

PIONEER NEWS

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

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QUEENSLAND REUNION 1982

Reported by MOLLIE-JEAN HUNT.

It was a good night but at one stage we were worried where we would sit all the people. John cleaned his plants out of the "sick bay" and was able to borrow tables and stools from work so it all worked out fine.

Attendance list as follows:

Harry Montague, Nev. Woodham, looking well and produced photos of his grandson to be admired, arrived late because of a Bowls match, but lost. Joe and Mavis Blanch, with Joe as noisy as ever. Bill Hoffman, just made it on the train with the strike. Toby Palin, from Maryborough and a regular attendee. George Brooks, who is always first to arrive. Harry and Jean Spreadborough who brought me some beautiful flowers as they had won the garden competition, so we had purple statis and white glads together. Bert Beasley, and Claire, a very nice friend, also one of the family. Phil and Mary Cramsie and it is Phil who acts as Chairman for the night. Fred and Nell Davenport was pleased to see Fred on the improve.

"Mac" and Letitia McKibbin, Leo and Mary Cornelius, for the first time, having moved up here from Victoria last year. Harry Mowbray. Mick and

Marion Anselmes, Pat and Nell Laughren with Pat reporting he had lost all his money the day before. Nell always assists me. Col. Marriott of Calbooture and Matt Greenhatch of Woody Point, both came together but did not know it was a mixed function, and will bring their wives next time.

Jack McIntyre, missed Wagga Reunion so came from Port Stephens. Bob McGregor (2/2nd) and wife from Leppington, Sydney, have now moved up here to Browns Plains. Mick and Joyce Reilly with Mick reporting he has to go into hospital shortly. Jim and Lil Hall — with Lil slimmed down but looks good. Jim as usual was in his element.

Apologies were received from Norm and Anne Goodchap, and Bob and Jean Dixon.

George and Joy Walker, Peg and Max Herron, Rocky and Thelma Watts and Mick Dodson were all booked on the train to leave Friday, but owing to a lightning strike by air-conditioner technicians the train was cancelled. However, they have all gone to the top of the list for this year.

See you all at the 1983 Brisbane Reunion.

WELFARE OFFICER'S NOTE:

On behalf of all who attended the Brisbane Reunion, as reported above I would like to sincerely thank Mollie and John Hunt for the wonderful evening they organised for us.

All arrangements were most successfully attended to and the catering was superb, so the evening was a glorious success.

Mollie and John, please accept our most sincere thanks and appreciation for making us all so welcome which makes us proud to be together in this mighty Association.

HARRY MONTAGUE.

VALE — HARRY KNUDSEN

It is with the utmost regret that I have to inform you of the very sad passing of HAROLD SAMUEL NIELSE KNUDSEN on November 1st at Community Hospital, Nowra.

Harry had not been a well man for quite some time prior to his death; and on the 19th October he underwent Surgery for the removal of kidney stones, which was completely successful. However Harry's condition gradually deteriorated and he died at 3.15 p.m. on Monday 1st November.

A full R.S.L. Service was held at the Milton Uniting Church with Padre Norman Symes officiating and Harry was cremated at the Lakeside Crematorium.

His family (a son, daughter-in-law) and his two daughters and son-in-law all deeply feel the sad loss. My own grief is almost unbearable; it's very hard to lose your husband, your best friend, together with your chief advisor and confidant — and this is what Harry was to me — all those things combined in one person.

Yours sincerely, (Mrs.) Marjorie Knudsen.

CAN YOU ASSIST?

GEORGE LESLIE WEBB NX 54555, enlisted on 25th June, 1940 and was posted to the 2/1 Pioneer Bn. He transferred on 26th February, 1943 to the R.A.N.V.R. He died about fifteen years ago and Legacy would like to contact anyone who knew him. If you can assist please contact the Secretary, M. Herron, 3 Enoggera Road, Beverly Hills 2209.

NEWS ITEMS

JOE OLLIFFE is still at the Wentworth Nursing Home, Frenchmans Road, Randwick, and would like to see any Pioneer passing by that way.

BOB McCLOSKEY is a patient at "Brentwood", Glebe Street, Harris Park, and would really enjoy a visit by a Pioneer.

BOB MCGREGOR has a stay at Concord recently and is now progressing favourably.

FRANK ALLAN is at the Greenwich Nursing Home, River Road, Greenwich and is as cheerful as ever and would appreciate a visit from any Pioneers. He is always eager to hear of the doings of the Association, of which he has always been so proud.

SID BOOTH has been travelling in the Northern Territory while residing in the far-north of Queensland. He is considering moving to Brisbane and if he does, will be a contender for the Hunt's Reunion in October.

Sid was enrolled as a new member and will in future receive the Pioneer News.

— HARRY MONTAGUE, Reporter.

1983 ANZAC FUNCTIONS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Sunday, 24th April at 3.30 p.m.

The meeting place is the Conference Room, City of Sydney R.S.L. Club, 569 George Street, Sydney at 3.30 p.m.

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 Sunday 24th April

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 Monday 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 Monday 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!

Doors will be open at 11.15 a.m. and draught beer will be on tap. Same 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. cost of Dinner \$2 per person.

JIM FIELD — Publicity Officer.

INFORMATION REQUIRED

HUGH WIGGINS 2/1 passed away in 1960 and his niece who came out to Australia from England in 1970 would like some photos of Hugh or any information about him. If anyone knew him, would they pass on the information to the Secretary.

THE CONTINUING STORY OF THE WAGGA REUNION 1982

TOAST TO THE ASSOCIATION – Reunion Dinner, Sat. 18th Sept.,

Response by Mr. Ted Hansen, President, 2/2 Pioneer Association, Victoria.

Colonel Williams, Colonel McDonald, Distinguished Guests, My Fellow Members, Ladies and Guests:

What an honour and privilege it is for me to be given the opportunity to go back over memory lane to reminisce over the years of the 2/1st and the 2/2nd Pioneer Battalions.

When I was asked to participate, I thought for a while and decided to make a few notes and refer to the dictionary in reference to the word 'Pioneer', which is as follows: 1) Trail Blazer (one who leads the way); 2) Settler Colonist; 3) Military Member of an advanced engineering unit; 4) One of an advanced call; 5) Prepare road for troops.

So you can see that the 2/1st and the 2/2nd have a lot in common and I am sure that those remarks from the dictionary fits us very well.

The 2/2nd Pioneer Battalion received the name very early as the Puckapunyal Caretakers and when finally movement orders were received for overseas service, was the start of the 2/1st and the 2/2nd being Sister Battalions. In the same convoy in April 1941, was a company of 2/1st Pioneers who were in transport to bring their parent Battalion up to strength after service in the Middle East.

On arriving in the Middle East, the 2/2nd went on their merry way and of course the 2/1st Pioneer Company went on their way to their parent Battalion, stationed in Tobruk.

It was not until after the Syrian campaign that the 2/2nd received movement orders to return to Hill 69, Palestine, arriving 0500 hours to none other than a very warm welcome by the 2/1st Pioneer Battalion who had just returned from service in Tobruk. During the next week or so there were many experiences swapped between the 2/1st and the 2/2nd Pioneer Battalions.

On the 30th January 1942, our Sister Battalion (2/1st), excelled themselves once again in preparing an excellent final meal for the 2/2nd, as in the evening we moved out and embarked for Java where 924 members of the 2/2nd Pioneers were taken Prisoners of War.

The members of the transport and baggage party from the Middle East proceeded back to Australia, where the 2/1st Pioneer Battalion rendered their helping hand to us once again in assisting with Officers, N.C.O.'s and other Ranks to bring the 2/2nd Pioneer Battalion up to strength and of course the close relationship and the bond of comradeship that was created through those dark days has gone on over the last forty years and will continue for many years to come.

MAYOR RECEPTION

Friday, 17th September

REPLY TO ALD. B. HEDDITCH

BY COLONEL JOHN WILLIAMS, OBE, ED.

Thank you for your kind words of welcome to myself and to our Committee.

The organisers of a function such as ours are usually on tenterhooks up to the time of the reunion, wondering if everything they have planned will turn out as anticipated.

Our committee need have no fear on that account as they have the Mayor and Aldermen of Wagga eager to do all they can to make our weekend a successful one.

The enthusiasm has been taken up by the people of Wagga including the staff and members of the 1st Recruit Training Bn, the executive of the Wagga RSL and staff of the Wagga High School. We are most grateful to you, Mr. Mayor, and the Wagga Aldermen, for your generosity in inviting us to attend your reception here today.

Not all organisations visiting Wagga can look forward to an invitation to attend a Mayoral Reception, and I am sure neither can the Mayor spare time or the finance to tender a Mayoral Reception for every organisation visiting Wagga; therefore we consider ourselves highly honoured to be invited to meet the Mayor under such delightful circumstances.

The 25 members of the 2/1 and 2/2 Pioneer Btns accompanying me here today individually thank you, Sir, for your kindness and for your participation in our 40th Anniversary Reunion. They, and all the other Pioneers attending the Reunion, are looking forward to a memorable weekend together with the members of both the 2/2 Pioneer Btns from Sydney and Melbourne, and also to revisiting the people and places they remember from 1942.

We are also grateful to our Reunion organisers for selecting Wagga as the venue for our 40th Anniversary Reunion.

PLAQUE UNVEILING, KAPOOKA

BY COLONEL J. WILLIAMS O.B.E., E.D.

LADIES and GENTLEMEN,

President, Ted Hansen, during his response last night gave the definition of a Pioneer as a 'trail blazer'.

Today as trail blazers we are leaving a footprint in the form of a plaque on the Commemoration Wall at Kapooka Camp.

We are also this weekend making history in having with us the two Patrons from each Association, the two Presidents, the two Secretaries, the two Treasurers, and the Executive and members from each Association.

This is the first time on record that the two Associations have joined in attending one Reunion.

What more fitting time and place could we have to unveil a Pioneer plaque.

The basis of all Army activities is tradition and with this plaque we hope to add more traditional history to the Kapooka Camp.

Our reformed 2/2nds were trained here and I hope the plaque will become an inspiration to all recruits training at Kapooka.

Whenever we revisit Kapooka Camp in the future we can proudly look at this plaque and REMEMBER those Pioneers who did not return with us.

Who else knows more about the lack of freedom than the members of the original 2/2nd Pioneer Battalion.

I, now with much humble humility and pleasure unveil this plaque in MEMORY OF ALL PIONEERS.



At the Wreath Laying Ceremony on Saturday 18th September. Left to right: Mr. J. Skeers, President Wagga R.S.L. Club; Colonel W. McDonald, Commandant, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, Kapooka; Alderman B. Hedditch, Mayor of Wagga; Mr. J. Dodson, President 2/1-2/2 Pioneer Bn. Association.



Wall of Remembrance, Kapooka Camp. Plaque on left has following inscription: "Presented by members of 2/1-2/2 Pioneer Btns Assoc. on the 40th Anniversary of the reformed 2/2 Pioneer Btn who occupied this campsite from July to October 1942." The warm welcome and farewell of the 1942 Mayor and citizens will always be remembered – 19th September 1982."



Hello Readers, the first issue for 1983 and let's hope that all members and their families enjoy a happy and healthy 1983.

• **BERT HUTTLEY** now of Bloomsbury Qld., writes that he is receiving his copies of the paper regularly, and so pleased to read of the doings within the Association. **Bert** had no luck with the Melbourne Cup, however his wife was a success ful picker, and his youngest son got 2nd prize at the R.S.L. sweep at Proserpine. Goes on to relate how at Trinity Beach in 1944 at the running of the Cup, the whole guard was in big trouble when not one person could be found on duty, the fact being that the Cup film was being shown on the camp theatre. Created quite a disturbance and resulted in quite a few problems for the office and NCOs in charge of the detail. **Bert** quotes that with the exception of the occasional attack of gout, his health has been pretty good, and he does see **VIC NORMAN** at Proserpine. Many thanks for the letter **Bert**, and Treasurer appreciates the subscription.

• **BILL HOFFMAN** of Kyogle with a letter telling of the demise of **JOE LEIS** at Casino in November 1982. The following members attended the Service at Lismore: **JIM HALL, JACK SHEARMAN, TED FELTON, JACK MARTIN, ALLAN BLACK, PETER BELL, TOBY HALE, BERT RAYNOR** and **RON CROSS**. **Bill** sent a card to **Joe's wife** on behalf of the Association and received one in return thanking those who attended the service and sent letters and cards.

• **TED AITKEN** of Burleigh Heads writes a 'thank-you' for the back copies of Pioneer News that he received and enclosed a subscription to ensure the future of the publication and his receipt of same. **Ted** also extends his regards to all members of the Association.

• **TOM SLEEMAN** now at Eastwood writes with intent of expressing good wishes to all for 1983. **Tom** attended Gladesville R.S.L. just prior to Xmas where he had the pleasure of the company of **GORDON WALSH** and **VINCE CHRISTENSON**. Also had a visit from **SNOWY JARDINE**, and while his health is holding out OK, he still has visits to Concord. **Tom** enclosed a cheque for subs. for the 1983 year of publication.

• **JOHN MCKNIGHT** of Dundas per pen of **Alice BYRNE** writes a 'thank you' to the Secretary and his wife for the accommodation arrangements at Wagga. **John** thought this reunion was definitely the best ever, and thought the tour of the army camp one of the many highlights of same. **Alice** writes that after Wagga they did a bit of a trip, first to Coolamon, then Moree, Toowoomba and on to the Gold Coast. Altogether a really good experience with good weather and good roads. Many thanks for your letter **Alice**, your thanks is much appreciated by all.

