

PIONEER NEWS

Phone: 759-5491

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

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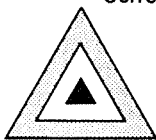
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J. (Mick) DODSON

Vol. 27 No. 1

MARCH, 1982

\$2 Per Annum



2/2 AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION (Part 1)

Our successful 1980 Association reunion at Dubbo was based on the roll the 2/1 Pioneers played in that locality forty years previously, both at camp and in town. As remembered, it was the focal point of their march out as a Unit.

This years 1982 reunion at Wagga places the emphasis on the roll the 2/2 Pioneers played in this locality, both at camp and in town, forty years previously. It was from this centre the reformed 2/2 marched out as a Unit. The following is a brief history of the Unit.

The formation of the original Unit was decided on the 1st May 1940. The 16th May saw the majority of Officers and the first draft of O.R.s arrive at Puckapunyal, Victoria. By the 9th June, 1940 the Battalion was at full strength. Three flags were presented to the Unit, the third — the Australian flag, was presented by the then Lord Mayor of Essendon and later was to fly triumphantly over the ruins of Fort Merdjayoun, Syria.

The 30th March, 1941 saw the beginning of Unit movement to point of embarkation Sydney. This movement was completed by 6th April. The 7th April troops were embarked on the "Queen Mary" and the 9th April she sailed shortly before dawn.

ARRIVED ON FOREIGN SOIL

The Unit arrived Port Tewfik — Port of Suez — on 3rd May, 1941 transhipped onto S.S. "Ethiopia", then up the Suez to El-Kanjara to set foot on foreign soil. They were now at Hill 95 their first camp.

On the 6th June the Battalion was committed to action in the Syrian campaign — five weeks of intensive action — 73 Officers and men killed and 102 wounded.

January 18th, 1942 saw the Battalion at Hill 69. They were fostered in by sister Battalion 2/1 Pioneers; recently out of Tobruk. The 2/1 saw to it that the 2/2 received a hearty meal that evening which was much appreciated.

2/1 and 2/2 TRAIN TOGETHER

The Reo's of both Battalions trained together as one unit in the Middle-East, the officers of both units getting to know each other quite well and the same with the N.C.O's. and O.R's, with long standing friendships being cemented during this period.

On the 30th January 1942 the majority of the Unit entrained for El-Kantara but not before having another excellent meal from the 2/1 Pioneers.

The Unit finally embarked on H.M.T. "Orcades" for an unknown destination — which became Port of Batavia, Java and disembarked 18th February, 1942. Confusing action and movement ensued, until with other troops the Unit capitulated on 9th March, 1942.

Eight hundred and sixty five members were prisoners of war, two hundred and fifty eight were never to return. "We will remember them."

LOSS OF 2/2 PIONEERS

With the fall of Java and the loss of the 2/2 Pioneers, the ship "Niger Stroom", followed two days later by the "Sophocles" and "Shillong" arrived at Freemantle, W.A. in the second week of March 1942, carrying what was left of the 2/2 Pioneer Battalion, their transport — ammunition — and stores.

The troops were mostly Transport Platoon and were transferred to Engineer Units during May. Rumours were rife regarding the reformation of the Battalion, which was transformed into actual fact by June, with the arrival of Lt. Col. Lang at Wagga.

— To be CONTINUED in June issue

WAGGA REUNION

Arrangements for the Country Reunion at Wagga on Friday, Saturday, Sunday, 17th, 18th and 19th September, 1982 are well under way.

The insert in this issue of Pioneer News gives all details and should be read carefully in order to ascertain costs etc.

The accommodation does present a problem at Wagga as the R.S.L. is situated quite a distance from motels and hotels. Before choosing the motels, the Booking Clerk studied the position of each motel in relation to the R.S.L. Club and the railway, but was still unable to select any close.

It is planned to put the train people in a motel or hotel close to the railway station and arrange for the car people to assist by picking them up. If you want a choice of motel/hotel check with the NRMA directory and study their printed map of Wagga.

BOOK ACCOMMODATION EARLY

The suggestion by the Committee is to make up your mind early if you are going and then make your booking with Peg Herron, by sending in the enclosed slip. All motels want bookings confirmed with a deposit in July.

Unfortunately the Mayoral Reception on the Friday afternoon is extended to only twenty members and the Committee do apologise for this, but as it is a condition by the Council we must abide. The Management Committee have decided those included will be the Wagga Committee Assoc. Executive Working Committee, and as many 2/2nds as possible. A list will be published in June issue Pioneer News.

ANNUAL MEETING now at 3 p.m.

not 8 p.m. as in previous years. AT City of Sydney RSL Club, 569 George Street, Sydney NOT at Barrack Street as previously.

1982 ANZAC FUNCTIONS

This year we have a change in location and time for the Annual Meeting, so please make note of the alteration so that we do not fall down in attendance and quorum.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Saturday, 24th April at 3 p.m.

The new meeting place is the Conference Room, City of Sydney R.S.L. Club, 569 George Street, Sydney at 3 p.m., made necessary because the Combined Services Club in Barrack Street is closed on Saturday and Sunday, so the new venue will be used for this year and next year.

The meeting will only take approximately one and a half hours, then a few drinks, a snack if necessary and down to Hunter Street for the Wreath Laying and an early night at home.

WREATH LAYING CEREMONY Saturday, 24th April at 7.00 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.

ANZAC DAY MARCH Sunday, 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 Sunday, 25th April.

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

Same address as for the past several years: Redfern Town Hall, corner Pitt and Wells Streets, Redfern and just five minutes from the station.

If for various reasons you cannot march, still turn up at the Reunion — it is surprising how many old faces you will see. This year you will see Bernard Simmonds 2/1 — all the way from Kent, England.

Doors will be open at 11.15 a.m. and draught beer will be on tap. A new caterer has been engaged for this year's dinner and dinner will be served at 12.30 p.m. and snacks brought in during the afternoon.

— JIM FIELD — Publicity Officer

FROM ENGLAND FOR ANZAC DAY

Bernard "Bluey" Simmonds who was a member of the 2/1 Pioneers in "B" and "D" Company now residing in Maidstone, Kent, England, is coming on a trip to Australia especially to see his mates on Anzac Day.

The following is a brief history of Bernard as penned by Jack Bertram, his close friend of war years.

"Bluey" Simmonds as he was known, came to Australia as a lad to work on a farming scheme before the war. During early 1940 he joined the A.I.F., subsequently becoming a member of "B" Company 2/1 Pioneers. In this company he met quite a few rough characters who educated him in a few of our ways.

REGIMENTAL HAIRCUT BY BUTCHER

Finally he was classed as an efficient Pioneer, coming across in the Johan De Witt to Palestine. At Alexandria he was given a regimental haircut by the butcher from Dorrigo, who performed the operation with a candle, which proved to all that he should have stuck to butchering.

In Tobruk, "Bluey" was elevated to the rank of stretcher bearer and returned to Australia with this elite band of Pioneers.

As he had nowhere to go while on leave, he stayed at the Bertram residence and due to his good looks, Jack selected Bernard as his groomsman at Jack and Jean's wedding.

Just before the Unit departed for New Guinea, "Bluey" noticed Jack preparing to depart for Sydney to attend Jack's brother's wedding (a navy type) so "Bluey" decided he would go too. This episode resulted in a transfer of these two gentlemen from stretcher bearers to "D" Coy and a trip to Milne Bay. Before the unit departed Milne Bay, "Bluey" transferred to 2/17th Btn., and Jack did not meet up with him until his discharge.

Upon discharge he was anxious to return to England but as a berth on a ship was scarce he had to wait some months, and during this time he stayed with Jack and Jean. Finally he left for England.

When "Bluey" went back to England it was only intended as a visit to his Mum and Dad as he had booked his return passage to Aussie, but unfortunately, his mother became ill and he couldn't leave and at that time he met a very attractive lady who today is his wife. As his wife did not want to travel he stayed in England.

THE TREASURER SAYS

On behalf of the committee the treasurer offers an explanation concerning Anzac Day catering.

Until this year the Association has carried the cost of lunch on Anzac Day and have been happy to do so from the funds. The committee had a warning last year that this was an item likely to get out of hand and getting costlier every year — 1982 quotes showed these fears as very real.

At the last Annual General Meeting this was discussed and was passed that if necessary a charge of \$2 from each member be imposed. The caterer with whom we have dealt with for ages changed leadership and the quote almost doubled — Max pleaded with them for a reduction, but of no avail and we were forced to seek other avenues.

After a Social Committee discussion a caterer has been engaged who submitted a more reasonable figure but the subsidy of \$2 per member to cover the midday meal and afternoon hot snacks will have to be implemented.

The committee regret this \$2 charge ... but ... on the brighter side despite increases in beer costs ... up again this year ... the committee have decided not to increase the price to members and stick to the price we have charged in the previous two years.

RETURNED TO TOBRUK IN 1952

Bernard was again in Tobruk in 1952 after he joined the R.A.F. in Iraq and spent a night at El Adem.

After returning to civvy life again Bluey joined a brewery firm, Shepherd Neame, and has been busy "flogging beer" around East London and Kent as their representative.

Jack and Jean called on Bluey at his home when in England four years ago and met his wife Kath and family.

Max and Peg Herron also visited Bluey last October and was taken a royal tour for the day around Kent by daughter Caroline (Bluey and Max concentrated on drinking not driving) then at night had tea with Bluey, Kath, Caroline and son Jeremy — according to Max this day was one of the highlights of his trip.

FIRST WEEKS IN SYDNEY THEN NEWCASTLE

Bluey arrives in Sydney on Sunday, 4th April and will stay the first week with the Herrons, then two weeks in Newcastle with Jack and Jean Bertram and back to Sydney for Anzac Day. He is looking forward to meeting all his mates from the Pioneers, but please label yourself as you are all looking a little different now.

— JACK BERTRAM — Reporter

BRISBANE REUNION 1981

The assembly of Pioneers and their ladies at the Brisbane Reunion was the best to date and all those attending voted it a great success.

This was made possible by the efforts of John and Mollie Hunt who made it an outstanding occasion, and was a triumph for them both. Many thanks to these two people for the effort and time they put into it.

The meal prepared was a credit to them and was appreciated and enjoyed by all.

At the November committee meeting I reported on this great evening and suggested that after the Wagga Reunion, considering the large number of members in Queensland negotiations be entered into with John and Mollie for a gathering in Brisbane.

BRISBANE REUNION JOTTINGS

• On returning from the Reunion by train I was allocated a seat and on sitting down I noticed my fellow passenger wore a T.P.I. badge.

On asking him which arm of the service he was with, he replied, Army, 2/2 Pioneers and introduced himself as Sam Nicholls of "D" Coy and was taken P.O.W. with the 2/2nds in Java.

I mentioned many names of members of the Association who he recalled with interest and said he would look forward to meeting them.

I assured Sam I would place his name on our mailing list, and I feel sure he will go to the Wagga Reunion and catch up on the news.

• It was with pleasure that I met up with Harry Spreadborough at the Reunion. Also met up with Harry Mowbray — both of "B" Coy 2/1 Pioneers. Also met up with Charlie Richardson, 2/1 then 2/2. Len O'Connor, with wife and family came up from Tweed River. Pat and Nell Laughren, Nambour; Toby Palin, Maryborough; Fred and Nell Davenport; Mick Anselmes, Ipswich. Phil Cramsie, Clayfield; Nev Woodham, Thornlands; Herb Beasley, Hamilton; Norm Goodchap, Kallangor; Bill Hoffman, Kyogle; Arthur Ludington, Sydney; Betty Creasy, Portland.

— HARRY MONTAGUE — Reporter

NEWS ITEMS — by H. MONTAGUE

ARTHUR SPILLANE 2/1 who was full back in the 2/1 football team was visited at the War Veterans Home. His legs are not the best of late but he is as cheerful as ever, and sends his regards to all his friends.

WAL MCGREGOR 2/1 is still at the War Veterans Home looking after the flower gardens and it is a credit to him. Wal sends his regards to all and awaits eagerly the Pioneer News for the news of his mates.

DON SLATER 2/1 is now a resident at the War Veterans Home and has a nice cottage which he finds very comfortable. Don sends regards to all his 2/1 mates.

BOB McCLOSKEY 2/1 is a resident of the Brentwood Nursing Home, Glebe Street, Parramatta and would really enjoy having a call from his old mates, so if you have any spare time call in and see Bob and you would be most welcome.

FRANK HEPBURN 2/2 is now home after being in hospital for some time. Frank resides at 66 Pringle Street, Condell Park and would welcome a visit from any of his mates.

JACK HENDERSON 2/2 who has been a stalwart member of the Committee in the past has been visited at hospital.

JOE OLLIFFE 2/1 is still receiving treatment at the Wentworth Nursing Home, Randwick and sincerely requests that his best wishes be forwarded to all his friends.

• The 2/1 was formed at Greta 11.6.1940. The first R.S.M. was Frank Sellick on loan from the Coldstream Guards for Australian Army Instructional Corps. He was relieved of this position by Jock Macadam. Within a few weeks Jock was promoted to Lieut. and Jock Ferguson of A. Coy became the new R.S.M. While in the Middle East, Ferguson became ill and was replaced by Allan Smith as R.S.M.

I hope that these few lines do settle some of the queries regards to R.S.Ms. in our early days.

• For many years it was possible to gain information as to whereabouts of our members in Concord Hospital at the main gate.

That has now been changed, and this information can only be obtained from the centre building where a special bureau has been installed.

Proceed through main gate, down centre road to the large building on the left and enter the big doors where staff will readily assist.

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

To commemorate the Fortieth Anniversary of the reformed 2/2nd Pioneer Battalion.

MAYORAL RECEPTION — Friday, 17th September at 4 p.m. By Mayor of Wagga to Colonel John Williams, O.B.E., E.D., and twenty selected members.

MINI REUNION — Friday, 17th September at 6 p.m. Pacific Lounge, R.S.L. Club, Wagga.

CITY OF WAGGA TOUR — Saturday, 18th September at 10 a.m.

MARCH/WREATH LAYING — Saturday, 18th September at 4.30 p.m.

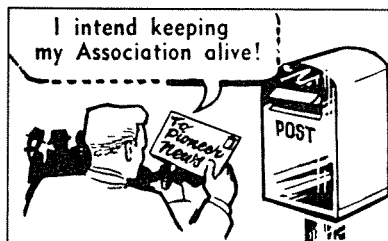
REUNION DINNER — Saturday, 18th September at 6 p.m. R.S.L.

KAPOOKA CAMP TOUR/LUNCH — Sunday, 19th September.

SMORGASBORD DINNER — Sunday 19th September at 6 p.m. R.S.L.

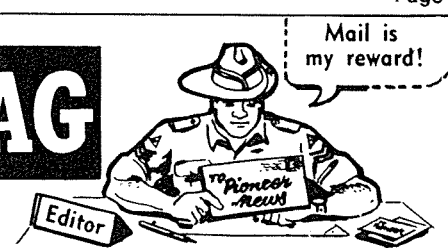
Full details contained in an insert in this issue of Pioneer News.

— JIM FIELD — Publicity Officer



from the MAIL BAG

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



First Mail Bag for 1982 and we hope that each and everyone had a joyous festive season and that the Year 1982 is the best yet for all members and families.

- **BOB TAYLOR** of Jamberoo sends a short note with best wishes to all and a sub to the treasurer, with a special note to the Silver City Mob.
- **BOB BUTLER**, James River sends his regards to all, with a cheque for **Brother Whiteley** to help keep the wheels turning, says he enjoys the news which arrives regularly and to keep it coming, will do **Bob**, just for you.
- **KEN PEILE**, Caringbah per pen of wife **Erika** enclosed a cheque for the treasurer and the news that **Ken** has now retired, unfortunately he has trouble with his eyes, lost the sight of his left eye and little left of his right eye, however he still enjoys his gardening and calls **Erika** his seeing eye dog, strikes me you are now entitled to that speech, on and beyond the call of duty, **Erika** was also pleased to have seen **Don Slater** after the last paper.
- **CLIFF BLAINEY**, Noble Park, Victoria sends a cheque to the treasurer and has received the paper with the Port Macquarie report, was pleased that everyone had a good time, they **Cliff** and **Vi**, could not make the Port, but have promised to try and make it to Wagga.
- **BOB GALES**, Toukley writes to **Max** and **Peg Herron** enclosing a tablecloth to be raffled on Anzac Day, **Bob** will not be in attendance this year, as he will be in New Zealand and will be at the Avondale R.S.A. for their service, also wishes to be booked in for Wagga when bookings start if he should not be back in time.
- **TOM SLEEMAN**, Eastwood writes hoping that all members and wives had a happy festive season and a healthy 1982. **Tom** has had a bit of trouble, same old leg trouble and a gastric ulcer, can't get around much, and unable to attend our functions so relies on the News for his information. Attended the Gladesville R.S.L. just before Xmas where he met **Gordon Walsh** and **Vince Christenson** for a quiet noggin and claims that both are well, but like us all, getting a little bit older. **Tom** enclosed a cheque to the treasurer for management of subs.
- **MRS. NITA FERRIS** widow of the late **Leo** writes from Alice Springs where she is staying with family **Delma** and **Terry**. Enjoying her break in the Alice, the ranges and gorges so different from her Kyogle district. Also went to Ayres Rock and the Olgas both very interesting and well worth seeing. The Town of Alice is very modern, several supermarkets, well stocked shops, plenty of clubs, and also the Casino if you have too much money and wish to get rid of some. **Nita** wishes to be remembered to all and any **Pioneers** whom she knows.
- **SNOW VICKERY** per pen of **Gert** writes to **Vic Whiteley** in response to a cutting posted by **Vic** regarding the Port Show. **Snow** and **Gert** had a leisurely trip home from Port, went as far north as Grafton then inland to Glen Innes, Inverell where they called on **Dot** and **Claude Campbell**. At Manilla they had quite an experience where they had a terrific wind storm, which they sat out in their van, they and the van survived but several others in the park were damaged. Since their return **Snow** has been busy coaxing a new lawn

through the ground, the drought and water restrictions last year put paid to his original but with water available he has something to encourage him again. **Gert** also mentions **Whiteley's** dog and hopes that he is OK, well **Peg** has probably written to you, but dog is coping quite well. Many thanks for the news **Gert**, and will see you at Wagga.

