gordon Finlay** and **Max Law**, and hopes all are well. Tom had just come out of Concord Hospital after further treatment on his right leg top half. They had treated the bottom half about five months ago. When at the Gladesville RSL he meets **Vince Christensen** and **Gordon Walsh**. Thank you **Tom** for the letter and subs, also for your compliments to the Committee.

• **BERN REINERS**, 2/1 of Corryong, sends a breezy letter and a donation — thank you for both Bern. In January **Bern** and **Mona** did a twelve day trip to Singapore and had a wonderful holiday. Each letter we receive from Bern and Mona they are going on a trip — but Bern says that's it for a while unless they win Tattslotto. They had a family gathering at Warrnambool on their way home with sons Brian and Lex and daughter Mandy and got all their holiday talking over in one big sweep. Nice to hear from you **Bern**, and **Max** tells me that is three letters in three months — nice work Bern.

• **IVOR GARNON** heard at Dubbo that **Peg Herron** had commenced stamp collecting, so he very kindly sent her a nice bundle. Peg thanks you Ivor, and Max said he would bring your photos along on Anzac Day.

• **ROY MCGREGOR**, 2/2 of Rathmines, writes to say he enjoys receiving the Pioneer News, since contacting the Association just before September last year. Roy states he really enjoyed his first reunion — Dubbo. He is enjoying retired life on the waterfront in ideal conditions about 2km off the road from Morriset to Toronto.

He notes that **Jack McIntyre** and **Alan Stone** are in the Port Stephens area and should they or other Pioneers wish to contact Roy, his phone number is 75-1091 (STD049).

Thank you for your letter and donation, Roy.

• **FREDA SALOWAY** sends a letter and subs on behalf of Cyril who is at present a patient at Prince Charles Hospital, Chermide. We thank you Freda for the letter and sub and do hope Cyril makes a speedy recovery.

That completes the letters received for this issue. I hope all our members, wives, children and grandchildren had a good festive season, with plenty of goodies from Santa, hope all my mates shared their goodwill with Tooths and Tooheys, hope that some of their favoured football teams have plenty of success. Sorry about Balmain, **Coatesy**, it's the Sea Gulls for 1981, and hope to see as many as possible at Redfern in April.

So long now.

— LAKEY.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Max, Bob,

Reading the "News" and learning that Jack Paull alias the "Jeep" had passed away gave me quite a shock. Even though I had only seen him once since we were all discharged, during those other years we had formed a friendship that sometimes had its moments of hostility. So per the generosity of The Pioneer News I would like to send him this message:

"So Jack you forgot to say goodbye. Never mind, I bet you don't forget the six weeks we shared the cabin down on 'C' deck on the 'Lizzie' sweltering in all that heat, then over at Hill 69 in Palestine, and how I used to drive you mad playing the record 'Home Sweet Home' on that old gramophone we had, and then one day it finally got to you and you picked it up and threw it from here to eternity. And the time you and Russ Monahan conned me into selling you that bingo set and you both made a fortune."

"Then there was the time you were making hamburgers in that little shop at Newtown and the only time I have seen you since we were all discharged — you took me over to see your sister."

"Then I can see you and big 'Tiny Chapman' always clowning?"

'And last but by no means least you must remember when the cooks used to call out 'back up' and it was a race between you and me. And I don't forget going to the R.A.P. where you gave me some purple dye for a paint job?"

"So Jeep you old so and so, wherever you may be, always remember that — Old soldiers never die, they just pack their kit bags and move out onto whatever transport is available."

"But one thing for sure Jack, we will meet again. Vale Jeep."

Jim Gray, NX69342.

NEWS ITEMS — by H. MONTAGUE

WAL MCGREGOR, 2/1 "A" Coy., is at the Narrabeen War Veterans Home and has taken it upon himself to tend to the flower gardens there. For the past three years this has been his pastime, and the gardens are really beautiful.

He has even purchased seats for the area out of his own pocket.

Wal is a brother of Neil "A" Coy. and Bob "D" Coy., and were all members with the 2/1.

Words cannot adequately describe the wonderful feat he has performed in reclaiming ground which was once very barren. He has turned it into a most picturesque setting and has won the praise of all people at the home.

TED SKOYLES, resident of the Narrabeen War Veterans Home, gave me all the information as to the whereabouts of all our members at the home. Nell Skoyles provided me with a most appetising meal and they both made me most welcome, for which I was most appreciative.

Visiting our members certainly cheers them up and it is always a pleasure to be able to assist with their problems — to me, this is what the Association's Welfare Section is all about.

JOE OLLIFFE, 2/1 "H.Q." Coy., is still undergoing treatment at a Nursing Centre at Randwick, and is still quite cheerful and appreciates my visits and is pleased to hear about his friends.

Joe was delighted to hear of Dubbo, and was sorry he could not attend. He sent best wishes and regards — and so did May, his wife.

MAX NEILSON, 2/1 "D" Coy., was recently a patient at the Prince of Wales Hospital, Randwick. He had been transferred from Dungog Hospital for treatment — we are in debt to John Gibson for passing the information on to us.

I had not seen Max for thirty years so we did have quite a chat. He thanked me for the visit which he greatly appreciated.

CALLING "HQ" Coy 2/2nds

(ESPECIALLY TANK ATTACK PLN.)

JOE WHITE, 2/2 OF Victoria, was recently in touch with Nev. O'Connor of Empire Vale with the suggestion Nev. arrange a Reunion of HQ Coy 2/2 around Anzac Day.

Well, Joe, a reunion of both 2/1 and 2/2 Pioneers is held each year at Redfern, Sydney, and C and D Coys 2/2 are present in strength.

Last year, among others attending were Dick Kennewell (a regular each year), Horrie Sedger, Archie Stanton, Bill and George Nicholls, Don Linton, Allan McInnes, Bill Robertson, Mick Egan, "Bluey" Locane, Jimmy Muir, Clem McDonald, Bob Dixon, Jim Field, Reg Armstrong, Bob Guinane, Ken Achurch.

There were others, too numerous to mention, so Joe would be sure to meet up with many of his former comrades. Copies of back numbers of Pioneer News will be posted to Joe, together with a letter giving more details.

Many thanks to Nev. O'Connor for passing on Joe's address, and best wishes to Nev. and Mary from all here at Sydney.

LAST POST by H. MONTAGUE

FRED CHARLESWORTH, 2/1 "H.Q." Coy., passed away recently, and it was with great regret we learned of his passing.

Fred joined the 2/1 at Greta in June 1940 and was the Deputy Bandmaster of our company of musicians who attained fame wherever they went. He was the sergeant and played the cornet as a professional and was a friend to all.

With Jock Armour, who was the Band Master, they did a tremendous job in establishing a great band which will forever live in the memory of all Pioneers.

Fred had not enjoyed good health over the past few years and I had called on him at Concord on quite a few occasions and he was always keen to hear of the Association's doings. His funeral was a private one, but tributes were sent to his widow.

SID SWEENEY, 2/1 "A" Coy., recently passed away in the Blue Mountains Hospital. He had been ill for some time and while at Concord I had visited him continuously. "Half a slice" was our nickname for him, and he looked forward to my visits on behalf of the Association.

As it was a private funeral no representation at the funeral was made by the Association, but to the next-of-kin we do extend our sincere sympathy.

COUNTRY REUNION 1981 AT PORT MACQUARIE

REUNION DINNER at Port Macquarie R.S.L. on Saturday 12th September 1981

COACH TOUR and PICNIC LUNCH on Sunday 13th September 1981 to Ellenborough Falls

Pioneer News insert in this issue contains full details.

— JIM FIELD, Publicity Officer.

PIONEER NEWS

Phone: 759-5491

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

Phone: 759-5491

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

Registered for post as a Periodical — Category A.

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



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Vol. 26 No. 2

JUNE 1981

\$2 Per Annum



ANZAC DAY WITH THE 2/1-2/2

2/1 ANZAC DAY MARCH

Once again in glorious sunshine approximately 142 members of the 2/1 Pioneer Battn. moved off from Phillip Street to the beat and music of the Bankstown Police Boys Band, under Sgt. Alan Gallagher. Our standard bearer this year was Jack Hayden, Jnr. and we were again led by our Patron Col. Gordon Osborn, assisted by George Patterson. Into Martin Plaza and to the beat of a drum silently passing the Cenotaph, remembering our comrades of yesteryear who paid the Supreme Sacrifice and those who have passed on since those days of 1945. In the past 12 months we have lost some 30 members. "We will remember them". All agreed it was a good march.

Some members as usual were not able to attend owing to prior commitments, others on the sick list, however they sent apologies. One to mind is Leo Morris, who was hoping to make it, but on sick list. Keep the chin up Leo and "she'll be right".

Two new members were Eric Causer and Vic. Mahoney, both from Victoria. Vic asking news of Bob Fogarty of the Mortar Ptn. (Understand Vic's son has a pub in Sydney.) Eric Causer was accompanied by his wife, Dot. Welcome folks and hope it's the first of many and don't forget the Port Macquarie Reunion.

Gerry Collins after a few years absence able to make the march but unable to attend at Redfern as he is tied up with his local R.S.L. Bluey Moxey marched, but elsewhere afterwards. Have passed on money to Dick Seddon for you, Blue.

LARRY ROBSON, Reporter

2/2 ANZAC DAY MARCH

Much could be written about any given event, past or present, even to the extent of repeating oneself on the same pattern year after year. The Anzac March while it may appear to be in this aspect, somehow always turns out to be different each year. This years 2/2 effort was no exception — the same pattern but completely different.

We numbered about forty members, which is a good attendance for us. Faces have changed somewhat, older of course, which brings me to this fact — where was Pat Collins, the man who never ages, or doesn't appear to. Bill Robertson and Allan McInnes led the march and Pat Egan carried the banner, and many thanks to these three people.

Good to see Bob Lee, Charlie Firth and the "Silent" Knight. Also into the picture came Jack Henderson, Arthur Stafford and Mick Egan. The long distance men, Wally Baird and Kevin Rayward brought a touch of country with them, while "I am innocent" Clem McDonald made the echo's ring in Phillip Street. I tell you we are a good mob once we get going.

I have often wondered what Butch Ballard

would look like without a hat — anyone know? would be interesting!! Quite prominent was Bob Guinane, Jack Crouch, Don Linton and Bruce Metcalf, while milling around was Carl Ball, Vince Longmore, Kevin Achurch and Ross Harrison.

Sorely missed was the "Germ", Jimmy Muir, as Jim has been very sick for some time now, and we miss him greatly. "Bluey" Locane brought the news of Jim. It was good to do business with Matt Elliott and Wally Coe. Bill Lewis looked good, also G. Smith, Les Graham and C. Madderall.

Whenever I hear the name Alby "Santa" Klaus I expect to look up and see a gent with bushy white whiskers, but it is not so, or would it be Alby, if you let them grow.

I was very happy to see Padre Steel at the march as he looked very well and apparently the north agrees with him. It is good for a unit to have its Padre with them. Just before the march took off, I noticed Ian Willmore in deep conversation with a circle of chaps, and I am not sure whether or not he was trying to sell vacant blocks of Phillip Street, but I would read the fine print boys, you never know.

I have always stated in the years past that it would not be a march without the Nicholl boys — Bill and George and they were there, and it was good to see them.

I cannot thank enough the terrific back up given me by Reg Armstrong and Jim Field for without their help the task would have been too much — Thanks fellas.

In spite of sore backs, legs, arms and what have you, it was a good march and on the strength of that I'll say — see you next year boys.

— BOB DIXON, Reporter

APPEAL TO OFFICERS

Our Patrons, Gordon Osborn, Frank Allan and John Williams, make a special appeal to our ex Officers to support the Port Macquarie venue, 12th and 13th September, 1981.

The prime object of our Committee and their band of helpers, is to get us all together and having done that, they proceed to prepare a plan for the enjoyment of all participants and if you are not happy, you get your money back.

So you see, everything is done for you, therefore give your wife a weekend break and give yourself some time with your cobbles.

We dare you to let your wife read this.

PORT MACQUARIE REUNION

Mini-Reunion — Friday 11th September — RSL

Reunion Dinner — Saturday 12th September — RSL.

Coach Tour and Picnic Lunch — Sunday 13th September — see insert this issue for full particulars.

— JIM FIELD, Publicity Officer

WREATH LAYING CEREMONY

The Association's sacred Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Cenotaph in Sydney was sincerely observed on the 24th April, 1981.

Prior to the Ceremony it was most encouraging to see so many members assemble in Hunter Street and especially those who had travelled long distances.

Under the directorship of Bill Jollie the members were formed up and upon the order "quick march" proceeded up to Martin Plaza.

Upon arrival at the Cenotaph, the President and the Wreath Laying party moved forward and the President recited the Ode. Following this, wreaths were laid by Wally Baird for the 2/2, Eric Causer for the 2/1 and Betty Creasy for the Ladies Auxiliary.

These three people were from far afield: Wal Baird from Collarenebri, NSW; Eric Causer from Macarthur, Vic.; and Betty Creasy, Portland, NSW.

After the wreaths were laid, our bugler Aub Brasier sounded the traditional "Last Post" followed by Reveille, and it was Aub's fine rendition that completed the ceremony and reminded us of our vow: "We will remember Them".

Whilst the Committee appreciated the good roll up of forty two members, it was also good to see such a good attendance of the Ladies Auxiliary.