• **BRYAN SMALLHORN** of Armidale sends a very brief note with a cheque enclosed, "Trusting that this will keep him out of the red", and closing with best regards. One thing **Bryan**, I will not get writer's cramp passing on all your news! Many thanks for the subscription; Treasurer has same to deal with as necessary.

• **CHRISTIE & MAREA MacKAY** of Canada Bay send a 'thank you' for the wonderful reunion arranged at Wagga; it was their first attendance at one of our shows, they thoroughly enjoyed themselves and are looking forward to the next

get-together. Enclosed was a cheque to assist the Association and closed with best wishes to all.

• **JACK SPOTTISWOODE** now of Allambie Heights sends a sub. to the Treasurer and a 'thank you' for the warm welcome (per phone). **Jack** is very proud to be a member of the Association and enjoys the news and while expressing his thanks, hopes for its continued success. While I can't actually claim to recognise your name **Jack**, you live in my area so if you would like to call at the Manly Leagues some Saturday afternoon — I am nearly always there in or around the Billiard Room. I would be glad to renew your acquaintance. Approximately 4.00 till 6.30 p.m.

• **JACK COATES** ex-Balmain Tiger, and now a Woy Woy Wanderer, writes with a mention of the death of **LEX's mother**, who died while **Jack** was a patient at Gosford Hospital and quotes that he did not get to the funeral but that **JACK COLLIS** was of great assistance to them. **Jack** relates to Wagga and how the Vickery's looked after him so well. Also what a pleasure to see **HARRY SPREADBOROUGH** again after some 40 years. Also mentions a questionnaire issued by Reveille which he answered and also recommended the Reveille contact **Col. J. Williams** for his information regarding Java. According to **Jack**, this was the most information on the Java campaign ever released to date. Speaking of the Rats World Reunion at Gosford this year, the local branches have really worked hard for the success of this show, and **Jack** claims they will reach their money target with ease. **Jack** expects to see quite a few of our boys up at Gosford, or possibly at the Canberra unveiling the week after. The buses for that trip from Gosford are just about booked out. Can't write a letter without having sixpence-worth of my skin, can you **Coatsey!** Manly Millionaires indeed!! However, for the record, I think Wayne Pearce is safe at Tiger country this year. I would not like to comment on 1984 as yet; will keep my options open on that. **Jack** enclosed a bribe for the Treasurer just to say "up the Tigers" and also some stamps for **Peg Herron**. There is no doubt, that **Peg Herron** stamp collection has got some voluntary staff attached to it. Many thanks for the letter **Jack** and the good wishes for the 'Eagles'. Hope to see you sometime in April for sure, and the same for **Lexie** of course.

• **RON CROSS** of Ballina, sends a short note enclosing a cheque for subs. and a list of the chaps that attended the funeral of **JOE LEIS**. Their names are published elsewhere in this column in a letter from **BILL HOFFMAN** so will not repeat. Many thanks **Ron** for the effort; too much news is always better than not enough.

• **ALLAN TREGENZA** of Preston Victoria, sends a sub. to the Treasurer and remarks on the wonder of Wagga. **Allan** and **Evelyn's** first reunion and he claims it as a milestone in his life. Also mentions that it would be something if we could repeat the dose for the 50th year. Personally **Allan**, I think we might squeeze another one in before that! **Allan** has also requested a copy of the photos taken at the Caravan Park where the whole crowd were sitting on the gutter. **Max** has noted this request, and I know **Bob Dixon** took some, so did **Olive Finlay** — so we should get some results from this. **Max** has also been in touch with **Allan** by letter, so will not comment on that. Thank you for your notes, and have a good 1983.

• **JOHN TAYLOR** of Quirindi, per pen of wife **Heather** writes with a sub. from **John** for the Treasurer and makes excuses that he does get behind in his correspondence but his intentions are good through **Heather**. Tells us that **John** has retired from business, is very well, but putting on a little too much weight. **Heather** claims that this is a natural hazard at his time of life. I am more inclined to think that its just a really good paddock he has gotten himself int... Just reduce the calories a little and a little less morning and afternoon tea could fix the problem. Remember there are quite a lot of us finding the same results over these last few years. Many thanks for your news **Heather** and a pleasant retirement to you both.

• **CLARRIE PAKES** of Marrickville, sends a cheque to the treasurer and comments how pleased he was to attend last Anzac Day. Could be smart and say "I told you so" **Clarrie**. Expresses thanks to the committee and the caterers, also the ladies for a really wonderful day. Well mate, don't let it stop there; just keep in mind that April again is not so far away.

• **BILL BURGER** sends a cheque to the Treasurer from Emerald Qld., and quotes that the weather is still not doing the banana state any good and that they are on water restrictions in their district. **Bill** is hoping to go to Coolangatta late December to attend his only daughter's wedding. Youngest son **John** is away with the army doing a Sgt's course and word is that he has passed that course with flying colours. **Bill** closes with best wishes to all and a healthy 1983.

• **JACK COLLIS** our Umina correspondent writes that the local front is surviving. **BRICKY WALL** has been sick again but is on the improve. **HARRY HUTCHINSON** apart from a couple of set backs is going along OK. **BLUEY MILLER** has not been sighted for a spell but is still playing golf, so **Jack** says, so must be OK. **Jack** could not close without his usual shot about my football team. However, I have very broad shoulders and while we do purchase a few players, you must also realise that a lot of them also just turn up to play with a good team. Gotcha! **Jack** also reports the death of **BILL MACE**. The funeral was private so **Jack** sent a card on the Association's behalf.

• **PAT NOONAN** of Bellevue Hill writes that they had a wonderful time at Wagga; was more than pleased with the accommodation, the lodgings were tops and so were the rest of the crowd booked there. **Pat** has also enclosed some photos taken at Wagga which he said may be of some use to the News. Has also had **PHIL** and **MARY CRAMSIE** down in Sydney and was looking forward to getting a same of golf with them before he returns to the North.

• **TOM MCGUINNESS** with a new address at Tanilba Bay on the lovely Port Stephens; retirement great; area nice and quiet, with plenty of gardening, fishing and bowls. **Tom** enclosed a cheque for the Treasurer and quoted he had been in touch with **JACK BERTRAM** by phone.

• **JOE ROBERTSON** of Findon, S.A. writes and says he looks forward to the arrival of the Pioneer News. Sends best wishes for the new year to all members.

He will have completed in the National Bowling Championship in Adelaide by now so hope you enjoyed yourself Joe and many thanks for the donation.

MÁIL BAG – Continued

- **MRS. BONNIE SNUDDEN** wishes to express her thanks to **PHIL BAWDEN** of Leongatha, Vic., for making it possible for her to meet **ALAN** and **CONNIE STEFF** of Coleraine. **Alan** was a good mate of **Bonnie's** husband **CECIL** and over an enjoyable afternoon tea served by **Connie** was able to fill for **Alan** the blank years since they were discharged – so many years ago.
- **BOB TAYLOR** of Jamberoo sends his regards to all Pioneers, wishes all the compliments of the season and enclosed a cheque for the Treasurer, all on one page of a note book, so with no-news, would have to surmise that **Bob** would be enjoying his usual good health.
- **ERIC REYNOLDS** and wife **JOYCE** of Macksville sends a sub. for the Treasurer, and claims he got on **Vic's** back for not going to a night-out in Paris while they were there. **Eric** had a great time, front seats and plenty of girls, "Should be ashamed of yourself". **Eric** and **Joyce** have had daughter **Allison** and grandchildren for a couple of weeks but they have now returned to Victoria. They have had good rain at Macksville so his gardens are producing the usual good crops of vegetables. Had a report of the Wagga reunion from **RAY HORNE**, who is now also a resident of the town of Macksville. **Eric** closes with best wishes to all, and a special mention to **Max** and **Peg Herron**.
- **HARRY SPREADBOROUGH** of Alexandria Hills Qld., writes of the mix-up with badges. However that has all been cleared up and **Harry** had a really good time at Wagga. He met so many that he honestly did not think he would see again, and also that wife **Jean** also had an enjoyable time, meeting people that until Wagga were only names and perhaps a snapshot. **Harry** and **Jean** also attended Brisbane with **JOHN & MOLLIE HUNT**, and this was just a continuation of Wagga, but numbers were down owing to the rail strike at that time. **John** and **Mollie** gave top attention to all who attended. Both **Harry** and **Jean** have hopes to contacting **GORDON WALSH** at Evans Head later on this year. I'd imagine that that could lead to a popular session or two. **Harry** closes with best wishes to all and we look forward to repeating our renewals of acquaintanceships in the years to come.
- **PETER PRIEST** per pen of wife **DOROTHY** writes with the news of their retirement and of their change of address. After so long at Proserpine, with retirement they have decided to reside at Gympie. **Peter** and **Dot** may get to Sydney for Anzac Day 1983. However, if you do not make that **Peter**, don't forget that there is always a Brisbane Reunion about the end of October. This will be published in later issues of Pioneer News. Unfortunately, we have no knowledge of Pioneers in the town of Gympie, so can't help that way, but knowing **Peter** should not imagine that it would take too long for him to become known to the locals. Closes with best wishes to all and also enclosed a cheque for the Treasurer.
- **HARRY HUKERTON** of Scarborough Qld. per pen of wife **MAY**, thanks the Association for the Pioneer News arranged by **John Hunt**. **Harry** possibly better known as "Snow" was pleased to receive same found a few names that he remembered. **Harry** and **Mary** also discovered that they live in the next street to **FRED** and **NELL DAVENPORT** so intend to make themselves known over the next couple of weeks. **Harry** has a few ailments healthwise, but still manages to keep a stiff upper lip and enclosed a cheque for the Treasurer to ensure further copies of the paper.
- **CHARLIE KERR** of Maryborough Qld. writes of his lack of correspondence over the last few years, but apologises for same and tells that he has now retired, filling in his time with bowls and a bit of fishing, plus helping out with the local meals on

wheels. Son **Fraser**, now married resides at Gladstone, has had a trip to Europe and earned a B.P. Award for which a proud Mum & Dad travelled to Government House for the presentation. **Max Herron** is still a Scouter, and was thrilled to know of **Fraser's** award. Daughter **Cathie**, a trained nurse, had a trip overseas, returned to a job in Western Australia, married a local from the West, have returned to Qld., and hope to build a home at Gatton. **Charlie** sees **TOBY PALIN** occasionally, he is still working as a foreman shunter on the railways; also had a letter from **MRS. THIRLING**, informing that **OSSIE** had passed away in October. **Charles** closes with best regards to all, especially the Signals Platoon and so glad to read about **KEITH REYNOLDS**, often used to wonder what **Keith** was doing, and then his name appeared in the news. Also enclosed a cheque for the Treasurer to keep him square.

• **NORM BUCKPITT** of Greenacre sends a short note of kindest regards to all and a money order for the Treasurer, with no other information about his doings. Can only say thank you for the subs. and keep sober.

• **JOHN DOWD** of Wagga Wagga writes to inform the Secretary he has moved from Sylvania to Wagga. **John** was at the last Anzac Day Reunion but due to the sale of his house going through, he was unable to make the Wagga Reunion. You certainly missed a great week-end, **John**.

John's wife **Daph** was an old identity of Wagga before their marriage in 1946, so it is like coming home. They live just behind the Wagga Leagues Club with only 300 yards to walk, which is very good these days.

John sends regards to all Pioneers, who mostly would be retired now, like himself. He will be contacting **Jack Morgan** in the near future and hopes to see **Gordon Bell** from Tumbarumba when he comes to Wagga next. Thanks for the donation **John**.

• **CLIVE HARRIS** with a change of address to Aberdeen and the news that **Betty** has been in hospital for some time since Xmas, but is home again and improving each day.

They had moved from Parkes just before Xmas and had a fairly hectic time trying to get settled in.

They send regards to all Pioneers and hopefully will be down for Anzac Day.

This disposes all of the letters received for this issue, so will close with a big cheerio and a 'get well' to **BOB MCGREGOR**. **Bob** has had quite a few problems health-wise over the last few years, and latest reports received was that he was in hospital again with a further operation which has been completed and quoted as 'condition favourable'. We all wish you well **Bob**, and sincerely hope that the year 1983 shows you and **Joyce** a lot more success than previously.

The silly season of football is on us again, so will not become involved with any statements regarding same. Just say "up the Eagles" and bad luck to those following behind. Good health to all and everyone, and looking forward to a good roll call at Redfern in April 1983. See you there??

So long for now, **Lakey**.

VALE – FRANK ALLAN

FRANK ALLAN passed away whilst in a Private Hospital on 27th February, 1983. Privately Cremated. Our sympathies are extended to his family.

SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE

With your subscription send news of your family and happenings. Letters must contain surname, christain name, Coy., Battalion, and present address. When forwarding a new address please include your old address.

LAST POST

NIGEL NORRIS 2/1 passed away in late 1982 and the funeral was attended by Gordon Osborn, John Gilchrist and Harry Montague. Deep regret and sorrow was expressed to Mrs. Norris and family who appreciated the representation from the Association.

HARRY ELLIS 2/1 of War Veterans Home, Narra-been passed away recently and the funeral was attended by Bill Robertson and Harry Montague, with Matt Hession as a representative from the Rats of Tobruk Association.

Deepest sympathy was extended to the relatives.

GEORGE "SPEED" GORDON 2/2 passed away recently and at the funeral the Association was represented by Ray Harris, Jim Field, Bob Dixon, Bill Barnes, Sid Booth, Fred Bellingham, "Butch" Ballard and Harry Montague.

It was indeed a fitting tribute to see all seats in the Chapel occupied by many of his friends.