• **MRS. IDA HORDER** widow of **Vic** sends a subscription to the treasurer, **Ida** has not been very well of late, went away for a while, we hope that your condition has improved by now **Ida** and we wish you better health in the future.

• **MRS. D. LONG** widow of **Bob**, writes a thank you to the boys that attended the funeral of her husband **Bob**. The last five years **Bob** was able to attend Sutherland Hospital in preference to Concord and this made it so much easier for his wife with visiting only fifteen minutes away compared with some 2½ hours to Concord. **Mrs. Long** makes special mention to **Monty**, **Jack Clarke**, **Roy Jardine** and **Bob Burnside**, a big thank you chaps she quotes it really helped.

• **MICK SMITH**, 2/2 Wamboral sends a letter advising of his change of address and enclosing a sub to the treasurer. A passing mention, **Mick** was a member of the 2/22 when the Japs landed at Rabaul and for 3 months after, (It took quite a time to get back to Australia) and it was then that he was posted to the 2/2 **Pioneers**. The R.A.A.F. were good enough to fly 50 of the survivors to Rabaul in January for a Commemorative Service of 40 years of the landing. Should have been very interesting **Mick**, you would have seen a lot of changes from that previous visit. **Mick** and his wife will probably attend our show at Wagga, where he joined the 2/2 **Pioneers**, and where one of his sons trained for Vietnam.

• **ERIC "BOMBO" REYNOLDS** and wife **Joyce** send a letter to the secretary hoping that they had a good trip overseas, that they saw all the things that Australian tourists see on their way, stand among the pigeons in Trafalgar Square, visit the Tower of London and ride on the tube, answer from **Max**, yes they did all that, and while taking a photo of **Peg** with the pigeons, one of them did the usual thing and decorated the top of his head, the trip itself was just all too short. **Eric** and **Joyce** had a good trip home from Port. They are getting on quite well at Macksville, they have had good rain, with the result that there is plenty of grass to mow, beans, tomatoes to pick and carrots and pumpkins coming along fine, while even the chooks are doing the right thing.

• **BRUCE MITCHELL** of Greta, sends a short note with subscription enclosed and the following words, "please write me in the annals as one who loves his fellow man", don't quite know what you mean by that **Bruce** but I'll quote it, just to please you OK.

• **FRANK NORTON** with a short note changing his address from Waverley to Casino, where he has decided to retire to and take things as casual as can be, good luck to you **Frank**, hope you enjoy it to the full, and your cheque is with the treasurer doing lots of good.

• **BRUCE RICH** of Narrandera sends a cheque to the treasurer and good wishes to all of the association. Thanks **Bruce** you will never give me writer's cramp.

• **CLARRIE PAKES** of Marrickville sends his usual

letter with a cheque to the treasurer good wishes, how he enjoys the News, and the names that crop up from time to time, OK **Clarrie**, I think I am repeating myself but how about making the trip to Redfern Town Hall this Anzac Day and renewing those old names in the flesh.

• **MRS. IRENE HEPBURN** wife of **Francis** writes a thank you for **Monties** visits to her husband at hospital, **Francis** was showing signs of improvement at time of her writing, and there was a chance that he could spend the festive season at home. Also remarked in her letter that some 25 years ago, the association ran a raffle for a Hotpoint Toaster, well **Irene** was the winner of that raffle and she tells us that the toaster is still going, and is used every day. Well that's quite a good add for Hotpoint, and as you say, made our choice of prizes a good one too. Our appreciation for your thanks and we wish **Francis** a speedy recovery.

• **HARRY SPREADBOROUGH** now at Alexandra Hills, Queensland writes that he enjoyed the December issue of Mail Bag, and thinks he was the first Sgt. Major of B. Coy at that inaugural forming of the Battalion. **Max** has already given you the address of **Gordon Walsh**, however **Gordon** does spend quite a lot of time at Evans Head, could say it's his country address. You have also been given the address of **Jack Richards** and **Alec George** so you would have no trouble meeting others should you contact either of these two blokes, besides if you make Wagga, you should get more than your share so many you would remember, you will probably go dizzy, will leave it at that, see you there.

• **JOHN HUNT** writes from Queensland enclosing the address of **COL TONER** of Cooparoo for addition to the mailing list. **John** and **Mollie** are both well and looking forward to a visit from **Mollie's** sister and husband from Vancouver, Canada, **John** taking 2 weeks holiday at this time. Christmas for the **Hunts** was as quiet and cheerful as it could be with all the family around and 4 grandchildren demanding the attention they assume they are entitled to from Nan and Gramp. Keep the chin up **John**, you love it, keep sober, and will see you both Anzac Day.

• **MICK PUNTON** per pen of wife **Margaret** sends a cheque on behalf of **Mick**, tells that she does all the correspondence for **Mick**, he apparently refuses to put pen to paper. He does enjoy reading the News and keeping in touch with all the old mates and what they are doing as times marches along. Many thanks **Margaret** keep up the good work.

• **JACK MCGREGOR** of Shortland sends a cheque to the treasurer, and to say how much they enjoyed the Port Macquarie Reunion, to see some of the chaps that he had not seen since 1945. **Jack** and **Dot**, with brother **Ray** and wife **Marion**, will be at Wagga and all looking forward to seeing many more of the old faces that formed up at Kapooka in 1942.

• **PETER (DICK) SEDDON** the eyes and ears of the Newcastle area of **Pioneers** writes to the Secretary, expressing the hope that they both enjoyed their trip overseas, and suggests that it could be quite a problem to settle down again. (Can assure you **Dick** that **Max** has not only settled down, but has been so active with Wagga that us committee blokes are buggered already

MAIL BAG — Continued

and we have not even started yet). **Dick** writes that **Jack Bertram** has had a letter from **Bluey Simmons**, who **Max** and **Peg** visited while in England and thinks that **Bluey** is coming out for Anzac Day. Both **Pearl** and **Dick** enjoyed the turnout at Port Macquarie, and are both really looking forward to going to Wagga. **Dick's** report is as follows:

Jack Bertram and **Jean**, both well, expects to attend Anzac Day.

Scotty Burns OK, still at Wagstaff Point.

Frank Rantly?? is well, sends his regards. Not sure of this name.

Tom Cognolly has not been so well.

Claude Campbell, still battling on.

Roy Cheers, received a letter from him, keeping well.

Jack "Clido" Griffiths, still in good form and able to take nourishment.

Stan Hodgetts, not the best, hospitalised suffers from emphysema.

Sid Jopson, still battling on but now has bad arthritis in right hand.

Bob Juleff, like Johnny Walker Whisky, still going strong.

Nugget Laurie, still going strong and sends his regards to all.

Bruce Mitchell, not so good, runs short of puff, but still able to hold onto a glass for every occasion.

Jock Russell, in hospital has a leg problem.

Tom Wallace, fairly fit, sends his regards.

Fred Wheaton, had a card at Xmas seems fit and well.

Ted Simpson, not as good as should be, or bright as usual.

Bill Wade, still plays his bowls, keeping well, sends his regards.

Herb Wilson, down for Xmas party of ROTA, well and happy in service.

Charlie Wilby, bowls treasurer now at Moree, keeps fit.

Enclosed with these notes were subs from **Dick** and **Stan Hodgetts**, also a thank you to the committee and **Peg Herron** for the way the Port show was carried through and closes with, hope to see you Anzac Day. Many thanks for the news **Dick**, it certainly fills in a lot of the blokes from Coal City that do not write and tell of their doings.

That just about concludes the Mail Bag for this issue, there is not a lot for me to add, the football has only just started, has not got to the arguing stage as yet, which leaves me in the clear for a short time, I suppose **Jack Coates** will find something to say by Anzac Day, **Whiteley** was not backward in telling me that St. George is on top after one weekend, they had won all their three grades. With Anzac Day our next function I and the committee look forward to a good roll up at the March, and later on at Redfern Town Hall, until then keep fit, keep sober and look both ways before you cross the road.

So Long For Now — **Lahey**

FINANCIAL REPORT

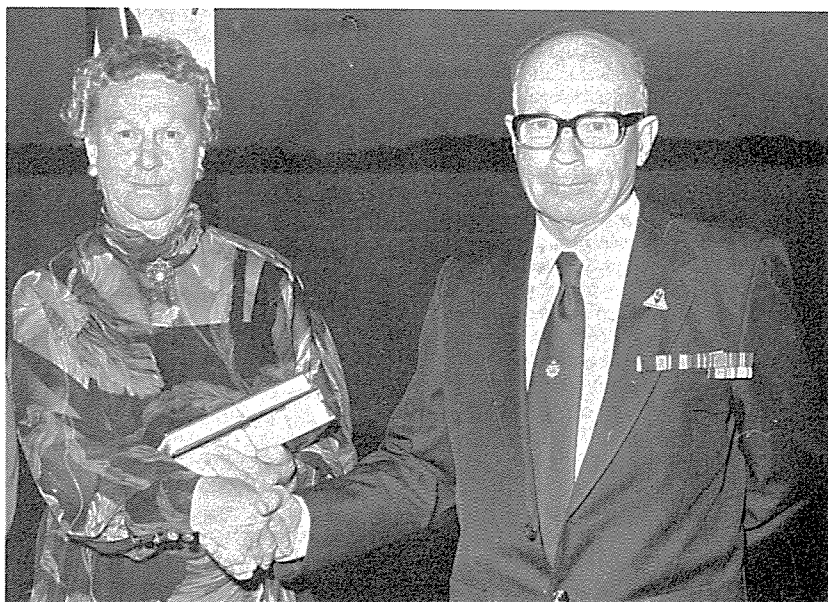
Considering the high percentage of interest available at the moment it was worth a look at the balances of our three accounts and check on the amount we could operate on and what could be set for investment — not that we have a "million" but advice was sought from our auditor Arthur Watson A.A.S.A. and advice and information from the State Bank with whom we deal.

The result was a motion at our committee meeting held in November which was discussed and passed by the nineteen members present. Over the ensuing two years it will mean a return of \$450.

PORT MACQUARIE REUNION 1981



President J. (Mick) Dodson lays a wreath on the Port Macquarie Memorial on behalf of the Association. Two volumes were placed on the Memorial by Col Shea and Jack Coates.



Mrs. Dolly Latham, cousin of the late "Jossie" Denham, receives from Jack Coates, two volumes donated by Jim Hall of Kyogle in memory of "Jossie" for presentation to the Westport High School.

— Photos donated by Port Macquarie News Pty. Ltd.

LAST POST by H. MONTAGUE

BERT MOORE, "D" Coy 2/1 passed away in the latter part of 1981 and will be sadly missed.

Bert was a most staunch committee man and was one of the original members. There were very few meetings he did not attend, and was always to the fore for suggestions of improving the Association. He was always behind the two units coming closer together, particularly on Anzac Day.

On Anzac Day he visited his daughter in Melbourne and therefore did not attend our function.

Bert was a gentleman and respected by all who knew him and the world has been richer for his presence — may he find peace — for we will remember him.

BOB LONG, H.Q., 2/1 passed away recently and it was with great sorrow that we attended the funeral. Representing the Association were Roy Jardine, Bob Burnside, Jack and Jean Clarke and myself.

We paid our respects to Mrs. Long and family which was appreciated.

Bob had not been in good health lately and on numerous occasions I had visited him at Concord, and he was happy to talk about happy memories we hold of times with the unit.

CHARLIE O'NEILL, B. Coy. 2/1 passed away recently and at the funeral I tendered our sympathy to his family and relatives.

On all my visits to him in hospital he was always cheerful and eager to hear news of his mates in the Unit.

DOUG WATSON, D. Coy. 2/1 passed away in February after suffering a stroke.

Only a week before he and his wife had celebrated their 52nd Wedding Anniversary and in a letter from his daughter Barbara, she states he will be sadly missed by his four daughters, 16 grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

ANNUAL MEETING now at 3 p.m.

not 8 p.m. as in previous years. AT City of Sydney RSL Club, 569 George Street, Sydney NOT at Barrack Street as previously.

PIONEER NEWS

Phone: 759-5491

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

Phone: 759-5491

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President:
J. (Mick) DODSON

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ANZAC DAY WITH THE 2/1 — 2/2

2/1 ANZAC DAY MARCH

The step a little slower, the numbers a little fewer, the bodies a little older, but the heads ever higher. Once again in good Anzac weather approx. 102 members of the 2/1 Pnr. Bn. set off from Phillip Street to the beat of music supplied by the Bankstown Police Youth Band under the leadership of Sgt. Alan Gallagher. What a great help they were and it is becoming increasingly so as the years roll on. They even entertained us just prior to the march with some stirring music. Thank you Band.

Our standard bearer this year being Tim Lloyd with Col. Gordon Osborn and George Patterson leading the Pioneers. On passing the Cenotaph we remembered those not with us and especially, (as in previous years) we think of the members who have passed on since Anzac Day 1981. Gentlemen some 44 — 2/1; and 27 — 2/2. "We will remember them".

On arriving at Hyde Park the usual cup of tea being served by the Red Cross ladies on falling out; it was nice to see Vera Hamilton there to greet us. Vera was one of the nursing sisters with us on the Johann De Witt. We have adopted Vera and Sue Malcolm, (the other nursing sister) into the Association.

Some of the troops had the pleasure of a quick chat with a contingent of New Zealand ex-servicemen. These chaps were greatly surprised and impressed by the numbers marching and the large crowd lining the route cheering the veterans as they passed. Their comment was, "Pity it didn't happen like this back home." Well the march over and it was out to Redfern Town Hall for the dinner.

— **LARRY ROBSON, Reporter**

2/2 ANZAC DAY MARCH

Heigh-ho! It's this time again!! Here I was telling myself that I had a kit bag full of time to prepare this epistle — when wham — Max Herron said "Dicko! Produce the goods or face the firing squad!" I, 2/2 wise, preferred to produce the goods.

Our march this year was — as always — even if the TV mob did not think so, up to our standard of being pretty good. Number wise we were on average, looks, well on average, and determination to put on a good show — above average.

As I and my two stalwart helpers, Jim Field and Reg Armstrong proceeded to head of march, we came in contact with Bob Lee and Wally Coe, seeing that pair just had to put the day on a good footing, and so events proved it was so.

To begin with Alan McInnes and Bill Robertson led the march and Pat Egan carried the banner, many thanks to those three gentlemen, for carrying out those important positions.

After the long period of "no see", Ray (Spag) Harris is making up full time, and I really got a kick out of the meeting, he and Roy Leadbeater from Queensland had, both of D Coy. At this stage I

must make mention of my old mate Ken Harrison who is back with us again — you beaut!!

Butch Ballard — the ceremony of raising the hat was observed once again, and the fellow who never ages Pat Collins. "I am innocent" Clemm McDonald well to the fore, also Vince Longmore — good to see you again Vince, Bruce Metcalf and the ever green Bob Guinane. The old faithful "Silent Knight" was on parade, likewise G. Smith, C.J. McKay, and L. Graham.

It was really good to have Harry Huggard with us, brings back a lot of memories there. Talking of memories we missed Charlie Firth, Jimmy Muir "The Germ", Jack Crouch, Arthur Stafford, Jack Henderson, Don Linton, Arch Stanton, and of course Bill Nicholls — well Bill we soldiered on as you would have us do. By the way, whatever happened to our super Estate man Ian Willmore and the white whisker man "Santa" Klause?

I noticed John McGregor, Jack Williams, and Kevin Achurch, also Ivor Balmain, while by no means in the rear was Matt Elliot, Tib Martin, and the "old" McTaggart. I guess someone has to be on the tail end of any report, and so here they are — Clive Madderell, the old counting machine expert Mick Egan "I still say Mick —!!", and Bluey Locane.

If I have missed anyone you can have a shot at me, after Max Herron has finished that is! It was a good march, and so till next year — see you then.

— **BOB DIXON, Reporter**

LAST POST by H. MONTAGUE

WILLIAM L. WOODHOUSE passed away on 20th March 1982 at Concord Repatriation Hospital. I attended the funeral at Woronora Crematorium and expressed our deepest sympathy to Mrs. Woodhouse, son Geoffrey and other members of the family.

Bill served with the 2/1st in Middle East and New Guinea. then on returning to civilian life he practised as a chiropodist for a period after the war. He was a Justice of the Peace and at one time owned a confectionery business in Griffith. After this he was attached to the firm of S. Alexander Pty. Ltd. until his retirement in 1980.

In private life he played tennis, golf and lawn bowls.

Bill is survived by wife Della Lorraine, son Geoffrey, daughter-in-law Sue and three grandchildren, Michelle, Kae-Narrelle and Gregory.

At the service Mrs. Woodhouse thanked me for attending and wished to express her gratitude to the Association.

SIDNEY WATSFORD A Coy 2/1 passed away recently and on attending the service expressed deepest sympathy to Mrs. Watsford which she said was of great comfort to her.