— HARRY MONTAGUE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The election of co-patron, Colonel John Williams O.B.E., ED. (2/2) was carried with acclamation.

Above average attendance — the presentation of Statements of Income & Expenditure items and Balance Sheets of our three accounts were the Annual Meeting highlights. The balance sheets showed the Association funds to be healthier than previous years — however, let's not be complacent but be mindful of printing, postage and general rises in everyday working expenses.

Apart from Anzac Day collections, the successful social events of the past few years — Kyogle and Dubbo Reunions — could have been a contributing factor in our increased balances, no money was directly profited from these functions, but they certainly gave voluntary contributions a boost.

The election of office-bearers for the ensuing year remained unchanged.

— VIC WHITELEY, Treasurer

SPECIAL MEETING

On Friday 19th June a Special Meeting has been convened to amend the Association's Constitution.

The meeting will be held at the Combined Services Club, Barrack St., Sydney at 6.30 p.m.

Immediately following the Special Meeting, the Management Committee will hold their meeting and all Association members are invited to attend both meetings.

REDFERN REUNION with 2/1-2/2

ANZAC REUNION DINNER

After the usual formalities, Toast to Queen by M.C. Bob Dixon, Toast to Association — Allan McInnes, and response by President Mick, it was time for the meal supplied by our usual caterers, Lamasos, under supervision of Jan and Judy, assisted by mess orderlies. Our regular barmen — the two Terrys and Peter — many thanks fellas, we certainly appreciate your assistance.

2/1 REUNION JOTTINGS

At their usual table — again close to the kitchen — were Don Coys, Geoff Williams, Jack Stewart, Jack Pearce, Jim (Smoothy) Gray, Peter Craig, George Brookes (down from Joh's country), our caretaker host Pat Murphy, Bill Hodges, Ray Hill, "Silent" George Walker (who has headed south to Culburra to retire), Ken Oliver and Bobby Gales, who again presented the Association with a lovely tablecloth to be raffled. Incidentally this was won by Jack Kerslake, and we're sure wife Marge was very pleased. Many thanks again, Bob, as it helps to swell the coffers.

Next in line Sam Lewis, Jack Claypole, Bill Wright, Bill Doney, Kev Morahan (where were the twins this year, Kev, did not see them at Phillip St. as usual), "Bluey" Kerslake, Cedric Weston, Dick Chalmers, Jack Green, "Wacka" Back and George Watson.

At a corner table, but quietly enjoying proceedings were Bricky (RAP) Wall, Arthur White, Scotty Burns, Lofty Hannon and Earl Jones. Bricky reckons A Coy. were making enough noise without them adding to it. Of course you can understand when you consider who were present under the leadership of "quiet" Frank Gillian — wouldn't be without him — Dick Blakeney, Perce Penrose, Jack (Noisy) Pryor, Clem Mahoney, Ron Callaghan, Sid Kent, Tom Crossman, Brian Kybert, Bill Tasker, Mick Dwyer, trying to restore order, George Bates, Ray Horne, Bertie Holmes, Col Cameron and the inimitable Arthur Ludington. The only opposition to that group were sitting at the extended table of Arch Stanton, Dick Kennewell, Wally Baird, Bryan Neiberding, Mick Egan, Tom Woods, Bert Beasley, Charlie Firth, George Paricos and Bluey Locane. The whole of this group were in one long table extending across the hall, a combination of both 2/1 and 2/2 Pioneers. No wonder the Association is so strong as they mix together in unison. (Reg Armstrong covers 2/2 personal notes.)

Moving around a little further a more subdued group but close handy to the bar — Ted Stratford, Eric Guthrie, Jock Copland, Arthur Murphy, Doc Brown, Mac McKibbin and Eric (No.9) Hawkins. It's good to see the RAP boys turning up. What about it Ron Irwin? Maybe next year we could see Bluey Reed and yourself turn up.

Then to the familiar faces and table of Bluey Walsh, Harry Robey, Max Law, George Nichols, Vince Petrich, Charlie O'Neill, Charley Smith and Noel Trefoni. Snow Vickery also there with son-in-law Les Williams. Les keeping an eye on the old fellow. Trefoni informed me his dad was a WW1 1st Pioneer — likes to keep it in the family.

Although Jack Harvey unable to march he always turns up at Redfern accompanied by son Bob who is a chopper pilot in the RAAF. Seated with Jack were John Hunt who organises the Qld. Reunions — and don't forget you Northern blokes it's on again in October, so how about a big roll up considering the work John and Mollie put into it. Which reminds me, Toby Palin when are you going to learn that the human body is

softer than metal. Sorry to hear about your accident on your way home last year, Toby, hope your back in fine fettle now.

Harry Montague finding out about sick members, Bill Smith, a 7th Div. visitor, and Bruce Smith and our one and only bandmaster Bill McCarter. Bill still maintains there is no band up to the standard of the old Unit band.

In the centre table we had Fred (Dog Collar) Loveless, Kevin Buckley, Harry Allen, Bill Henry, Jack Henderson, Charlie Henry and Bluey Miller. Found out his first name is Jim — another Three Course Kelly act. Bluey had his two sons along to see some of the crowd their dad was connected with, and Bluey I feel a few secrets were let out — bound to happen sometime old mate. Still, I think they might be old enough to appreciate why you like attending these functions.

One person missing from the next group was Pat Noonan (he was the gentleman who arranged an 8 berth caravan for Bob Burnside at Dubbo), Jack Stone who was sorry he missed Dubbo, Bob Scott, Ted Jensen and the following who were all from the Sig. Pltn.: Wally Parsons, Eric Causer up from Vic. for the first time, Arthur White and Max Herron.

I suppose I had better mention the next group otherwise Jock won't forgive me and one or two others, their wives might think they were elsewhere, Clem Cook, Beau Hannaford, Clancy Scholes, Three Course Kelly, Alby Brown, Don Slater, Jack Coates (The Balmain Kid), Jumma Hall, Jock Russell and yours truly. Understand Don Slater had a week in Newcastle earlier in the year but didn't know where to contact our mob. He does now as I advised him that Glido Griffiths and Dick Seddon sometimes go to the Gallipoli Legion Club waterhole. At the end of the day, a certain Scot friend of mine had beer tickets left over so donated cost to Association funds.

In its standard position were the President's table of John Gilchrist, Bill Robertson, Ken Stuart, Barry Watts, Jack (Snr. and Jnr.) Hayden, Gordon Osborn, Bill Jollie, Geoff Williams and President Mick Dodson.

I don't know why, but one always seems to leave the executive committee table until last — not intentional, but it's just the way the tables are situated. What a job these people do in keeping our Association alive in organising these many and varied functions we have. They are first to attend and last to receive attention in the way of meals etc. Our secretary Max Herron, treasurer Vic. Whiteley, committeemen Doug Shearston, Gordon Finlay, George Walker, Bob Dixon, Jim Field, Bob Lake and Reg Armstrong, under the leadership of President Mick. To these people, on behalf of the members of our Association, I express our deep and sincere thanks for their great efforts in bringing the members of the 2/1 and 2/2 Pioneer Battalions together in enjoyable comradeship year after year. One can only say this — "He that be great among you, let him serve".

During the afternoon snacks were served and as in past years we were joined later by some of the ladies — Peg Herron, Joyce Walker, Kath Field, Olive Finlay, Dot Causer and Mary (Sweet Tooth) Lloyd. This year Mary was accompanied by her son Tim and it was great to have him along — don't make it the last time Tim as we enjoy having the sons and daughters of ex-members join in and are welcomed at all times.

As usual, all good things must come to an end and the troops started wending their way and looking forward to the next Reunion. Don't forget Port Macquarie in September. Best wishes to all, good health and keep sober.

LARRY ROBSON

2/2 ANZAC DAY NOTES

Another year gone and it seems only a few months — time sure gets away.

- Mick Egan still looking as spruce as ever said that he sometimes sees Steve Snow around shopping area in their part of the country — I would like to see Steve at a Reunion.
- George Nicholls, with ex Vietnam veteran son-in-law was having a great time with brother Bill Nicholls about shortage of shirts and trousers, jungle green, troops, for the use of; a certain ex C.Q.M. was on the receiving end.
- George Paricos looking as fit as a fiddle and talking like a gramophone — always good to see you George.
- Archie Stanton battled his way into another Reunion — a very welcome sight for sure, Arch — hope everything goes right for you at Repat.
- Bill and Charlie Henry assure me that they are not twins, well I have only their word for that, but, as they were in D. Coy., I would not lay any odds on that.
- Jim "I am innocent" McDonald and Nev "I am also innocent" O'Connor had their heads together — probably hatching some stunt that would add more grey hairs to Bill Robbies head.
- Jim Field had his camera working well at the assembly point and other places on the march, then put in more work at the Reunion as did Bob Dixon, and thanks Bob for getting us to the march on time.
- Noticed that Padre Steel couldn't resist temptation and got to work with his camera — hope he got some good ones for his album.
- Charlie Firth, looking very sun tanned and in good shape was at the march and also at the Reunion.
- Don Linton was another welcome sight at the march and Reunion — hope this becomes an annual affair, Don.
- That rare bird, Wally Baird was at the march and at the Reunion afterwards, where he was promptly detailed for mess duties.
- Bluey Locane was at the march, but did not stay very long at the Reunion as he was going in search of Jimmy Muir who has not been in the best of health since last Anzac Day — hope Jim is on the mend now.
- "Spag" Harris and Kev Rayward, D. Coy. were two faces that had not been seen for a long time, but judging by their remarks at the Reunion they won't be missing out in future.
- "Santa" Klaus, D. Coy. bobbing about everywhere gets a great kick out of life, does "Santa".
- Dick Kennewell, C. Coy. looked to be on top of the world as usual — left his body guard at home this year.
- Another annual Reunion attendee, "Evergreen" Bert Beasley, C. Coy. comes from Brisbane without fail every year.
- Bryan Neiberding had a leave pass for the day, if memory serves me right family commitments cut the day short last year.
- Ian Willmore at the march, very much the "wet blanket", predicting fall in property values in next six months.
- "Butch" Morry Ballard at march and late at Reunion, full of life and energy as usual.
- Gavin Todd at Reunion having a yarn with all who could be reached.
- Wally Cobb and Rod Standon seemed to have a lot to talk about, they were sitting in the same place for hours at the Reunion.
- John McKnight at the march and later at the Reunion which he left early owing to prior commitments.
- "Bricky" Wall and Reg Cairns, D. Coy. both walking around D. Coy. area yarning with everyone.

Continued on foot of page 3.



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

Second issue of our paper for the year 1981 and with our Anzac Day function behind us we look forward to our next activities planned for this year. Mail continues to flow to us, for which we are extremely grateful, and also the donations and subscriptions which allow us to continue our planned get togethers and publication of our newspaper.

• **CHARLES RICHARDSON** now resident of our northern state sends a letter and a sub to the treasurer, and hoped that I do not get too great a shock on opening same. Well **Charlie**, I just can't put a time on when we last actually saw you at a function, but I will say this, it's a long long while ago. **Charles** has been in Greenslopes hospital for treatment to the legs, admitted early January and suspects that it will be a fair while before he is really mobile again. While in hospital he was visited by a chap who signed him up for the Qld branch of the "Rats". He was hoping to get to Sydney for this Anzac Day but the legs put a stop to that. Hopes, or should say, is due to retire in March 1982, but he thinks that he might make a decision on an earlier date than that. **Charlie** hopes that everyone had a good Anzac Day, and he makes a special note to **Ray Horne**, they were in the 2nd Div. Engineers before joining the A.I.F. Many thanks for the letter **Charlie**, don't leave it quite so long between notes and keep Port Macquarie in mind in September, it's only a couple of hundred miles from Qld.

• **JOE ROBERTSON** of Findon, West Aust., sends a letter with a sub to the treasurer and wishes continued success to the Association and the Pioneer News, he enjoys receiving the paper, and reading the familiar names of years gone by. **Joe** closes with the hopes of perhaps renewing these acquaintances at some future date if he ever makes the big trek across to the East.

• **BRICKY WALL** of Point Clare writes that he had a spell in hospital some 12 months ago, and his local Medic told him, "no good sitting on your ass, getting a pot belly from too much grog, get off it, do some walking and give yourself a chance". Well the old bloke has done just that, walks some ungodly distances every day, weather permitting, and to relieve the monotony of just walking, decided he would pick up empty cans along the way. To our great pleasure,

2/2 ANZAC DAY NOTES

Continued from page 2.

• Bobby Lee turned up at march and later at the Reunion.

• "Tib" Martin, Jack Crouch, Clem Cook, Matt Elliott, Peter Craig and Kev Achurch, D. Coy. helped their company occupy two tables at Reunion, like their mates in C. Coy. I suppose the boys reckon it is up to them to stick to that great boss of theirs Bill "Robbie".

• Jack Henderson was a surprise at the march and at the Reunion as the last news I had Jack was not too good.

Now that "winds it up" for another year for me and I sincerely hope to see all of you plus any of the old unit that you can bring along — sorry if I missed anybody.

— **REG ARMSTRONG, Reporter**

Bricky has sent a cheque to **Vic Whitely** for \$50.00 the result of his can collecting, to give our newspaper added financial aid. Many thanks **Bricky** from all of the committee and your fellow members, and may the health continue to keep the fitness intact. The old bloke also enclosed his usual cheque for his subscription. I'd say that warrants the words "above and beyond the call of duty".