Following the religious proceedings the Padre called on our member, Bob Dixon to address the assembly on behalf of the Association. The R.S.L. recited the "Ode to the Fallen".

At the graveside a Scottish Piper played the Lament.

Sincere sympathy was extended to Mrs. Gordon and she was most grateful for the assistance accorded her by Ray Harris and was appreciative of the large attendance of Pioneers.

— Reported by **HARRY MONTAGUE**

VALE – JOHN BEDE CAUGHEY

Legatee **John Bede Caughey** of Mudgee Legacy Group died on 5th October, 1982 after an extended period of ill health, at the age of 62 years.

Jack served in World War II with 2/1 Pioneer Battalion AIF and, on discharge, commenced working for the Post Office but his health caused his retirement about four years ago.

He became a member of Legacy in 1958 and proved to be a conscientious and capable advisor, taking a particular interest in the children under his care. He served as Honorary Treasurer of the Group from 1964 to 1969 and was a valued member of our Legacy Golf Day Committee for many years. In recent years he was not able to take such an active part in our activities and was transferred to the Reserve; however, he continued taking part in Legacy, particularly in organising Christmas parcels and hampers for all families in our Mudgee area.

He is survived by his wife, **Bernie**, to whom we extend our deepest sympathy.

LEST WE FORGET – By Courtesy of Legacy.

ASSOCIATION BADGES

At the Wagga Reunion numerous members approached the Treasurer for an Association Badge only to be told stocks had run out. On return, the Treasurer ordered more badges which are now to hand.

Anyone desirous of purchasing a badge may send \$2.50 for same which covers postage.

Contact:

Mr. Herron, Hon Sec.,
2/1, 2/2 Pioneer BNS Assoc.,
3 Enoggera Rd., Beverly Hills NSW 2209.

PIONEER NEWS

Phone: 759-5491

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Editors: R. LAKE & M. HERRON

President: J. (Mick) DODSON

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JUNE, 1983

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ANZAC DAY WITH THE 2/1 — 2/2

2/1 ANZAC DAY MARCH

At the assembly point in Phillip Street, Bill Jollie, our Marshal, formed up eighty members behind the Bankstown Police Boys Club Band.

The march started off to the tune of Colonel Bogey, with the banner very proudly carried by Corporal Tim Lloyd, son of the late Jack Lloyd. Our Leader was Colonel Gordon Osborn with President Jack in front of the troops.

At the completion of the march at Hyde Park it was great to indulge in that cup of tea with the Red Cross. Vera Hamilton, our adopted nursing sister was there once again to say hullo to all her boys.

This completed the Association's sacred ritual of "WE WILL REMEMBER THEM"

— HARRY MONTAGUE, Reporter.

2/2 ANZAC DAY MARCH

The weather had been threatening, and for awhile looked as though we might have a wet march, but we won out — it was fine. Once again, or I could say as usual, Jim Field, Reg Armstrong and myself, took station in Phillip Street.

The banner was erected, the receipt book readied, the money bag opened ready for the "moola", and Jim Field commenced his ceaseless prawl for photos. The stage was set, all we required was the actors.

In true Pioneer fashion they emerged in ones, twos and threes. Hands were shaken — backs were slapped — faces remembered — names

forgotten, especially by yours truly. The tempo of good feeling and comradeship was very high and the old "remember so and so?" — and "remember when we were at?" was in full swing — when into the arena as it were, stepped a certain gentleman, toting a beaut carton of nifty little bottles of chug-a-long wine, just sufficient to spark the step a little — you did a mighty job Ivor Balmain, many thanks.

The number line up was good, about 38 all told, which would be about our average. Regrettably we missed some of our usuals — Charlie Firth, "the germ", Jimmy Muir, Jack Crouch, Arch Stanton, "the old McTaggart", Bob Lee, George Paracos, and of course Bill Nicholls.

However we cannot tell old Father Time who can and who cannot come, so we just accept. The Banner was carried by Pat Egan, and Bill Robertson and Allan McInnes led the boys in the march.

I could not march this year due to a crook leg, but I had a first class runner — Ray "Spag" Harris to give me the low down on anything undue or unusual during the march proper. I watched both Pioneer Units march in at Hyde Park, and I must say it was indeed stirring to see. I know that you were seen by the "girls" at Walton's corner of George and Park Streets. Ray said there was nothing out of the ordinary occurred during the march, beyond the usual stops and starts. So for another year it was a good show, one in which we can be proud — cheerio to you all hoping to see you next year better than ever.

— BOB DIXON, Reporter.

HARRINGTON HOLIDAY

As there was no organised Reunion by the country members for the Association in 1983, members who in the past have gathered at the Caravan Parks, decided while at Wagga last year, to go away together in 1983 and have a relaxing holiday.

There is to be nothing organised as has been at the four past Country Reunions (which have all been held with a purpose) just a relaxing get-together at the Harrington Camping Reserve, Crowdy Road.

This was announced at the March Committee Meeting and the Annual Meeting by Bob Dixon, Soc. Secretary, who cordially invited any member to attend as long as they arranged their own accommodation. Further particulars from Peg Herron.

Date: Tuesday 20th to Monday 26th, September, 1983. Place: Harrington, leave Pacific Highway 21 km north of Taree.

CAN YOU ASSIST?

Ken Ashton, ex H.Q. Coy 2/2 Pioneers at the end of the war lived at Glebe Point, Sydney.

His whereabouts are now being sought by Mel Naylor (2/2) so if you know anything about Ken Ashton would you please contact the Secretary, M. Herron, 3 Enoggera Road, Beverly Hills 2209.

THE BRISBANE REUNION

Saturday, 29th October, 1983 at 4 p.m.

JOHN and MOLLIE HUNT's residence
4/25 MOUNTFORD ROAD, NEW FARM, QLD.

LETTER TO THE EDITORS

Dear Sirs,

My wife and I wish to thank you and the Association, which you represent, for the attendance of Mr. Harry Montague at the funeral service today of my wife's father, Fergus Dick Robertson.

Mr. Montague spoke briefly about some of my late father-in-law's army career, including both World Wars — this was an aspect of his life that was unknown even to his close relatives.

Mr. Montague's contribution greatly enhanced the significance of the Service and many of those at the Service complimented Mr. Montague at its conclusion.

We are most impressed at the continuing care and attention your Association gives to your members.

— A. HOBBS (Signed)

LAST POST by HARRY MONTAGUE.

GERRY COLLINS, B Coy 2/1 passed away in April and the funeral was attended by Vic Whiteley who tendered our respects to his widow and family.

BILL STEERS, A. Coy, 2/1st passed away recently and was a member who joined us at Greta 1940. Having served in the Army in the First World War he certainly was a valued friend to the new recruits.

FERGUS ROBERTSON passed away in April and I represented the Association at the funeral.

"Robby" as he was well known, was H.Q. Coy, Quartermaster at Greta in 1940 and was held in high esteem right throughout the unit.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Association's Anzac arrangements commenced with the Annual General Meeting at the City of Sydney R.S.L. at 3.30 p.m. and it was pleasing to see an attendance of forty members.

In opening the meeting the President welcomed all those members who had travelled from interstate and in particular he mentioned Charlie Kerr, Maryborough, Qld., and Joe Kyffin of Reservoir, Vic.

Secretary Max read the minutes and correspondence, Treasurer Vic presented his Balance Sheet. Social Secretary Bob gave a report on the Anzac Day activities and President Jack gave his report on the year's progress. Welfare Officer Harry gave his report on hospital visiting, attending funerals and assisting widows and their families.

The Balance Sheet of all accounts was presented and adopted. These had been audited by Mr. A. Watson, A.A.S.A. and copies forwarded to The Department of Services.

Bill Robertson was the Returning Officer for the Election of Office Bearers.

At the conclusion the President thanked members for their interest and attendance and closed the meeting at 5.15 p.m.

WREATH LAYING CEREMONY

In keeping with our ritual of remembrance thirty five members paraded in Hunter Street to pay homage to our fallen comrades.

Bill Jollie was the marshal and formed the members up in marching order. The 2/1st Banner was carried by Joe Kyffin while the 2/2nd Banner was carried by Pat Egan.

At the Cenotaph the President recited the Ode to the Fallen. Joyce Walker placed a wreath from the Ladies Auxilliary and Bill Robertson placed a wreath from the Association.

Our bugler, Aub Brasier then sounded "Last Post" and "Reveille" which was very stirring for such a solemn occasion. We are most grateful to Aub Brasier for his fine rendition on the bugle.

— HARRY MONTAGUE, Reporter

GET-TOGETHER FOR THE FOUR PIONEER BATTALIONS

Several Pioneers in Wagga thought it would be a good idea to have a "Get-together" to include the four Pioneer Units and their ladies.

They organised a meeting and this was attended by members of the 2/1, 2/2, 2/3 and 2/4 Pioneers, and as a result a booking has been made for the "Pacific Lounge", Wagga R.S.L. on Saturday, 10th September 1983 at 7.30 p.m. The cost will be approximately \$10 per head. A Kapooka barbecue could be arranged if people attending would let the organisers know they would be interested. This would be \$5 per head.

In order to confirm numbers to the R.S.L., the organisers would require names of members attending by 12th August, 1983.

Those wishing to attend would have to arrange their own accommodation, but any of the following could assist with a list of motels.

Jack Morgan, 282 Lake Road, Wagga, phone 22 6577. Dudley Staniforth, 23 Main Street, Lake Albert, phone 22 5575. Ken Knight, 11 Warrawong Street, Wagga, phone 21 3529.

— JIM FIELD, Publicity Officer

REUNION DINNER WITH 2/1 – 2/2

Apart from the usual "small" gatherings at the Rugby League Club just prior to the march on Monday 25th, (by the way did anyone notice a few of our members catching up in King St., after missing the start in Phillip Street???) There was at least one other "starter" after the march. Bill Tasker took Frank Gillian to task claiming Frank owed Bill a beer from last year. When a group of some six followers crossed the road at Elizabeth Street they found that they were already running second. Just can't beat the Newcastle Flyer(s)! But back to Redfern.

What a great crowd once again and as seems to be regular practice, we always attract some newcomers – or people who have not attended for quite awhile.

For instance Joe Kyffin, who now lives in Melbourne. Joe was made very welcome and we believe he really enjoyed himself. Another "newcomer" (first time in 14 years so he told me) was Ron Irwin. Not satisfied with World War II medals, Ron was proudly wearing his Korean Service medals. Had an extra six years from about 1947. Come again Ron.

It was good to see Bluey Walsh, son Tom and son-in-law Steve, although it is hard to believe that Dad was once called "Blue", there can be no doubt that Tom will be called "Blue" for a long time to come. Did you see that flaming red hair?

On a table just inside the door, there was a mini get-together going on, with three former members of the 2/1st. Battalion band, namely:— Bill McCarter, Eric Hawkins and Ivor Garner. On the same table I met up with old mate Jackie Lammerton who spent more time in the army before going into the Department of the Army. Jack is soon looking forward to retiring.

Of course no reunion would be complete without one of the "B" Company (and noisy) tables:— Frank Gillian, Mick Dwyer, Brian Kybert, Jim Grey, Jackie Coates and Jumma Hall to name a few and not forgetting Charlie Schmidt.

Don Barraclough produced a Jap flag with his platoon signatures, headed by Tom Blamey and Vic Donald – quite a lot of names of old mates. Nearby was Len Weyman who is still having a lot of trouble with a leg problem and a replacement hip.

Casey Brown was supposed to be table nominee for food, but, I am told he spent so much time talking – someone else had to get the food for the starving mates on the table.

It was great seeing Arthur Ludington out from Concord Repat. on a day's leave. Arthur was on our table and spent a lot of time with Beau Hannaford, George Nichols and the boys.

I was particularly pleased to be able to include my son Craig in that group. He was 21 on Anzac Eve and came down to see what goes on at Redfern. It is always good to see the sons of association members come along and show so much interest in our re-unions.

We are always pleased to see our regular group of officers who support us every year. At the "top end" led by Colonel Gordon Osborn were John Gilchrist, Steve Clarke, Bill Jollie, Gordon Finlay, Bill Robertson, Harry Huggard, George Nichols and Allan McInnes.

Our Queensland reunion organiser John Hunt gave details of the Brisbane October show, which will be published in the Pioneer News. John came down on his own this trip leaving Mollie at home. John retired on Tuesday 26th.

Cec Peake was prominent around the tables. His beard threw a few of his old friends. Alby Brown was enjoying himself moving around, as were Ted Jensen, Jack Claypole, Jack Collis, Pat Noonan, Snowy Jardine, Dick Seddon and his (almost) twin Jack (Glido) Griffiths came down from Newcastle in style this trip, but can't tell you about it as it

might make "headlines" if it got out. Jack's toast to the Association was a highlight of the official part of our reunion.

For all our members who attended "Redfern" this year, we hope you enjoyed it as much as ever – it seemed to me that as always, our hard working organising committee deserve the grateful thanks of each and everyone of us.

The Raffle drawn at the reunion saw 1st prize of a table-cloth go to Brian Neiberding and 2nd prize of 1 doz beer go to Ron Irwin. Many thanks to Bob Gale for his donation of the lovely table-cloth.

Reg Armstrong is helping me out with the news of the 2/2nd's and I, of course, am trying to fill in for Larry Robson who was unable to be with us at Redfern.

— Reported by MAX LAW

2/2 ANZAC NOTES

Allan McInnes was finding the work hard going getting a word in but seemed to be thriving on the mixture.