THE BRISBANE REUNION

Saturday 30th, October 1982 at 4 p.m.

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

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting was held at the City of Sydney RSL Club at 3 pm and was attended by thirty-two members.

Mr. J. Dodson, President opened the meeting by welcoming members, especially those who had travelled long distances. In particular he welcomed Bernard Simmonds who had travelled from Kent, England for Anzac Day.

The Balance Sheet of all accounts was presented and adopted. These had been audited by Mr. A. Watson A.A.S.A. and copies will be forwarded to the Chief Secretary's Dept. It was noted that Pioneer News postage was increased in April and a further increase in October.

The President gave his report and thanked his committee. For the Election of Office Bearers he appointed Mr. Bernard Simmonds as Returning Officer who conducted the election in an expert manner. Office Bearers remain the same as last year with the addition of Albert Wilkinson and John McDonagh on to the Committee.

WREATH LAYING CEREMONY

There was a good roll up for the Wreath Laying Ceremony on Saturday 24th April 1982.

Our marshal, Bill Jollie formed up the Troops and in no time we were marching down Pitt Street to Martin Plaza.

Carrying the banners were Phil Cramsie 2/1 and Pat Egan 2/2.

Upon arrival at the Cenotaph, the President and the Wreath party moved forward and the President recited the Ode. Following this, wreaths were laid by Bernard Simmonds 2/1, Roy Leadbeater 2/2 and Kath Field for the Ladies Auxiliary.

Our bugler, Aub Brasier then sounded "Last Post" and "Reveille". We are very grateful to Aub for his fine rendition on the bugle, and although not an official member of our Units he is there every year. Thank you Aub.

— **Harry Montague**

INFORMATION REQUIRED

Since Frank William George H.Q. Coy 2/1 passed away, Mrs. George has endeavoured to receive the War Widows pension but has not been successful due to insufficient evidence.

Her husband was involved in a logging accident while with the 2/1st on the Atherton Tablelands, which caused an injury and unfortunately, his death.

The Tribunal has refused her claim as there were no medical records of the accident. They have stated that if any evidence could be brought forward they would listen to an appeal.

If any member has any knowledge of this accident would they contact me.

— **HARRY MONTAGUE — Phone 76 6657**

WAGGA REUNION 1982

17th, 18th, 19th SEPTEMBER

Full details contained in an insert in this issue of Pioneer News. — **JIM FIELD — Publicity Officer.**

REUNION DINNER with 2/1 — 2/2

Name tag on, tonsils dampened and the usual servicemens welcome, "How are you mate, good to see you". And it was good to see quite a few extra faces that weren't at the march sitting down to dinner although I know of two, Keith Medaris and Gerry Collins who marched but had other commitments so didn't make the dinner.

With glasses filled the M.C. Bob Dixon proposed the Toast to the Queen, followed by the ODE — President J. (Mick) Dodson, Toast to the Association this year by Bernard (Bluey) Simmonds all the way from England after 37 years and response by the President. With these formalities over it was down to a hot meal and much talk of past and present happenings.

On entering the hall we found the hard working committee ready to welcome all, whilst the treasurer Vic Whiteley collected subs, donations or any other moneys the troops had to offer, secretary Max Herron worrying about new addresses and anything else which cropped up. Bob Lake and Reg Armstrong making sure all had name tags, Gordon Finlay and Vince Petrich organising the sale of Beer tickets, George Walker checking to see everyone had a seat and Bob Dixon organising the stewards for the various tables, and we saw President Mick moving about extending a welcome to each and all.

Good to see Phil Cramsie at all our Anzac functions and he is always in attendance at our Country Reunions. Phil travels all the way down from Brisbane.

Three people we must not forget were Dr. Tooths assistants, the two Terry's and Peter, nothing seemed to be a trouble to them and many thanks fellows for your assistance.

Yes, Pat Murphy, Jim Anderson, Jimmy Gray, Arthur Fennell, George Brookes, (Jons Mob) Peter Craig, Steve Clarke, Bill Hodges, Frank Bartley, Ken Oliver weren't satisfied with their numbers so they brought along reinforcements, — Pat Murphy's son Bill and grandson Chris, the latter all decked out as a "Rats" Mascot. Proud Pat, three generations at the one table.

The next group, and same table as in previous years were Jack Claypole, Bill Doney, Sam Lewis, Nev. Woodham, Bluey Kerslake, Clem Cook — he's usually with "B" Company, Dick Chalmers and Bill Wright. The only one missing from last year I think was Kev. Morahan. Still Nev. Woodham kept the boys in order and drumming up business for the Wagga Show.

From the next group George Paricos and Horrie Sedger send a message to Tom and Sissie for their hospitality and the Mini Reunion at Dubbo with Tom Reynolds and Tom Foley. By the sound of things it was a night to remember.

However seated with George and Horrie were Jack Williams, George Nicholls, Mick Egan, Brian Neiberding and Bob McTaggart but as usual it was George who had the most to say. Who said Gillian was the ringleader? I've my doubts now, as Frank was unable to attend this year, a prior wedding engagement. Oh, that Tasker is a terrible fella Frank, still he looked after the wants of "A" Company. With this lot — Tom Crossman, Brian Kybert, Mick Dwyer, Tiska Tasker, Sid Vaughan — he seems to be getting bigger — George Bates, Dick Blakeney — he's on the committee this year — "The Lismore Lad" Alec George sparking on all six, Clem Moroney, Joe Brisbane, noisy Jack Pryor, think he said about two words all day, and Arthur Ludington there to keep them in check.

Close handy I noticed Gordon Finlay and Vince Petrich and I've an inkling a certain person with the initials of G.F. kept the pot well stirred.

With no races on, one chap from the next table didn't have to shoot off — Perce Penrose, so spent the time with Keith Bailey, Col Cameron, Casey Brown, Bill Morrow, and George Franklin. George

most upset as Harry Allen promised he'd stay and watch George carry the Banner for his crowd, — S.A.S. Boys — but Harry decided Dr. Tooth had more to offer and didn't show up.

"B" Coy boys at their usual table, Percy Fisk, Russ Monahan, Scotty Burns, Max Law, Noel Trefoni, all asking about Jock Russell; Jock unfortunately has lost part of his right leg but never let it be said he's beaten as we could still see him at Wagga if everything goes right, — here's hoping. Also they always ask when are we going to see Don Crookes and Ivan Pepper. I think Ivan is tied up with local R.S.L. in some way but he has been to the Country Reunions.

The "Two Blueys" — Moxey and Simmonds, spelt with a D so Blue informed me, were having a great old chinwag. The "Blighty Boy" seeking info from all and sundry and he had a good crew in Jack Bertram, Eric Hawkins, Brickly Wall, Bruce Smith, John Hunt (our Q'land Reunion organiser), Harry Montague, Geoff Robinson, Bill Smith and Don Slater ready to help out, as they didn't seem to venture far. Must have enjoyed themselves.

However the following group of Clancy Scholes and son Ross, Eric Guthrie, Alby Brown, Jock Copland, Lance Gayden, Wally Parsons and Ted Stafford helped to make sure the "Blighty Boy" enjoyed himself.

Here is a likely crew, Jack (Dog Tired) Clarke, Dick Seddon, Clarrie Pakes, Jack Stone, Bob Burnside, Arthur Murphy, Roy Jardine, Jack (Clido) Griffiths, and old smoothy himself Patrick Noonan. I think it was one of this group who passed on the following info. — Stan Jones spent Anzac Day '81 in Europe on a coach tour. Anzac Day saw them at Normandy and on board were eight bronze Aussies. The bus driver was requested to hove too, a Wreath secured and at 11 a.m. this was placed on the local Memorial witnessed by the remaining tour party and a few locals. As Stan said, "we had our own private show." Well done, Stan.

Quietly taking in nourishment were Ted Jenson, Sid Kent, Don Barraclough, Jack Harvey and son Bob (RAAF), Casey Brown — (what again) — and our old mate Ted Skoyles. Ted hasn't been the best of late but one of his mates decided it wouldn't be a reunion without Ted, so picked up Ted and Mrs. S. and "Teddy Boy" made it once again. By the way Ted and Mrs. S. happy 40th Wedding Anniversary and Happy Birthday Ted — belated but best wishes.

Saw Robert Paul, Ken Wilson and his brother-in-law Brian Wade with Ken Stuart.

Jack (Split the Wind) Pearce had Martin Stone, grandson of Bob Nixon, with him. Now I'm trying to work out just whether old Jack was introducing Martin to Bob's mates of yesteryear, securing him as a driver or just leading the young fellow astray. We better settle for the first two?

Bob Gale donated the table cloth for the raffle — thank you Bob. It was won by Gordon Finlay. Second prize of a dozen beer went to Alec George who donated it to the Wrapping Committee. John Gilchrist gave us two valuable coins for a raffle. Thank you John.

Jack Collis, you must have been under the influence to have bet Lakey a lottery ticket, Manly wouldn't make the final five this season, only thing Bob — he didn't say what type of ticket. Didn't see Beau Hannaford present this year, but a number were asking his whereabouts. One who arrived late and not seen very often, Jeff Braye. Jeff's job takes him to all areas of the state, hence his visits spasmodic. Still he was able to catch up on the latest news.

At the President's table located in the corner, John Gilchrist and son Peter, our Patron Col. Gordon Osborn, Bill Jollie, Bob Lake, Tim Lloyd, who passed on the message from Mum, who sends her regards to all. Mary is away in England on holidays and enjoying herself.

Earl Jones being his inimitable self, (getting out the paddle and giving it a gentle stir) and finally President Mick, when he had time to sit down. Peg Herron, Olive Finlay, Kath Field, Jean Dixon, were the only ladies who had arrived by the time Jack Bertram and I departed. As we were driving back we decided to leave a little earlier than usual.

Well members, once again a great reunion with approx. 145 troops sitting down for lunch. Don't think anyone objected to the charge this year, and on making a number of enquiries from other units we seemed to get off lightly. Remember members don't leave it too long before you decide to attend a turnout, as I stated earlier, we have lost 71 members from the Association this last 12 months, and the years are moving faster than you think.

The next two functions on the agenda this year are the Wagga Reunion in September, and for all you Queensland and Northern N.S.W. chaps the 30th October "do" at John & Mollie Hunt's, so get moving now and make arrangements to see your old cobbles before it's too late.

This is all from me until the Wagga show, so good health and as Lakey would say, — Keep sober.

LARRY ROBSON — Reporter

2/2 ANZAC NOTES

Another year and another get together, saw a good roll up of the regulars, the occasionals and the once in a blue mooners — it was indeed grand to see them all.

Ken Harrison, C. Coy was last seen in 1944 and Ken admitted he had been absent from parade for seventeen years but as he is now retired he would make up for lost time.

Roy Leadbeater from Rockhampton was present at the Wreath Laying, the March and the Reunion. If Roy was trying to get a rest, after the cyclones on the banana coast, he was in for a rude awakening among his D Coy mates. George Nicholls from Ettalong with Vietnam veteran son-in-law. Great to see both of them. It is good to see the sons and sons-in-law attending with "Pop".

Bluey Locane on hand once again but left early to visit Jim Muir who is at present at the Hume Nursing Home at Bankstown, recovering from a stroke. I saw Jim a week before and was pleased to see he was progressing. Bill Robertson still gets into trouble with his D Coy mates, and Brian Neiberding was in good form and enjoying himself. Bob McTaggart was a welcome sight and was saying he is planning a trip to the U.S.A. this year.

"Apples" Mackay was with us for the first time in many years and really enjoyed his day, so make sure you make it a regular event. Bob Lee was in good form and doesn't seem to ever get any older — what is the secret Bob? Gavin Todd looked very fit too. Pat Collins was there with his usual grin and said everything was going along nicely in his part of the globe. Another group was Bert Beasley of Brisbane. Mick Egan, Dick Kennewell, Horrie, Sedger, Allan McInnes and "Spag" Harris in another group of scamps; Bob Guinane, Ken Achurch, Tib Martin, Bruce Metcalf and Clem McDonald (I am innocent) — only D Coy would put up with that lot.

Gil Short was giving a good account of himself and not plastering every cut and scratch with violet dye. Tom Wood looked well and fit and Bob McGregor was sitting back and taking things quietly and enjoying the company.

Jack Williams and Kev. Wilson were seen enjoying themselves with a glass of amber close at hand. Matt Elliot, Russ Harrison and John McDonagh seemed to be having a good time judging by the laughing and talking. Speed Gordon was seen early in the day but most important he was enjoying himself. Wally Coe was sitting back and also enjoying himself if the smile on his face was any indication.

Now that wraps it up for this year, so if I have missed out on anybody, all I can say is I am sorry.

— REG ARMSTRONG — Reporter



from the MAIL BAG

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



Second issue of Pioneer News for 1982 and response from members both financially and correspondence, has been very good. Anzac Day was a big success, and I think complaints about same would be very few.

- **CHARLIE WILBY** now of Moree sends a cheque to the treasurer and an apology for non attendance at Redfern, instead he attended the local march at Moree where he would travel by open Vintage car. On the 19.4.82 **Charlie** has had another birthday, 73 years young and claims he is slowing up, I'll bet he can still roll a bowl down when required. Sends his regards to all for the big day and hopes that all have a good day.
- **GUS HUNTER**, Beverly Hills has recently returned from a holiday at The Entrance. Has been retired 7 years and is really enjoying the leisure period. Many thanks for the sub to the treasurer and hope the leisure time goes on forever.
- **NEV O'CONNOR**, Ballina writes that he will not be in attendance at Anzac Day owing to a health problem, however he will be at Wagga with bells on, he has already been in contact with the secretary with regards to his and **Mary's** accommodation. **Nev** has to attend the hospital in June for confirmation of tests and if tests are confirmed, open heart surgery could be the answer. As **Nev** quotes, not a pleasant thought but says he can assure all and sundry that he has often felt worse, and a bloody sight more frightened than he is at this time. **Nev** has enclosed his sub to the treasurer and wishes all in attendance a good day and a very successful year.
- **FRED BELLINGHAM**, Belmore sends a short note enclosing subs for last year and the present, plus a donation, but does not say much else, so can't really pass on any information regarding **Fred**, however keep the thought in mind, and many thanks for the cheque.
- **ROY MCGREGOR**, Rathmines, apologises for his lack of correspondence, claims that with his retired life, he is kept so busy that there is always something put off until tomorrow. **Roy** and his wife thoroughly enjoyed Port Macquarie and are looking forward to the sojourn to Wagga. **Roy** enclosed a cheque for the treasurer and his best wishes to all and compliments the committee for the country reunions.
- **JACK WALTERS**, Mildura writes for information on Wagga, which the secretary has answered, **Max** has also put **Jack** on the mailing list, and back issues of Pioneer News have been forwarded. **Jack** is an ex 2/2 so we assume that he has intentions of renewing old friendships at Wagga.
- **NORM MITCHELL**, Guildford sends a cheque to the treasurer with nought else, so can't make news, just say thank you **Norm**.
- **PETER PRIEST**, Proserpine per pen of wife **Dot**, sends a cheque to the treasurer and the news that retirement is fast approaching due about August. **Peter** and **Dot** intended spending Easter with their daughter and family at Gympie. Thought that they may get to Evans Head for Anzac Day, and hopefully to Sydney in 1983. Many thanks for the letter **Dot**, and treasurer pleased with the support.
- **JOE ROBERTSON**, Findon, S.A., sends a cheque to the treasurer, looks forward to receiving the News and wishes all the very best for 1982. We reciprocate with the good wishes **Joe**.
- **JIM MUIR**, Bankstown is convalescing at Hume Private Hospital and appreciates the visits by **Jim Field**, **Reg Armstrong** and **Bob Dixon**, would be

pleased to see any others out that way and **Jim** forwarded a donation to the Association.

- **JACK ALLISON**, Eastwood still very much a low profile member, but supportive in spirit, **Jack** wishes the whole Association the best and enclosed a cheque for the treasurer.
- **BETTY CREASY**, widow of **George** and a great supporter of the Association sends a letter to **Peg Herron**, saying she is getting more involved at Portland, with the Pensioners' Association. She has also attended the **Mike Walsh Show** so now has claims to appearing on T.V. The day after Anzac Day she is off to Leeton for a three day visit, **Betty** and **George** were offered a rice farm after the war, so will be interested to see the changes that have taken place. **Betty** closes with good wishes to all for Anzac Day and sent a substantial cheque to the Association.
- **DOROTHY COOPER**, widow of **Norm (Nobby)** from Balgownie sends a letter stating she had received the News and was so pleased to hear that **Don Slater** had moved into War Vets. **Dot** also sends her regards to **Frank Gillian**, **Geoff Robinson**, **Bruce Smith** and all the other D. Coy blokes with a mention for **Bert Holmes** and wife **Mary**. **Dorothy** closed with best wishes to all for a happy Anzac Day, and enclosed a donation to the treasurer.
- **ARTHUR WHITE** now of Cundletown sends a sub to the treasurer and the information regarding his new address, also has met up with **Fred Brooks** a few times, and really enjoying his retirement.
- **PAT LAUGHREN**, Nambour sends cheers and best wishes for Anzac Day, what stories and memories must be relived. **Pat** would also like to send a special cheer to our footballers, some who have not been enjoying the best of health these late years, what a great lot of fellows and certainly they helped to keep the Battalion name well to the fore in the sporting circles of the army. **Pat** closes with best wishes to the committee and executive for the competent job they are doing, and a cheque to the treasurer to keep the flag flying.
- **TED SKOYLES** has had another visit to hospital, but is just as cheerful as ever. He sends regards to all Pioneers. Thank you **Nell** and **Ted** for your generous donation.
- **KAY BURTON** writing to **Jim Field** on behalf of her father **Bert Rayner** who has spent some time at Greenslopes Hospital, Brisbane. A list of names who visited her dad are as follows:— **Harry Spreadborough**, **Phil Cramsie**, **Rube Wade**, **Nev Woodham**, **John Hunt**, also enclosed a photo of a March up the coast which showed **Jack Shearman** carrying the banner. Reports that **Joe Leis** is very sick at Casino.
- **BOB "LOFTY" HANNON** sends a cheque from Shepparton and apologies for his non attendance at the March and Reunion. Has a problem with his leg which had to be operated on and has had to report back again with his eyes. Informs us that he has been made a T.P.I. and even got some back pay with it. Closes with "Hopes that Manly keep winning" and to see us all at Wagga.
- **CEC PEAK** with his usual lovable form sent a generous subscription and best wishes, why don't you get that Snooker Room out of your hair **Cec**, and pay us a visit now, after all, we have cold beer, so you can't go off about that, I got that Temprite especially for you, so leave your 2-1-C in

charge and give us a visit. **Keith Gunyon** could sub for you.