• **BRUCE MITCHELL** our old stalwart from Greta, encloses a cheque to square away some of his subs, and the balance to any account we may decide, that will be quite easily accounted for **Bruce**, many thanks, and he closes with his words "hoping to see you all at Port Macquarie".

• **KEITH REYNOLDS** of Coonabarabran sends a cheque to the treasurer and states that he will not be with us on Anzac Day in Sydney, but would be participating in the local function at Coona, however he is looking forward to the next Reunion in September. Good on you **Keith**, we will look forward to your attendance, I hope you arrange to have **Bob Burnside** do your housekeeping as usual.

• **COLONEL JOHN WILLIAMS** of Sefton sends a cheque to the treasurer and the information that he would be attending the March and Reunion in Melbourne on Anzac Day with the boys of the 2/2 who reside down South. Many thanks for your good wishes, and we hope that your journey was a successful one.

• **JACK COLLIS** of Umina sends the following report, **Bluey Miller** has not been the best, **Harry Hutchinson** has been in hospital again, apparently pretty crook, but has tricked them all and is at home again now, **Bricky Wall** looking very well, and **Jack Collis** himself has not been very top hole either. **Jack** has been receiving quite a lot of treatment lately, and our secretary informed me that after writing his letter to us he also was admitted to hospital and did not get a clearance from there until Anzac Day. We are all sorry to hear this **Jack**, and we hope that things have cleared up a bit by now. Prior to his illness, **Jack** and **Gwen** had a holiday on the North Coast, they called into Forster for lunch at the R.S.L. and while there **Jack** thought he recognised a face, couldn't resist approaching the bloke, it was **George McFarlane**, had not been seen since discharge days, **George** and his wife were on holiday also. **Jack** and **Gwen** also had several visits to **Doug and Roma Shearston** where plenty of chin wagging kept things going. On his return from holiday he walked into the lounge room one day, and who was there to greet him but **Max** and **Peg Herron**, they were at the Caravan Park, also at Umina at a later time was **Bill Tasker** and a very pleasant afternoon was had by all at the Golf Club. Many thanks for the letter **Jack**, and we hope you have seen the last of that Asthma for a time to come.

• **JIM GRAY** sent an Easter Card of congratulations to **Peg, Max** and the committee, very nice **Jim**, your kind thoughts are highly appreciated.

• **JACK BERTRAM** of Hamilton sends a thank you to **Max** for the run down of the doings for September at Port, also states that **Max** and committee should be congratulated for the organisation and assessments of same, as **Jack** says, so much more thorough than he himself would have been. **Jack** and **Jean** will be

attending Port, and as usual offers his support to the Secretary on that weekend. Many thanks **Jack**, and we had a great day on Anzac Day at Redfern.

• **TOM REYNOLDS** of Dubbo writes a letter to **Reg Armstrong** and claims it was so very good to hear of him. **Tom** speaks of his good time in the company of **Bob Dixon**, **Jim Field**, and **Wally Baird** at Dubbo, and was so sorry that **Reg** could not make it, however, pleased that it was only a mishap with the car and not illness that kept him away. **Tom** has a small place out of Dubbo, he could not amass any great fortune but they own it, and he and wife are very happy, with enough of everything that it takes to keep ones head above water. At present time of course in the midst of a very bad drought, and at time of writing pretty hot weather over the district. **Tom** also mentions **Col Shea**, and **Capt. McInnes**, both looked great and mentions the amount of water under the bridge since those days of 1946. Many thanks for the letter **Tom** maybe you should keep Port Macquarie in mind.

• **DOUG & ROMA SHEARSTON** of Forster with a letter to **Max** and **Peg** giving details of their arrival in Sydney for the Anzac weekend and plans of going the long way home via Parkes where they will stay with **Pat** and **Paul** and granddaughter **Kate**, who they have not seen since Xmas, another reason for the long way home. As we have heard nothing different, I hope you enjoyed the trip.

• **JACK & MAISIE KEMPNIICH** with a change of address to Bardouoko, Gee, I reckon Fingal Bay sounds better than that, who thought that name up, however address noted, and **Maisie** claims it's not very far from their old place at Nelsons Bay, but closer to the beach and the fish. Apparently a few names have appeared in the area from our paper, so they may be able to contact same at a later date. **Jack** and **Maisie** enjoyed Dubbo tremendously, and realise that Port Macquarie will not be on the same scale, however don't be misled, probably won't be a Civic Reception, but all the rest will be there, and it's the people who make the effort to attend that makes any function the success it deserves. No problem with the coach trip **Maisie** with the in laws, invite them to attend the coach trip with you, they will be made more than welcome. Many thanks for the letter, and will see you both at Port.

• **PAT LAUGHREN** of Nambour sends a healthy cheque to the treasurer for the upkeep of our paper, and like all other "Pioneers" looks forward to its arrival. Life is treating both **Pat** and **Nell** quite generously, a few aches and pains and tons of pleasant memories. **Pat** expresses appreciation to all and sundry for the publication of the paper, the organisation of the reunions, both city and country and the work that goes into same, and we of the association express our thanks to **Pat** for the congratulatory telegram from him, which was read out by the secretary at the Annual Meeting. Many thanks for the letter **Pat**, how about you and **Nell** making the effort to attend Port Macquarie in September.

• **BOB GALES** now of Toukley writes a short note to the secretary and enclosing a hand worked tablecloth he completed himself to be raffled on Anzac Day to perhaps swell the battalion funds. Many thanks for the effort **Bob**,

MAIL BAG Continued

very much appreciated by all, and the lucky winner of the cloth was **Jack Kerslake** ex C. Coy red head, whose wife **Marj** rang **Peg Herron** to say how pleased she was to receive same. I would say it was probably very fortunate that **Marj** met **Jack** on Anzac Night, or he would have probably lost it before he got home.

• **JOE WHITE** Victoria, writes a letter of thanks to the treasurer for the back copies of Pioneer News forwarded, and congratulates the Association on the excellent presentation. **Joe** has forwarded the address of **Doug Scott** of West Wyalong which has been added to the mailing list. **Joe** also had great plans for his fellow troops from D. Coy, and late Tank Attack platoon for Anzac Day, however this was not to be, as unfortunately, **Joe** lost his brother 2 days before and so was not able to attend any of the things he had planned. We hereby extend our sincere sympathy to you **Joe**, and also to your late brother's family. Many thanks for the letter **Joe**, the treasurer has your cheque doing good and **Peg Herron** expresses her thanks for the lovely lot of stamps you forwarded. Just as a thought, I suppose we should all be shareholders in **Peg Herron's** stamp collection, looks like she has the whole association working for her. When they go up for Auction in some later year, they should be listed as **Peg Herron's** and her little boys stamp collection.

• **FRANK ALLAN** Wairoonga, sends a letter as his entry form for a drop of the Port, and quotes, a lovely place for such a reunion. We believe that **Frank** is also going to insert a special invitation to the officers of our units to make an effort to attend. He has also enclosed stamps for **Peg**, one penny stamp post marked 17.4.08, that's back a bit **Frank**, before a lot of us were thought of. **Frank** also claims that he is still following **Vera Frances** advice and is happy to report that his ankles are now 85% left and 60% right. Good on you **Jed**, keep up the good work and we'll see you in September.

• **BERNIE DALY** of Taree sends his application for the Port Reunion and enclosed a sporting page of the Manning River Times dated 23rd April, 1981. This page was dedicated to the first Post War North Coast side which played England at Grafton in 1946. It was in this team that the Pioneers had their representative also, in the shape of one **Fred Wheaton** who packed down in the second row on that day. **Fred** told me afterwards that the Pom front rower **Frank Whitcombe** just took his little finger while down in a scrum and twisted same till it broke, nice friendly type of bloke. Also enclosed was a cutting of another date showing **Alec Boyd** receiving his pennant badge for a victory game of bowls. Very interesting **Bernie**, just to read those names after so long, would suggest that that big hunk of brawn up at Sawtell should write to the paper and perhaps get a copy of same, how about it **Fred**, you could possibly get it blown up and hang over your bar.

• **NEV O'CONNOR** wrote in to book for the Port Reunion and would like to see a good roll up of 2/2nds to Port — would particularly like to see **Allen Stone**, D. Coy, 2/2 who would recall the time he and **Nev** were responsible for despatching patrols from the 2/2 and the 25th Brigade around John's Knoll in New Guinea — sounds funny now but not at the time.

Well that concludes the Mail Bag for this issue. I suppose I could just add my sixpence worth by saying what a good day was had by all who attended Redfern on Anzac Day, a good roll up, but a little disappointing as far as transport platoon was concerned. Our numbers on this occasion were very much down on former years, and I for one would like to see a few more

there. As the bloke in charge of the grog on that day, I would like to say a big thank you to the Publican and his crew who set everything up originally and to my three voluntary barmen who have been with us ever since we started going to Redfern, **Terry Bird** son of our late member **Joe**, **Terry Fuggly**, and **Peter Catliff**, who everyone knows as "Slags". Between these three they pulled some seventy gallons of beer, plus before the crowd started to arrive, helped the women in the kitchen butter god knows how many loaves of bread, again thanks blokes, for a good job well done, plus a thank you to **Max Herron** and **Vic Whitely** for the help in returning the Temprite to its home on Saturday night after the day.

A special p.s. to **Jack Coates** at Umina, well **Jack** my mob are not doing too hot, but I think that that Tiger has forgotten how to growl, maybe you will have to wait till next year, a word of advice, steer clear of **Frank Gillian**, with Easts going the way they are, he is unbearable.

• **DICK SEDDON** writes in with a new address for **Frank Bartley**. **Dick** had a ring from **Sid Jopson** who states he will be at the Port Reunion. **Herb Wilson** has been in hospital and had an operation on his other hip. **Stan Hodgett** had a couple of weeks in hospital but is now at home. **Claude** and **Dorothy Campbell** have told **Dick** they will be at the Port Reunion.

• **OSSIE McCURTAYNE** of Yeppoon, Qld., writes in with his subscription and sends regards to all 2/1, especially C Coy. and congratulates the producers of Pioneer News on the fine job they are doing.

• **JIM FERGUSON** of Hurstville sent along a nice donation and regards to all Pioneers. **Jim** enlisted in 1941 at the age of 15 years and was with the 2/1-2/2 Special Pioneer Company at Katherine, N.T. On another occasion he was with the 9th Pioneer Training Company at Dubbo.

• **BRUCE MITCHELL** of Greta wrote in to book for **Enid** and self for Port Reunion and asks how long ago was the first Country Reunion at Port Macquarie — Answer: Saturday 23rd February, 1963.

Bruce mentions returning to Dubbo in January this year and also that he has regular visits from **Dick Seddon** and **Dave Cook** which always means a trip for all up to the local.

• **CLIVE** and **BETTY HARRIS** wrote with hopes for attending the Anzac Reunion but a change in shift work altered that, however they will be at Port Reunion and look forward to seeing **Flo** and **Jack Shearman** again.

• **ERIC** and **JOYCE REYNOLDS** send a letter to say they will be at Port and prior to that will be touring the Barrier Reef including Atherton. Early this year they flew down to Victoria to see their nine month old grand-daughter.

• **DOROTHY** and **ERIC CAUSER** of Macarthur, Vic., wrote to thank **Peg** and **Max** for the wonderful hospitality bestowed upon them by all Pioneers during the Anzac weekend. **Dorothy** said it certainly made them feel they belonged and therefore makes them look forward to joining in again. Thank you **Dorothy** for your kind letter and regards.

• **FLO** and **JACK SHEARMAN** wrote in to book for Port and enjoyed a recent visit by **Bob** and **Jean Dixon**.

• **BOB GALES** wrote in to book for the Port

SECRETARY'S REQUEST

Please address mail to Secretary as follows:-

M. Herron, Hon. Sec.,
2/1-2/2 Pioneer Btn. Assoc.,
3 Enoggera Road, Beverly Hills, N.S.W. 2209

This will assist in separating Pioneer mail from personal mail by his neighbours when he is away from home.

Reunion and was pleased to hear **Marge Kerslake** liked the tablecloth **Jack** won in the raffle on Anzac Day. **Bob** very kindly donated the tablecloth and we thank you **Bob**. Also many thanks, **Jack Kerslake**, for donating the beer, you won, to the wrapping committee.

• **ROY MCGREGOR** writes to book for Port and states he enjoyed the Dubbo Reunion so much he is booking up for more — thanks for your regards **Roy**.

• **PAT** and **TOM MUTTON** sent in their booking for Port and said everyone would enjoy their stay in Port. Many thanks for your offer of assistance **Pat**.

• **JACK COLLIS** in his letter states he was sorry he was not able to attend Anzac Day owing to a trip to hospital — however saw it all on T.V. **Jack** visited **Harry Hutchinson** in hospital and he is progressing favourably.

• **JOE KYFFIN** during the war placed a memorandum in the paper for "Scotch" **Aitkin** who was killed at Balikpapan. Would anyone knowing the whereabouts of **Joe**, please ask him to contact "Scotch's" brother: **R. Aitkin**, Secretary, Burleigh Bowling Club, Burleigh Heads, Qld. 4220. Thanks to "Mac" **McKibbin** for this information.