Bill Robertson doing his best to keep Don Coy in order Clemm "I am innocent" McDonald was seen with Nev O'Connor and Wal Westren as well as Matt Elliott and "Santa" Klaus. Lively lad is our "Santa".

Ray "Spag" Harris was at the next table and seemed to be enjoying the show and with "Spag" was Bill Henry, with report that brother Charlie was not enjoying the best of health. Hope your health comes good shortly Charlie.

Mick Egan not looking any older than last year and Bert Beasley on his annual pilgrimage. These two are steady attenders and always seem to find seats together.

"Bluey" Locane was seen swapping yarns (or otherwise) with Tom Woods and "Apples" McKay.

George Nicholls was well looked after by son-in-law Les Scruse, for the third successive year. Les is a Vietnam veteran.

Kev Achurch, Bob "Safe" Ginnane and Bruce Metcalf helped to keep the ball rolling at Don Coy table – may their shadows never grow smaller.

Gavin Todd was a very welcome person at "C" Coy table as it is a long while since we saw Gavin.

The late Charlie Stanley was represented by his son Charlie and grandson Charlie. Both were welcome at the march and Reunion.

Butch Ballard and John "Silent" Knight were looking good as new – I hope they let me know one day how they do it.

Pat Collins, Brian Neiberding and Jack Henderson were sitting at the same table and swapping tall stories.

Arthur Stafford was seen at the march and also on his way to the Reunion but I did not see him with the usual crowd.

Bob Dixon did a good job as master of Ceremonies at the Dinner – thanks Bob.

— Reported by REG ARMSTRONG

VALE – PEARL SEDDON

It was with deep regret that we learnt of the passing away of Pearl, beloved wife of Dick Seddon, early this year.

Pearl had been sick for some time, but when the end came as suddenly as it did, we know it would have been a great shock to Dick and his son and daughter.

To Dick and family we extend our sincere sympathy and can only say Pearl will be greatly missed not only by her family but by all Pioneers.

Pearl was a regular attender at all the Country Reunions and only missed the Wagga Reunion because she was in hospital at the time.

Pearl's ashes were laid to rest in the Memorial Rose Garden at St. Peter's Church and although the service was short, only the family being present, the Padre was very sincere in saying Pearl was finally laid to Rest in Peace.

MAIL BAG

Editor: BOB LAKE

A further issue of the paper, another successful Anzac Day March and Reunion, and a wonderful response with mail received from the members.

• **HEATHER WIGGINS** with a thank you to the Secretary for the information passed along with regard to her uncle, and a special thanks to **JACK CLARKE** who did help her so much.

• **ERN LUNN** and **NOEL HIBBARD**, both sent a sub. to the Treasurer with no note whatever in the envelope; the blokes won't get tired reading about both your doings! Subscription passed along to Treasurer.

• **JOE KYFFIN** a note telling of his attendance on Anzac Day. **Joe** and wife **Maida** duly arrived, his first attendance since about 1948. On the Sunday evening **Joe** was elected to carry the banner to the Wreath Laying, and as he told me after, the proudest moment of his life – even if it almost bugged him to do it.

• **BOB HANNON (Lofty)** per pen of wife **Mabel** with a subscription for the Treasurer and the bad news that **Lofty** has to report to Heidelberg Hospital for a check up in April and so will not be in attendance on Anzac Day. Many thanks for the letter **Mabel** and we hope the old bloke gets a clean bill of health at the check out.

• **TED SHEPLEY**, Leeton, sends a cheque to the Treasurer for printing and postage. **Ted** is not a Pioneer – he was with the 2/6 Field Coy., but landed at Java with the 2/2, so enjoys reading our paper, and forwarded the news that he and wife **Doris** would be at the Bridge on the River Kwai for Anzac Day, a revisit for **Ted** after nearly 40 years. Sincerely hope that the trip reaches the expectations anticipated.

• **FRED CALLAWAY** writes that he had a couple of trips into Concord for operations on his hip. However these were not successful so a third op. was necessary and a plastic hip was attached. **Fred** and wife **Aileen** were about to push-off on a tour of England and Europe in May but with the hip situation resending only slowly have had to cancel this and are hopeful of doing same about the month of August. **Fred** has retired from work and says that with a lot of effort is managing a game of bowls twice a week. **Fred** closes with a hope to be in attendance at Redfern – wouldn't make the distance for the March – and enclosed a cheque for the Treasurer.

• **JACK MCGREGOR**, Shortland, writes that he was sorry to read of the death of **SPEED GORDON** and was glad that so many of his old mates were in attendance at the funeral. **Jack** did not make it to Wagga; they had planned to leave for Wagga on the 14th Sept., but at 6 o'clock on the 13th Sept., he was admitted to hospital for an emergency operation and was discharged 10 days later. They called at the Caravan Park on the 4th May but of course we had all vacated by that time. Your subscription is in the safe hands of the Treasurer.

• **JACK O'NEILL**, Bankstown, sends a cheque to the Treasurer, with the request for a unit badge, and is looking forward to seeing the boys at Redfern after the March. Also offers his condolences to the family of **Speed Gordon**, **Jack** being a member of the same Coy.

• **WAL SMITH**, Sans Souci, sends a short note with a sub. enclosed and a request for a badge. The badge has been posted and your good wishes to all greatly appreciated.

• **LEN PREEDY**, Western Australia, sends a cheque to the Treasurer and comments on the Wagga Show, unfortunately **Len** reckons that the West is just a little too far away for him to have attended. I don't know about that **Len**, seems like I read sometime ago where you travelled to Melbourne

VALE - LT. COLONEL E.A. DALY, D.S.O., E.D.

One of the most popular and efficient officers in the original 2/2 Pioneer Btn. passed away suddenly on 13th April, 1983, in Melbourne. Gus Daly was a man who made friends easily and was well liked and respected by all who knew him.

He joined the C.M.F. in 1927 and rose to the rank of Major. In 1940 he enlisted in the A.I.F. and became a Company Commander in the 2/2 Pioneer Btn., serving with distinction in Syria and Java. He was made a member of the Distinguished Service Order for his efforts in Java. The citation accompanying his D.S.O. reads as follows:-

"During the action against the Japanese Force at Leuwiliang Bridge on the 3/4 March, 1942, Major E.A. Daly was the O.C. of the right forward Company holding the bridgehead. His Company area included an outstanding knoll overlooking the enemy position and the right flank ran parallel to the river. This knoll was a key position and for two days and nights was subjected to very heavy fire from 2lb. cannons from enemy tanks, rifle and automatic fire. 4" mortar and artillery fire. The fire on this position was continuous and at one period 90 mortar bombs fell in 90 minutes on the same knoll. The feature held by Major Daly's company was an excellent observation post and consequently the enemy hammered it without pause throughout the two days. Orders given to Major Daly were to hold this position at all costs and to report flanking movements by the enemy.

It was only Major Daly's conspicuous courage, determination and personal contact with his men during the bombardment of artillery and mortar fire that kept the morale of the men at a high standard enabling them to maintain their position on the knoll. At times it appeared inevitable that the whole of the Company would be blown off the position, but Major Daly throughout the action moved about the position urging his men on and maintaining a steady fire from the only weapons available to him, viz - rifles and light automatics. During most of the time the enemy were endeavouring to repair a bridge which had been demolished so as to use tanks against our positions. It was only through the determination of Major Daly in sticking to the position, continuously changing section posts and rallying the men that the enemy were stopped from repairing the bridge". (End of Citation).

Major Daly was also granted the Efficiency Decoration for twenty years of continuous and efficient service as a Commissioned Officer. As a P.O.W. on the Burma Railway he was respected by all who had contact with him. In his quiet way he kept up the morale of men in his camp when things were tough. He was a born leader and his Company held him in high regard.

On returning to Australia, Major Daly served for many, many years collating the history and medical records of every man in the Battalion. On retiring from the Defence Forces he was promoted to Lieut.-Colonel.

After the war, Gus served for over 30 years on the Executive of the 2/2 Pioneer Btn. Association, giving advice and assistance whenever needed. Five years ago his friends in the 2/2 Pioneer Btn. Assocn. presented Gus with a silver tray inscribed with many signatures for his efforts to members.

A large number of friends attended the service at St. Judes, North Balwyn, where his Commanding Officer, Colonel J.M. Williams, gave a resume of his army career before, during and after the Second World War.

Gus will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

- reported by Colonel J.M. Williams.

RATS OF TOBRUK WORLD REUNION

Recently our Central Coast Branch held the 1983 World Reunion of the Rats of Tobruk. It was an outstanding success and went from 5th to 11th April after Federal Congress had met on the 5th and 6th. The official registration day was on the 7th and that evening there was a Civic reception at the Central Coast Leagues Club and seven hundred members and their wives and overseas visitors were made welcome by the Lord Mayor of Gosford. Visitors came from Great Britain, New Zealand and all Australian States.

We tried to keep the groups together as much as possible. There were twenty eight Pioneers and their wives at the dinner, as follows:- Jack Coates, Ted Carter, Harry Hamer, Jack Dodson, Joe Blanch, Jack Pearce, Ivor Garnon, Jack Stone, Bob Burnside, Jack Griffith, Dick Seddon, Jack Bertram, Laurie Kelly, Tom Wall, Pat Noonan, Roy Jardine and Jack Collis.

On the Friday all were taken by bus on a tour of the Coast and that included a visit to Old Sydney Town. Here lunch was taken and it was here we nearly lost Joe Blanch as the guards wanted to lock him up in the gaol.

That night the 42nd Commemoration Dinner was held at the Leagues Club and the Guest of Honour was his Excellency the Governor of N.S.W., Sir James Rowland. It was a very successful evening, with the Governor staying an hour over his time.

On the Saturday, fifty boats from the Coastal Patrol picked up the members and took them for a day on the Brisbane Waters. Lunch and liquid refreshments were provided and a great day was had by all, especially one chap from England, as the Skipper of the boat put a call through from his boat to the chap's home. He came off the boat a very happy man.

On Tobruk Sunday the march took place in Gosford from the railway station to Memorial Park where the salute was taken by Major General Windeyer, who is the senior serving officer from Tobruk still with us. During the service a fly pass by the R.A.A.F. dropped copies of the surrender notice, which was the same as the one dropped on us by the Germans. After the service, all proceeded to the Club for a buffet lunch. Attendance 1,200.

A farewell barbecue was held on the Monday with 700 in attendance to say their goodbyes and there was plenty to eat and drink.

Next on to Canberra for the unveiling of the Rats of Tobruk Memorial, which was a replica of the one built in Tobruk which had been razed by the Lybians. The name plate was saved and is now set in the Canberra Memorial. The Dedication Service was on the Wednesday and the Governor-General of Australia did the unveiling while the Service was conducted by Chaplains of the three Services. Members visited the Hall of Memories and saw the list of Pioneers who had been killed in action, which had a sobering effect on them. This was also stated by Lady Mershead who was present.

The world reunion took two years of solid planning and after seeing how everyone enjoyed themselves it made it all worth while. -Jack Collis.

VALE - John Carl MENZEL, aged 69, devoted husband of Mary, loving father of Peter and Patricia. John passed away on 26/6/1982, in Tamworth from complications after major surgery. He joined the Army in 1939 and served with the original 2/2 Pioneer Btn. in the Middle East and New Guinea and was one of the very few lucky enough not to be taken prisoner in Java. Owing to illness was on the last boat out, and later rejoined the reformed 2/2 Pioneers. Our sincere sympathies are extended to Mrs. Menzel and her family.

to play bowls. Sorry to hear that **Joy's** legs are giving her problems; we hope that by the time this gets to print, that she is well on the way to recovery. **Max** has been in touch with you regards Western Aust. Pioneers, and I support his letter, even 16 or so could make a nice little gathering and at least you would be able to talk together.

• **GRACE NOBLE**, Bowral, with a letter informing us of the passing of her father **BOB TAYLOR** of Jamberoo. **Bob** was a great correspondent to the News and a much respected member of our Association. **Max** has written a personal letter to **Grace** and as requested a badge forwarded, also her request that the News be mailed each issue, was most acceptable to us. We offer our sincere sympathy to you **Grace** and we are sure that your memories will always be pleasant of a grand old man.

• **COLONEL IAN CHENOWETH**, Mackay (Qld.), writes with a subscription to the Association and a request for a unit badge. This has been forwarded. The **Colonel** (retired) was Medical Officer of the 2/2, and on occasion has been reprimanded for wearing a 2/2 badge in preference to one of the Medical Corps. We are also proud to be associated with you **Colonel**, badge or no badge!

• **JOHN KEMPNIICH** per pen of wife **Maisie** with a subscription for the Treasurer and a request for a badge. 2 have been forwarded — an extra one for **Maisie**, because the Secretary claims she is such a nice person and a very good correspondent. Jove **Maisie**, you have created a problem — anybody that gets that sort of comment from **Max Herron** would have to watch out — he'll be looking for you packing your bag and going to scout camps with him!! **Maisie** also reports that **John** has been doing quite well with the fishing at Fingal Bay, mullet and bream being the best of the run. Also reports of their intention of a trip to the far north of Qld. about the end of June and will be interested in meeting a few of the lads and wives that reside that way. Closes with appreciation for the news and the little bits of personal doings, and with good wishes for a successful Anzac Day.

• **BOB MCGREGOR**, Browns Plains, Qld., with a phone call to **Max** while in Sydney recently. Glad to hear your retirement to Joh's country working out so well, **Bob**, and that you enjoyed your trip up North.