- **GEORGE PATTERSON**, St. Ives sends a cheque to the treasurer and the short comment that Anzac Day was a good day, both for attendance at the March, the very good weather and an extra compliment for the band, whom he thought were very good, many thanks for the letter **George**, and we hope that you are enjoying a better year healthwise than the previous years.
- **BILL MACE**, Gosford per pen of wife **Gloria** with the information that **Bill** has been very ill since February with heart troubles and at time of writing was still in Gosford Hospital. It is expected that he will be transferred to Sydney in the near future for heart surgery. **Gloria** enclosed a cheque and kindest regards to all from them both. We in turn wish **Bill** every success in the future problems.
- **BOB AUSTIN**, Melbourne sends a short note informing us of his return to the city and his new address. He enjoys receiving and reading the News and enclosed a cheque for subs.
- **TED JENSON** sends a letter of appreciation to the exec., and committee for another wonderful Anzac Day, another winner for the Association. **Ted** also enclosed a cheque for himself and **Allen** for the Wagga reunion and a special message to **Mick Roberts** and **Les Gavell** "To order all Pioneers in the Riverina District to be on Parade at Wagga". That's an order from **Ted** so jump to it **Mick**.
- **BERNIE DALY**, Taree sends a short letter with deposits for **Don Murray**, **Stella** and himself for the Wagga show. **Bernie** quotes that all are well, but having a spot of wind and rain, a real change after so much beautiful weather. **Bernie** and **Stella** have had a tour of Tasmania in March, had a wonderful time, and copped the bad weather on their return.
- **RAY (JOE) BLANCH** from Beaudesert, has forwarded his deposit for Wagga and encloses the news that he and **Mavis** have been doing a bit of babysitting while daughter **Lola** was in hospital, about seven weeks of same, however they now have another grandson so all is well. **Joe** attended Tobruk Sunday at Casino in April, they have all joined the Northern Rivers sub branch of the Rats up there and members present on the day were **Ted Felton**, **Jack Shearman**, **Bruce McNaughton**, **Alwin (Dora) Black**, **Rocky Watts**, **Banjo Martin** and **Paddy Gray**, that's not a bad group from the Pioneers to get tangled up with. **Joe** and **Mavis** have decided to stay a week at Wagga just to have a good look round, most of us will be staying four or five days so should be able to strike up a conversation within that time, if we can get a word in of course.
- **BILL HOLMES**, Ryde sends his completed slip for the Wagga reunion, **Bill** will be staying with his daughter in June for the period and are both looking forward to the big get together. **Bill** also enclosed a cheque for subs to the treasurer, many thanks.
- **JACK CAUGHEY**, Mudgee sends a cheque to the treasurer, always appreciates the delivery of Pioneer News and looks for more all the time. Another Pioneer lives in Mudgee **Athol Roberts** but **Jack** does not see much of him. **Jack** has retired and still manages to fill in his time with a garden and some fowls. Many thanks **Jack** for your very generous contribution to the treasury.
- **G.K. BOYLE**, Moama writes to the secretary for

information re the Association, **Max** has written to you personally and sent back issues of the News.

• **DOUG WATERS**, South Australia enclosed a sub to the treasurer and hopes to see us all at Wagga in September. **Doug** has spoken to a few of the boys in S. Aussie and hopes to form a contingent from their state. Per **Doug's** letter, regards are forwarded from **Bill Theile**, **Len Norman**, **Ern Hayden**, **Bert Malloy** the last named living at Loxton and is not the best. Many thanks for the letter **Doug**, and hope you have success with your Wagga draft.

• **BILL TURNER**, Canowindra sends a note to say he tried his best to get to the reunion but only got as far as North Richmond. Claims that these days he is carrying about 12 diseases and they are slowly getting to him. Also discovered that **Tiny Chapman (Hammer Toes)** lived at Gooloogong, he made his way out there but **Tiny** had gone to Canberra for a while. **Bill** closed with good wishes to all and a cheque to the treasurer for subs.

• **NOEL GRANT**, Altona, Vic., a new member of the Association thanks the secretary for the back issues of Pioneer News. **Noel** joined the 2/1st on the tablelands and completed the operation of Balikpapan. A stretcher bearer with the battalion, and while names are a bit hazy, **Mac McKibbin** and **Ron Hazell** are two who came to mind. On his last visit to Sydney **Noel** played roulette with the telephone directory to contact these 2 chaps but with no success. Contact with **Noel** was made by his son-in-law who rang the Sydney R.S.L. and they almost had him on a plane on the 24.4.82, but a prior engagement would not let him away at that time. Claims however now that contact has been made he feels sure that we shall meet in the near future, sure **Noel** that's easy, get yourself and wife booked through and join us at Wagga.

• **ERIC LINDSAY** per pen of wife **Norma**, a short note enclosing booking fees for Wagga and the news that she has been in hospital at Tamworth. **Eric** has been in touch with **Fred Bellingham** and they are going to Wagga. **Norma** does not say what her trouble was but hopes that she will be able to walk about A.T. by September, we join you in those hopes **Norma**, just keep at it.

• **CLIVE HARRIS** and wife **Betty** write a letter, telling that both of them have had a few problems healthwise since returning from Port Macquarie. Both have had spells in hospital, with **Clive** only coming home from Orange Base Hospital in early May. Has had an operation on the knee and will be in plaster for at least three months but does hope to be well enough to journey from Parkes to Wagga in September. **Clive** closes with best wishes to all and enclosed a cheque for the treasurer's hot little hand.

• **BOB GALES**, Toukley writes of his trip to New Zealand, a two week effort which included the Anzac weekend over there. On the day he marched with the Avondale R.S.L., who supplied the rum and coffee before breakfast, then breakfast, then the March in that order. The March was led by the Australian contingent on this day. In New Zealand all local branches have their own March and bands were supplied by the Post Office Band and the Sub-branch Pipe Band, who also entertained back at the club later on. After the big day, the rest of the tour was of the North Island with the Maoris of Gisborne giving them a big welcome. All in all **Bob** had a wonderful time, and hopes that he is well enough to repeat the dose in 1984. He closes with best wishes to all, hopes that we had a successful raffle and a good day, and will be in touch later on.

• **DOUG SHEARSTON**, our ex-treasurer of long time back now, writes from Forster, that once again the bowls has gotten between our functions on Anzac Day. Blaming the rain, (wot rain) it has put their Pennants season into chaos, and as head of selectors he has to be available. Same club has been pretty successful up to date, with teams 1-3-4 all doing it strong. **Doug** and **Roma** have had a

trip to Lord Howe and claims that the scenery of the place is out of this world. They also did a boat trip round the island, with **Doug** having a slight problem with seasickness (weak stomach) and **Roma** had a lash at the swivel seat the game fishermen use, however I don't think she hooked any Marlin, probably just as well, just can't picture **Roma** on the wrong end of a Marlin. They both had a wonderful trip, and were expecting daughter Kerrie and family for a visit. **Doug** is one of those proud grandfathers, so is looking forward to the visit, although he does say that he thought he might have been old enough to be a great grandfather before his kids got going, however **Kerrie** has saved the day and prevented a few less grey hairs. Good luck to you both, and we wish you well with the bowls.

• **JACK COLLIS**, Umina our welfare officer on the Central Coast sends a report of the boys Gosford way, **Bricky Wall** a short spell in Gosford Hospital after Anzac Day, (must have had a good time) but is home again now. **Harry Hutchinson** is in Woy Woy Hospital, **Jack** sees him a couple times a week and also takes **Harry's** wife once a week to the hospital. **Jack Coates** did not make it to Redfern this year, I think No. 1 son was playing football locally, (I think he stayed away because Manly are doing so good and the Tigers are only just in it) and **Bluey Miller** is still going along well chasing the little white ball around the local golf course. **Jack** enjoyed himself on Anzac Day, a few new faces in attendance, and writes very favourably of the catering he hopes that we can keep the same contact for next year. Many thanks for the news **Jack**, we wish you and the wife well, keep up the good work.

• **TIM LLOYD**, son of **Jack** and **Mary** writes a letter to the secretary of his appreciation of Anzac Day. **Tim** was asked to carry the banner this day, good to see our sons do the honours and he was so very proud to have been approached. Writes also that it was a pleasure to see **Peter Gilchrist** at Redfern, son of **John Gilchrist** and quotes that perhaps we are to see an emergence of sons turning up at the Reunion. (I must add that I noticed quite a few of the sons later in the afternoon that were quietly taking positions by the side of their oldies, and I was very pleased to witness this). **Tim** has given some thought to researching material for a book, not an academic exercise but more on the human terms of the 5½ years of the Pioneers, says that if he gets down to Wagga with a note book and tape recorder it might be just the place to start. **Tim's** wife **Margaret** and children spent some of the day with **Peg Herron** and they also enjoyed themselves, and he closes with best wishes to all the men of the Association.

• **GORDON BELL**, 2/2 Tumbarumba writes, I am interested in the reunion of the Association to be held at Wagga. Would you please forward me some details. The secretary informed me that he had received similar letters from the following members of the 2/2:— **Tom O'Loughlan**, Essendon, Vic. **John McIntyre**, Lemon Tree Passage, NSW. **Allan Steff**, Collaraine, Vic. **Bill Bennett**, Jeparit, Vic. All have seen the advert in Reveille or Mufti (Vic. R.S.L. paper), all have been written to personally by the secretary, and all have been enrolled to the mailing list of Pioneer News and all have been forwarded back issues of same and we hope to make your acquaintance at Wagga.

• **PHIL BAWDEN**, now at Leongatha sends a cheque to the treasurer and his change of address to the above, looks forward to receiving the paper and says he will see us at Wagga.

• **ROCKY WATTS**, Murwillumbah writes that 2 years should be quite long enough between letters, but not being an expert in this line decided that he could be a tryer. **Rocky** was with us at Port, claims he will always remember it for more reasons than one. Firstly, for the meeting of chaps he had not seen since 1942 in Palestine, and secondly because on the second day he acquired

all the germs the coast was capable of producing in the shape of Bronchitis and Flu. Poor old **Rocky**, he was on my bus on Sunday and he was really sick, however, sympathy was in rather short supply on that bus, and it was even suggested that he had been bitten by a Liquid Snake. Eventually he spent over a week in hospital and we apologise for our lack of sympathy on that occasion. He and **Thelma** later attended the Brisbane reunion organised by **John** and **Mollie Hunt**, where again he met blokes he had not seen for 40 years, names like **Harry Spreadborough** and **Harry Richardson** and he can't find the right words to say thank you to **John** and **Mollie** for the great success of the evening, claims the work and effort they put into it would have made a month's kitchen fatigue a holiday. They are both now looking forward to Wagga, and the big chance that perhaps his namesake **Dick Watts**, no relation, might attend, has not seen **Dick** since 1942.

Many thanks for a good letter **Rocky** and am sure treasurer will appreciate the cheque.

• **JACK COATES**, Umina ex-Balmain Tiger, sends a cheque to the treasurer and words that **Whiteley** and I should give a little shout for the Tigers, in soft voices for the donation, we will, de sotto voice. Can appreciate **Jack's** thoughts when he read of **Harry Spreadborough's** attendance at Brisbane, and the possible problems that may arise when this man is sighted by the Newcastle mob that marched into B.Coy early June, 1940. **Jack** quotes a little story, early on at that time, said C.S.M. stood the Coy at ease and simply said M.M.S. Old sweats promptly lit up the cigarettes but the rookies were a bit lost. After 10 minutes he brought the mob to attention, a voice said "Whatabout a smoke" C.S.M. replied with not the hint of a smile M.M.S. "Men may smoke". He never caught the mob again with that abbreviation. **Jack** closes with best wishes to all from **Lex** and himself. Suppose I'd best get my 2 bobs worth in, note the "Sea Eagles" are on top of the ladder, eat your heart out **Jack**.

• **MRS. ETHEL STARR** widow of the late **Archie** sends a short note with a donation to "help with the postage" and wishing everyone a lot of good health and luck for the future.

• **GEORGE TAYLOR**, Warrnambool sends a sub to the treasurer and was pleased to read of the Part 1 of 2/2 reforming at Kapooka, this was where **George** joined the unit with so many others, and memories of this came flooding back. Also noticed the par about **Mick Smith** and your letter to same has been despatched.

• **FRANK CAULFIELD**, 2/2 Cairns, Qld., in a letter written to **Bob Dixon** tells of his reading of the Wagga Reunion in "Reveille", and wanted to know more about it. **Bob Dixon** passed the letter on to the secretary who wrote to **Frank** along the same lines of those mentioned previously, and back issues of the News have been posted. For the interested of the 2/2 **Frank** was in 16 Platoon D. Coy., and was one of the few Victorians in that company, the main number being N.S. Welshmen. **Frank** has not been in contact with any of these chaps since Balikpapan. Had a nickname in Don Coy., "The Donk" which was given to him by **Pat Miller**. To those who were at Trinity Beach with him would get a shock to see the beach now, Hotel, Motels, Holiday Flats, the works. **Frank** has been in Cairns some four or five years, is retired on the service pension and is determined to attend at Wagga. **Frank**, you deserve the V.C., he leaves by train from Cairns on the Monday, arrives Brisbane Wednesday, arrives Sydney Thursday and gets to Wagga on Friday, and he says the trains are still just as slow as they were years ago. **Frank**, you will be one chap we will all be glad to meet.

That completes the Mail Bag for this issue, a good response from all over the country, we send our usual good wishes to all members. — **Lakey**

PIONEER NEWS

Phone: 759-5491

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

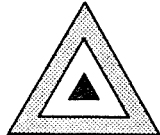
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J. (Mick) DODSON

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\$2 Per Annum



2/2 AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION (Part 2)

The arrival of Lt. Col Lang at Wagga was closely followed by five Officers and 500 O.R's. Billeted at Wagga Showground for two weeks, then out to Kapooka — a brand new training area — where four Officers and 308 O.R's., marched in from No 1 Pioneer Training Battalion, Bathurst. Included in Battalion strength were 11 transferred 2/1 Pioneers — four Officers, five Sgts., and two Cpls. In mid July training began in earnest.

The Unit marched out 30th September 1942 en-route for Strawberry, W.A. Camped at Strawberry, then by Christmas 1942 at Camp-Bellevue, Midland Junction out from Perth. Late January 1943 arrived Mangalore, Victoria, then on to Woodford, Queensland for four weeks then on to Ravenshoe — Atherton Tablelands for intensive jungle training.

Embarked for New Guinea on 25th July, 1943 and arrived Port Moresby, 28th July. This made the seventh move by the Battalion since its reform — "We had to be better than Grace Bros"! was the cry. Jungle training was completed at Moresby.

25th August the Unit was flown to Tsili-Tsili, and 1st September 1943 march started to Nadzab, action thru to Lae, entering town on 16th September — the Japanese defeated. From Lae the Unit was flown to Kaiapit in the Ramu Valley where the enemy were in strength in the entire area. Action finalised at Shaggy Ridge Jan. '44.

The Unit had cause for satisfaction. The first Unit committed to action in Nadzab — Lae campaign, it remained in action in the field to the end. It had served under three Infantry Brigades of the Seventh Division in turn earning the confidence of all Senior Commands. The 8th February, saw the Unit on its way home for leave before returning to Queensland, Trinity Beach for amphibious training.

The campaign at Tarakan began early May 1945, and by the end of May the campaign was complete. This action was with the 9th Division.

The middle of June 1945, saw the embarkation of the Unit for what was to be its last action, the assault on Balikpapan in Borneo. By August, action in this area was almost over, and with the atom bomb on Hiroshima it was a certainty. On the 8th October, 1945 the news for which everyone had been waiting was announced — the Battalion was declared redundant, and orders were issued for the disposal of its men, stores, and personal possessions.

"In the mountains of Syria, in the jungles of New Guinea, amid the palms of Java, and on the low hills of Borneo, as well as many countries of South East Asia, the names of the fallen, adorned with the name of their Battalion which they served so well, shall be forever remembered."

"Lest we forget".

PRESIDENT'S REPORT — by JACK (Mick) DODSON

When we hold our Annual Meeting, we know the next day is one of the most important days in Australian history — Anzac Day.

On 25th April, 1915 (Sixty-seven years ago) gallant soldiers and sailors from Australia and New Zealand stormed ashore on the beach at Gallipoli — a beach now known as Anzac Cove. Thousands lost their lives before reaching the beach.