• **GEORGE PARICOS** writes in to say he spent four weeks last October at Port Macquarie and had a wonderful time due to the hospitality of **Edna** and **Horrie Sedger**, who took him sight-seeing to all places within 100 miles of Port. To all who asked after **Horrie** on Anzac Day his address is: 12 The Bowsprit, Clifton, Port Macquarie 2224 and **Horrie** said he would be pleased to see or hear from any Pioneer.

So Long — **Lakey**

THE LADIES AUXILIARY

A good roll-up of ladies were in attendance at the wreath laying this year and later joined us at the Combined Services Club for drinks under the leadership of **Peg Herron** — **Betty Creasy**, **Mary Lloyd**, **Olive Finlay**, **Kath Field**, **Jean Dixon**, **Joyce Walker**, **Roma Shearston**, **Dot Causer** from Victoria, **Mollie Hunt** from Qld., **Mary McInnes**, **Althea Allen**, **Marion Neiberding**, **Marg Kerslake**, **Joan Lake** and **Barbara Baird**. I think this is one of the largest attendances the ladies have had and they are doing a tremendous job for our Association. Many are getting their husbands along for the first time and meeting people they have read about in the Pioneer News.

Thank you ladies and best wishes to you all.

LARRY ROBSON, Reporter

LAST POST

HARRY DUCKWORTH, A Coy. 2/1 of Maclean passed away recently, and the funeral was attended by many 2/1st Rats of Tobruk members and the local RSL as well as friends and neighbours.

NORMAN LLOYD, A Coy. 2/1 passed away in February after a long illness. Known throughout the unit as "Sluggo", I had called on Norm on many occasions whilst in hospital.

On attending his funeral I extended our sympathies to his wife and family, who was most appreciative of our tribute and representation at the service.

— **HARRY MONTAGUE, Reporter**

THE BRISBANE REUNION

Saturday 31st October, 1981 at 4 p.m.

John and Mollie Hunt's residence
4/25 Mountford Rd., New Farm, Qld. 4005

Replies by 21st October, 1981

PIONEER NEWS

Phone: 759-5491

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

Phone: 759-5491

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

Registered for post as a Periodical — Category A.

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

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

Treasurer:
VIC WHITELEY

Editors:
R. LAKE & M. HERRON

President:
J. (Mick) DODSON

Vol. 26 No. 3

SEPTEMBER 1981

\$2 Per Annum

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

Gentlemen, this Annual report at the 1981 annual meeting coincides with the fortieth Anniversary of the 2/1 st Pioneer Battalion's entry into action in North Africa and the original 2/2 Pioneer Battalion into Syria.

Much water has passed under the bridges since those days when the young Australians (some not long out of school) went into battle, most became men over night, some lost their lives in those actions, others lost their lives before the cessation of hostilities.

The numbers of Anzacs who brought the name of Australia to the fore in the eyes of the World on the 25th of April, 1915, and in other theatres of the 1914-1918 war are dwindling fast. It is on Anzac Day that we gather to remember not only those 1914 soldiers, sailors, airmen and women who lost their lives, but all those who have died in every theatre of war Australians have taken part in since the Great War, one which was supposed to finish all wars. We also remember the thirty four members of the 2/1-2/2-Pioneer Association who have passed on since last Anzac Day. "Lest We Forget".

Each year the younger generation, in most cases, treat all ex-servicemen as War mongers. Children are not taught history in schools these days of how, if the ex-servicemen and women had not sailed away to fight the common enemy, they would not have been able to take part in the freedom that Australia is enjoying today.

The various days of Remembrance must be continued. So it is left to us ex-servicemen to see that the younger generation are educated to continue those remembrance days.

My term as President over the last twelve months has been a most enjoyable one. For that I must thank the executive and committee for their assistance in making it so.

The achievement of the year, is beyond all doubts, the Dubbo Reunion. Enough cannot be said of the outstanding efforts of the organising committee backed up with the magnificent work the ladies, led by Peg Herron, combined to help make the Dubbo Reunion the event of the Association's history. The work of these people was carried out practically the full twelve months prior to the Reunion and the work continued after all had returned home.

The following part of my report is by far the hardest I have had to write since taking over as President. When there is such an excellent executive and committee it is nigh on impossible each year to change my report on them.

To show how enthusiastic they are, besides working on the Reunion at Port Macquarie in September, the venue for the 1982 Reunion has already been decided upon.

I can only say how proud I am to be President, over the years, of such a good working executive and committee. Any unit Association would welcome them with open arms.

The paper wrapping must get a special mention. This band of men and women who

gather together at Peg and Max Herron's home, four times a year save the Association money. To all the paper wrappers plus Peg and Max Herron for allowing the use of their home for the evening, many, many thanks.

To all the members who turn up to the meetings and reunions many thanks, for none of the events would be successful without your attendance.

Thank you all, Jack (Mick) Dodson, President.

COINCIDENCE OR FATE — WHAT DO YOU THINK?

During a visit to Wagga in May, committee members, Max Herron, Bob Dixon and Jim Field visited the Kapooka Army Camp.

While reading an inscription on a plaque outside Regimental Headquarters a stranger approached them, and Max greeted and enquired if he too was looking around the camp.

The stranger replied "Yes that is so, I was in camp here during the war and was with the first unit to move in".

Bob Dixon, in his best sergeant's voice came in with the remark, "I don't think so, what unit were you with?"

The answer came back in a full and clear voice, with much pride, "I was with the 2/2 nd Australian Pioneer Battalion".

The stranger was no stranger at all — he was none other than Frank Ball of D Coy, now living at 310 Waterloo Road, Glenroy, Victoria.

He stayed with us for the remainder of the day and when we left, he went to the R.S.L. Club with Ken Knight, Jack Morgan and Dudley Staniforth, who all reside in Wagga. — Coincidence or Fate.

JIM FIELD, Publicity Officer.

NEWS ITEMS by H. MONTAGUE

BOB O'BRIEN, B Coy. 2/1, was enrolled into the Association recently, and it was a pleasure to meet up with him. We had quite a long chat and we travelled a lot of miles down memory lane. It is the first time I had seen him since being discharged.

Bob sends regards to all Pioneers and will endeavour to meet up with his pals at future functions.

CHARLIE FIRTH, 2/2, is now residing at Teralba and although his health does not permit him to get around very much, he recently told me he really enjoyed the Reunion at Redfern Town Hall this year. Charlie also said he would like to thank the Social Committee for putting on a wonderful day.

VALE — GEOFF WILLIAMS

On Friday 12th June, 1981 in company with Peg and Max Herron and George Walker, I attended the funeral of yet another Pioneer; Charles Geoffrey Williams had suffered a fatal heart attack earlier in the week.

Geoff's soldiering career had started in the 1930's when he served with the 12th Light Horse Regiment in the Upper Hunter region. From here he joined the AIF, went through an OCS and later joined us as lieutenant, seeing continuous service with the Battalion through Tobruk, New Guinea, firstly at the Port Moresby end and later with D Company at Milne Bay, and through the final campaign at Balikpapan.

After disbandment of the old Battalion, Geoff stayed in the Australian Regular Army. He had service at Army Headquarters in Melbourne into the early 1950s, then a period on Australian Army Staff, London and finally as Staff Officer commanding Cadet Units in Tasmania Command, retiring from there with a step in rank to Lieutenant Colonel in the late 1950s.

Geoff is survived by his wife Doreen, elder son Ian who is serving with the RAAF at Williamstown and younger son Geoffrey. To these people we say sincerely that we regret his passing and acknowledge his very sincere and dedicated service during his lifetime.

— Gordon Osborn.

PORT MACQUARIE REUNION

An advertisement appears on page four of this issue, outlining all details of the Country Reunion at Port Macquarie on the 11th, 12th and 13th September, 1981.

It is requested that all members bring the Programme to the Reunion so that they are up to date with all proceedings.

Applications have now closed at the following attendances: Mini Reunion, 143; Reunion Dinner, 176; Coach Tour and Lunch, 157; Farewell Get-Together, 147.

— JIM FIELD, Publicity Officer.

OCTOBER COMMITTEE MEETING CHANGED

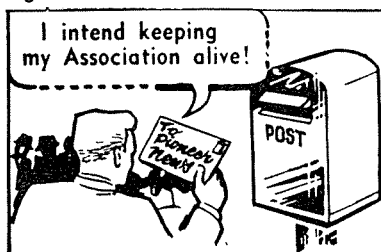
The committee meeting programmed for Friday, 16th October, 1981 has been altered to Friday 13th November. Would all committee members take note.

THE BRISBANE REUNION

Saturday 31st October, 1981 at 4 p.m.

John and Mollie Hunt's residence
4/25 Mountford Rd., New Farm, Qld. 4005

Replies by 21st October, 1981



from the MAIL BAG

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



August issue of the Mail Bag with quite a good response of letters from the members and the wives of those not in the writing mood plus of course our supporters from the wives of late members that have continued their relations with the Association.

- **MRS BONNY SNUDDEN** widow of the late **Cecil**, writes from Cobar telling us of a change of address, and hoped that we had an enjoyable Anzac Day with not too many bad heads the next day. Cannot comment on the worse for wear department **Bonny**, but I do know we had a very good day. **Bonny** also reports that she will not be able to make it to Port in September, a long way to travel and commitments at home, but she wishes us every success, and hopes that the roll up is as good as the Dubbo show. Many thanks for the good wishes, will have you in mind as we splurge at Port Macquarie.

- **MRS ETHEL STARR** widow of the late **Archie**, sends a short note with a donation to help with the postage, and quotes that she still enjoys receiving the News to keep up with what is going on, **Ethel** through the years got to know many of the chaps and their wives, so she is no stranger to many of the names that are mentioned through the paper.

- **MRS BERYL MCCOY** on a much sadder note, writes to tell us of the passing of her husband **Tim McCoy** 2/1, on the 21st March 1981. **Tim** died at St Vincents Hospital, Sydney after an illness which lasted 10 years, and to you **Beryl** we offer our sincere sympathy, at a time like this, words are all we have, and they seem so very little to one who has lost a loved one. Many thanks for your information, take care yourself, and keep your chin up.

- **DOUG WATSON**, Bellambi, per pen of daughter **Barbara**, who over the years has become a regular correspondent, tells us that **Doug** did not make the Dawn Service this year, first time missed, he watched all on T.V. and says God willing, he will be with the 2/1 next year. **Barbara** on behalf of **Doug** also writes about the Tobruk Medal, however our secretary has written to you personally with that information, so will not repeat same here. Many thanks for your letter and good wishes to both **Doug** and yourself.

- **GEORGE TAYLOR** of Warnambool, Victoria, sends a letter to the secretary enquiring of the whereabouts of one **Harry Huggard** and 2 **Bill 'Bomber' Brown**, sorry to say that our records do not list the two mentioned, however, we publish this request, and perhaps some of the 2/2 chaps could have some information of these two chaps. Hope that this helps you to some little result **George**.

- **JACK CROSLAND** of Condell Park sends a donation to the secretary and says he enjoys the news, and the familiar names that bob up along the way bring back many memories. Does not see many Pioneers these days, with the exception of **Frank Stansbury** who spends quite a bit of his time at Bankstown Bowling Club, where **Jack** admits to spending quite some of his time at the same place. Thanks for the good wishes, and keep them up to the Jack.

- **PHIL BARNETT** now resident at Lismore on the north coast sends a cheque to the treasurer for subs, and the news that **Bill** and **Marge Hood**

have retired and just about settled into their new address at Wamberal near Gosford.

Bill has had poisoned feet and that has not done the cause much good. Many thanks for the good wishes **Phil** and the kind regards are reciprocated.

- **DAVE DENNY** also of Lismore sends a cheque to the treasury and the news that he has been almost laid up for the last six months but declares that he is determined to be OK enough to make the trip to Port Macquarie in September, and will be fit enough to down a couple while present. I am sure you will **Dave**, and look forward to witnessing same.

- **FRED CALLAWAY** now at Wahroonga and ex-executive of the association sends a cheque to the treasurer, and the news that he has had a little bit of trouble of late, after lots of x-rays they have found a piece of bone broken away at the hip. Since then he has been in Concord where they cut the main bone and realigned the hip correctly back into its socket. While this is not the whole treatment **Fred** hopes to be well on the way to recovery and talks of his retiring next year, which will allow him and **Aileen** to attend some of our functions. You should be able to snatch a few weekends even now **Fred**, after being with your firm for so long. They have both enjoyed a two months trip through Europe in June 1980, however, I hope everything goes well for the future **Fred**, and looking forward to seeing you both at the shows in the future.

- **KEN KNIGHT** of Wagga sends a cheque to the treasurer with a request for badges. **Ken** is a director of John P. Graves, Moxon and Partners who are architects in Wagga.

- **GORDON WALSH** still resident of Ryde and I suppose he spreads his support between there and Evans Head on the north coast. **Gordon** spent Anzac Day at Evans Head and remarks that the attendance at the local was better than ever before, and that there were several other country towns reporting the same trend. He watched the Sydney march on T.V. and like many others was very disappointed at the very poor presentation by the A.B.C. **Gordon** has lunch that day with "**Dora**" **Black** and "**Banjo**" **Martin** and they lived a lot of good times from the past and he reckons his memory must be getting better as the years roll by, or is it his over imagination. **Blackie** lives at Evans Head and **Banjo** is back at Casino, but was at the Heads for 3 weeks so saw quite a bit of both blokes. Also spent a week at Casino, his home town, where he met **Ted Vaughan** (A Coy) and school-mate from way back so they got together almost every day, also contacted **Bill Hoffman** from Kyogle. We had a good day at Redfern but strangely enough **Casey** was not present however we did have **Frank Gillian** and with **East**s going the way they are, he gave us heaps. **Gordon** has enclosed his usual subs for himself, **Schaeffer** and **Vince Christensen**, and tells that he sees **Tom Sleeman** who has not been very well. Many thanks for the letter and the news **Gordon**, your subs are in **Whiteley's** hot little hand, and **Finlay**, **Lahey** and **Coy** reciprocate the good wishes.