• **PADRE ALBERT PITT OWEN**, of Picton, Padre to the 2/1 for some 2½ years, writes of his sorrow to learn of the death of **FRANK ALLAN**. **Albert** was closely associated with **Frank Allan**, not only as a Padre, but because his brother was a member of C. Coy., which was **Frank's** Company. **Reg Pitt Owen** was a noted organ player and today, at the age of 73, is still in demand from the Church to perform. **Albert** enclosed a cheque for subs., congratulations and best wishes for the continued success of the Pioneer News.

• **LEWIS TAYLOR (Squizzy)**, of Warrnambool Vic. enclosed a cheque for subs. and a unit badge. **Squiz** quotes a shortage of news, his outings restricted because of his wife's ill health. Sold his farm in 1974 and on returning from a trip to England retired to Warrnambool, where apart from his garden has very little else to do. **Squiz** would like to hear from any of the boys from H.Q. Coy. or A.Coy. 2/2, and promises that they would always receive a reply. There are a few 2/2 boys at Warrnambool whom he sees occasionally for a bit of a yarn. Closes with best wishes to all and a long association to come.

• **TED STRATFORD**, Lismore, and the fountain of information of the Pioneers, in answer to an enquiry in the April issue regarding **GEORGE WEBB** has forwarded quite a letter. This has been forwarded to the person making the enquiry, with the suggestion that same contact **TED** and **BILL DONEY** personally for any further information. **Ted** not only knew **GEORGE WEBB**, they had their wedding anniversaries on the same day. Many thanks for

your letter **Ted** and was pleased to see you looking so well at Redfern.

• **TOM SLEEMAN**, Eastwood, writes that he is laid up at No. 1 Booth Street, and would appreciate any Pioneer visitors. **Tom** has been made T.P.I. and can't get to any functions but will be watching the March on T.V. **Tom** was an A. Coy. man under the good care of **Sgt. GORDON FINLAY**. Hope you enjoyed the March, **Tom** and that you improve your health situation in the near future.

• **LARRY ROBSON**, the Association's ace reporter with an apology for his non-attendance at Redfern. Unfortunately **Larry** has been having renovations to his home at Waratah and because of bad weather, the building will not be to lock-up stage in time. I think that this would probably be **Larry's** first miss, however he hopes to attend **John Hunt's** Brisbane show in October. Reports that **JOCK RUSSELL** now settled at Westcott Home, Stockton, right opposite the Boat Rowers Hotel, much easier to see him now. **Larry** closes with best wishes to all on Anzac Day and enclosed a substantial cheque to help keep the coffers healthy. Sure it wasn't because Manly is leading the comp. that you stayed away mate?

• **KEITH BOYLE**, Moama sends a letter with a sub. per the Treasurer and news that he is enjoying reasonably good health. **Keith** has previously had an operation on his legs. Prior to the op. it was quite a struggle to walk about, now he walks miles. Wife **Mary** has not been very well, but is still picking up and with the much needed rains arriving, has been having quite a few good feeds of mushrooms. Both have been selling Anzac tokens and poppies, a ritual they have been involved with since they settled at Moama years ago. Will be doing the Service on Anzac Day at the Moama/Echuca R.S.L. Services Club and expects the usual good day will be had by all. **Keith** closes with best wishes and a hearty welcome to any Pioneer passing through Moama.

• **FRANK CAULFIELD**, our globe-trotter and long distance train traveller from Cairns (Qld.), sends a letter with a cheque and the request for the address of **SID BOOTH**, a newly enrolled member. Address: 1/137 EDMONDS STREET, BUCASIA QLD. 4741. That's the address **Frank**, don't ask me where Bucasia is, never heard of it. **Frank** mentions his sorrow of the passing of **SPEED GORDON**, quotes of the time that he and **Speed** went to the races at Cairns 1945. They backed a few winners too, and did a spot of celebrating afterwards. **Frank** would have liked to make Sydney this year, but thinks the bank needs a bit of support for a while. **Frank** mentions the relief of the drought down in the south, and quotes that up in his area things are always green. However the cane farmers still find reasons to whinge — if it rains for a week they claim flood damage, and if it's dry for three weeks, they want their properties declared drought areas!! Will be attending the Cairns R.S.L. March on Anzac Day and will be wearing his 2/2 Pioneer Tie. He got this from **COL. SHEA** at Wagga, and he expects to be the only bloke wearing one on this day. Good to hear from you **Frank** and **Betty**, and keep saving those pennies, we want to see you again soon.

• **BETTY CREASY**, Portland, with the news that she was off to the coast for a few days. Does not stay away too long or she misses out on the growth of the grandys. Last time she was at the coast she was in contact with **BILL WRIGHT**. **Betty** was present at the Wreath Laying on Anzac Eve, and was hoping to attend the Dawn Service next morning. **Betty** is still involved with Lithgow Legacy and quotes, "if they get some decent rain, may go back to golf in the winter." Closes with best wishes to all the troops, and enclosed a cheque for the Treasurer.

• **DICK RYAN**, Wagga, sends a note with a cheque enclosed to cover any costs that may be owing. **Dick** did not know of the Association until last year, however since then he has been in contact with **KEN KNIGHT** and **JACK MORGAN** and is

looking to see some of us at the combined Pioneer's turnout in September.

• **NOEL HIBBARD**, Meadowbank, with a cheque for the Treasurer, not even a note in the envelope with cheque! Come on **Noel**, you must be able to do a little better than that.

• **MONTE REID**, Cessnock, with a cheque for the Treasurer and a short note, with no excuses, only that he will not be at the March on Anzac Day, but his heart will be with all the boys of the 2/2 and he hopes that they all have a wonderful day, and that the weather does the right thing and behaves itself.

• **JACK SPOTTISWOODE**, Allambie Heights, sends a short note to say that he will not be able to attend Anzac Day as he has an appointment on the 26th April with Repat. **Jack** has been in touch with me, and we hope to get together later on. **Jack** is associated with the Clovelly R.S.L. and has had a couple of beers with our one-and-only **CASEY BROWN** on occasions. We wish you well with your Rep. attendance and your cheque is with the Treasurer.

• **BILL HOFFMAN**, Kyogle, writes of a very successful and enjoyable 18 days in New Zealand, a package tour of both Islands, and claims that New Zealand is a beautiful country. **Bill** wishes to convey best wishes to all the boys at Redfern and his apologies for his non-attendance at the Annual Meeting and Anzac Day March/Reunion.

Hopes to spend the day at Evans Head celebrations where I should imagine quite a few Pioneers would be in attendance. Enclosed a cheque for the Treasurer with his good wishes.

• **CLEMM McDONALD**, Randwick, sends a very interesting letter from Suva, Fiji. **Clemm** had attended the Wagga show and on his return travelled via the North. Had been invited to spend a few days with **FRANK CHEAL** at Armidale, had not intended to stop. However, he blew the engine of his car so finally stayed three days. On his return, the National Bank talked him out of retirement and he finished up at Fiji for six months. He was present at Anzac Day and declared that this time he has retired permanently (Bloody sure of it!) **Clemm** claims that after being in Fiji, Australia is a very lovely place. He still raves over the Wagga show. and he states "Put my name down for the next one, wherever or whenever it is." A message he would like passed onto **JOE ROBERTSON** of Finden S.A. and **LENNIE NORMAN**, the winemaker, "They had best make the effort next time." **Clemm** enclosed a substantial cheque, (to look after his retirement) and asked us to inform **BOB DIXON** that "He is innocent".

• Two letters from **CLARRIE PAKES Jnr.**, son of our B. Coy. Quartermaster, with the information of the death of his father on Sunday 10th April. **Clarrie** writes that his father was so very proud of his association with the Pioneers and that his attendance at Redfern last year (1982) was one of the greatest days of his life. To you **Clarrie** and your family we offer you our sincere and deepest sympathy, and we appreciate your letters, both to the association and myself.

• **ALBERT BARTON**, Yagoona, sends a thank you note for the continuance of Pioneers News. **Gwen** is keeping good health but **ALBY** has not been so fortunate with two bad years. In 1981 spent a few weeks at Concord in the C.C.V. Then in 1982 had another four weeks with a stroke. Was on this hospitalisation that he was in the same ward as **TOM HALE** of Kyogle. Made the stay in hospital that little bit better, with them both having so much in common from their war service. Since leaving hospital **Alby** has lost quite a bit of weight but this has been arrested and he hopes to be on the pick-up list again very quickly. Will be thinking of all the boys on Anzac Day, watching same on T.V. and hopes to be back on deck in the near future. Enclosed a cheque for the Treasurer and a badge has been posted.

• **JACK BERTRAM**, Newcastle, with a short note including a sub. for the Treasurer with an apology for his non-attendance on Anzac Day and with the affirmation that he will see us all at the next turnout. Best wishes to all and a special Cheerio to **PEG HERRON**.

• **ETHEL STARR** wife of the late **ARCHIE**, resident of Harbord, writes a short note wishing everybody well and says she still enjoys reading the news. Enclosed a cheque to help with the postage and to keep the issues going. Many thanks **Ethel**.

• **Mrs. ISOBEL GORDON**, widow of the late **Speed**, writes a sincere letter of thanks to the Secretary for his assistance in their recent problems. Also to thank the two gentlemen **BOB DIXON** and **JIM FIELD** for their visitation to her husband at Bankstown Hospital, and to **BOB DIXON** for his kind words at the Service. Also the following people who attended the Service, and who have been so very kind to **Isobel** over the last few months. Mainly 2/2, they were: Ray & Ruby Harris, Bill & Margaret Barnes, Sid & Jean Booth, Allan and Mary McInnes, Fred & Evelyn Bellingham, Alf Ballard. To all these people, plus Monty, her heartfelt appreciation.

• **MURRAY HABY**, Horsham Vic., writes a thank you for the great show at Wagga, and comments that not many blokes would be able to pick out their tent sites on the return trip. Was also amazed at the growth of the City of Wagga over the past many years. Murray attended the Melbourne Anzac Day March — would leave Horsham at 4 a.m. and arrive Melbourne at 9 a.m. with the March commencing at 10 a.m. with the result being no room for error on the travelling. **Murray** and wife **ADA**, have eight grandchildren and he has requested a couple of badges which have already been posted. **Murray** closed with a cheque for the Treasurer and congratulations to the committee on the wonderful job at Wagga, and claims that letter writing is the wife's job — an apology for the writing causing this comment.

• **REG CAIRNS** now of Griffith sends a cheque for subs. and to say that he would be attending the March at Griffith this year. His only regret is that the country Marches are "en Masse" so you do not have so many mates as with each unit body. **Reg** only knows one other Pioneer in Griffith **LEO BLAIR**, and he is a newcomer to the district moving from Tullibigeal. **Reg** also requested the address of **BILL LEWIS**; this has been forwarded personally by the Secretary. Should allow you to forward the Moolah for those photos, **Reg**, and clear your conscience.

• **GORDON WALSH** Ryde and Evans Head, writes that he will be at the Heads again this year, where he hopes to be in contact with the usual North Coasters, plus **HARRY SPREADBOROUGH**, who has made bookings for a couple of days for that period. **Gordon** was unfortunate to lose his brother at Casino in March. **Jim** made the trip to Sydney some time ago and marched with our B. Coy where "**APPO**" looked after him at Redfern. Brother **Jim** had served with the 2nd Aust. Corps overseas. **Gordon** also quotes that [the saying "Age shall not weary them" is very true, but it sure makes you tired. Will be a ripe old 70 in September and claims that it takes him the best part of an hour to get mobile these days. Also enclosed subs. for himself, **VINCE CHRISTENSON**, and **NEV. SCHAFER**, and closed with a few words about football for me, and a big good-day to **GORDON FINLAY**, plus wishes to all Pioneers.

• **BOB WILSON**, Mount Pleasant, sends a cheque to the Treasurer and a request for a badge, (which will be posted when you receive this paper) and extends his congratulations to the committee and all those that help to keep the Association the success that it is.

• **GEORGE PERRY (PARICOS)**, Eastwood, writes that age is slowly catching up and was unable to be present on Anzac Day. **George** witnessed the

show on T.V. and says that the boys looked very well. Extends his thanks for the News and his best wishes to all Pioneers, plus a cheque for the Treasurer. Many thanks to **George** and hope the health decides to show some improvement.

• **DON MURRAY**, Tinonee, sends a cheque to the Treasurer and enclosed some blown-up photos of the boys taken at Tarakan. He thinks these are the only copies, and thinks that **BOB DIXON** may be interested, and would probably be able to identify quite a lot of the men. **MAX HERRON** has handed these photos to **Bob**, who will in turn pass them on to **JIM FIELD** who has a photo collection board which he displays at all reunions. **Don** had a very good time at Wagga, was pleased to meet up with **ALLAN STEFF** and his wife, also **PUNCHY** and his wife, whom he had not seen since 1966. Closes with best wishes to all and on his way to post the letter, would just happen to call at **BERNIE** and **STELLA DALY's** for afternoon tea. Claims he is now one of her regulars for this repast, and certainly appreciates the hospitality offered.

• **GEORGE PATTERSON**, St. Ives, with a letter dated 1st May, with his apology for not attending Anzac Day. **George** claims that he overdid things a bit on his latest holiday and reaching the age of 80 years in May found things a bit tough. **George** does say that he will remedy this next year with his attendance, and closes with best wishes and a cheque for the Treasurer.

• **COLONEL JOHN WILLIAMS**, Sefton, with a very short note of best wishes and a cheque for a donation to the funds. Many thanks Colonel and your cheque situated where it does most good.

• **ARTHUR WHITE**, Cundletown, with a cheque for subs. and the news that he would be in Taree for Anzac Day. Had been in contact with **FRED BROOKES**, who looks well, and wishes all a good day at Redfern. Keep smiling "**SOOTY**" and keep sober.