In December 1915 when the Peninsular was evacuated, the casualties were the highest for any one action during World War I. They gave their lives so that we could be here today to pay homage to the fallen. It was not all in vain, for from that action Australia became a nation in the eyes of the world.

This we remember when we march past the Cenotaph — hats off and eyes right.

We are all aging, which is shown by the record number of our members (Seventy-one) who have passed on, in the past twelve months — forty-four 2/1st and twenty-seven 2/2nds — Lest we Forget.

It is almost forty-five years since the 2/1st sailed for the Middle East and forty-one years for the 2/2nd. We may not have known each other in those days, but since the war the friendship has strengthened so that today we are one big Association.

I now come to the hardest part of my report — how can one find the right words to express thanks to the Executive and Committee for their outstanding efforts.

Led by Max Herron and assisted by Peg and the Ladies Auxiliary, the organisers of the successful Port Macquarie Reunion have already laid the foundations for another successful reunion at Wagga in September.

When you think of the various Reunions over the years and the Wagga reunion coming up, please give thought to the thanks that must go to these great band of workers.

Treasurer (money bags) Vic Whiteley, concerned with rising costs, is always on the ball where our finances are concerned and assuring that our various accounts are kept in a strong position.

Editors of the Pioneer News, Max Herron and Bob Lake keep the life line of the Association going. Members from all states of Australia are enlightened on the latest news of members.

Of course, no matter how good the Editors are, we must have the reporters and also the members who send in letters. Keep up the good work fellows.

Then again, members would not receive their Pioneer News if it was not for the wrapping committee, who meet at Max and Peg Herron's home, four times each year and prepare and wrap the thousand copies.

Many, many thanks to Max and Peg for making their home available and also for providing the supper.

Welfare Officers Harry Montague and Jack Collins who have to be dedicated to welfare work to be able to fit in visiting sick members and assisting with pension enquiries. — many thanks.

WAGGA REUNION

An advertisement appears on page four of this issue, outlining all details of the Country Reunion at Wagga on the 17th, 18th, 19th September, 1982.

It is requested that all members attending cut out the Programme and bring it to the Reunion with them so that they are up to date with all the proceedings.

In particular we seek the co-operation of all members with cars to seek out and look after those members coming by train. All accommodation is too far from the R.S.L. for walking so they will require a lift on all the activities.

Applications closed on the 30th July with an attendance of two hundred and forty-five members.

YELLOW EXPRESS LOSS

Another Pioneer to join the ranks of the retired is ROY "SNOWY" JARDINE. All his working life was with Yellow Express and Roy lost buckets of sweat during those halcyon days of wool delivery to the Sydney Wool Stores from the Darling Harbour rail-head.

During his Army days Roy was in No. 6 Platoon Transport, 2/1 as a Driver. It was not commonly known, but Roy was an accomplished (?) poet. An example of Roy's efforts is as follows:-

"To the roar of the racing motors,
To the smell of the burning oil,
Through heat and dust — day and night,
The Transport drivers Toil."

All the best to Roy and regards to Phyllis and family.

NEWS ITEM — HARRY MONTAGUE

FRED CALLAWAY, A Coy 2/1 was visited while doing my rounds recently at Concord Hospital. He was receiving medical treatment for a thigh injury received in action during the Island campaign, which has restricted much of his movement but he is still as cheerful as ever.

Fred will be remembered as a tireless worker for the Association and was Secretary before Max and then became President.

Fred sends his regards to all his friends and sincerely thanked me for the visit.

BRISBANE REUNION

SATURDAY 30th OCTOBER, 1982
at 4 p.m. at the residence of

JOHN and MOLLIE HUNT
4/25 Mountford Rd., New Farm, Qld. 4005
Telephone 358 4349

Acceptance by 16th October, but not
absolutely necessary.

— MOLLIE and JOHN HUNT.



A further publication of our famous news, and once again the response to Mail Bag has been prolific.

• **FRED TIGHE**, a good letter from **Fred** with a very generous donation to the Association, claims he has been receiving the News posted to the Manly War Memorial Club for years under the surname of **PIGHE**, I hope the secretary corrects this for the next issue **Fred**, the only trouble being they might not know what your correct name is. **Fred** extends his congratulations to the Committee and to all members of the Association and has enjoyed the "keeping in touch" that the paper provides. Many thanks for the letter **Fred**, I hope you have got a reserved corner in the bar of the New Pub when she floats.

• **BOB BUTLER** of Johns River sends a cheque to the treasurer to keep the arguments going. **Bob** is getting along toward the 82 mark, and is starting to feel the cold, **Bob** enjoys reading our paper and quotes, "keep it coming, it's one of the pleasures", extends his good wishes to all.

• **DON CROOKS** of Woodberry puts pen to paper after all these years and states that as he has now retired his letter writing may just improve a little. Since retirement Don and his wife had a great holiday in Victoria, and had also planned a trip to Queensland for the winter, but with daughter having another little one, and with mothers being what they are with regards to grandchildren, this Queensland excursion had to be shelved. Don's family are now all grown up and making their own way in the world, 4 boys and a girl, plus five grandchildren, just enough to keep you both on your toes. Many thanks for the letter and your sub in the hot little hand of the treasurer.

• **GEORGE HUNT**, Narrandera sends a short note with subscription enclosed, the note reads, hope to see my old mates from 3 Platoon H.Q. Coy., at the reunion in Wagga, we hope you do too **George**, we will meet then too.

• **DARYL BELFORD**, Wollongong sends a letter to the secretary enclosing a sub for the Association and to pass on a short coverage of the Fairy Meadow Bowling Club's activities over the Anzac period. This year's service was exceptionally well attended by members and friends, at the arranged time these members lined the banks of the No. 1 Green where a wreath was laid at the base of the flagpole. All formalities were followed and the bugler did his part, this was his fourth service for the morning. The address was given by **Alec Leach**, Reg. No.77 of the original 2/1 Mach Gun Batt, and has kept up his good work with Legacy, treasurer of the local R.S.L. and also state councillor for same. At the conclusion of the Service the ladies provided a three course meal, and plenty of good spirit prevailed. Many thanks for your letter **Daryl** and we hope you continue to enjoy your copies of Pioneer News and the doings at Fairy Meadow.

• **KEITH BOYLE**, Moama sends a letter thanking the secretary for the information he had requested and an Association Badge. Keith also requested an address of **Noel Grant**, of Altona, which the secretary has posted to you. Keith's wife has been in and out of hospital for the last two months but seems to be picking up again now. The weather is very cold at Moama at time of writing, below freezing point every night, the

days are nice and sunny, but rain is very badly needed.

• **ALLEN STONE**, Raymond Terrace sends a short note letting us know he is still in the land of the living and keeping quite well. Has been keeping busy in the garden and is quite pleased with the results to date. Did not make it to the march this year, but perhaps next time. **Allen** closes with good wishes to all and a sub enclosed for the news.

• **HARRY SPREADBOROUGH**, Alexandra Hills, sends a letter to **Peg Herron** with deposits and booking arrangements for Wagga. **Harry** is travelling by car and will be leaving on the Monday for the trip back. **Harry** has been in touch with a few of the boys by phone and are all really looking forward to the show to come, it's getting closer all the time.

• **FRANK CAULFIELD**, Cairns with a short note enclosing his hotel booking fee for Wagga, a subscription for the News and a see you all at Wagga as a finish line.

• **FRED KILLEN**, Warners Bay, a name, number, C/Coy 2/1 and a cheque, well **Fred** the old saying applies here, no news has got to be good news, so will accept that as it.

• **DES EVANS**, Maidstone sends word of the wonderful time he enjoyed at Dubbo, was unable to attend Port Macquarie but is eagerly awaiting the Wagga show. **Des** has many memories of Wagga plus lots of photos which he intends bringing with him for perusal. At their last reunion **Des** spoke to as many of the old Wagga boys as possible, emphasizing the organisation of the Association and that their attendance could only be to their advantage. **Des** also enclosed his deposits for Wagga and some subs for the Association.

• **NUGGET LAURIE**, Newcastle apologises for his inability to attend any of the reunions nowadays, health problems deter him from travel, however, he wishes everyone good health and success to our Association, also enclosed a sub for his membership, we in turn wish you the best of everything possible.

• **ERIC REYNOLDS (Bombo)** of Macksville writes from Victoria where they have been eagerly awaiting the arrival of a new grandchild. The **Reynolds** made this trip by car from Macksville via Dorrigo, Tamworth, Dubbo and Coonabarabran. Next day headed further south where they struck plenty of ice on the roads and arrived at Gippsland in the later afternoon. **Bombo** watched the March on Anzac Day, was disappointed at the coverage on T.V., but did see **Gordon Osborn** leading the parade and a few of the chaps in the front rank. **Bombo** and **Joyce** will not be at Wagga but wish everyone a good and happy weekend.

• **BOB AUSTIN** sends a short note of the passing of **Jim Darragh** 5.6.82, quotes that **Jim's** widow **Norma** is taking things quite well, **Col Shea** was also at the service, and **Jim's** passing has left a lot of sorrow.

• **BILL BURGER**, Emerald, Qld., sends a letter with a cheque for subscription and says he is keeping reasonably well, although not good enough for travel. **Bill** enclosed a stamped envelope, for a photo of the Batt. Banner, this has been forward to you by **Max**. The weather at Emerald is not the best, a very dry Autumn and Winter and cold, at one stage they had 8 frosts in a row,

which **Bill** claims is very unusual for their place of abode. **Bill** closes with best wishes to all.

• **JACK SHEARMAN**, Kyogle per pen of wife **Flo** writes that they will not be attending the Wagga show, but will be thinking of us and wish us every success. **Flo** claims that **Jack** should be writing this letter, but with fishing, shooting, and bowls, he just has not got the time. They have been in contact with **Jim** and **Lil Hall**, both are quite good, **Bert Raynor**, has just come home after a few weeks in Greenslopes and is improving. **Jack Martin** has been in and out of hospital also seems to be improving. Often see **Alwyn (Dora) Black** and **Val**, plus **Paddy** and **Gloria Gray** and all are enjoying good health. So pleased to know that your cabbages are not pink this year, must be using the correct manure this time, good to receive your letter **Flo**, and many thanks for all the news and the good wishes.

• **BILL RUSSELL (Peewee)**, Tamworth, with his first letter to the Association, thanking **Max** for the early editions of the Pioneer News. claims they have both nearly read the print off them already. Names that had been forgotten were brought back to his memory. **Bill** joined the army at 17, at Mangalore then on to Wagga where they joined the 2/2 Pioneer Batt. From there to Western Australia and New Guinea. At Trinity Beach **Bill** was hospitalised and on discharge from hospital was sent to the Saline Staging Camp where he met **Colonel Arnold Brown (Butcher)**. As the 2/2 were at full strength he was posted to another unit where he finished out the war. Moved from Melbourne to Tamworth in 1948 and has been there ever since. Claims that he and wife **Nell** would welcome any Pioneers travelling through Tamworth with open arms, they have five children but all but one married, so they just rattle around a rather big home. **Bill** and **Nell** are both looking forward to meeting the crowd at Wagga, renewing the acquaintance with those he remembers, and trying to guess a lot of others, however, I am sure you will enjoy yourselves and to make it easy, we put name tags on all bodies, which will certainly help the memory. Many thanks for your letter, and your subscription with the treasurer.

• **MRS. BONNY SNUDDEN**, Cobar sends a short note with a cheque to help keep things going, and apologises for not being able to make it to Wagga, however she does wish all and each an enjoyable time at same and closes with best wishes.

• **JACK COATES**, Umina writes thanking **Peg** for the booking for himself and **Lex** at Wagga, but claims that he will be forced to miss the local grand final again. **Lex** has been busy again, this time, with woollens, coathangers and cakes for a stall at Umina in aid of the Rats World Reunion. **Jack** also enclosed photos taken by a friend of his near Hyde Park on Anzac Day. **Jack** recognises quite a few of the boys, to name a few, **Gordon Finlay**, **Bill Jollie**, **Clancy Scholes**, **Earl Jones**, **Jack Dodson**, **Phil Cramsie**, **Alec George**, **Max Law**, **Vince Petrich**, **John Hunt** and **Jack Pearce**. **Jack** has suggested that the photos be put on the display wall at Wagga and feels sure that his friend **Gordon Ramsey** would supply a few copies of the prints if anyone was interested. **Jack** was sorry to have missed **Bernard Simmons** on Anzac Day but he was really tied up, **Lynn** was booked at hospital for 2 casual shifts and **Doug** was playing football,

so while Dad was out on the paddock **Jack** had the dreadful duo, **Dan** and **Mike** on the sideline at Erina. That's what Grandpappys are for **Coatesy**, for your information **Spreddy** is going to Wagga, I'll keep out of your way that afternoon, but what's this bit about the Tigers, sorry mate, they're worse than St. George, but never mind, you can't win them all, I'd best say up the "Seagulls" just to keep you square.

• **LAURIE KELLY (Three Course)** from somewhere in the Gibson Desert, sends his letter of confirmation for attendance at Wagga with wife **Daphne**. Don't ask me what **Kelly's** doing out in the desert, he must have gone right off, however it appears that **Kell** was at Woomera in 1952 and 1955 and so four of the chaps from there are doing it again in 4-wheel drives. They have already crossed the Gibson and are heading into the Great Sandy which will take about 3 weeks. They have plenty of back-up from Woomera, plenty of supplies and water, and there has been plenty of rain through the desert, which is blooming and teaming with Roos and Emus. They have also met up with 2 oil exploration rigs which are fitted out like small towns, plenty of cold beer, water and a wonderful mess where **Kell** and **Coy** were made very welcome. They also expect to meet a few geological teams as they progress. They will be on the edge of the Great Sandy travelling along the stock route. Quotes that the place "gets one in", it's a wonderful place and he often wonders how **Giles, Gibson, Forrest, Burke** and **Wills** travelled through with Camels doing about 7 miles a day and no knowledge where the next water might be. The nights are beautiful and one does not realise how vast the country is until you are out in it. **Kell** closes his really wonderful letter with a P.S. It was in the Great Sandy Desert that he received his first Pioneer News 1956, someone had sent it to his Woomera address, and a plane dropped their mail and supplies, it was his first knowledge of the Association.

A second letter dated 3rd August came in from **Laurie** and once again was most interesting. So much so that on reading it **Max Herron** said he felt like packing his bags and going off straight away.

In this letter **Laurie** was thrilled with the sight of the desert in bloom — as far as the eye could see was everlasting daisies of white and pink — the gold Sturt pea and he was so taken up with the picturesque sight he sent a few of the various coloured flowers to **Peg Herron**. This was quite a thrill to **Peg**, as she said many Pioneers had sent her stamps for her collection but no Pioneer had ever sent her a bunch of flowers.

Laurie had met up with a few chaps who were living off the land but not many aborigines were around as they had moved in close to the towns.

Next year he is planning a trip from the northern end of the Great Sandy Desert.

While **Laurie** was on walkabout **Daph** was staying in Kalgoorlie as he said the desert was not the best place to take your wife.

Many thanks for your two very interesting letters and we feel sure you will have a few tales to tell us at Wagga.

• **PAT and TOM MUTTON** of Harrington write in to say they will not be able to attend the Wagga Reunion owing to family commitments, but do wish all attending a happy time. Many thanks **Pat** and **Tom**.

• **JOCK STEELE**, 2/2 Padre writes from Indonesia where he is staying with his daughter and husband and family. They are missionaries with the Worldwide Evangelization Crusade. **Jock** enclosed four foolscap pages closely typewritten on his travels in Indonesia which make excellent reading. One day we may have space to publish it in serial form in "Pioneer News". In the meantime it is being passed around the committee members. Thank you **Jock** for your letter and the family chronicle.

• **SID ABERCROMBIE**, Mosman Park, Western Australia, sends a short note thanking us for the continuing supply of Pioneer News, **Sid** has always intended making the trip for Anzac Day but something always turned up, and now he finds it looks like being out of the question. Thanks to the News **Sid** has been able to keep in touch and wishes the Association a long life with plenty of success, your cheque will help to keep the ball rolling **Sid**, thanks a lot.

• **JOHN KEMPENICH** and wife **Maisie** send a letter of regret that they will not be attending Wagga due to a prior family commitment but both know that we will have a really good time and wish everyone the same. **Jack** reached the ripe old age of 70 years a short time ago, and his brothers obliged with a surprise party for him. A great time was had by all, although the house walls were inclined to bulge a little, trying to sleep and eat about 16 people. Also had a three week adventure in New Zealand early in the year, both Islands and can recommend same to anyone interested. Dropped into the Dunedin Service Club, where they were made very welcome, had a few ales, but decided that Tooheys would still remain favorite with them. Closed with best wishes for all and a cheque for treasurer.

• **BILL BENNETT**, Jeparit writes a thank you for previous issues of Pioneer News that were forwarded to him and adding his name to the mailing list. **Bill** and his wife retired from Melbourne some six years ago to Jeparit where he has taken up the secretary's position at the local sub branch. Since retiring **Bill** and wife have spent holidays with daughters, either Melbourne or Adelaide, but on this auspicious occasion are joining us at Wagga, his first time ever, and they are both looking forward to meeting the folks with **Bill** especially looking for faces that he has not seen for many years, can assure you that the faces will be there, but I'd like to watch your face as you try to identify some, age does alter some, while others you would know anywhere. Enclosed a cheque for subs for the treasurer, and best wishes. (Since these notes were written, **Bill** has been forced to cancel his trip to Wagga on doctor's orders. Sorry about this, **Bill**, and get well soon).