- **MICK PUNTON** per wife **Margaret**, now resident of Padstow sends a cheque to the treasurer for subs, and continues to enjoy the news, reading of the happenings, the joys and

sorrows of former mates, how about making an effort **Mick**, and bring yourself along to Port Macquarie with **Margaret**, for a couple of good days in September.

- **TOM CULKIN** late Dubbo, and now with an address at Geurie, NSW, sends a letter to the secretary, a cheque to the treasurer, and cannot help with the locating of the photographer at the Dubbo reunion, bad luck **Tom**, still you did pretty well with a victory of two out of three. **Tom** writes that Dubbo is still booming, with city growth really exciting. Glad to hear from you **Tom**, and look forward to your presence at Port.

- **FERGUS ROBERTSON**, North West Block, War Vets Home Narrabeen, sends a donation to the treasurer, but with no enclosure of news, so cannot tell you all much else, many thanks **Fergy**, and hope you are enjoying residence at Narrabeen.

- **KEN BARRETT**, Ashburton, Victoria sends a short note reporting that the 2/2 Association is operating very well at time of writing. Says they are most fortunate to have an excellent trio in charge of the operation, namely **Ted Hansen**, **Col Shea**, **Jack Hocking**. **Ken** also states that it was really good to have **Colonel Jack Williams** lead the march in Melbourne on Anzac Day. Many thanks for the news **Ken** and treasurer has your cheque where it is doing its best.

- **PAT NOONAN** of Bellevue Hill sends a letter describing a day they spent together on 5th June 1981. Starters were, **Jack Stone** and wife **Nell**, **Jack's** daughter-in-law, **Helen** (Chauffeur). **Bob Burnside** and **Pat**. Host — **Bill Tasker** of Earlwood Ex-Services Club. Day started at 10.00 a.m. from **Jack Stone's** address **Burnside** drinking whisky, and the two troops home brew. Then set off for the club and the date with **Bill Tasker**. After a couple of drinks the ladies departed to the pokies, and so the four blokes had another reunion on the spot, it is surprising what we all find to talk about over all these years, but it still happens, and **Pat** claims it was getting hard to get a word in edgeways. However they had a really great day, and that is what it is all about for us blokes, and again they say, many thanks **Bill Tasker**. Good letter **Pat**, and as you say, see you later at Port.

- **JACK COATES**, Umina, sends a letter with his deposit on booking for Port for himself and **Lex**. Has attended the local Rats of Tobruk meeting with quite a few of our boys, all members of Central Coast Sub Branch. **Ivor Garnon**, **Bricky Wall**, **Jack Collis**. They are flat out raising funds for the 1983 World Reunion of R.O.T.A., to be held Central Coast 1983. **Jack** assures us that he and **Lex** are fine, as are the families at Narrabri and Wyoming. No 2 son did a disc in at football, been off work for 2 weeks but on the mend now. You are so right about those football teams **Jack**, they are not doing so well, however **Whiteley** would not be too pleased at being made a Canterbury supporter, he follows Saints, not that they are doing much better. My mob give me the horrors, they play like world beaters one week, and next week they wouldn't beat Christian Bros., H. Grade, I think they are under 10 or something. Many thanks for the letter **Jack**, and looking forward to September.

- **MONTY REID**, Cessnock writes that he had every intention of being with us on Anzac Day, however the car decided that repairs were

necessary and so the trip south had to be put aside, much to his distaste. On reading the news, he was more disappointed when he read the names of those that were present. Thinks his last meeting with **Padre Jack Steele** was at St. Peters, and that is quite some time ago. **Monte** also congratulates **Des Martin** on his book "Many A Mile", found it very interesting reading and did not realize the hidden talents that produced by same. **Monte** also passes congratulations to the committee and to the paper for its ability to produce the reading that holds the interests of the members and keeps together that feeling of knowing that is still present after forty odd years. Included a cheque to the treasurer for subs and this I will pass on forthwith. Many thanks for the letter **Monte**, and hope the chariot continues to perform first rate.

• **TED JENSON** with a 10 word note, to wit, a sub for himself and one for his brother, **Ted** from Doonside, **Allan Jenson** from Rydalmere, thanks **Ted**, I won't get writers cramp dealing with that little lot.

• **JACK HOCKING**, Gladstone, Victoria and treasurer of the 2/2 down in the Southern State writes that he and his wife have just returned from a nine week trip to America and Canada. Had a wonderful time, and spent last eight days with a Yank who he had met during the war, at Redding, California. Temperature at Redding during their stay was 100-105 degrees, and came home to Melbourne to a chilly 45-50. So pleased to receive your news **Jack**, and glad that you both had such a grand trip.

• **BILL MORROW** now at Canberra sends a short note enclosing a cheque for subs, but with not much else, so can only say many thanks, and treasurer is looking after your subs in the approved manner.

• **MRS DOROTHY COOPER** wife of the late "Nobby" sends a note thanking us for the continued issues of the news, she enjoys reading same, and of the many names that she knows through her husband's talks, also sends her special regards to **Gordon Finlay, Bert Holmes, Frank Gillian, Don Slater and Bruce Smith**, also to report to **Gordon** that son **Lawrence** and family are home from America after 2½ years over there. Many thanks for your letter **Dorothy**, and hope that you are enjoying having the family around you again.

• **ROY "KANGA" ROBINSON**, Collarenebri sends a cheque to the treasurer and enjoys the news. **Roy** met up with **Monty** during a hospital visitation some 2 years ago, and had a few good yarns with him. **Roy** also reports that the treatment for cancer he received has been successful and has now only to report for periodical check-ups. Congratulations **Roy**, especially on the health report, and your good wishes to **Bernie** and **Stella Daly** are hereby conveyed.

• **LLEW JONES**, Bexley sends a cheque and apologies for his non attendance at the march. **Llew** has not had the best of health, has had a spell in Concord for a skin graft, also has Pagets Disease in the hips, so adds that his marching days are finished. Reckons his old mate **Blue** would say, if you were in **Tommy Smith's** stable they would take him out and shoot him **Llew** sends his regards to all and hopes to see us all from the sideline next year.

• **MRS NITA GEORGE** widow of the late **Bill** sends a note of thanks for the News, it recalls many fond memories, also to hear of **Max** and **Peg** over the phone, **Nita** has had a brief holiday in Lismore and is back home again keeping the chin up and the flag flying. Many thanks for the letter **Nita** and Pioneer News will continue to call.

To finish off the mail bag this issue, will report on a trip that we have just completed. **Vic** and **Peg Whiteley, Bob** and **Joan Lake** in the one

vehicle plus caravan took off from Sydney on the 2nd July 1981, heading north and west. To Scone, then Gilgandra, Coonamble, Walgett and on to Lightning Ridge. Staved at the Ridge for two days, we met **Bob Molyneux** who has a mine there, ex 2/2 Pioneer, and he took the four of us down the hole. We had a bit of a dig, and a bit of a scratch, and came to the conclusion, that we had more chance with Lotto. Probably plenty of opal there, but there is also a bloody lot of dirt between it. **Bob Molyneux** had a visit from **Bill Robertson** and now claims that **Allan** and **Mary MacInnes** owe him a visit. (Seems pretty positive about this **Allan**,) so would suggest either a short trip, or a good letter. Left the Ridge and pushed across to Moree where we stayed another two days. This time of course, we attacked the bowling club and found **Charlie Wilby**. Fortunately, we had rung his wife **Kit** earlier so she knew we were in town, as on that first night, we did keep **Charles** a bit late. Next day we had a look around Moree, and a few of the cotton paddocks before calling to the **Wilby's** for afternoon tea. Here I think we were side-tracked, because the original idea was that the ladies would have the tea, and we would move down to the R.S.L. calling back for the ladies later. However, with talking, looking at old photos, and trying to remember, the time slipped away and we all proceeded to the club together, where we later had dinner. It was really good to see **Charlie** again, as it is about four years since he last attended Redfern, but he gets quite a few callers, passing through, I can't remember all their names now, but there were a couple from

Kyogle and a few from Queensland, plus North Coasters.

Wife **Kit** is off to America in September to see the branch of the family that resides there, but she can't talk **Charlie** into it, he just won't get with it. The four of us pushed off the next day, heading down through Narrabri, Gunnedah and on to Murrumbidgee where we stayed just one night. It was all we needed as the whole place was white next morning with the temperature at about 4 below. Next day travelled to Mannering Park, one night, and home on the Sunday morning. The whole exercise was a really good break, stayed caravan parks, most good, one bad one at Scone, the cooking at home being done by the girls, while **Vic** and I looked after the bank and the booze. We did help with some of the chores, and we did put the annexe up. We slept well, with electric blankets, but it was no second honeymoon, to see those girls going to bed at night, you would reckon we were at the South Pole. Cost wise, the whole trip was valued at \$200 per couple this was the lot, fuel, feeding, sleeping and drinks. A very capable driver, **Vic** drove at an average of 35 to 40, we completed each hop of about 200 miles in 5 to 6 hours and averaged 18 m.p.g. overall, pretty good pulling a 14ft caravan. That covers our trip the **Lakes** express their thanks once again to **Vic** and **Peg** for a really good couple of weeks.

That completes Mail Bag for this issue, good health, good luck, to all members and their families, and we are looking forward to September at Port Macquarie where we renew old mates acquaintances once again.

So Long — **Lahey**.

LEAVE AND TRANSIT DEPOT

Recently I received a request from one of our members seeking information about the Leave and Transit Depot, Addison Road, Marrickville.

BY HARRY MONTAGUE

Immediately I approached the various Government Departments, including the Australian War Memorial Records and through their generosity am able to submit the following report.

There were two locations in Marrickville, one known as "The Warren" and the other at Addison Road.

About the end of 1914 a camp was established at "The Warren" as a school of instruction for the Army Service Corps and subsequently for the Field Artillery. The ground and buildings being firstly on loan then finally rented.

On completion of the buildings at Addison Road, the Army Service Corps, Machine Gun Sections and Cyclists were transferred there from other camps.

In May, 1916, a school for the training of Field Artillery was established at "The Warren". In February, 1917, "The Warren" was closed and the troops were transferred to Liverpool and not long after, personnel from Addison Road were also transferred.

This was possibly the final use by the Defence Dept., of the two areas in the war of 1914-18. During the 1939-45 war, Addison Road was the gazetted site of the N.S.W. Line of Communications Area Leave and Transit Depot. They were responsible for the processing of thousands of troops, marching in and returning from leave, rejoining units and other reasons.

Neither the date of its formation or closure is known. On 1st July 1946 following the tapering off of the number of troops requiring processing the unit amalgamated with the Eastern Command R. & R. and the G.D.D. Liverpool to become Eastern Command Recruit Reception and

General Details Depot and located at Addison Road.

It was certainly in use during the war in Korea and sometime later the Federal Government, after the Korean war was over, loaned it to the N.S.W. Government for a Recreation Centre and Ethnic community centre, which it is still today.

I visited our old Leave and Transit Depot (L.T.D. to you) at Marrickville recently and I did not recognise the historic centre as you and I knew it.

On entering the area I noted that the two Provost boxes at the entrance gate were gone, but I recognised the speed sign of 25 miles an hour immediately inside the gate. I then did a complete tour of what was the camp site.

There would be only about twelve of the old buildings remaining and sadly in need of repairs due to deterioration, vandalism and lack of attention.

What can be utilised is used by Ethnic Groups and charitable organisations as meeting places.

Even relics of the original cook houses are still lying about and the Documentation building is as prominent as ever.

By the main parade ground I saw the remains of what was Jim "Pop Eye" Edwards' office when he was a drafting Warrant Officer — what great memories this recalled.

Although I purposely went there on an inspection trip and to see if I could gain further information to pass on to members, I am afraid I failed in my mission.

I departed, most disappointed in seeing such a wonderful historic military camp, which was a national monument of heritage of this Commonwealth in memory of the countless thousands of Australians, now just left in complete shambles.

2/1 — 2/2 PIONEER BATTALIONS ASSOCIATION

PROGRAMME

PORT MACQUARIE REUNION

Friday, Saturday, Sunday — 11th, 12th, 13th Sept. 1981

MINI-REUNION: 5 p.m. Friday, 11th September.

Assemble in the front portion of the R.S.L. Auditorium on the First Floor. Full bar facilities, at members' cost, will be available. After a drink members may disperse for a meal to The Bistro 5.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m., John Oxley Restaurant 6 p.m. to 8.15 p.m. or the Le Petit Escargot French Restaurant 6.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. Afterwards members may return to the front portion of the Auditorium for an informal evening, set aside for our sole use with full bar facilities.

TOUR OF PORT MACQUARIE: Saturday, 12th September.