• **KEITH REYNOLDS**, Coonabarabran, with a brief but succinct note, "Attached are overdue subs." with a cheque to the Treasurer, and signed with best regards. Well **Keith**, thanks for the subscription, but there's not much chance of you acquiring writer's cramp, is there?

• **JOE KYFFIN**, Reservoir (Vic.), writes again with a thank you for such a wonderful week that he and his wife **Maida** spent with us all over the Anzac period. **Joe** was so pleased to see **JACK CLARK**, **BRUCE SMITH**, **JIM HALL**, **GEORGE NICHOLLS**, **GUS HUNTER** and **BRUCE HANNAFORD** (to mention but a few). To **MAX** and **PEG HERRON** who took them on a sightseeing tour of the Harbour and surrounds with a picnic lunch at Watsons Bay on the Thursday, a big wonderful thank you. On the Monday after Anzac Day we decided that we would give **JOE** and **MAIDA** a send-off on their return journey with a B-B-Q lunch at **LAKE's** place. The following party was present — **BOB & JEAN DIXON**, **MAX & PEG HERRON**, **JOE & MAIDA**, the **LAKES** (naturally) and my neighbours **BILL & TRUDY**. We had a really good day. Introduced the gathering to the "Home Brew" and **BOB DIXON's** one man play "IVOR THE HERO" (which we have placed on the agenda for a repeat at HARRINGTON) all made for a really good farewell for which **JOE** and his wife say a big thank you. Closes with an address — 67 BARRY STREET, RESERVOIR, PHONE 469 2167 and claims same is open to any Pioneer and his wife, should they visit Melbourne. Thanks **JOE** and **MAIDA**, we are pleased you had a good trip.

• **NORMA DARRAGH** of South Melbourne writes to extend sympathy to "Speed" Gordon's wife and family in their recent loss. She would also like to thank all the 2/2 members for their attendance at Jim's funeral last year. It was a lovely service which was due mainly to the members of the unit, and everything went as Jim would have wished it.

Jim had been a close friend to "Speed" and Bob Austin.

• **DOUG SHEARSTON**, Foster, writes a long letter

to the Secretary with a cheque for Treasurer and the news that for the second year running, will not be down on Anzac Day. **Doug** is now into Legacy and on Anzac Day the widows are taken to the local Sub-Branch for dinner. **Doug** will march with the locals prior to the luncheon engagement. With regard to your country Vice-President's position, I don't think you should worry your pretty little head about that, when we don't want you — we'll tell you. **Doug** sees quite a bit of **FRED BROOKES** and **ALEX BOYD**. **Fred** continues to put on weight since his retirement, and **Alex** is still one of the top bowlers around the district. **Jim McDonald** and **Doug** bowl together quite often, and **Doug** suggests that perhaps **MICK DODSON** might like to join them sometimes, and make up a Pioneers Fours. After Anzac Day **Doug** and **Roma** are off to Queensland, spending some time with friends that were neighbours down in the big smoke, and calling in on other friends at Kingscliffe on the way back. **Roma** is still flat out, now attending a school once a week to increase her knowledge, "Spinning and Weaving" that is. Along with a lot of other Pioneer couples, **Doug** and **Roma** celebrate their 40th Wedding Anniversary this year of 1983, and the Pioneer Newspaper wishes all and each of them a very Happy Anniversary!! Of course, I don't know how many of the others are planning a dirty weekend, but we do have a show on at Harrington in September and possibly that could develop into much the same strain. If I remember correctly it was about that period when it all happened. There you are **Doug**, that didn't hurt much, did it?

• Summing up on Anzac Day this year, as always it was a great day for Pioneers. Mention must go to 2 members who attended for the first time, **JIM RHODES** from Canberra country, and **JOE KYFFIN** from Victoria. Both enjoyed themselves immensely, and their wives looked after in the usual manner by **Peg Herron** and the wives that meet each year. I missed the big frame of **FRED WHEATON**, although **JACK GREEN** said he was going to be down. **FRANK GILLIAN** was present in all his glory, I think he is now bigger than **Wheaton**, but with Manly on the top of the ladder, I managed to keep him at arm's length. **JACK COLLIS** will be so pleased after yesterday — Parramatta lowered the boom on us. What can I say, they won't let us keep our referees, always whinging; however as Churchill would have said: "They were glorious in defeat." Back to Anzac Day, and I would like to express a special thank you to our two barmen on the day, they dispatched 72 gallons of the amber fluid and I never heard a complaint. **TERRY BIRD** and **TERRY FUGGLEY** we thank you. That's all for Mail Bay for this issue — keep those letters and subs. rolling in and I am looking forward to seeing quite a lot of you at our picnic at Harrington. Happy days to all, **Lakey**.

VALE — FRANK ALLAN

It was with great sorrow and sadness that we learnt of the passing of Frank Allan. It is a tremendous loss to the Association as Frank was for many years a Trustee and Adviser, then in recent years was co-Patron.

On the formation of the 2/1st Pioneers at Greta in 1940 Frank appointed to A. Coy. as Platoon Commander and was immediately nicknamed "David Niven" as he bore a strong resemblance to the actor.

During the last few months of Frank's life his health slowly deteriorated and he spent quite a good deal of time in hospital. He always appreciated my visits and just loved to converse about the Association and his many friends.

Many of his friends would have attended his funeral and paid their respects to such a fine gentleman, but his family requested that it be a private affair, so their feelings were respected.

Frank was a great leader, a real friend and a thorough gentleman and will be sadly missed.

— HARRY MONTAGUE, Reporter

PIONEER NEWS

Phone: 759-5491

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1983

Annual Meetings always remind one that Anzac Day is very close.

To some people, Anzac Day is just another public holiday which they can celebrate. This is not so, for Anzac Day is not a celebration, but a commemoration and thanksgiving for the men and women, who offered, and in thousands of cases, gave their lives in the service of their country, in time of peril.

Let us show the younger generation what Anzac Day really means. Let us impress on them how the Anzacs fought for the freedom of Australia, and the necessity to keep Australia a free country.

Again at this time we not only remember the Anzacs, but let us pay homage to our own deceased. Forty 2/1st and twenty 2/2nd Pioneers, that we know have passed away since last Anzac Day — Lest We Forget.

The great achievement of 1982 was no doubt the Wagga Reunion in September and the efforts of the organisers over the previous two years of work was outstanding. It was almost a full time job for Peg and Max Herron, dealing with accommodation and the many other arrangements. No wonder they decided to have a break this year.

— Thank you all, President Jack (Mick) DODSON

COUNCIL GRANTS FREE USE OF REDFERN TOWN HALL

The Executive of the Association are most grateful to the Council of the City of Sydney for granting them free use of the Redfern Town Hall, on Anzac Day 1983.

In a letter to the Council on 14th March the Council were thanked for their kind gesture, but it was considered all members be notified, through the medium of Pioneer News, as not many members realized that the Council in granting free use of the hall eliminates the necessity of charging members an admission charge.

Once again many thanks to the Town Clerk of the City of Sydney Council for his close co-operation and assistance in this regard.

NEWS ITEM

At the Anzac Day Reunion, Don Barraclough produced a Japanese flag and in the centre of the flag was printed:— D.C. Wood, Grenfell — Killed in Action, 31st July 1945.

On the following day Max Law was in Grenfell on business and upon making enquiries was able to visit Mrs. L. Fanning, sister of Dave Wood.

They had a very pleasant chat, and Mrs. Fanning expressed her thanks in knowing that Dave's mates had not forgotten him after all these years.

SECRETARY'S REQUEST

Please address mail to Secretary as follows:—

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

Now that most members are retired we must endeavour to encourage other members to attend the Anzac March and the Reunion dinner. Let us continue that friendship that began in 1940, for while we can bring members together in strength the Association will continue to flourish for many years to come.

I will not endeavour to outline the good work the various Executive and Committee have carried out, but I will say this — while we have them in office the Association will grow stronger.

Two things, I must highlight and they are:—

1. PIONEER NEWS: It is the life line of the Association and despite the extra costs each year it is still able to keep all members enlightened on the various activities of the Association. Keep those letters coming in.

2. WELFARE: Many members, at this stage are hospitalised, while others are in nursing homes or sick at home. Our Welfare Officers can only visit sick members if they are notified as to the entry of the member into hospital.

In conclusion, I must say how happy I am to work over the years with such a good band of fellows who are not afraid to work hard for the 2/1—2/2 Pioneer Bn Association.

AUSTRALIAN ARMY, 1939-45

Men from NSW are too few among the 3,000 Australian soldiers of 1939-45 who have answered a questionnaire on their life and opinions around that time.

The questionnaire has been prepared by two historians, Dr. John Barrett and Professor Roger Joyce, so that individuals can put on record something about themselves. Army records do not really describe people, and time sweeps all of us away. A book is intended that will let men say how they saw things, although all confidences will be respected.

This account will be better balanced if answers come in from:

- More New South Welshmen (and Queenslanders)
- More men who served in Australia only, and outside the war zone
- More Catholics

Unfortunately, limited resources mean that navy, air force and women's services must be excluded. It can be only the male portion of the Australian army this time.

But to prevent Victorians and Presbyterians having it too much their way, give the questions a go. Fill out and send in the coupon below.

To: Army Project, History Department, La Trobe University, Bundoora, Victoria, 3083.

I am a MALE who served in the AUSTRALIAN ARMY at some time during 1939-45. Please send me a questionnaire.

NAME

ADDRESS

..... Postcode

PENSION TIDINGS

Recently there has been a change of procedure at the Veteran Affairs Dept., for those members wishing to inspect their past records.

The Department will now permit a member to visit their offices and peruse their personal record, and although they cannot be taken from the office, they may be photo copied.

After such a lapse of thirty years one is apt to forget the occasions when one visited the doctor and this information could be beneficial when making a claim.

It is necessary to write to your own Veteran Affairs Dept., and make an appointment — sometimes this may be two weeks hence, then you go along on that date and time.

FORMATION OF THE R.S.L.

Following a question debated at our last Reunion about when the R.S.L. was first formed and the promise given that some information would be forthcoming when inquiries had been made, the following is the result.

A meeting of returned soldiers was held at the Soldiers Club in Sydney on 20th September, 1915, and it was suggested by Brigadier-General E.T. Wallack, who was then the Military District Commandant, that an Association be formed to look after their interests and welfare. The idea was most enthusiastically received and endorsed, and a Driver Packett was elected secretary, with two assistants.

After the inauguration, the membership grew considerably and instead of assembling at this Club, larger premises in Spring Street, Sydney, were opened and virtually all the returned members had been invalided home from active service.

Branches were immediately opened in all Australian States and then New Zealand to promote their interests and at a representative meeting Colonel Owen, C.M.G., was elected President of the Returned Soldiers Association. Later it embraced Airmen, Sailors and Imperials who had participated in Active Service, and changed its name to the great Returned Services League which covers the whole of the Commonwealth. Every member knows only too well the wonderful work they have done, and are still doing, on their behalf in every area of Repatriation.

— HARRY MONTAGUE, Reporter

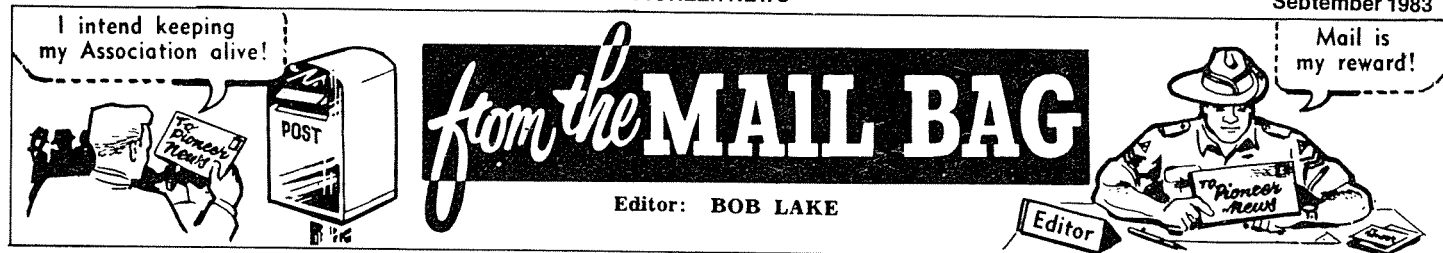
BRISBANE REUNION

SATURDAY 29th OCTOBER, 1983
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.



September issue of the Mail Bag and once again a good response from the members. A lot of letters to hand with quite a number from the Southern State, really amazing what an influence the Wagga Reunion has had on the Association with our Victorian members really showing great interest.

• **L.R. DICK MARSHALL**, Queenscliff, Victoria, writes and first I must apologise to **Dick**, this letter was posted to me and I received same, placed it with Pioneer papers, and the bloody thing slipped down behind a couple of parcels of paper, result, I have only just discovered it, written in March. Very sorry about this **Dick**, however, I can only write it up now. **Dick** and wife **Heather** are both disappointed at the lack of a reunion this year, in the country, however **Dick** the organisers do have to have a break sometimes. **Dick** has enclosed a few names of 2/2's who are living around his area, **Ken Swanson**, **Jim Bruce** and **Don McKenzie** all x-guests of the Japs. Another chap **Tottenham**, doesn't know the christian name who is President of the local R.S.L., and **Bluey Hucker** of the reformed battalion. **Dick** was with A. Coy., of the original battalion and B. Coy., of the reformation. **Ken Swanson** and he himself still work with the army at Staff College, Queenscliff. **Jim Bruce** the late **Bill Baker** and **Dick** all members of the lodge at Queenscliff without ever knowing each other beforehand as he quotes, "never know where you might meet a Pioneer." Manly thanks for the letter **Dick**, and will forward your cheque over to the Secretary tonight.