• **JACK MCINTYRE**, Lemon Tree Passage, writes that he is delighted with the Wagga reunion, as with his wife **Jean**, and sister-in-law are making their way to Adelaide at that time. **Jack** and family will be in attendance on the Friday, Saturday and perhaps part of Sunday, could suggest a better idea, why not leave for Adelaide on the Monday, after all what's another day to us folk these times, keep it in mind **Jack**, you will thank me after. Closed with best wishes to all a thank you to **Peg Herron** and a cheque to the treasurer for subscription.

• **GORDON BELL**, Tumarumba, new member from the 2/2 thanks the secretary for the previous copies of Pioneer News and with wife **Gwen** will be attending the Wagga reunion, where he is looking forward to meeting up with his old Battalion, especially Don Coy and the No. 4 Platoon. **Gordon** and **Gwen** sent a cheque for subs, and the news that they will be at the dinner on Saturday, and hopefully join in the doings on Sunday, you won't want to leave mate.

• **KEN BARRETT**, Ashburton, Victoria enclosed a sub for treasurer and the information that the Anzac March in Melbourne was the best ever. It was **Ken's** 36th march so he speaks with experience. They did not stop once, nor did they need to change step, (must have had a good band), and swung along Collins Street as good as they did 40 years ago? Well done **Ken** and thanks for the good report.

• **BILL HOFFMAN**, Kyogle sends subs for both he and **Brian Jackson**. **Bill** spent Anzac Day at Evans Head in the company of **Alwyn "Dora" Black**, **Gordon Walsh** and **Brian**, who is now residing at

Evans Head. **Bill** wishes all and everybody good luck and good health.

• **NORM IREDALE**, Bundoora another new member writes his thanks for previous issues, and quite a few names came readily to mind. **Norm** will be at Wagga and has passed his Pioneer News to another 2/2 **Jack Grundy**, who may be keeping **Norm** company on the trip to Wagga. **Norm** was a H.Q. man, Machine Guns, and looking forward to seeing some other gunners at Wagga.

• **REVEREND LANCE RUBY**, Avalon writes to the secretary after a phone call with the information that he was unaware of the Association until he read of the Wagga reunion in "Revielle". **Lance** was chaplain to the 2/2 from August, 1942 until February 1943 when he was transferred elsewhere. He then met **Joe Lang (Colonel)** at Aitape in 1944 where **Joe** was the Base Commander. While the Chaplain of another unit, he then struck the 2/2 again at Tarakan, not a lot of contact but did see quite a few of the men on the beach. The Reverend is a member of D.W.R.S.L. and has known **Harry Sheils** for many years, and with regards to myself (**Lahey**) yes I am a member out there and would be glad to join you for an ale, any old time, 93 4696 will find me, just ring the bell and say the word. The Padre is not available for Wagga owing to other commitments, but has posted a rather old photo of Kapooka to **Max** and I would imagine, it will be displayed on the wall at the dinner. Many thanks for the letter Padre, your subscription is in the treasurer's hot little hand, and give us a ring sometime.

• **WAL "DESSO" PAGE** writes to say he and **Lal** are unable to attend the Wagga Reunion and send their apologies. They send regards to all and hope everyone has a great time and a safe journey home.

Wal worked in Wagga in 1929 at the age of 17 years and his father, **Bill Page** was in charge of the erection of the top reservoir on Artillery Hill. **Wal** had the job of bending and tying the steel, after it had been laid, so if it has sprung a leak or fallen to pieces you could lay the blame on him. We all know what **Wal** would say to us if we did blame him.

Thank you **Wal** for your donation and we can see you have not lost that art of putting pen to paper as you did for many years as Publicity Officer for the Association. Our regards to you and **Lal**.

• **TED JENSON** writes to say he had a letter from **Dick Hobley** of W.A. who is well and sends his regards to all his friends in 10 Platoon B. Coy. 2/1. **Dick** reports of the passing away of John Osborne of 10 Platoon who was living at Yass and died in hospital in March this year.

Thank you **Ted** for your letter and also thanks to you **Dick** for passing on the information.

Well that just about winds up the Mail Bag for this issue, very pleasing to receive so many letters and subscriptions, these are very necessary with the costs of publication getting higher all the time, and we wholeheartedly appreciate your support. For **Jack Coates'** memoirs, my Sea Eagles have lost a bit of flight power, three losses in three weeks is not good, however I am hoping that perhaps Ritchie can sprinkle a little salt on their tails in the coming weeks, good luck, good health and I hope to see everyone at Wagga.

— **Lahey**

HISTORICAL EVENTS

• The Anzac Memorial situated in Hyde Park, Sydney, known as the Shrine of Remembrance was officially unveiled on the 19th July, 1932.

• The 2/1st Pioneers moved out of Greta on the night of Sunday 9th September 1940 in two special trains and arrived at Dubbo Camp the next day.

2/1 — 2/2 PIONEER BATTALIONS' ASSOCIATION

PROGRAMME — WAGGA REUNION

Friday, Saturday, Sunday, 17th, 18th, 19th September, 1982

MAYORAL RECEPTION — 4 p.m. Friday, 17th September.

Mayor of Wagga extends a Mayoral Reception to Colonel John Williams, O.B.E., E.D. and twenty five members of the Association at the City Council Chambers, Baylis Street. Unfortunately the Wagga Council have restricted the attendance to twenty five, consequently it was a decision by the committee that the number be confined to the committee of the two units.

Personal invitations will be sent to the twenty five selected members.

Medals and decorations to be worn.

MINI-REUNION — 6 p.m. Friday, 17th September.

6 p.m. Drinks. 7 p.m. Buffet meal at the R.S.L. Pacific Lounge. Cost \$6 per head payable at Lounge entrance. Then informal evening. Lounge and bar service for our sole use.

During evening, members will be requested to liaise with one another and organise the private car tour on Saturday morning. Map and booklet will be issued showing places of interest.

Members will be asked to assist those members without a car, as the Committee would like to ensure that all people coming by train are organised into cars all weekend.

A roll will be issued at the Mini-Reunion showing where people are staying.

CITY OF WAGGA TOUR — Saturday, 18th September.

Map and booklet will be issued at Mini-Reunion as a guide. Check with other members at your place of abode in order to ascertain if they would like to accompany you.

MARCH & WREATH LAYING — Saturday, 18th Sept., 4.30 p.m.

Members will assemble on footpath, North/West corner of Baylis and Forsyth Streets.

4.40 p.m. March will commence and proceed down Baylis Street to Victory Memorial Gardens.

Medals and decorations to be worn.

REUNION DINNER — Saturday, 18th September.

6 p.m. R.S.L. Club for Pre Dinner drinks.

7 p.m. Three course sit down dinner in the Pacific Lounge.

Cost: Pre Dinner drink, wine and squash for toasts and Dinner — per head \$12.00.

BUS TRIP/CAMP TOUR/BARBEQUE LUNCH — Sun. 19th Sept.

9 a.m. First two coaches will pick up members enroute to Kapooka Camp.

10 a.m. Second two coaches will pick up members from Myer Car Park in Berry Street opposite bus depot.

Tour of camp will be in three Army buses. Barbeque lunch by Army at Sportsmans Club where refreshments will be available. Demonstration by Army.

Cost per head, Coach and Lunch \$5.

FAREWELL GET-TOGETHER — Sunday. 19th September.

6 p.m. Drinks, purchased by members at bar in R.S.L. Pacific Lounge.

7 p.m. Smorgasbord dinner at cost of \$6 per person.

Sole use of bar and lounge. Informal evening after meal.

PASSING OUT PARADE — Monday, 20th September.

All members are invited to attend the passing out parade of recruits of the 1st Recruit Training Battalion at Kapooka.

TRAINS — will be met by a Welcoming Committee consisting of Jack Morgan (Director) assisted by Dudley Staniforth, Bob Dixon, Jim Field, Vic Whiteley, Gordon Finlay, George Walker and Bob Lake.

On alighting from train watch for large sign "Pioneers report here".

Cars will then transport members to place of accommodation.

PLEASE BRING THIS PROGRAMME WITH YOU TO THE REUNION

SOUNDING RETREAT

The most ancient military formality of "Sounding the Retreat" originates from the very early days of the British Army.

It is believed to have commenced in those times when towns and cities were huddled around the castle walls for protection and was the signal for the soldiers to return to the security of the castle before the rising of the drawbridge for the night.

It is recorded that during the wars in the reign of King William III all soldiers were billeted in taverns and private houses, and the Orderly Officer with the drummers would parade through the streets to warn the military personnel to return to their billets at curfew time.

First the buglers sounded the First Post then the drummers beat "Tattoo" for half an hour, culminating in the sounding of Last Post.

As this was before the introduction of "Time Gentlemen please" it served as a signal for the Tavern Keepers to turn off their taps, which was known as "Taptoe", which word the troops soon turned into Tattoo.

This system of billeting eventually fell into disuse, but the famous old history of Sounding Retreat has been most strictly retained until the present day, as a wonderful reminder of this picturesque and ancient custom.

It is a mark of Loyalty and respect that all spectators stand while the Retreat is being sounded.

LAST POST — H. MONTAGUE

LEN HUMPHRIES "B" Coy 2/1st passed away recently and I represented the Association at the Church and the Crematorium.

Len resided at Blacktown with his wife and son and was a popular citizen of that suburb. He was President of the Blacktown R.S.L. and on many occasions welcomed members of the Association and showed them around the Club of which he was very proud.

I passed on to Mrs. Humphries and son our deepest sympathy, and both expressed their thanks for representing the Association.

NORMAN MACE, 2/1st of Umina passed away in July, but as it was a family funeral I did not attend, but the Association's deepest sympathy was extended to Mrs. Mace.

BILL TURNER, passed away Monday 17.8.1982 after a long illness.

— H. MONTAGUE, Welfare Officer.

ANNUAL WELFARE REPORT

In presenting the yearly account of the activities of the Welfare section it is very pleasing to state that all requests for assistance were promptly attended to.

Also, a great number of our applications to the various Government Departments were successful.

All information received regarding our members being patients in the various hospitals and nursing homes were attended to promptly, and visits were made which was appreciated by the members.

In keeping with our recital "We will remember them" all funerals of our members were attended and our sympathy expressed to the next of kin.

In concluding I would like to say it has been a busy period and an interesting one. My thanks to all who assisted, and to the next of kin who contacted me. I can only attend a funeral or pay a visit to a hospital if I am notified by a next of kin.

— HARRY MONTAGUE

46 Pomeroy St., Homebush. Ph. 76 6657

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

PIONEER NEWS

Phone/ 759-5491

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President: J. (Mick) DODSON

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"THE BLACK CROW" REUNION, WAGGA 1982

From near and far members of the 2/1 and 2/2 Pnr. Bn. Association started arriving in Wagga from Wednesday 15th onwards to celebrate the reforming 40 years ago of the 2/2 Pnr. Bn.

They were booked in at 14 different establishments totalling some 260 personnel to enjoy renewing old acquaintances of yesteryear. Many had not sighted one another since discharge some 36 years ago. Age certainly made identification near impossible, however it didn't take long once our Ladies Committee handed out name tags.

CIVIC RECEPTION 17th SEPTEMBER

At 4 p.m. Friday, the Mayor of Wagga, Ald. Bruce Hedditch extended a cordial and official welcome to the Reunion guest of honour Col. John Williams O.B.E., E.D. and 24 executive members of the Association, 12-2/2 Vic. and 12-2/1 and 2/2 N.S.W. to the city of Wagga. This was conducted in a semi-formal atmosphere with guests Col. W. McDonald, C.O., Kapooka Army Camp and his wife Helen, Group Cpt. Ian Andrews C.O., R.A.A.F. Station Forest Hills, Pres. RSL Sub-Branch Jack Skeers, Town Clerk Mr. W.R. Ellis. Ald. Hedditch spoke briefly on the part both the Army and R.A.A.F. personnel play in conjunction with the progress and economy of the Wagga District. This weekend was to be the last official duty of the Mayor as he was retiring after 5 years in that position. He was supported in his comments by RSL Club Pres. Jack Skeers. Col. Williams then responded on behalf of the Association. This was followed by refreshments per courtesy of the Mayor. To the Council, staff and people of Wagga we say thank you for your welcome.

MINI REUNION — Friday, 6 p.m.

As members entered the foyer of the R.S.L. they were handed Club membership cards by Gordon and Olive Finlay and Gert Vickery before entering the Pacific Lounge where they were issued with name tags by the Ladies committee — Joan Lake, Jean Dixon, Kath Field and Joyce Walker. Then to our treasurer Vic Whiteley, assisted by wife Peg for payment of fees etc. On table three, Reg Ward was issuing bags from the Tourist Centre with information on Wagga and Mary Lloyd and Peg Herron were gathering names for the "Rogues Gallery" — our Reunion banner. From then on the talk commenced, everyone trying to get the first word in, oiling the tonsils with medicine from Dr. Kent this time — Dr. Tooth went on holidays — and if you weren't able to make the reunion, imagine the din. Some 220 people all having a go at once. One person who travelled a few thousands miles to attend made sure he was first there, one Frank Caulfield now resident of Cairns. More about you later Franky, but he was a little disappointed that he only saw one chap from his old Platoon present. Another was Don Murray — Tinonee, who could only find two from his group. Not only did we have the 2/2 reformed members but also a number of the original 2/2 led by Col. John Williams, also a lady whose father went down with the Cruiser Perth. Allan and Connie Steff from Victoria, the Vic. Assn. President Ted Hansen and wife Dot, Secretary Col. Shea and Frances, and their Treasurer Jack Hocking, chasing up new members. However around 11.30 p.m. the troops started to wend their way back to

billets in preparation for Saturday.

TOUR OF WAGGA WAGGA

Saturday morning saw a tour of Wagga area by many of the 2/2 boys while others just preferred to rest or attend sick parade with Dr. Kent. Lunch over, it was back to billets in preparation for the March and Reunion Dinner.

MARCH AND WREATH LAYING

This would have to be the best so far, as approximately 150 members of the Association formed up behind the 1RTB Band under the leadership of Capt. Mick Pyne on the corner Forsyth and Baylis Streets and proceeded to the local Memorial. The march was led by Col. John Williams and Col. Gordon Osborn, Standard Bearers — Snow Vickery — 2/1 and Clemm McDonald — 2/2, Volume party — Dudley Stanniforth and Jack Morgan. Marshalls for the March — W(Bill) Jollie assisted by Bob Lake. On arrival at the Memorial it was grand to see such a great roll-up of Ladies and Locals waiting for the Service.

Jack Griffiths of the 2/1 then explained to the assembly the service of both Units during 1939 to 1945. The Service was then conducted by Army Chaplain Capt. Roy Aitken and it was most impressive. Wreaths were then laid by Ald. B. Hedditch for the people of Wagga, Col. W. McDonald for the Army, Mr. Jack Skeers on behalf of Wagga RSL Club, Pres. Jack Dodson on behalf of 2/1 — 2/2 Pnr. Assoc. Volumns were then placed on the Memorial by D. Stanniforth and J. Morgan. President J. Dodson recited the Ode, three buglers from the 1 RTB sounded the Last Post and Reveille. Volumns were then handed to Mr. Ken Knight to be presented to the two Wagga High School Captains.

Mr. Jack Griffiths then spoke in appreciation of the assistance by Army Chaplain, 1 RTB Band, the RSM and the 4 recruits who made up the Catafalque party, the School Captains, the Official Guests and the excellent assistance given by the Local Police during the March. As the Last sounds of the National Anthem sounded the Chaplain pronounced the Benediction. The parade was then dismissed. This ended a most impressive ceremony of Dedication and respect to those who paid the Supreme Sacrifice from both Units and those who have passed on since 1945. "WE MUST REMEMBER THEM".

REUNION DINNER, Saturday.

Once again on entering the RSL Club, Gordon and Olive Finlay issued Hon. Membership Cards to all troops who then proceeded to the Pacific Lounge to receive name tags from our Ladies Committee, Joyce Walker, Joan Lake, Jean Dixon and Kath Field and our Treasurer ready to take any spare cash. This done, George Walker directed members and wives to where drinks could be secured, and to seating for the Dinner where everyone received a Programme of the evening's events, and to the Art Gallery displaying photos of bygone days in camp and Anzac Day reunions. On entering we were served drinks by the "Nine Mile Sniper" Reg Ward, 2/4 Fld Regt. Thank you Reg, not only for your assistance at the dinner but also throughout the weekend.

Promptly at 7 p.m. our M.C. Bob Dixon called the gathering to be seated, this being done, 260 people stood while Jim Field recited Grace, Toast to the Queen by Ken Knight and it was down to talk and the meal served by the staff of the RSL and what a delightful meal. Thank you staff. During the meal toasts to our Guests by Pres. J. (Mick) Dodson, response by Pres., RSL Club Wagga, Stan Sadleir Toast to the Association, Col. Gordon Osborn, response by Pres. Victorian Branch Ted Hansen. Bill Tasker then presented the RSL Sub-Branch with a map of TOBRUK showing the perimeter during the Siege 1941, and in reply Mr. Jack Skeers Pres. of Sub-Branch said it would be placed in a position of Honour in the main Club.