At the Mini-Reunion on the Friday night members will be issued with booklet and map showing places of interest around the district that can be visited by private tour. It would be appreciated if members with cars would invite members without transport on tour with them. The Committee would like to ensure that the thirty people coming by train are organised into cars, if interested.

Tourist attractions to choose from — Timbertown — Wauchope, Historical Museum, Port Macquarie Historical Cemetery, Church of St. Thomas (convict built 1824). Fantasy Glades, Sea Acres Sanctuary, King Neptunes Park, the Observatory, Kingfisher Farmyard Park.

WREATH LAYING CEREMONY: 5 p.m. Saturday, 12th September.

Members line up at the Soldiers Memorial. No march — medals to be worn.

REUNION DINNER: Saturday, 12th September.

6 p.m. Pre-dinner drinks in front section of R.S.L. Auditorium.
7 p.m. Buffet dinner in the function room "The Nissen Hut".
Total cost \$12.50 per person.

COACH TOUR AND PICNIC LUNCH: Sunday, 13th September.

9.15 a.m. Assemble in R.S.L. Car Park. 9.30 a.m. Depart by coach for tour Wauchope, Comboyne, Ellenborough Falls, then return via Kew and North Haven. 12.30 p.m. Picnic lunch at Ellenborough Falls. Total cost \$9.00 per person. Refreshments at cost. All eating gear supplied.

FAREWELL GET-TOGETHER: 6 p.m. Sunday, 13th September.

Assemble for drinks in "The Nissen Hut", which has been booked solely for our members. After drinks, members may have a meal at the Bistro, French Restaurant or at an International Night (\$8.00) in the main restaurant. Members may then return to the "Nissen Hut" for an informal evening with full bar facilities.

LAST POST

BOB SCOTT, 2/1 passed away recently and will be sadly missed by many people.

Bob was Secretary of the "Rats of Tobruk" Association of N.S.W. and also Curator of the Military Museum at Victoria Barracks, Sydney. For his services he was awarded the British Empire Medal.

The funeral service was well attended by many of Bob's friends from all walks of life. Colonel Chinn and a detachment of W.O.'s and N.C.O.'s from Victoria Barracks formed the pall bearers party and Bob's medals were carried on the honour pad as military routine.

Jack Dodson, as President of the N.S.W. Rats of Tobruk Association, gave an impressive Eulogy of praise for Bob's service to his fellow men, and this was endorsed by Ken McBurnie, Patron, of the Rats Association.

We were all very proud to have known Bob and he will always be remembered.

LEO MORRIS, 2/1, passed away in June while at Concord Hospital, and quite a representative gathering of old Pioneers, including many "C" Coy. members, travelled to Wollongong for the funeral service.

Leo was well known throughout the Unit for his wonderful personality and was held in great esteem by all.

I had paid many visits to him at Concord and one could see he greatly appreciated those visits and the chats we had of the old days in the Unit.

GEORGE MCGUIRE, 2/1, passed away recently after spending some time in hospital and at the funeral were many of his pals from the unit.

George was a W.O. with the 2/1, having worked his way up through the ranks. He was well respected by all and in turn he treated everyone as a friend.

Respects from the Association were passed on to his widow and members of the family.

ERIC SIMMS, 2/1, passed away in June and good representation at the funeral was made by many of his friends from the unit.

Eric was a great mate to have and will be remembered by us all.

Sympathy from the Association was extended to his family.

— Harry MONTAGUE

MEMBERS DECEASED

— from Anzac Day 1980 — to Anzac Day 1981

2/1 Pioneers: Jack Benson, D. Owens, R.F. Thompson, C. Fothergill, A.T. Mason, W.A., F.J. Curry, C. (Taffy) Lawrence, Bill Prosser, Sid Sweeney, E. Bridge, J.H. Doran, N. Lloyd, L.O. Hollis, Sgt. McFarlane, S.O. Sayers, Fred Charlesworth, Jack Paul, Bill Drew, Harry Duckworth, Ted Jennings.

2/2 Pioneers: G.A. Sutton, W.N. Cameron, R.T. Howarth, R.G. Krygger, P.W. Nybo, S.B. Smith, Frank McInness, Hec Page, J.F. Palias, W.E. Battye, I.B. Dalley, E.T. Kenny, G. Watson, A.C. McCarthy, J.H. Hermon, D.E. Noakes S.A., L. Malady.

Total of 36 members passed on. "LEST WE FORGET".

SECRETARY'S REQUEST

Please address mail to Secretary as follows:-

M. Herron, Hon. Sec.,
2/1-2/2 Pioneer Btn. Assoc.,
3 Enoggera Road, Beverly Hills, N.S.W. 2209

This will assist in separating Pioneer mail from personal mail by his neighbours when he is away from home.

PIONEER NEWS

Phone: 759-5491

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

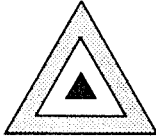
Phone: 759-5491

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

Registered for post as a Periodical — Category A.

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

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



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Editors:
R. LAKE & M. HERRON

President:
J. (Mick) DODSON

Vol. 26 No. 4

DECEMBER 1981

\$2 Per Annum



PORT MACQUARIE REUNION, 1981

Once again on Friday, 11th September, members of the Association, their wives and friends started assembling in Port Macquarie for yet another country reunion and a most successful weekend.

The success of the weekend again reflects on the tireless efforts of our great and hardworking Committee of the men and ladies willing to give their time so we may once more meet friends and comrades of yesteryear. I know President Mick Dodson would be the first to say that without Max and Peg Herron's organising talents we would not be the Association we are to-day.

MINI-REUNION, 11th SEPTEMBER.

From 4.30 p.m. onwards the troops commenced gathering in the auditorium to meet old faces, some as usual their first contact since 1945, others who met at Dubbo. Identification was made easier with name tags which were handed out on arrival by Joan Lake, Jean Dixon, Kath Field and Joyce Walker, who also checked lists and handed out brochures of Port Macquarie area and sights to see. Thank you, ladies. By 5 p.m. "Dr. Tooth" opened his shutter and talk really started. It was most pleasing to see so many 2/2 boys and their ladies in attendance. Once again Col and Frances Shea up from Victoria, together with Leo Cornelius and Mary (who have recently moved to Queensland), all hoping to be at Wagga next year. More 2/2 in the form of Phil Bawden (also from Vic.), Nev O'Connor and Mary had some first-timers with them in Clemm McDonald 2/2, Clare Carney, Anne Troy, Norma Lowe, Les and Donnie Tims (Les was a Spitfire pilot with 451 Squadron, but thinks after this weekend he may be a permanent Pioneer). Also with Nev were Wally and June Westren (Mary's sister). Wally was with 106 C.C.S. Lovely to have you all with us and come again.

From Joh's country we had our Queensland organising committee John and Mollie Hunt. Mollie with an injured ankle — said she stepped into mid-air. Just as well Mollie said this or J.B. you'd have copped the old razz-a-ma-taz. Hope everything O.K. by October, Mollie. Phil and Mary Cramsie decided to find out what things south of Kyogle look like. If we keep going, we may even get him to an Anzac March in Sydney. "Porky" Graham also down from the Sunshine State — more on you later, "Porky".

Rollie and Thelma Javes attended for the first time, and now he's got the taste don't think it will be the last. Another group of 2/2nds in Bernie and Stella Daly from Taree, also Don Murray, Tib and Fay Martin from Dapto and John McKnight and Alice Byrne. Think Bernie must have been rounding up these 2/2, if so, well done. Jack Morgan 2/2 from Wagga who will be assisting our Committee with next year's reunion in that area. More first-timers in Mick and Val Petersen, Dick and Alison Walker and Tom and Rene Wood. So glad you could join us and hope to see

you also in Wagga next year. Dick and Joan Chalmers from the 2/1 also on a first visit with Sam and Margaret Lewis. It didn't take long to recognise old faces, did it Dick and Sam? (Joan Chalmers was also an old school pal of Peg Herron — and they had 30 years of news to catch up on). Sitting together, and I doubt if we've seen this for a very long time were the Coates and the Collis'. I think they remarked it was the first time the four had been together at a Pioneer reunion.

Cyril and Doris Amies were having a great get-together with Rollie Javes and Thel, Mick and Val Petersen and Dick and Heather Marshall. Hadn't seen each other since the late 40's, so had plenty to catch up on.

By this time, many were drifting off to get the tucker bag on and some to ready themselves for Saturday outing.

PORT MACQUARIE TOUR.

On Saturday morning, groups in cars took the opportunity to see the sights of Port Macquarie. One of the troops who decided to visit the historical cemetery was bitten by a dog. (Hope he's not barking too much, Gloria). Suggest next time you take a doggy bag with you, Paddy. Joey (Henry) Blanch must be getting on — firstly on Friday parked his car in front of the Royal Hotel and then had Mavis walking in the opposite direction looking for it. Then on Saturday did the same thing outside the flats where he was booked in. That reminds me — **who** was Frank Allan's driver in the Unit? Will he please turn up at Wagga and volunteer to act again in that capacity so he and Gordon don't get lost in that City.

Many wandered around to the R.S.L. where "Dr. Tooth" was in attendance. One group of Eric Guthrie, Jock Copland, Jock Russell, Larry Robson, Don Slater, Arthur Ludington and Joh's rep. Porky Graham, who was busy telling Jock Russell how good or how clever Joh was — don't know which but all in good spirits. Doubt if you'll change him, Porky.

WREATH LAYING CEREMONY

As there was no march, all assembled at the Memorial on the Town Green alongside the river. I feel someone must have been looking kindly on us as ominous black clouds started to come up from the south just as the service commenced, but thankfully rain held off until the service was completed.

With the assistance of the Wauchope-Port Macquarie Salvation Army Band, Brigadier John F. McCabe, O.B.E., of the Salvation Army conducted the service, which was most impressive. Jack Griffiths commenced the ceremony with an explanation of proceedings then President Mick Dodson laid the wreath on

behalf of the Association. Two books donated by Jim Hall of Kyogle in memory of Les (Jossie) Denham were laid by Jack Coates and a further two books from the Association were placed on the Memorial by Col Shea. These were later presented by Mrs. Dolly Latham, cousin of "Jossie" Denham, to representatives of Port Macquarie and Westport High Schools. Mick Dodson then recited the Ode to the Fallen, after which the bugler sounded the Last Post and Reveille, followed by the National Anthem and the Benediction.

All present then proceeded to the R.S.L. for our Reunion dinner.

REUNION DINNER

On entering the room members and wives were able to move around and view photos and newspaper clippings showing various aspects of both Battalions during the war period. Many suddenly realised how the years have gone when viewing photos of themselves 40 years ago. Promptly at 7 p.m. our M.C. for the evening, Bob Dixon, made the necessary introductions, Jim Field said Grace and it was down to a very enjoyable dinner. The girls serving were dressed in "rio" type dresses and headgear in keeping with the local "Rio" week.

The toasts were as follows — "The Queen" proposed by Nev O'Connor, "Our Guests" by President Mick with response by Jack Steep, President of the R.S.L., "The Association" by Frank Allan and supported by Gordon Osborn and finally appreciation to Committee and ladies by Leo Cornelius and Jack Griffiths. After the dinner was over, it was once again time to renew old acquaintances.

Someone we have not seen for many years was Fred Brooks of Taree who brought his son, Fred, with him, (Fair dinkum, it was his dad 40

Turn to page 2

COUNTRY REUNION — 1982 AT WAGGA WAGGA, N.S.W.

To commemorate the Fortieth Anniversary
of The Reforming of The 2/2 Pioneer Battalion

MINI-REUNION AT WAGGA R.S.L.
FRIDAY EVENING, 17th SEPTEMBER 1982

REUNION DINNER AT WAGGA R.S.L.
SATURDAY EVENING, 18th SEPT. 1982

TOUR AND PICNIC LUNCH AT
FIRST RECRUIT TRAINING CENTRE,
KAPOOKA ON SUNDAY 19th SEPT. 1982

The above information has already been arranged by your committee, so, please note the date. Further particulars in future issues of Pioneer News.

— JIM FIELD, PUBLICITY OFFICER

PORT MACQUARIE REUNION — Continued

years ago) and Alec Boyd. President Mick went looking for a Jack Stewart and finished up meeting no less than five of the same name — and none the right one.

Joey Blanch still as noisy as ever — some nice person said he could talk under water with two apples in his mouth.

It was certainly great to have some of the widows of our late members present — Betty Creasy and Mary Lloyd. Who was the lady in the Bistro with ALL those sweet dishes in front of her — sure need to do a few jogs around the block to work that lot off!!

Others enjoying themselves were Clancy and Rene Scholes with daughter Wendy, Jack and Esme Griffiths and Anne, Dick and Pearl Seddon, Jack and Jean Bertram, Alby and Eileen Brown, Jack and Jean Clarke, Ivor and Ena Gannon, Clive and Betty Harris, Roy and Phyl Jardine, Noel Schomberg, Albert Wilkinson, Jack and Flo Shearman, Ron and Joyce Cross, Bill Hoffman, Ray Horne and the old trio of Bob Burnside, Jack Stone and "old smoothy" Pat Noonan. Tom Culkin came from out West, also Eric and Leila Barber (who sent regards to Mary and Allan McInnes), Norma and Eric Lindsay and Keith Reynolds from Coonabarabran (sorry you had to miss the dinner Keith), Fred and Ev Bellingham, Jack and Lex Coates, Jack and Gwen Collis, Allan and Beulah Crute who assisted Peg Herron to layout the tables, many thanks. Jim and Cynthia McDonald, Maisie and Jack Kempnich, Bill Wright, Bob Gales and Snowy Morris.