• **GORDON FINLAY**, Alice Springs, sends a short note with a little of their travel doings. First **Gordon** and **Olive**, would like to say thank you to **Ted Carter** and wife **Marg**, for the wonderful treatment offered when they called on them at Tamworth. The **Finlays** had lunch at **Teds**, a lunch that lasted till 3 o'clock, but there was plenty to talk about, as both **Gordon** and **Ted** were Sgts., at Greta there was quite a lot of catching up to be done. Proceeding further north, **Gordon** called on **Bert Huttley** at Bloomsbury north of Mackay, found him at home, **Bert** was one of about 12 Queenslanders to join the 2/2 Signals Platoon and wishes to be remembered to all with a special mention for Sigs. **Gordon** and **Olive** are doing this trip in their van, and at time of writing it was - 3 at Alice that morning, the days are beautiful, but cold nights, and they were off to Ayres Rock from Alice, and he cries, with no electric blankets out there. Glad to receive your note old mates, we all wish you well on the continuation of your journey, and will see you both at Harrington.

• **JOE BLANCH**, Beaudesert, writes that all is well with he and **Mavis**, and that they attended the Rota Reunion at Gosford for a really great 4 days. **Joe** claims he saw our President buying a Rat Catcher Bag at Old Sydney Town and warns us all we might get bagged for the Gold Coast show in 1986. After the reunion they travelled to Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide, away from home 7 weeks and only two wet days. **Joe** also forwards the bad news that **Phil Cramsie** lost his wife, unfortunately this happened while **Joe** and **Mavis** were away and they were unable to attend the funeral. Also passes on that **John** and **Mollie Hunt** are in Canada and will be back sometime in September. Again with bad news, **Joe** tells us that

Noel Schomberg has had more bad luck when he lost his only grandchild, result of a cot death. Our deepest sympathy to you **Noel**, somewhere along the line your luck must change. Many thanks for the letter **Joe**, don't you thing the Washing Machines at Harrington are ready for **Joe Blanche**, you couldn't do it again surely.

• **SNOW HALDANE**, Preston, Vic, per pen of wife sends a sub to the treasurer ad tells that **Snow** enjoys reading the paper, **Mrs. H.** does not say much else, however, we thank you both and we hope that you are enjoying good health down in the cold country.

• **BILL BRACKLEY** now Burwood, Vic., informs us of his change of address, has left the big smoke, joined the ranks of the old ??? given up working for a boss and is now under petticoat government. **Bill** now does not know where he found the time to go to work, no doubt about it **Bill**, these wives sure know how to find jobs.

• **PAT MACFARLANE** sends a cheque for the treasurer and passes on the information that the fishing at Harrington is very good, and he doesn't mean from the Co-op either, well I'll tell you **Pat**, that's where I shall be getting my feeds from, its much more definite than my catching them.

• **RAY BURROUGHS**, Canberra sends a cheque to the treasurer, a request for a badge and an apology for not doing same a little earlier. **Ray** enjoyed Wagga and the pleasure of seeing old friends such as **Bill Holmes**, **Arthur Daldy**, **Russ Harrison**, **Bob Lee**, **Frank Cheal** and **Wally Baird**, just to mention a few, was really great. Locals regularly seen around town and on visits to Sydney are **Gordon Sheen**, **Harry Reilly**, **Don Linton**, **Bill Lewis** and on occasion, **Bob Philpot**, **Curly Warne** have been sighted. **Ray** was a little disappointed at the lack of I section blokes at Wagga, with a mention of **Ian Willmore** but perhaps they will show their faces in the future. Many thanks for the letter **Ray**, and badge should be with you by now.

• **JACK FOLEY**, Horsham, encloses a cheque for the treasurer, a request for a badge and the news that he has retired from the S.E.C. at Horsham. Both he and wife **Marie** enjoyed their trip to Wagga last year, and with retirement will have more time for future functions. **Jack** closes with appreciation to the organisers of Wagga for an A.1 show.

• **BERT RAYNER**, Kyogle, per pen of wife **Margaret**, with a sub to the treasurer and that **Bert** has been a pretty regular visitor to Greenslopes over the last 18 months and has to go back in August for another check-up. **Margaret** also claims that the treatment offered to them both by Repat is fantastic could not find better anywhere. A car is sent for them and **Margaret** stays at the Red Cross Centre while **Bert** is an inmate and when treatment is completed they are transported home again. This year they became great grandparents and claims that this proves they are not so young any more. Many thanks for your letter **Margaret**, and your good wishes to the Association.

• **JACK BERTRAM**, Newcastle, with a short note, saying that he, **Jack Griffiths**, **Don Slater** had attended the funeral of **Bob Juleff**. Funeral was well attended and **Jack Griffiths** spoke at the ceremony on behalf of the Association, also

commented that **Dick Seddon** is settling down OK and all Pioneers in the Newcastle area are well.

• **MICK PUNTON**, Padstow, per pen of wife **Margaret** with a cheque to the treasurer to keep the News rolling. Owing to health reasons it is impossible for **Mick** to attend any of our functions so he looks forward to the paper which allows him to keep in touch and sends his best wishes to all Pioneers and the Association.

• **JIM GRAY** with a new address, Caravan park, Windang and the information that after a lot of soul searching decided it is not so difficult to make up your mind to retire, when you have made up your mind. **Jim** passes on a word of warning if anybody decides to pay him a social visit, to bring your own refreshments, as since being on the pension, his shouts have dropped down to a whisper. I cannot recall your shouts ever being that loud anyway. **Jim** intends to keep his mind and elbow reasonably active at the Port Kembla R.S.L. and the Windang Bowling Club, and will possibly dangle a line if he can find where the fish are, and can find a fish silly enough to attach itself to a **Jim Gray** piece of string. As to your last question I do not know if all Pioneers are now retired, but I would say that there would not be too many still in the work force. Many thanks for your letter **Jim** and we wish you well in your old age.

• **CLAUDE DENSMORE**, Wallsend, sends a cheque to the treasurer and the news that he has just spent six weeks in hospital, not too bad now but possibly another month until everything heals up properly. Just to add a little more to the problem **Claude's** wife has been bad with asthma for three or four weeks, we sincerely hope that by the time you receive this paper both you and your wife are well on the way to recovery. Many thanks for the good wishes and the cheque with the treasurer.

• **PHIL BARNETT**, Lismore, writes that they enjoy the news, he has been wandering around Queensland for a couple of months, does not say exactly where, but expresses thanks to the Committee for keeping up the good work and enclosed a subscription for the treasurer.

• **TOM PENFOLD**, Tarro, writes a short letter that all is well, has his eyes fixed up, and apart from a few creaks in the neck, is holding up OK. Does say that with no teeth he can no longer play the bugle, but it does make a bigger hole to pour the beer through. Plus having the eyes fixed, this allowed him to sign a cheque to forward on to the treasurer. Many thanks **Tom**, keep sober.

• **STEVE SNOW**, Arncliffe, with a short note that the June issue awakened him to the fact that subs were due, hence a cheque forthcoming to meet this small cost and wishing the very best of good fortune for the future of the Association. Many thanks **Steve** for both items.

• **NOEL GRANT**, Altona, Victoria, expressing his thanks on behalf of his wife and self for the great time they enjoyed at Wagga. Apologises for his non attendance at Anzac Day, thinks he may have made several promises to be there, while at Wagga, however it was not to be, but he states that he will make it eventually, **Noel** has been voted in as President of the Altona Bowling Club for the period 1982-1984 and this position does occupy quite a lot of their time. **Noel** enclosed a

cheque for the treasurer and best wishes to all from **Jean** and himself.

• **HARRY SPREDBOROUGH**, Alexandra Hills, Qld., writes that it has taken a hell of a time to do this but he has at last put pen to paper. The most important item from **Harry** of course was their trip to Evans Head where they had arranged to meet up with **Gordon Walsh** and wife. With all the drought that had been worrying the country for so long, **Harry** and **Jean** arrived at Evans Head in the rain. Not to worry, their motel was only five minutes walk to the **Walsh** flat, and a further 2 minutes to the club, a good spot, and excellent for reunions. The women made many remarks about the way men talk, but you must admit ladies, forty years is a bloody long time to catch up. Unfortunately **Harry** and **Jean** were restricted in the time they could spend away (daughter was to have an operation) however they did get to cast a line and the grand total of 4 fish committed suicide, **Harry**, donated his catch to **Gordon** which would have made a very nice breakfast, while **Spreddy** went back to usual exciting breakfast of dry toast and black tea. (Whacko). On their return to Queensland unfortunately they copped a broken windscreen which made their journey home rather uncomfortable, however they battled through, being alternatively soaked and blow dried for about 4 hours to home. **Harry** closes with the thought that he hopes there are no rail strikes this October, when we are due to go to Brisbane to the Hunt Reunion, and we hope so too, in fact **Peg Herron** said the other day that they have booked their seats for the Thursday, as most of our fellow workers always seem to pick Fridays to start their little stop works. Many thanks for the news **Harry** and **Jean**, and looking forward to seeing you both in October.

• **JACK SHEARMAN** per pen of wife **Flo**, writes to tell they are still in land of the living, there has been plenty of rain around Kyogle lately, very much appreciated after the drought, but as **Flo** says, she is always glad to see the sunshine again. **Jack** has been in Greenslopes Hospital, had a hip replacement operation in May, and there are quite a lot of do's and don'ts to be applied when he gets home, will not be able to do anything for quite some time, however as long as the op is a success that is all that really matters. **Flo** has close contact with **Paddy** and **Gloria Gray**, they now reside at Brunswick Heads and are both very well, while **Peter Bell** is not so very well and spends quite a lot of time in hospital. **Jim** and **Lill Hall** again quite good with **Lill** looking very well. Many thanks for the news **Flo**, and we all wish **Jack** a full and speedy recovery.

• **FRANK HEPBURN** and **IRENE**, Bankstown sends a cheque to the treasurer, a request for a badge and the news that **Frank** is coming along slowly with his walking although he has not ventured out as yet. Feels a little self-conscious with his legs and arm, however **Irene** keeps him up with all the doings and we wish you both a speedy recovery, **Frank** with his legs and **Irene** from her nursing duties. Many thanks **Irene** and badge should have been received by now.

• **KEN BARRETT**, Ashburton, Vic., writes a good attendance witnessed the service at the Shrine Pilgrimage on Sunday, 19 June, and the address was delivered by **TOM GAISFORD**. The attendance in April was about the same as in previous years and the March of the 2/2 was led by **Colonel J. Williams**. **Ken** claims it was not quite the same without **Colonel Gus Daly** who died early in April, **Gus** had not missed a march since the war and had led the Battalion on many occasions. **Ken** states that it was **Gus Daly** with his dedication in the earlier years that the 2/2 is so firmly established today. Newsy letter **Ken**, many thanks, and cheque with treasurer as usual.

• **NEV WOODHAM** now resident of Johs Country

writes that both are well and hopes that we are all coping with the winter weather. **Nev** and **Bett** were in attendance at the funeral of **Mary Cramsie**, wife of **Phil** and **Nev** quotes that **Phil** seemed to be standing the strain OK, or the reality had not yet hit home. **Nev** claims he enjoyed his day on Anzac Day even though there seemed to be a lot of faces missing and it seemed as though the time in Sydney was much too short, claims he will have to arrange a longer period next time, you do that old mate, we could put up with you for weeks. Also writes of the unseasonable weather they have had in Queensland, and how it plays havoc with the Bowls, and not good for the clubs finances either. Would have had a visit from son **Ian** and wife **Lis** by this time, and I'll agree that they would have noticed the difference in climate between Qld., and Hazelbrook. **Nev** closes with best wishes to all and hopes to see many faces at Hunts.

• **MICK CLIFFORD**, Yagoona, writes with a cheque to the treasurer and expressing thanks for the News, always enjoyable to read. Tells of **Lazy Daniel (Mick)** still unable to write, is now a T.P.I., walks with the aid of a stick and is just out of hospital after an operation going along fine and as **Mick** quotes, hasn't affected his bending the elbow. Maintains he is not even feeling old as with four grandchildren with their demands for all the latest toys keeps the hand in the pocket busy all the time. Closes with best wishes to all members.

• **VINCE LONGMORE**, Campbelltown, writes with the information that he lost his wife on the 6th June. **Norma** had been ill for quite some time and on behalf of the Association please accept our sincere sympathy. **Vince** is fortunate that his daughter **Jennie** and her two children are with him and has been a strong right arm over this difficult period, and with the children with him, claims he does not get time to feel his age. Also has a message for **Reg Cairns**, claims he should try and make it to Anzac Day next year, that would make three Sigs present, come on all you 2/2 Sigs Platoon, how about a really big effort for 1984. **Vince** closes with best wishes to all and always glad to receive the News.

It is at this time of Mail Bag that I would like to make special mention of two of the members of our Association, **BRICKY WALL** and **BOB GALE**. Both these men have over the past years, gone out of their way to assist the Association. **Bricky**, because of health reasons does a lot of walking, and to break the monotony decided he would just collect cans laying around on his travels. It is with great pride that I write that **Bricky** has presented the Treasurer with 2 lots of \$50.00, I think that this effort really deserves this mention.