PRESENTATION BY COLONEL OSBORN

Colonel Gordon Osborn then presented Peg Herron with a gift in appreciation of the tremendous job she did in arranging accommodation for so many people over the weekend. Many, many thanks Peg from one and all. It was great to see so many ladies in attendance. Widows of our late members, our three Nursing Sisters and the wives and friends, we hope you were not disappointed. At this juncture one of our most ardent workers for the Association over a long period was presented with the Certificate of Life Membership of the Association. I refer to Gordon Finlay. The look on his face, he even blamed me and I knew nothing about it? To his wife Olive, who has always been ready to assist Peg Herron on the Ladies Committee, we say thank you Olive for allowing Gordon the time to help our Association. At 9 p.m. Pres. Jack Dodson recited the Ode to the Fallen. Coffee and tea was then served followed by a 10 min break.

GUEST SPEAKER, COLONEL WILLIAMS

Our first guest speaker Col. J. Williams then spoke on the part played by the original 2/2 Pnrs. who in the main came from Victoria, until they were as Col. John put it "Put in the Bag in Java" or "Wouldn't It", few realising they were solely used as Infantry in Java, and held the Japs up for so long enabling others to get away.

Our second Speaker Col. W. McDonald, 1 RTB then spoke on the role played by the RTB in training recruits, co-operation with the local townsfolk, some future plans for the establishment plus format for our visit to the camp on the Sunday. Thank you gentlemen for your contribution to the weekend. This concluded the dinner programme and it was down to getting together again, or still to know old comrades and meet new ones.

How good it was to see such a great rollup of 2/2 boys, some 78 in all, and accompanied by their wives. Some of the originals came along to support Col. John Williams and as I've already mentioned the Victorian Executive. I think Leo Cornelius, ex Vic and now one of Joh's mob and wife Mary had their table well organised. Ray and Merle Burroughs, Jack and Marie Foley, Wal and Barbara Baird, Murray and Ada Haby, Russ and Rona Harrison, Bob and Joan Lee, Col. and Frances Shea. Reg Cairns spent all weekend looking for Missing Sig Plt. mob. Ray Harris luckier

as he had a table with a few 17 Ptn. Bill and Shirley Lewis, Bill and Eva Holmes, Arthur and Nancy Daldy of C. Coy. with an apology from Don Linton Sgt. 1 Sect. 2/2 who sent best wishes to all. Harry Reilly couldn't make it as his daughter expecting. 16, 17 and 18 Plts well represented in John McKnight, Bill and Daphne Fallon, Eric and Norma Lindsay.

Mark and Margaret Winter — Mark an 8th Div. H.Q. visitor — and enjoying the weekend. To Margaret we say thank you for driving Colonel Williams around and for all your typing.

Fred and Evelyn Bellingham, Ray and Norma English, Norm and Ellen Jones and Ray Meagher. Think we should call him "Crash" after this weekend, like wiping off his car. Sorry to hear about it Ray but as they say, "the joys of motoring". Also at this table were Ken Barrett, Ted and Marie Jensen and Col and Frances Shea.

Next table Sam and Laurie Coles, Allen Tregenza, Stan Rixon — another original, Stan and Olive Clarke from Sth. Australia, Frank and Sylvia Ball, Frank and Barbara Cheal, Bert and Olive Beaton, Phil Bawden, Bill and Dorothy Hanson, Jack Griffith (not Glido 2/1) but met and exchanged greetings later, as it was his first reunion. The next table, by the time I got to them a few empty seats were Leslie and Valerie McNally, Tom and Nancy O'Loughlin, Bruce McDonald, Joe White and Tom McNaughton, all the Mac's seated together and having a chat and a few noggins. Then to Bill (Punchy) Hanson and Dot, Allan and Connie Steff, Allan has had both hips operated on and said he can now get about like a 2-year-old. Reg Armstrong keeping a general eye on all Kapooka 2/2, Charley and Jean Urwin, Allan and Dot Joyce, Ces and May Sloggett, Tom and Renee Wood, George and Ethel Hunt, Tod Keys, Blue and Joan Locane, Bill and Mary Hood, Harry Huggard and Dick Ryan.

Next table Curly and Doris Pridmore, Bryan and Marian Neiberding, Ken and Joy Knight, Frank and Alma Hallam, Gordon and Gwen Bell and Gordon and Noela Sheen. (Gordon hopes it will be the first of many more reunions), Dick and Alison Walker, Dick and Heather Marshall, Clemm McDonald with Norma Lowe. The following foursome seemed to be everywhere Sid Forbes, Don Hose, George Picken and Jack Hocking. I found them at five different tables, so they certainly intended seeing as many as possible.

Dudley Stanniforth together with his cohorts from Wagga, Jack Morgan and Ken Knight did a tremendous amount of work locally to make the Weekend a success certainly circulated ensuring everyone was having a good time. Many thanks gentlemen. One table of the 2/2 I must not forget and headed by a now regular reunion man, Bernie Daly and Stella, Ken and Elsie Morgan, Mick and Hilda Bye, and again George Picken, Des Evans and a first timer, don't know if he was looking after or helping Stella to look after Bernie, in Don Murray of Tinonee via Taree (THE PEA GROWER). We had I'm pleased to say a number of ladies of the 2/2 members, Evelyn Hawkins, Glad Garvin, Joyce Tomlinson and Janet Smith, also visitors Norma Lowe, Alice Byrne, Glad Morris and Marj Brawn. Of the 2/1 ex Members Mary (Sweet Tooth) Lloyd, Betty Creasy and no I haven't forgotten our three Nursing Sisters, Sue Malcolm, Vera Hamilton and Win McKenzie. How great to see these ladies along and enjoying themselves. You are always welcome Ladies.

Last but by no means least are the 2/2 boys who are on the Executive of the 2/1 — 2/2 Pnr. Association in N.S.W. Jim Field and Kath, Bob Dixon and Jean, Bill and Toss Robertson, even though it was their first country reunion Bill is always in Sydney for Anzac Day. I've left Frank Caulfield until now as I feel he needs a special mention, particularly as he travelled all the way

from Cairns to be with his mates on this occasion, and then only could find one of his old Pltn. For his effort he was highly decorated with "The Royal Order of the Travelling Star". The inscription reads as follows — CAIRNS to WAGGA — Have Pioneer — Will Travel. See what you others missed out on. We all hope Frank, that your effort came up to expectations, even if the beer goes off at 7 p.m. on the Queensland Trains, and only one bloke turned up. When the others who didn't front, read this, they'll make sure to be in attendance at the Reunion on Anzac Day 1983. I only hope I have not missed out too many 2/2 members who attended, if so see me next time and make sure you get a mention.

Now to the 2/1 Mob lead by Pres. J. (Mick) Dodson and our Patron Colonel Gordon Osborn. Approximately 66 — 2/1 and their ladies certainly helped to make this weekend of the reformed 2/2nds. 40th Anniversary a huge success. I doubt if there are any two units who are more closely united than the 2/1 and 2/2 Pnr. Bans. We even had a number who had turned up for the first time. Tom and Laurel Crossman, Jim and Ruth Rhodes, Jack and Norma Price, Bernie and Mona Reiners. (Bernie, Allan Crute and Max Herron were in the Signal Platoon together, so you can imagine all the dit-dahs that went on all weekend. Good to see you looking so well after your operation Mona).

Other first timers were Perc and Ruby Fisk, Noel and Jean Grant, one of our CSM's, Harry Spreadborough and Jean, and Horrie Saunders down from Queensland, and Ray Thomas. Also from Joh's country we had our reunion organisers John and Mollie Hunt and a great job they are doing for the members in that area. Of course they have to put up with that noisy stirrer, Joe Blanch, but Mavis informs me that he hardly has two words to say at home. He must save it all up for our reunions, Mavis.

Good to see Tom and Vi Blainey from Victoria. Tom said Ted Budge (Sgt. A Coy. at Balikpapan) has now retired from the pub business — so what's holding you back Budgy Boy from showing up. Allan and Beulah Crute from Woolgoolga, Jack and Joan Nilon, Murrumburrah, Fred and Jean Wheaton Coffs Harbour, Clancy and Irene Scholes Rutherford. Fred said he's buying Clancy a seeing-eye Dog to help find his way around. Clive and Betty Harris, Brian and Betty Kybert, Max and Joyce Law. Max passed on news that Frank Allan in hospital — well Frank everyone sends their best wishes, and speedy recovery.

Seated at another table were Vince and Gwen Petrich, Bill and Win Tasker. Bill called in at Gundagai, said Tiny's retired now (had a lucky draw), and sends his best to all. Heard he only weighs a slight 19 stone, oh? How about playing in the unit side now Tiny. Bill also passed on best wishes from Bob and Wal McGregor, Ted and Marie Jensen, Alan and Joan Jensen, Noel and Rita Trefoni, Rocky and Thelma Watts, Bill Wright (looking same as ever), Alec and Jean George from Lismore — Alec helping Fred Clancy look after — Bill Hoffman, Ray and Pat Horne, Blue and Marj Kerslake, and Eric and Leila Barber.

Here's a table, Laurie (Three Course) Kelly and Daph, though don't think Daph saw much of his lordship over the weekend, Snow and Gert (Parramatta) Vickery, Mac and Letitia McKibbin looking for R.A.P. boys, Bert Beasley, Jack (Split the Wind) Pearce, and Doug Waters. Further round the room and seated with a group of 2/2 were Fred and Edna Loveless, Pat and Mary Noonan, Laurie and Hazel Hobbs, Jean and old "DOG TIRED" himself, Jack Clarke, Ivor and Ena Garnon, John and Jose Gibson and Jack Coates. Jack donated the three volumes presented to Wagga High School Captains — thank you Jack. Lex unable to make it as I think Jack said Lex was "mother" sitting. Of course our old mate

Harry Montague inquiring re sick members, and having a good talk with Bill Kelly of 2/1 Band, Roy (Snow) and Phyl Jardine enjoying things as Snow like so many others has retired. Bill and Phyl Jollie renewing acquaintances from Kyogle, Dubbo and last year.

A group of other fellows sitting quietly, Jock Copland, Albert Wilkinson, Bob Gales, Eric Guthrie, Don Slater and a bloke we have all been after, one Joe Kyffin who finally turned up after all these years. Someone said Joe, you either had a wig on or used a special hair restorer, — you answer that one Joe. Then the chap with his leg in plaster who had all the women running after him so he didn't miss out on his meals, Mr. Jack Bertram, not a bad effort if it works! Jack (Glido) Griffiths — only way to keep him in a seat at a reunion is to nail him to it. Still to come and last again our committee — Max and Peg Herron, Vic and Peg Whiteley, George and Joyce Walker, Gordon and Olive Finlay and Bob and Joan Lake. Slowly it was getting around midnight when the groups started to wend their way back to their respective billets in preparation for Sunday's outing at Kapooka army Camp. What a great reunion Dinner, and what great friendship.

"DOWN MEMORY LANE" Sunday 19th

Four bus loads, plus cars made their way to the camp, arriving approximately 10.15 a.m. We were then transferred to Army buses and taken on a sightseeing tour of the Establishment. How different from 40 years ago was the comment. The Cookhouse or Kitchen, bit different from the tent or fly, wouldn't Kelly have had a wonderful time, even plenty of room Kell, for a Still. The excellent accommodation for the recruits, physical exercise training methods, good food to them. Kelly said he was interested in the BOOB. I can think of better places sport. Following the inspection it was back to the Picnic Area where two plaques were to be unveiled on a special Wall naming the area. Jack Griffiths called the gathering to order and explained the unveiling procedure.

The Camp Commandant Col. W. McDonald, as Chairman of the project, then spoke briefly on the picnic area and the involvement of both Army and R.S.L. Sub Branch personnel and what they eventually hope to achieve. What a wonderful part for sections of the community and congratulations from all Pioneers. R.S.L. President Jack Skeers then unveiled the plaque for the R.S.L. Sub Branch and in response Col. J. Williams expressed best wishes from the Association and unveiled the second plaque naming the 2/1 & 2/2 Pnr. Bn. Assocn. With these proceedings over we were then again transported per Army buses to the Barbecue Area. Here we found the salads all ready with assistance from the ladies — God bless 'em — and the steaks being cooked under supervision of Sgt. Larry Appleyard and his very charming assistant Private Marlene Rogers (if we'd had cookhouse assistants like Marlene there wouldn't have been any need for detailing). What a job these two people did and were each presented with an Association Pin. Thank you both for your part in helping to make our weekend a happy and enjoyable one. Through all this the members of both units were intermingling, making new acquaintances and still discussing old times. At approximately 1530 hours again in his role Jack Griffiths called the assembly together to express our thanks to the Army personnel under Col. McDonald who did so much towards our trip down Memory Lane.

To Warrant Officers, Barry Shaw and Tony Boyle, who so expertly organised the day at Kapooka, we cannot thank you enough — let's just say, "Gentlemen we salute you."

To the Bus Drivers, the Corporals who gave the commentary during the tour, the cooks and the young recruits who helped at the barbecue, we

Our first task on landing was to protect the air fields and installation. During our first air raid we fired all our ammunition. On enquiring we were told to do as the Dutch do, obtain food from the nearest restaurant. This was most unsatisfactory to say the least. I remembered the troops on the wharf throwing tins of sardines. I called on Brig. Blackburn, our senior officer, and pointed out the unsatisfactory method of messing and the lack of ammunition. Ordered the 2/3 MT transport and Bn QM to the wharf to bring back any food and ammo. They found not only food and ammo but AF vehicles, trucks and aviation spirit and other valuable stores. We then sent every available truck to the wharf and collected all we could carry, and stores were distributed to 3rd Bn.

Our next task was to set up a defensive position at Llewiliang and ten days after landing we had the Japanese attacking our front. Dutch troops blew up the Llewiliang Bridge two days before the Japanese landed and stopped deep patrols. We were outnumbered by 33 to 1. The Dutch who should have been our reserve force had disappeared, but we were able to hold up the advance of the Japs and inflict heavy casualties. Brig. Blackburn could see that we were in a hopeless position- short of food & ammo and facing a resolute enemy who could easily outflank us and cut us off. He ordered us to withdraw and reform outside the city of Bandoeng. In the meantime the Dutch GOC declared Bandoeng an open city and capitulated, leaving us high and dry. At least we diverted the Japanese Task Force away from landing in Australia.

The Japanese Intelligence thought the 6th and 7th Divisions had already landed in Java and during my interrogation by the Japanese Kempi Tai, they wanted to know where these Divisions were, as they considered our small force could not hold up the Japanese Force for so long and inflict so many casualties. In the Army Journal of June 1971 appeared an article on the Java campaign which read: "Although the Java Sea battle was a catastrophe for the Allies, the ABDA forces (Pioneer and MG Bns) kept Jap ships tied up in the Indies allowing the returning 6th and 7th Divisions safe passage from Colombo to Australia in unescorted troopships".

Thus we at least did help the war effort.

EDITOR: We are grateful to Colonel Williams in releasing for first time the above speech and we do thank him.

M A I L B A G - Received after going to Press and mostly notes of thanks for the Wagga Reunion:-

JACK PRICE of Harden said it was great to see all the boys at Wagga and is grateful for the Pioneer News

JOE KYFFIN of Vic. said it was a wonderful Reunion and all people who put such an effort into it should be awarded the O.B.E.

BERN & MONA REINERS, Corryong Vic. said it was a great Reunion and they enjoyed it immensely. Being their first, Mona was a little hesitant but in such a friendly gathering she soon felt quite at home.

MARY LLOYD: Thanks to Peg & Max Herron, and Reg Ward for a great trip to Wagga and a wonderful Reunion.

ERIC & NORMA LINDSAY, Coonabarabran sent in thanks for a wonderful weekend at Wagga which they enjoyed and hoped all the Committee were able to relax after it was over. Thank you Eric and Norma for the brochure.

BERNARD (BLUEY) & KATH SIMMONDS of England wrote while on holiday in Yorkshire. They had travelled 250 miles from their home at Maidstone, and visited Bronte (Jayne Eyre country) York and Harrogate. Bluey wrote the weekend of the Reunion & said his thoughts were with all Pioneers and hoped they had a good weekend.

EDITOR: Thank you to all who wrote.

also say 'Thank you' for making this "Trip Down Memory Lane" so enjoyable for so many. Then it was once again on the buses and back to town for the Mini Reunion at the R.S.L. The lucky bus prize was won by "Mr. Smoothy" himself — Pat Noonan, which was donated by Bob Gales. Thanks Bob for your gift.

FAREWELL GET-TOGETHER — Sunday

Once again 220 members joined in saying cheerio and hoping to see you on Anzac Day. But still they talked on. Remembering things which the camp visit jogged in their memories. However like every other reunion, the time seems to run out all too quickly and the troops began saying their goodbyes or endeavouring to contact others who have never attended a reunion. During the weekend it was mentioned that a reunion of all PIONEER UNITS, 1st, 2nd., 3rd., 4th., was to be held in Wagga. The World Reunion of the Rats of Tobruk is being held in N.S.W. next year and as some of our Executive are tied up in the organising, we will be giving the N.S.W. Country Reunion a miss.

Monday saw the troops once again dispersing in all directions, some out to view the Passing Out Parade at Kapooka Camp, some to venture further afield, others headed for home. Yes, another great and successful Country Reunion.

To the Executive Committee, without whose tireless efforts this weekend would not have eventuated, may I on behalf of all Association members in all States say simply this — "Well done, our great and faithful Committee."

Well this winds it up for another year and I hope I haven't forgotten too many members who were present. All the best, good health and keep sober.

Your reporter, **LARRY ROBSON.**

LETTER TO EDITOR

Dear Max and Peg,

On behalf of the Members of the 2/2 Pioneer Battalion, members of Victoria, who attended the recent Reunion in Wagga Wagga, I request you to convey to your Committee and the members throughout New South Wales, our grateful thanks for a wonderful Reunion in Wagga Wagga, and in particular the Reunion and organising Committee of the punctualities of the various procedures throughout the weekend.