Fred and Edna Loveless were up from Victoria — the Padre was having a great time with his camera over the weekend and now he has time to spare, catching up on who's who. The name McGregor seems pretty common in Pioneers — what with Jack and Dot, Roy and Marion, Bob and Joyce and young Bob (nephew of Bob 2/1). Tom and Pat Mutton brought along Tom's brother, Bob, and friend Ron Murphy, and Sid and Myrtle Jopson had Dot and Claude Campbell staying with them over the weekend. Also with us for the first time were Evan and Jill Thompson, both locals, and seemed to be enjoying themselves. From Kyogle came Rocky Watts and Thelma O'Neill and Wal and Lal Page from Cudgen.

Another group enjoying themselves were Noel and Rita Trefoni, Max and Joyce Law and Bill and Win Tasker, these two with Mick Dodson last to leave each night. "Bluey" Miller and wife Edna from Umina were enjoying the weekend as a surprise gift from their family — nice to have you both with us. Ted and Nell Skyles were there — not too many reunions Teddy boy has missed. Of course Roma and Doug Shearston were with us, along with Doug's brother Perce and wife Joan. Good to see you all. That reminds me — someone said Doug has two grand-daughters and has spoilt them both. It was great to have Sue Malcolm and Win McKenzie, our nursing sisters, with us again — keep it up, girls, it's good to have you along.

From Dungog John and Josie Gibson, Bill and Irene Hodges, Brian and Betty Kybert (first time we've been able to entice Brian out of Sydney), Sid Kent and Pat Quailey with visitor Dorothy Moroney, Eric and Joyce Reynolds (from Macksville), Ivan and Mabel Pepper, Jack and Valda Pearce, Snow and Gert Vickery and Bob Dixon had his sister — Marge Hume — and friends Lester and Thelma Wilcocks along with them for the weekend.

More first-timers were brothers Ted and Allen Jensen, together with wives Marie and Joan, and Jack and Mavis Green.

PRESENTATIONS

During the evening our Treasurer, Vic.

Whiteley was presented with his Life Membership Certificate. In reply, Vic said that two surprises in five minutes is a bit unusual — first the Certificate and then Lakey bought him a beer! Was it to help him drown his sorrows on account of St. George's poor showing, Bob? Well done, Vic.

President Mick also presented Peg and Max Herron with two Aussie badges for them to wear whilst overseas, in appreciation of their outstanding work in organising the Port Macquarie reunion. May they have a wonderful holiday and safe return.

SUNDAY PICNIC AND TOUR

The coach trip to Ellenborough Falls and Comboyne was ready to leave by 9.30 a.m. and our drivers Neil, Jim and Ian made sure everyone had a safe and interesting journey, explaining points of interest en route. On reaching the picnic area for lunch it was all hands in and, as usual, the ladies committee (God bless 'em) took over the reins and made sure everyone was well fed, with Bob Lake and George Walker seeing to the refreshments. Again the camera kids were out in force. I think it is about time that our mob put it to Kodak for a special discount.

Then it was all aboard for the return trip to Port via Kew, North Haven and Lake Cathie, arriving back at the R.S.L. about 5 p.m. An enjoyable day spent by all. The lucky bus ticket for the cloth donated by Bob Gales was won by Lex Coates. Many thanks, Bob.

SUNDAY MINI-REUNION

Still they talked on, until slowly they realised that time was marching on. Good-byes were said with hopes of seeing one another either on Anzac Day or at the Wagga Reunion in 1982, or both.

WAGGA REUNION 18th, 19th Sept, 1982.

The date set down for this venue is 18th and 19th September, 1982. This coincides with the 40th Anniversary of the reformed 2/2 Pioneer Battalion. Now all of you 2/2nd chaps, and 2/1, how about starting to make arrangements now re turning up. Let's get behind our Committee and make this reunion the biggest. When you see the format you'll see what a great weekend you'll have — so act now.

All good things must come to an end, so once again Monday saw the troops wending their various ways — yes, another successful reunion. Attendance was 196.

All the best for the remainder of 1981 and good health in 1982.

— Regards, L. ROBSON. J. BERTRAM.

LAST POST — by H. MONTAGUE

WALLY COPP passed away in August after a long illness.

Wal was originally with the 2/1 and embarked with them for overseas, where later in Tobruk was transferred to the 2/2.

With the 2/2 he saw service in New Guinea and Borneo with the rank of Captain.

Upon cessation of hostilities he continued his chosen profession in the Regular Army where he reached the rank of Major.

As with the Pioneers his career in the Armed Forces made him most popular with all ranks and was deeply respected by all and his death is regretted by each and everyone of us.

During the last few months of visiting him at home and hospital he was continually asking after his friends in both units and really enjoyed talking about them.

The funeral was a private one at the request of his family, so consequently I did not attend, but I did pay our respects to Mrs Copp.

In return I received a very nice note of thanks from Mrs. Copp.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Bob, likewise Joan,

Firstly — how is everything with you (good) folk — well I hope, able to take a little nourishment both solid and liquid and having half of the nuptial couch each — what more could you ask for?! I know Lakey, you could ask for plenty more, but you're not going to get it!! — and that's flat. I have to make this following statement. It's beaut living over here in the Parramatta region — now — being king-dicks in the League and all!! It was inevitable you know Lakey it had to come — it's put the value of my place up.

Jean and I have just returned from a coach trip to South Australia and Victoria. It was fantastic, we had a super time everywhere we went. The weather was great sunshine all the way, except a few showers while travelling in the coach. We were very lucky because rain in large quantities had fallen some weeks before we passed through, so everything was very green and fresh. While in Adelaide I rang Jeff Lloyd D Coy, 2/2 Pioneers. The upshot of this phone call was a beaut day spent with Jeff and his wife Ronnie. He wants to be remembered to all of his mates where ever they may be, especially "Spag" Harris and Jack Henderson. Also to tell Jim Field that he will catch up with him one day, and being Lapidary cranks they can crack a rock or two together.

While at Warrnambool, Victoria (just an overnight stop) I rang **Punchy** Bill Hanson of Timboon, not very far away — but too far for a visit. Had a long talk with him. He and wife Dorothy are coming to Wagga next year, and Bill wants Don Murray of Tinonee to be there for sure — boy I bet there will be some ear-bashing going on. Bill gave me a phone number of one "Porky" Ernie Jewell H.Q. Coy 3 platoon — one of my mob Bob, I hadn't seen heard or spoken to him for about 37 years I think it would be, so we had plenty to talk about.

Just missed out on Col Shea at Melbourne. Col was away, but I did have a phone conversation with wife Frances. I am very sure Bob there's not many places without a Pioneer — or it seems that way. I had a phone call from George Nicholls "C" Coy 2/2 yesterday. He rang to tell me that his brother Bill same Coy, had passed away last Saturday morning. They are from Port Kembla way. Bill was a very staunch Pioneer, never missed a Reunion and was always very keen on matters relating to the Association. He and George were very special mates of mine and it was a great shock to me when George rang to tell me the sad news.

I suppose you are wondering just why I managed to write to you. Well this would be the first **letter** I've written to Pioneer News, so you'd better make the most of it, because these **great events** don't happen too often.

Yours — BOB DIXON.

MANY THANKS

Peg and I would like to thank the Executive for the presentation at the Port Reunion, of our souvenir badges and the Bon Voyage card, and for all the good wishes from the members present.

We would also like to thank the many members, who sent in personal Bon Voyage cards.

One such card summed up the wonderful journey we had through England, Scotland, Holland, Germany, Austria, Italy, Switzerland and France and the verse inside read:—
A change of scene — A change of pace
New things to do — In a different place
Hope all of these — And more combine
To make your Trip — Turn out JUST FINE.

And because it happened this way we say thanks to all Pioneers for their good wishes.

— MAX HERRON.



December issue of the paper and response by letter has again been very good. Quite a lot of letters make reference to Port Macquarie some confirming and some unable to attend, these I will gloss over and just mention their salient points.

• **MRS. ERN SIMS**, sends a short note referring to the September issue in which we made an error in the spelling of **Ernies** name, our secretary wishes to apologise for this error **Pat**, he read the letter and took the **Ern** to read **Eric**. Our sincere apologies, and we hope you will accept these.

• **CLIFF 'TOM' BLAMEY** and wife **Vi** write from Noble Park, apologising for their not being available for Port, **Tom** and **Vi** had just returned from holidaying in Queensland, and a trip back to Port was just a little too much. On their trip back from Queensland **Tom** and **Vi** visited Twin Towns R.S.L. at Tweed Heads, and quotes, Victoria could well do with something like that. We will second that suggestion gladly, and we hope to see you both at Wagga next September.

• **LEN PREEDY** of Western Australia sends a short note with the information that he and wife **Joy** had been in a motor accident around the end of June, badly bent the car and left **Joy** with very sore ribs, however they were both very lucky. **Len** has also come across 2 old pay book covers belonging to **J.J. Dowd** and **N. Bunge**. Well **Len**, **Dowd's** address is 8 Koorooma Place, Sylvania, and the other chap is not on our roll. **Len** is still very pleased to receive Pioneer News and was very pleased to read the names of **Alan Stone**, **Alby Claus** and **Butch Bialard** in the last issue. Many thanks for the letter **Len**, and we hope that **Joy** has totally recovered by now.

• **MRS LEONORA ROBINSON** of Scotts Head writes the sad news that **Walter Robinson** passed away 13th July 1981, he had been a Limbless Soldier for many years but it was a heart attack that caused his death. We thank you for the letter and will continue to post Pioneer News to you, should you feel you do not want to receive same, a short note telling of this will be OK.

Claude Densmore resident of Wallsend sends a cheque to the treasurer, with the words, better late than never, and nothing else, can only say **Claude**, you should never suffer from writer's cramp at that rate, however cheque is where it is doing most good, many thanks.

• **FRANK BARTLEY** of Bolton Point, sends a cheque to the treasurer and apologies for his non attendance, however **Frank** has been busy helping his son finish off his new home at Geurie out of Dubbo, so we will accept his excuse, but keep Wagga in mind next September.

• **SID JOPSON** and wife **Myrtle** sends a cheque to the treasurer and as we now know, both attended Port where I think they enjoyed themselves and saw a lot of old faces. **Sid** still has lots of problems with his diabetes and arthritis, however he displays a bold front, and he can still pull the handle of a Pokie and get winners and wife **Myrtle** is in the same class. Sorry we did not have time to contact you again **Sid**, but with a reunion like that, duties seem to come up one on top of the other. It seemed like we were forever at the R.S.L. finalising the account for the weekend. Keep smiling and we will be up there again in the near future.

• **IAN HODGE** of Lismore sends a cheque to the treasurer, and as the Headmaster of Richmond River High School, says that he disagrees with our President's statement in the last issue, **Ian** goes on to say quite a bit more and being in his position, we will take notice of same, however, we will not carry on with the subject via the paper, but will definitely pass your letter on to **Jack** for his perusal. **Ian** does not see very many Pioneers up at Lismore but he does see **Gordon Walsh** when he is at Evans Head and also — **Phil Barnett**. Many thanks for your letter **Ian**, and I hope you do enjoy reading this issue, and pleased to receive your views and knowledge.

• **NEV WOODHAM**, at last getting pen to paper from his new address up in **Joh's** country. Sends his regards to all, has settled down very well, both **Nev** and **Betty** love the climate, and the gardens are all well established. Has been picking lettuce and tomatoes for some time and will soon be doing same with carrots and pumpkins. Both playing lots of bowls, says there are always tournaments of some sort going on. Also as a member of Cleveland Club for almost 12 months discovered that the Jnr. Vice-President of same was a Pioneer, enlisted at Kyogle in 1940, his address has been noted, and he is going to **John** and **Mollie Hunt's** reunion in October. **Nev** and **Betty** entertained **John** and **Mollie** and they were shown the slides from Dubbo, as **Nev** says, the greatest show they have ever attended, well **Nev**, Port Macquarie was just as good, and keep it in mind, Wagga will be the greatest.

• **HARRY MOWBRAY**, Ormiston, Queensland writes with a thank you for previous issues of Pioneer News, **Harry** is a new member from **Nev Woodham's** area, and left the Unit at Derna. He has been in contact with **Harry Spreadborough** ex-R.S.M. of our unit. Mentions lots of names mainly B. Coy. also lots of the officers. We welcome you to the Association, we hope you enjoy your night at **John** and **Mollie's** and we also look forward to a few visits from you at Sydney and perhaps in Wagga next year.

• **KEN COLLIER** from Essendon, Victoria sends a cheque to the treasurer and tells that after a long and bitter battle has been granted the T.P.I. pension. Health wise is not too bad, although he has to attend twice a week for treatment to an arm that is very slow to recover. Still looks forward to receiving the News, although not the obituaries, when they come so many at a time. Thanks for the letter **Ken**, keep the chin up and good luck with that arm.

• **BOB DONALD**, Glen Innes, sends a cheque to the treasurer and best wishes to all the boys. Quite a few Pioneers at Glen Innes, **Tom Manual** who has not been so well, but manages to stay quite cheerful, also in the area are **Jack Marshall**, **Vic Donald**, **Harry Rogers**, **Eric O'Hara**, all quite OK, apart from the usual aches and pains. Many thanks **Bob**, keep up the good work.