Bob Gale in the same sort of circumstances has been doing craftwork for quite a long time, and it is with much pleasure that I tell all members that **Bob** has donated a tablecloth to the Association on at least 12 occasions to be raffled on our numerous social gatherings. With the actual result in figures not available to me as editor of Mail Bag, I feel sure that the sum derived from these raffles would easily equal the effort of his mate **Bricky**. To both these members, on behalf of all readers of Pioneer News I would like to say Thank You, I am sorry, but mere words cannot express our appreciation to you both, nor can they describe the esteem that we feel toward you. Again Thank You.

• **BILL HOFFMAN**, Kyogle sends a short note enclosing subs from **Merv Andrews** of Lismore. **Bill** intends attending the all Pioneers reunion at Waggâ in early September and will combine this with a holiday at Cootamundra with his sister. Sends his kindest regards and best wishes to all.

• **ALLAN STEFF**, Coleraine, Vic, writes that there is little Pioneer news from his area of residence, only one other Pioneer in the district, **Bert Beaton**

and **Allan** has not seen him since Waggâ. **Bill Hanson** was at the R.S.L. Xmas party and **Bonnie Snudden** visited them at the same time. **Allan** also requests a paper be posted to his brother **Don's** wife, as she likes to read about what goes on with **Don's** mates. **Allan** is not sure of getting to Waggâ but wishes them every success and enclosed a cheque for the treasurer to help keep things rolling.

• **MICK BYE**, Dubbo, sends a cheque to the treasurer and the news that he and **Hilda** took a month off (of doing nothing) and went for a trip to New Guinea. Started off with a Legacy group and went from Moresby to Lae, Wau, Mattang, Mount Hagen, Coroko and back to Moresby. Returned again Lae, where they visited a friend, they really saw the sights of Lae this time and then travelled by car along the valley, through Nadzab, Kiapit, Gusap and back to Mount Hagen for the Show. **Mick** describes the trip 'one of a certain eerie feeling, going back over tracks that had been travelled back in 1943, 1944; names coming to mind long forgotten, and bringing to mind, incidents that has caused humour, and others that had caused worry and some discomfort at that particular time.' **Mick** and **Hilda** were also present at a Civic Reception by the Governor. At the R.S.L. at Moresby, they attended a dinner also attended by the Governor, where **Mick** talked with several returned men present, and claims that they, the locals, would like to see a plane load of returned men and women go to Moresby for an Anzac Day, and states that the hospitality is such that possibly a week would be needed to recover. Also visited the school at Situm, the school supported by the 7th Division, and the welcome by the children was something to really remember. **Mick** met only one returned Fuzzy on his trip, and would have liked to been able to spend more time with him; however this was not possible on the schedule. A really good letter **Mick**, and one which will be of interest to all. We are glad that you enjoyed your trip, and your good wishes to all Pioneers readily accepted.

• **MEL NAYLOR**, Beaufort, Vic., writes with a thank you to the secretary for his efforts in regard to **Ken Ashton**. **Mel** received a letter from **Ken's** son stating that his father had passed away some twelve years ago. **Mel** also received a phone call from the son **Robert**, and was so very pleased to be able to speak with him. **Mel** was with **Ken** when he received the telegram relating to **Robert's** birth. **Mel** in company with **Mal Slee** 2/2 Pioneers Tpt., and his own son-in-law, attended the Anzac Day reunion in Melbourne this year. They had a really great day, so many old faces present, and he hopes to repeat the dosage next year. **Mel** closes with best wishes to all and sends a cheque for the treasurer to help keep things square.

• **PAT LAUGHREN**, Nambour, Qld., sends a cheque to the treasurer and kindest regards to all Pioneers and hopes one and all are keeping well and fit.

• **BERT GOWERS** and **BLUEY CARTER** both sent donations via **Bob Dixon**; pleased to say that all Pioneers in their area are well, no other news, however I am led to believe that **Robert Dixon** will be writing to you both very shortly.

• **ERIC** and **JOYCE REYNOLDS** with the wanderlust again, and this time a card from them posted from Broome. They flew to Perth, then booked a coach for Darwin with stops in between. The scenery is really something, and they also had a one hour flight in a six-seater aircraft over the area with a close look at some of the gorges, and at Tom Price where they are mining iron ore. **Eric** closes with good wishes and will be in further contact when they return home.

• **FRED BROOKS**, Taree, writes again expressing his concern at the further infiltration of Pioneers to the Manning River area. **Fred** claims that after many years he has grown to accept the presence of **Boyd, Shearston** and **McDonald**, but to add salt

to the wound, the recent migration of a bloke in the form of **Boxhead White**, is a little more than is humanly possible to take. At time of writing he has not given **Fred** much trouble as yet, possibly "Nifty's" breathalyser may be causing some concern, but it's early days yet. **Doug Shearston** and **Jim McDonald** have visited **Fred's** Bowling Club recently, the reason for this to play pennants, but to quote **Fred's** own words, "By the look of their latest score card I'd say God help them when **Bribie Boyd** starts to carry the mat." **Fred** says that **Brib** is playing better than ever, even though the rheumatics hinder him from chasing the bowl down the green. **Fred** has not heard from **Charlie Wilby**, Moree, for quite a long time. He did hear that he was taking a trip to America to see the grandchildren but does not know if this is correct. Then goes on to comment on **Willy** doing a possible space-walk with his bowie legs, — What's the matter **Fred**, haven't you heard that **Charlie** had his legs operated on quite some time ago, and they are now insurable, or at the least, level. **Fred** and **Gwen** have not long returned from a trip to Western Australia — enjoyed themselves but claims he is starting to slow up, everything is pretty good with him, and gets a spot of fishing and a bit of gardening in between drinks. Brings his letter to a close with best wishes to all and enclosed a cheque for the treasurer for the News.

• News to hand that **FRED WHEATON**, Sawtell, is to go into hospital on the 30/8/83 for a bypass operation. On behalf of all Executive Officers, Committee and members of the Association, we wish you good luck, a successful operation and a speedy recovery.

• **NEV O'CONNOR**, Empire Vale, Ballina, writes to say he is trying to make the trip to Harrington in September. He also enclosed newspaper cuttings from Lismore on the passing of Eddie Weston, 2/2. Thanks, **Nev**, and we do hope to see you in September.

• **BERNARD "BLUEY" SIMMONDS** of Kent, England, writes to say he and **Kath** have been on holiday in Cornwall and thoroughly enjoyed it. It certainly does not seem a year since your holiday here in Aussie, where you really had a wonderful time with your Pioneer mates. Thanks for the card and the news "Bluey", and all the best from us all to both **Kath** and yourself. Get those "wings flapping" and bring her with you next time.

• **DAVE DENNY** of Lismore has not been able to attend the Country Reunions because of an injury that restricts him, but does hope to make one of our Reunions one of these days. **Dave** sends good wishes to all his mates in the Unit and donation in the treasurer's capable hands. Many thanks.

• **JOE KYFFIN** of Reservoir, Vic, passes on the sad news of the death of **Allan Tregenza** recently. **Allan** was with us at Wagga last year and both he and **Evelyn** really enjoyed themselves. **Joe** goes on to say that he had his car wiped off outside the Repatriation Hospital at Heidelberg some three months ago and although no broken bones, **Maida** suffered severe bruising and shock. Had to buy a new car, so does not look like making the Brisbane Reunion. **Joe** sends best wishes to all, especially **Bob** and **Joan Lake**. Hope by now you are fully recovered **Maida**, and all the best to you **Joe**, and thanks for your letter and the news about **Allan**.

• **CHRISTIE ("APPLES") MACKAY** and wife, **Marea**, were holidaying in Cairns recently and met with **Tom Wood** and wife **Rene** who were also soaking up the sun in the Tropic North. **Christie** and **Marea** hope to be back in Harrington by September. Nice to hear from you both.

• **WAL BAIRD**, Collarenebri writes to say they have survived the drought and the floods and managed to get through with only minor losses, and now enjoying a wonderful season. All livestock is in great condition.

The winter was a very cold one but **Wal** and **Barb**

were able to enjoy the nights in front of an open fire.

They had a few days shopping at Moree recently which meant a trip of two hundred and sixty miles.

Thank you for your letter **Wal** and the news.

To conclude Mail Bag for this issue, I suppose I should congratulate **Jack Coates** on a wonderful fight back by the "Tigers" must say **Jack** that they have put up a wonderful performance over this last couple of months, June and July. **My Team** have had it a bit rough, however they are still hanging in there and they have my whole hearted support to go all the way. I won't say any more on this, will leave it till we get to Harrington where I can deal with the **KNOCKERS** on level terms. That's about my quota for this issue wishing all members and families the best of health and good fortune (if possible) for the future.

So Long **Lakey**

VALE

MARY CRAMSIE, wife of Phil, of Clayfield, Qld., passed away recently and to you Phil we extend our deepest sympathy in your time of sorrow.

LAL PAGE, wife of our old friend Wal of Cudgen, also passed away recently.

Wal and Lal were very closely associated with the Association before moving up north and were regular attenders at all our Country Reunions and will be sadly missed. All Pioneers extend to you and your family, Wal, our sincere sympathy in your sad loss.

PEG HERRON'S Mother passed away late in July and the funeral service was attended by Bob and Jean Dixon, Bob and Joan Lake, Jim and Kathleen Field, Vic and Peg Whiteley and Mary Lloyd. Peg would like to thank the Association for their card of sympathy and the kind thoughts extended in her sad loss.

LAST POST

EDDIE WESTON, 2/2 of Lismore passed away recently, and to his widow, Olive, and family we extend our very sincere sympathy.

Eddie's pie cart in Molesworth Street was a Lismore city landmark, before meeting its fate in the floods of 1974. That put an end to a chapter in Lismore's history that few will forget. Eddie put his pie cart in Molesworth Street in 1939 and after serving in the army with 2/2 Pioneers until 1946, resumed business and for the next eighteen years was always open for late night trading, until the night the river broke its banks in 1974 and the pie cart was washed away, wrecked beyond repair.

Eddie was a fine citizen and a few years ago was an Alderman and Deputy Mayor of Lismore.

CLARRIE PAKES passed away just prior to the June issue of the Pioneer News and to his family we extend our sincere sympathy in their sad loss.

ARTHUR SPILLANE, D. Coy 2/1, passed away recently at the War Veterans Home, Narrabeen. "Bulla" as he was affectionately known had been bed-ridden for many months and during my visits to him, he was always pleased to hear of the doings of his mates in the unit.

All Pioneers will remember "Bulla" for the great stalwart he was in the football team of the 2/1 Pioneers. League was his life and before joining the Army "Bulla" was in the South Sydney Thirteen — "The Rabbits".

During my visits to him at Narrabeen he really appreciated my calls and was always eager to hear the news of his mates from the Unit.

We will always remember him as a thorough gentleman and a wonderful friend.

—**HARRY MONTAGUE, Reporter**

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL FLAG

Before the Federation on the 1st of January 1901, most Australian States and Colonies had the Union Jack, White, Red Blue Ensigns as their respective colours.

However with the uniting of these various areas it was agreed to be just one thus be known as the "Commonwealth of Australia", and so all our people became this great one Nation.

It was also decided that before the first Federal Parliament was to be opened, a world wide competition to be held to obtain designs for two Australian Flags, one for the official and Naval purposes, and the other for the Merchant Marine Service.

With financial assistance from the newspaper "Review of Reviews" this project was launched with a prize of 75 pounds, and about 30,000 entrants from all over the world were received.

After judging, it was declared that five Australians had tied for first place and the sum offered was equally divided amongst them, viz Mrs. A. Derrington of Perth, W.A., Mr. Ivor Evans and Mr. E.G. Nuttall both of Melbourne Vic., Mr. Leslie Hawkins of Sydney, and a Mr. W. Stevens of Auckland, N.Z.

On the day the winners were announced by the then Prime Minister, Mr. Barton, a large Flag embodying the designs was flown on the Exhibition Building, Melbourne.

Under the Union of the British Blue Ensign was a large white star, with six points representing the six States and in the flag were five white stars representing the Southern Cross.

In February 1903, King Edward VII approved the designs for the flag of Australia, and also the one for the Australian Mercantile Service, and this was officially published in the Government Gazette.

About 1908 the Federal Government decided that a seven pointed star symbolical of the six States and Territories should replace the large six pointed star shown in the original design of the Flag and to conform with the Star in the crest of the Coat of Arms granted that year.

In February 1947 the then Prime Minister, Mr. Chifley issued a press statement fully endorsing the directive given by Mr. Menzies in 1941 that there should be no restriction on the flying of the Commonwealth Blue Ensign on this land.

A special Parliamentary Committee recommended to the Federal Government that it adopt the Commonwealth Blue Ensign as the Australian National Flag, which was later approved by the King in 1951.

By this procedure the confusion that had previously existed was dispelled and thus the Australian Blue and Red Ensigns were accorded their rightful places as flags of our great Nation.

So the correct terms now for these colours are the "Australian National Flag" and the "Australian Red Ensign".

KEEP OUR FLAG — A public meeting has been convened by the R.S.L. in the Auditorium at Anzac House 26-36 College Street, Darlinghurst, at 11.00 a.m. on Wednesday, 5th October, 1983.

It is requested that as many R.S.L. members as possible, together with their wives and friends attend this public meeting.

—**HARRY MONTAGUE, Reporter.**

SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE

With subscription send news of your family and happenings. Letters to contain surname, christian name, company, battalion and present address — all in block letters please.

When forwarding new address, please state your old address.

All correspondence to Secretary as follows:—

M. HERRON, Hon., Sec.

2/1—2/2 PIONEER BTN. ASSOC.

3 Enoggera Road, Beverly Hills, NSW 2209.