I take this opportunity Max, to wish you and Peg continued good health from all here in Victoria.

Yours faithfully, **TED HANSEN**, President,
2/2 Pioneer Btn Assoc., Victoria.

LAST POST

— **H. MONTAGUE.**

BILL TURNER, D. Coy 2/1 passed away in August and at the service I represented the Association and paid our respects to the members of his family who were grateful for my attendance.

Bill was a well known and respected member of the unit and it was a pleasure to have known him.

Over the past three months he had been a very sick man and on my visits to him it was pleasing to note how interested he was in the news of other members. He was always saying — "give my regards to so and so when you see him."

Bill will be sadly missed by all his family.

DON JORY, B. Coy 2/1 who was in residence at the War Service Home, Narrabeen passed away recently and many members from the home joined me at the Service.

MARY O'CONNOR, loved wife of Nev. O'Connor of Empire Vale, Ballina, passed away in September after a short illness.

To you and your family, Nev., our very sincere sympathy in your very sad loss.

HARRY ROBEY, B Coy 2/1 passed away in August 1982 after a long illness. Harry resided at Artarmon and to his family we extend our sincere sympathy in their loss. We also thank his daughter, Diane Garcia for informing us by letter.

MAIL BAG

BOB LAKE

The final edition of Pioneer News for 1982, and what a great year it has been for the Association, with the just completed reunion at Wagga the culmination of ultimate success, and on behalf of all we extend to **Max** and **Peg Herron** our sincere thanks. Quite a few letters to hand, a lot written before the Wagga show and a few since commenting on the success of same.

• **BILL WRIGHT**, Gosford with the first letter dated 23.9.82 full of praise for the Wagga Reunion and claims he cannot find words to properly thank the committee and organising members for their faultless dedication to detail. **Bill** claims the march and service on Saturday was magnificent. **Bill** also reports **Jack Palmer** C. Coy. suffered a serious heart attack and is slowly on the mend. Had a visit from **Gus Hunter** who is well and they had a few ales together. **Arthur Ludington** still in Concord had a piece of bone removed from his foot. **Bill** closes with best wishes to all and looking forward to seeing all on Anzac Day.

• **KEN COLLIER** of Essendon Vic., writes a letter to say he is still in the land of the living and presumes that we are all well on the recovery road after Wagga. Unfortunately **Ken's** health is such that his ability to attend these functions is limited, however, he does say not to write him off yet as he may make the trip to Sydney for Anzac Day one of these times. Only 18 when he joined the Pioneers on the Atherton Tablelands, he still recalls his first night, when **Peter Priest** remarked, "Are they sending boy scouts to us now". **Ken** has asked for a photo of the Banner, and Secretary replies that this will be posted in the near future. Also tells that he has a 21st Birthday to organise, his daughter **Maureen**, has got the barrel and glasses covered so I'd say that's more than half the problem solved straight away. Bickies and cheese should cover the rest with a few sausage rolls for extras. **Ken's** son, in time to join the Melbourne Fire Brigade and they are hoping that he will be included in the first intake after the New Year. Many thanks for the letter **Ken** and the Treasurer has your cheque in his hot little hand.

• **DICK BLAKENEY**, a short note with a change of address, and to signify his withdrawal from the Association Committee, **Dick** finds that his previous commitments clash with our meeting nights, and one has to give away, sorry to lose you **Dick**, however, we know you are always a regular at Redfern which is altogether another Kettle of Fish.

• **BOB GASH** from Balikpapan writes to **Bernie Reiners** at Corryong telling him of the opportunity to fly to Balikpapan from Djakarta with his firm and took the chance. **Bob** had a good look around, visited the War Cemetery, looked up a few names, **Roy Smithers** for one. **Bob** is living in Thailand for the present and quotes that if he ever makes Corryong, he will call in.

• **CLAUDE VORBACH**, Terrey Hills sends a cheque to the treasurer and quotes that he has acquired further duties. **Claude** has been appointed Hon. Sec. of the Senior Citizens club at Terrey Hills, which helps to keep him out of mischief. Has not been able to attend the March of recent years, gets short of breath, but reckons we look pretty good on T.V. what you see of it. **Claude** also saw **Three Course** a bit earlier, but has not seen him lately, would be a bit difficult mate, **Kelly** has been out in the Simpson Desert chasing goannas.

• **FRANK CHEAL**, Armidale, with a cheque to the treasurer and a thank you to **Peg** for his arrangements for Wagga, treasurer accepts the sub with pleasure **Frank**, and we know you

enjoyed yourself at Wagga.

• **JOE WHITE**, Armadale, Vic., sends a sub and the news that he had a note from **Nev O'Connor** to say that **Nev's** wife was very ill and would not be at Wagga, bad luck for **Neville**, as he has just had a successful heart operations and was looking forward to same.

• **VINCE LONGMORE**, Campbelltown with his first letter to the Association, although has been to many Anzac Day functions, was not able to attend the Wagga show because of serious illness concerning wife. An apology was spoken for **Vince** at Wagga and he had a special mention for all Don. Coy and Signallers Platoon 2/2. **Vince** has five children, 4 girls, 1 boy, all married with 10 grandchildren and another one due in October. Lived in Nyngan for many years, as a cleaner and a fireman on the railway, and retired as an electric train driver last year after a total of 33 years on the safe way. **Vince** expresses thanks for the Pioneer News, cannot remember ever missing one, a good record for us, and closes with a reminiscence of going A.W.L. at Christmas in Perth and copping 14 days C.B. for his trouble, and hopes that Wagga was not a lost weekend, not weekend mate, four or five days.

• **CLAUDE DENSMORE** Wallsend, sends a cheque to the treasurer with the news that they are both over the 80 years mark, so don't get around much,

• **COL MARRIOTT**, Caboolture (Qld) writes from the land of Joh that he retired up that way some two years ago, from Victoria, and up to date, has enjoyed his move very much. Has made a trip over the Tablelands and visited the camps or what was left of them. **Col** had every intention of being at Wagga but health took the wrong turn and he is a patient at Greenslopes in Brisbane. He will be receiving treatment for some time so all we can do is wish you well **Col**, keep the chin up and fighting.

• **SAM COLES**, Chadstone writes with a cheque to the treasurer, and to tell us that the name was spelt incorrectly, this has been rectified on the file so you should be happy with your result, **Sam** was one of the officers that arrived at Wagga with the first contingent, and is looking forward to seeing old faces again. Well **Sam** I don't remember actually meeting you, but I do hope you enjoyed yourself, and that the reunion reached the expectations that you anticipated.

• **PHIL BARNETT**, Lismore sends a cheque to the treasurer, an apology for the delay, but **Phil** and wife have been wandering around Queensland for a few months, what a wonderful way to fill in a few quiet months. **Phil** has also received a letter from **Joe White**, telling of **Joe's** illness, imagines that **Heather** would have had a few troubles restraining **Joe**. We have never met **Heather**, but I'll bet you know how to restrain him when it's necessary, I haven't met a wife yet that can't do that when needed. Thanks for the letter **Phil**, and we hope you had a good trip up North.

• **JOE KYFFIN**, Reservoir, Vic., sends a short thank you note for the Pioneer News, **Joe** another old member that did not know that the Association existed, enclosed a cheque to the treasurer and quoted the last time he saw **Bob Lake** was at the Pacific Hotel in Manly, that was a long while ago **Joe**, as we gave up going there about 1948, however we met again in Wagga a fortnight ago, and it was worth every minute, even if you do have a funny way of doing your hair. That's jealousy **Joe**, mainly because I have not got any to speak of anyway.

• **BERT GOWERS**, of Rosebud original 2/2 Warrant Officer writes to **Peg Herron** expressing his thanks for the help she has given him with relation to Pioneer News and the Wagga show. **Bert** after a spell in Heidelberg Hospital received a pretty good report from the Doctor but felt that

Wagga might be a little too strong for him at this time, but now that he has made contact, he will continue to keep same. Some of the names spread throughout the paper brought back many memories some he had not heard nor seen for many years. **Bert** closed with best wishes to all, a successful Wagga, and a cheque to the treasurer to keep things flowing along.

• **JACK SPENCE** per pen of wife **Muriel** writes from Wingham to say that the old chap is still getting along OK, after their coldest winter for many years. **Jack** attended the Rats reunion at Newcastle, daughter **Margaret** supplied the transport for this outing and he enjoyed himself up to the hilt at the turnout. He still keeps himself busy with his garden but with the came old catch they need some rain. I'd say since you wrote this letter **Muriel** that, that wish would have been granted, because there has been quite a lot of rain on the North Coast. Keep up the good work, and treasurer has your donation where it does most good.

• **NORMAN JONES**, Coburg, writes expressing his thanks for the back issues of Pioneer News, **Norm**, another of the blokes that did not know the Association existed in N.S.W. but will continue to keep the knowledge up to date in the future **Norm** intends visiting Wagga so we should have made your acquaintance by now.

• **MRS. NORMA DARRAGH** writes expressing her thanks for the kind wishes on the death of her husband, the executives of the 2/2, Victoria were very thoughtful and the service was what was expected. With the passing of **Bob Austin** within weeks of **Norma's** husband **Jim**, there is a lot of sorrow in that little corner of the world at the moment.

• **JACK COATES**, Umina, with a letter to the Association with his intention of subscribing an extra book at Wagga in memory of **Clive Campbell** of B. Coy, who was the battalions first casualty in Libya, killed at Tobruk late January or early February 1941. Since the letter writer has since been with us all at Wagga some of his news is secondhand, however wife **Lex** is still working hard for the World Reunion 1983 as with a lot of others on the Central Coast. **Jack** and **Doug**, I think **Doug** must be son, or in-law, however they established a first at North Gosford private hospital. **Doug** playing football for Gosford a few weeks ago had his nose broken by his old team in the first ten minutes. Saw the game out and were in adjoining wards and the theatre area at the same time, **Jack** being up for another round of plumbing, while across the corridor, a young lady named Coates, no relation, also a patient at the time. The football is all over, am I glad that Wagga was not one week later, I would never have been able to take the pressure with that grand final result. Never mind **Jack**, Balmain did win the reserve grade and we, Manly, got the K.B. Cup so we split things pretty evenly don't you reckon?

• **CEC SLOGGETT**, Gunnedah with a note confirming his Wagga bookings with his own van and looking forward to seeing a lot of old new faces over that weekend. Well it's over now **Cec** and **May**, and I hope you enjoyed yourself as much as we did throughout the whole weekend, especially so with our caravan park contingent.

• **TOM McNAUGHTON**, Reservoir writes a thank you for accommodation arrangements to **Peg Herron**, and in answer to a query put by **Peg** makes reference to **Joe Kyffin** also of Reservoir who was in attendance at Wagga. Many thanks for your note and News will be posted each edition.

• **RAY HORNE** now cow cocky of Macksville writes of his attendance at Wagga and with a special message, a big cheerio to **Charlie Richardson** who was enquiring of **Ray** a couple of issues back. **Ray** sends his best regards **Charlie** and a letter to 26 Wall Street, Macksville would relate to many old and special memories.

• **FRANK HEPBURN** per pen of **Irene** enclosed a cheque for subs and a special thank you to **Monty** for his help and attention given to **Frank**, and when the final result of the enquiries are known, she will be in touch. **Frank** and **Irene** are residents of Bankstown so that news will not take too long to arrive, once decided.

• **CHARLES BALL**, Rosebud sends a cheque to the treasurer, and thanks to **Joe White** has been forwarded back issues of Pioneer News. **Charles** was all set to attend Wagga, but health reasons had forced him to cancel the trip. He asks to be excused but that his best wishes are extended to all with special mention of the Anti-Tank Platoon, and he would very much like to hear from any of you guys so get to it.

• **NEV WOODHAM**, Thornlands (Johs country) writes that things are still OK with the **Woodhams** up north although the weather has been very cold and plenty of sickness around the place, of which **Nev** has also been a recipient. When **Nev** and **Betty** travelled to Sydney for Anzac Day, they intended staying two weeks, however this stretched out to four with visits to the family. **Ian** son, had just moved into a new home on the mountains so had plenty of odd jobs to keep them going, clearing, sawing up the dead trees for firewood, helping to put in the driveway, lots of other odd jobs, one thing **Ian** did keep up the supply of "Tinnies". They made the return trip via Dubbo a few days with his brother and wife, played up a little bit then home through Moree and Goondiwindi. Both have been playing bowls and into the Pennants Team, reached the top to be beaten in the final by Everton Park. Bad luck **Nev**, but it means you had to be the second best team in the area so that is a little comfort. **Nev** also makes known that in the last issue of News the letter concerning the Brisbane Reunion the name **Harry Richardson** should have been **Harry Mowbray**, I don't know how you blokes done that, however **Harry Mowbray** it is, and **Harry** takes over as President of the Bowling Club in September, also sent a cheque to the treasurer for News letter, so we wont hold the presidents part against him.

• **DICK SEDDON** sends along apologies for not being able to attend the Wagga Reunion owing to his wife **Pearl** being in hospital. Apologies are accepted **Dick** and we join in with all other Pioneers in sending a get well message to **Pearl**.

Dick would like to thank all Pioneers who sent get well cards and letters to **Pearl**.

• **LEN WEYMAN** sent in a note per medium **Bill Jollie** to say he would like to be remembered to all his mates in the 2/1. Len was waiting to go into hospital. Many thanks **Len**, for your donation.

• **GORDON BELL** 2/2 of Tumbarumba and a new member writes to congratulate the Committee on the effort in organising the wonderful Wagga Reunion.

Also requests two Unit badges, which will be sent shortly by the Secretary. We did run out of badges at Wagga but we have ordered a new batch.

Thank you **Gordon** for your kind remarks.

• **PETER (Ken) PEILE**, A Coy 2/1, Caringbah has recently been made a T.P.I. due to the loss of sight in his left eye and only 20% sight in his right eye, but fortunately has a "seeing eye dog" in his wife, **Erika**.

Peter and **Erika** were sorry they were not able to go to Wagga. **Peter** is a very keen gardener and has high hopes for a good season with his roses as the younger son is getting married in January and **Peter** will be supplying the wedding flowers.

Thank you **Erika** for your letter and donation. Will pass on your regards to **Monty**.

• **MICK PUNTON**, H.Q. Coy 2/1, Padstow is a very busy person and works six days a week, so does not get time to attend our functions. His most relaxing moments are in reading the Pioneer News which he finds most interesting. **Mick** sends best

wishes to all his mates.

Thank you **Margaret** for your letter and generous donation. I think the Mail Bag would collapse if we did not have the support of all these ladies who write to us.

Well that concludes the Mail Bag for this issue, a good supply of mail and donations, both of which are necessary to keep the wheels turning. Before closing I would like to quote a few of my own impressions of the Wagga Show. First to **Max Herron** and his wife for the wonderful job they performed, congratulations, to **Max** with his ability to cover the details of the show, which allows everything to proceed so well, to **Vic** and **Peg Whiteley** for the handling of all the cash, seems that all I saw **Whiteleys** doing all the weekend was collecting or checking great amounts of cash. For those who may like to know, between Friday and Monday over \$6,000 passed through their hands. Again congratulations. To **Gordon Finlay** and **Olive**, **Bob** and **Jean Dixon**, and **George** and **Joyce Walker**, and **Jim** and **Kath Field** all workers over the full four days. Could not pass up the chance to mention all the Caravan Park crowd, what a great time we all had together. With too many names to mention the lot, let's just relate to **Joe** and **Mavis Blanch**, **Mavis** who nearly had the secretary arrested for trying to break into the wrong van, (lucky it was another one of our crowd) and **Joe** for his almost total disaster in the camp laundry. Reckons there's nothing to it now he has the hang of it and may start a complete laundry service back at Beaudesert.

On our visit to the passing out parade on the Monday, it was all very impressive and I reckon about the only thing I could have handled on that parade was the C.O.'s car, and that bloke that stood to open the door may have been taking a slight risk with me at the wheel. A special thank you to **Colonel W. McDonald** and his wife, and may their posting to the U.S.A. be successful also a thank you to **W.O. Boyle** who invited us to the Sgts. Mess after the parade. That clears me out, I could possibly relate to much more, but reporters are also covering the show, so will say all the best. A Happy and Healthy Christmas and New Year, and keep those letters coming along. So long for now

— **Lakey**

HOSPITAL VISITATIONS

FRANK ALLAN was visited at Concord Hospital and sought from me all the news about the Wagga Reunion. Frank was sorry he could not attend but was pleased to hear it was a successful venture.

ARTHUR LUDINGTON was also at Concord Hospital at the same time and was disappointed he had to cancel out of the Wagga Reunion.

With a lot of smooth talk with the Ward Sister I arranged to take Arthur in a wheel chair, (because of his infected foot, he couldn't walk) down to see Frank in his ward. A good old chin wag was had by all.

LES MITCHELL, H.Q. Coy 2/1 was receiving treatment at St. Vincents Hospital when I visited him, and was cheered by the visit. He sends regards to all his mates.

BOB McCLOSKEY, A Coy 2/1 was visited at a Convalescent Home at Harris Park and was pleased to hear my report on the Wagga Reunion.

Bob would like to see other Pioneers visit him — so if you can make it, the address is Glebe Street, Harris Park.

JOCK ARMOUR, H.Q. Coy 2/1 Bandmaster, was visited recently, and apart from leg trouble he is going along nicely and wishes to be remembered to all his mates.

— **H. MONTAGUE.**