• **JACK** and **MURIEL SPENCE** of Wingham send a sub to the treasurer and claims that while not having a lot of news they both enjoy pretty good health, **Jack's** garden is as usual a picture, with plenty of colour, and plenty of fresh vegies. They also had a surprise visit from **Larry Robson**, **Dick Seddon**, **Jock Russell** and **Jack Bertram**. **Larry** of course was a regular caller on

his north coast run, and has resumed work again although not doing the same thing as before. Son-in-law and daughter took **Jack** and **Muriel** for a trip in May, Canberra and home via Yass, Young, Cowra, Mudgee, then Sandy Hollow, Bylong, country very dry, but a wonderful trip for the two of them. Thanks for the letter **Muriel**, and keep the old bloke on his toes.

• **BRUCE CHAMBERS**, Wahroonga sends a cheque to the treasurer and notification of a change of address, only a matter of streets, **Bruce** would not leave his district, with a very flourishing business in real estate and auctioneering situated in Hornsby. Many thanks for the cheque **Bruce** and your new address noted for future mailings.

• **PADRE JOCK STEELE** at present minister for the Parish at Lockhart sends a sub to the treasurer and the news that he will be at the present address for another 2 months. **Jock** has finally got his priorities corrected and is enjoying the beauties of Spring along the south west. The Murray has been in flood, and quotes, have rarely seen the country so green. **Jock** is also baching at time of writing, with wife **Kathleen** visiting their daughter and son-in-law in Java. Not lonely though, as he is enjoying the hospitality at various homes in the district. Don't know of any Pioneers actually at Lockhart although they are numerous around the South West. Many thanks for your letter and keep the flag flying with all those heathens that you have to bear with.

• **JOHN HUNT** from New Farm with a letter written before the reunion with a couple of new addresses, **Terry Mowbray** of Ormiston and **Harry Spreadborough** of Capalaba also of Queensland. Both mentioned have intentions of attending the reunion held at **John's** place in October. Since this letter we have been in contact with **John** and **Mollie**, and both were in great shape at Port.

• **BOB GINNANE** sends an apology on behalf of himself and **Col Cameron** on their not being available for Port Macquarie, **Bob** does say that he hopes to be with us at the next one, and extends his sincere good wishes to all his many friends that they have a wonderful time in his absence.

• **MRS MARY MORRIS** widow of **Leo**, sends a very special letter to the Editors, writes of the very happy years they spent together, of that wonderful bond that so many wives have had with their Pioneer husbands, of the nursing and caring for these men that were unfortunate to have acquired the illnesses from war, and offers to one and all, from 1940 to 1981 her sincere sympathies. In return **Mary** we of the Association offer you our sincere sympathies and a big thank you for your very moving letter.

• **SUE MALCOLM** our very own nursing sister from Coffs Harbour sends a quick note to catch the secretary and his wife **Peg** before they fly off into the blue on their trip overseas. **Sue** claims she had a wonderful weekend at Port, and to tell **Monty** that she was so sorry he could not attend, it was due to **Fred Wheaton** and **Monty** that **Sue** was discovered nursing at Coffs after the war years. In turn this led to the address of **Vera Hamilton** also a sister on the Johan De Witt and who have both since enjoyed the country reunions they have attended. On **Sue's** return from Port, a card from **Vera** somewhere in Scotland was waiting so apparently she also is

MAIL BAG — Continued

seeing quite a bit of the country. Many thanks **Sue**, just you keep your eye on that big **Wheaton** fella, and I hope he does the same for you.

• **MAX LAW** with a letter that arrived just too late for the previous edition of Mail Bag, however **Max** writes that he had spent some time in the bush where he had the pleasure of contacting **Mick Roberts** from Leeton. Stayed overnight with **Mick** and **Vi** and was made very welcome. Quotes that by the time this goes to print, he will have reached the magical 60 years but has no thoughts of retiring for a couple more years. Both **Max** and **Joyce** were at Port, where I would presume they enjoyed themselves in the approved manner. Could not get him to sing a song for us on the return trip in the coach on Sunday, a bloke that plays the piano like him and claims he can't sing a note, sounds a bit rough to me.

• **JIM FIELD (MULDOON)** sends a follow up from Port Macquarie. **Whiteley**, **Joan** and I, farewelled **Jim** and **Kath** on Wednesday morning and they travelled further north to Sawtell and visited **Jim's** brother. Stayed there a few days then further north to Kyogle where they were the guests of **Jack** and **Flo Shearman**, and they emphasise their thanks for this valued generosity and friendship. With **Jumma Hall** doing the organising?? a get together was arranged at the Golf Club, present were **Bert** and **Margaret Raynor**, **Jack** and **Flo Shearman**, **Jumma** and **Lil Hall** and **Jim** and **Kath**. Good tucker, plenty of talk, a whirl on the Pokies, with **Jack** and **Bert** showing a profit, and **Jim** claiming that he and **Kath** were the real winners in the enjoyment of such good company. **Bert** would dearly love to attend some of the reunions further afield but the travel is a little beyond him, however claims he is always present in the spirit. Through **Jim** and **Kath**, all Kyogle members of the Association pass on their best wishes to the rest of the units, and we in turn reciprocate those good wishes. Many thanks **Jim** and **Kath**, and glad you had a good trip, aren't you pleased you went **Kath**?

• **BILL HOFFMAN**, Kyogle writes of the demise of **Fred Blanch** original of our battalion, who sailed on the *Johann De Witt*, September 1940 and was present at Balikpapan at the cessation of hostilities. A member of the famous Kyogle Light Horse Machine Gunners who had competed and won the Lord Foster Cup three times in succession and were therefore declared outright winners, this troop then joined the A.I.F. as a unit and were posted to our own 2/1 Pioneer Battalion. **Fred Blanch** was a farmer, before and after the war, until in late life, he took a position at Kyogle with the railway. At the funeral service a representation of members from the Rats of Tobruk Association numbering some 15 attended while the following from the Pioneer Association were present. **Jim Hall**, **Cec Blanch**, **Ray Blanch**, **Jack Martin**, **Allan Black**, **Bruce McNaughton**, **Ted Felton**, **Ron Cross**, **Bert Raynor**, **Alec George**, **Peter Bell**, **Jack Shearman**, **Joe Leis** and **B. Hoffman**. These members formed a Guard of Honour, and proceeded the funeral for one block, then to the Lismore Crematorium.

• **ERIC (BOMBO) REYNOLDS** writes from Macksville that they had intended to write to the **Herrons** before they left for their overseas jaunt, however did not get around to it in time, both enjoyed the weekend at Port Macquarie, they left on the Monday morning and purchased some trees to plant in the back to try and create a little shade. Both are enjoying life as it goes along. still playing a little golf and are off to Victoria soon to spend some time with daughter **Alison** and baby. **George** and **Joyce Walker**

also proceeded north after Port, and they called at the **Reynolds** homestead on their way back home. Thanks for the letter **Eric** will forward to **Max** and **Peg** when they arrive home.

• **HARRY SPREADBOROUGH** now resident of Cabalaba, Queensland writes his first ever letter to the Association. Like lots of others, **Harry** had no idea that the Association existed, and it was only that **Nev Woodham** decided to move north, take an interest in bowls, met with **Terry Mowbray** who in turn passed the information to the secretary, that **Harry** received a few back issues of Pioneer News, does that supply your information **Harry**, on how you happened to receive same. **Harry** would have liked to attend Port, but circumstances prevented same, however he's off to **John Hunt's** in October. **Harry** was probably the first C.S.M. of H.Q. Company at Greta. I say probably, because I was not there at that time, however, I should imagine that a lot of the chaps from H.Q. will remember you, and you can rest easy, they have all forgiven the bad times that Sgt. Majors dished out, and we really are a pretty good, big, happy family now. More names should pass through the mind after this issue with the Kyogle boys that attended **Fred Blanch's** funeral plus the roll call at Port Macquarie, see how good your memory is, and let's know the result. Your cheque is with the treasurer, ex-driver from 6 Platoon and he is just the bloke to deal with all the monies. Glad to hear from you **Harry** and we hope you enjoy your re-enlistment with the mob.

• **JACK COLLIS**, Umina writes of the wonderful time spent at Port Macquarie and on behalf of himself and **Gwen** thank **Peg Herron** for her great assistance. **Jack** talks of chaps he had not seen for so many years, **Paddy Gray**, **Jack Shearman** and how some of them did not seem to change over so many years. **Jack** also reports the death of **Les "Digger" Rose** one of our oldest Pioneers, 80 something years at his death. **Harry Hutchinson** has had another stroke, but is progressing favourably. Many thanks for the news **Jack**, keep sober.

• **JACK COATES**, Umina writes to the Association on the 36th Anniversary of his wedding to **Lex**, tells **Lex** that he only had 10 days freedom between Sgt. Majors, but she liked that comparison, none of our Sgt. Majors were any oil paintings. **Jack** reports the deaths of **Taffy Hirst** and that he attended the funeral of **Digger Rose**, arrived a little late but joined up with **Fred Makin**, together they represented the Association. **Jack** and **Lex** both enjoyed the weekend at Port Macquarie, and of course, more so, as they won **Bob Gales** cloth, **Jack** closes with best wishes for the overseas trip of the **Herrons** and enclosed a cheque for the treasurer to invest with. **Jack**, one request, when posting information re deaths of members, it is best if you can enclose dates, as all publications usually demand the date referred to.

That just about completes the Mail Bag for this issue, just a few comments from myself of Port Macquarie. **Vic Whiteley**, **Joan** and I, shared accommodation at the caravan park, unfortunately **Vic's** wife **Peg** was unable to come, however we managed to scratch through. Our accommodation was a cabin, and one problem was somewhere to hang all **Whiteley's** suits, then he developed a sore toe, breaking in a new pair of thongs, apart from that and his snoring, he was good company. While **Joan** did look after the kitchen, we did do the washing up, especially when the "Bikini" girl was doing her washing next door. Good neighbours at the park with **George** and **Joyce Walker**, **Bob** and **Jean Dixon** and **Bob's** sister. **Snow** and **Gert Vickery**, who we all at some time had morning tea with, had to bring their own cups, but who cared. As each of the larger crowds started to

leave, again we entertained and on the Monday, the cabin really needed rubber walls but it did put the finish on a wonderful weekend. **Vic**, **Joan** and I stayed the full week, and we just carried on in the usual manner, with a few tinnies every now and again.

On this last edition of Mail Bag for 1981, on behalf of all the committee and their wives, we would like to wish each and everybody a Happy and Prosperous Xmas and New Year, see you all Anzac Day, and don't forget WAGGA WAGGA 1982.

So long for now — **Lahey**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Reporters and other writers are covering all the activities so I intend to speak of and about those hard workers who will not write about themselves.

What an outstanding job the organisers, led by **Max Herron** performed, and while ever we have people of their calibre, it is assured that future Reunions will always be a success.

To most people who attended the Reunion, it was just a matter of sending their application and turning up at the place of the Reunion. With the organisers a twelve months task, arriving before and leaving after most people. The ladies led by **Peg Herron** also worked during the year and put a lot of time into working over the Reunion. This shows how successful mixed Reunions are.

It would be remiss if congratulations did not go out to **Bob Dixon**, besides his other duties, the excellent manner he carried out over the Reunion his main duty as Master of Ceremonies.

To conserve space I will combine names of all who worked or took part in the successful Reunion. Hard working **George Walker**, **Jim Field**, **Vic Whiteley** and **Bob Lake**, **Larry Robson** and **Jack Bertram**, reporters. **Jack Griffiths** with his usual good explanation of proceedings.

Our speakers, **Frank Allen**, **Gordon Osborn**, **Leo Cornelius**, **Nev O'Connor** and **Jack Morgan**. Guest **Jack Steep**, President Port Macquarie Sub-Branch, **Brigadier J. McCabe**, Salvation Army, the Salvation Army Band and the students from the local high schools.

Again thanks to the wonderful body of women's auxiliary who put a lot of time and work into making sure all enjoyed the Port Reunion.

Even the members whenever a working party was required were there to assist.

Finally to those members who were unlucky enough to miss the Reunion through illness or prior commitments, remember you can make up for missing out on an enjoyable weekend by noting in September, 1982 Wagga Wagga will be the venue for the Reunion.

— **Jack (Mick) Dodson**

LAST POST — by H. MONTAGUE

FRED BLANCH, H.Q. Coy. 2/1 of Kyogle passed away 26th June, 1981.

Fred an original of the Battalion served in the Middle East, Tobruk and Pacific Zone.

The funeral was attended by representatives of the Rats of Tobruk Association, 2/1, 2/2 Pioneer Association and to his family we extend our sincere sympathies.

LES BROWN 2/2 passed away and **Bob Burnside** attended the funeral paying the last respects on behalf of the Association. **Monty** on this occasion was unable to attend due to a previous appointment.

BILL NICHOLLS 2/2 passed away after a lengthy illness. He was wonderfully respected by all that knew him. To his family we extend our sincere sympathies.

HIRST. W.C. "TAFFY" 16.6.81 of Woy Woy, to the family we extend our sincere sympathies.

LES ROSE "DIGGER", 2/1 Ex. B Coy to the family we extend our sincere sympathies.