

# PIONEER NEWS

Phone: 759-5491

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

Per Annum: \$2

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

Printed by Vaughan Douglas Printers, 1a Quirk Road, Balgowlah.

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

Treasurer: VIC WHITELEY

Editors: R. LAKE & M. HERRON

President: J. (Mick) DODSON

Vol. 29. No. 1

MARCH 1984

Registered by Australia Post, Publication No. NAS 1250

## 1984 ANZAC FUNCTIONS

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

Your Social Secretaries Bob Dixon and George Walker have had their Social Committee Meeting and have finalised plans to ensure 1984 functions will be as good, if not better, than previous years. Their only reward is to see a good roll up.

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Tuesday, 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 Tuesday, 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, with the laying of their own wreath.

### ANZAC DAY MARCH Wednesday, 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 units 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 Wednesday, 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, we still want you 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 at \$2 per jug the same as last year. Same caterer has been engaged and dinner will be served at 12.30 p.m. and snacks brought in during the afternoon. Cost of Dinner \$3 per person.

JIM FIELD — Publicity Officer.

## COFFS HARBOUR REUNION

Owing to a double booking by the R.S.L. at Coffs Harbour, the date as announced in the December issue of Pioneer News has been altered to the 15th and 16th September, 1984.

If the alteration inconveniences any member we do apologise but it is beyond our control.

All arrangements are well under way by the Executive and the advert on page four gives all details and should be read carefully so as to ascertain costs etc. The cut out slip is to be filled in by each member and also contained therein is a questionnaire and the Executive seek the support of members in filling out the questions so as to give them a basis to work on for the future.

In order to reduce the work load on the Committee, it has been necessary to streamline this Reunion, and future Reunions. In the past, Reunions with a theme, such as Dubbo for the 2/1sts and Wagga for the 2/2nds placed a heavy work load on the Executive, so the intention in the future is to off-load some of the work onto the members attending.

Therefore members will be called upon to assist in the following manner: 1. Arrange own car tour on Saturday morning. 2. Assist in transporting train members to and from place of accommodation. 3. On the Sunday Tour provide own lunch and organise all members attending into minimum number of cars.

## LAST POST

HARRY HUGGARD passed away recently and Padre Jock Steele officiated at the service at Rookwood. Bill Robertson and Bob Dixon assisted the Padre with the service, while Allan McInnes introduced all Pioneers present to Harry's family.

Sympathy from the Association was extended to the family.

JOCK GILLESPIE passed away in October and the funeral was attended by Jack Dodson and Bill Robertson, who tendered condolences to the family.

TOM SLEEMAN passed away recently and Gordon Walsh, Vince Christensen and myself attended the funeral. Tom had been in hospital at Concord on numerous occasions and on each visit he was keen to hear about fellow Pioneers.

HARRY MONTAGUE, Welfare Officer.

## ADVICE TO MEMBERS

Before making final plans to be admitted into a public hospital, a member must contact the Veteran Affairs Dept. for permission.

There have been reported a few instances where a member has left details with his doctor to make contact with the Veteran Affairs, and after being admitted to hospital has concluded that permission was granted to go ahead by the Veteran Affairs, only to find this Dept., did not receive the necessary papers.

Therefore the member was in the position where he had to pay the hospital bill himself.

## PADRE STEELE

### PERFORMS WEDDING

Vivienne Wood, daughter of Renee and Tom Wood (C. Coy. 2/2) decided to remarry recently and wanted the ceremony performed at home, so Tom contacted Padre Jock Steele and asked if he would like to officiate.

In true Pioneer style, he readily agreed, and consequently performed the ceremony in the garden of Renee and Tom's home at Kirrawee.

Apparently the Padre prayed for good weather as it rained the previous day — sunny and bright on the wedding day, and rained the next day.

Renee and Tom are most grateful to Padre Steele and heartily thank him for performing such a fine ceremony.

## CANCELLING PIONEER NEWS

Any person desirous of cancelling "Pioneer News" may do so by simply writing on the wrapper, "Not known at this address" and handing to the postman.

The cost of posting the Pioneer News has risen from 2 cents to 14 cents per copy which means the Association is paying out \$140 per issue, for postage alone.

Therefore, if any member does not want the Pioneer News delivered just carry out the above instruction.

Just recently a wrapper came back, marked "Deceased 1961", which means it was posted to that address for twenty-three years only to be thrown in the dust bin.

## PIONEER BANNERS

At the Executive Meeting on 25th February, it was proposed by Publicity Officer Jim Field that on Anzac Day the 2/1 Banner be carried by Tim Lloyd, member of C.M.F. and son of the late Jack Lloyd, and that the 2/2 Banner be carried by Brian Dixon, a Vietnam veteran and son of Bob Dixon.

On being approached, both these young gentlemen said they would be honoured and would carry the Banner with pride.

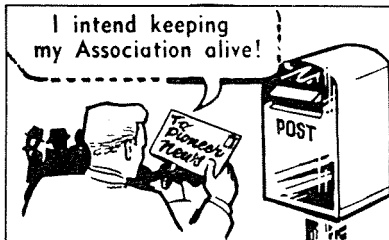
JIM FIELD, Publicity Officer.

## THE BRISBANE REUNION

SATURDAY, 27th OCTOBER, 1984

AT 4 p.m.

JOHN and MOLLY HUNT'S Residence  
4/25 MONTFORD ROAD, NEW FARM, QLD.



# from the MAIL BAG

Editor: BOB LAKE



Hullo Readers, the first issue for 1984 and good health and happiness to all for the coming year.

• **NOEL HIBBARD** of Meadowbank, writes that he was retrenched from his place of work, however he was fortunate enough to find something else and is now managing a pharmacy at Granville. **Noel** sees quite a bit of **Mick** and **Jill Green** who had attended a Dental Conference in Japan in December, they invited **Noel** to tea on Christmas evening at their home in Bexley which was very much appreciated. **Noel** closes with best wishes to all and a subscription for the treasurer.

• **ERNIE LUNN**, Dubbo writes that he was in Sydney for the Anzac March but marched with a few mates from the 6th Machine Gun Battalion. Said Hullo to **Don Linton** who was the only one he could place among the Pioneers. That shows a little like lack of attendance on your part **Ernie**, they all get older together you know. **Ernie** knows of only one other Pioneer in Dubbo and has never been in contact with him over the 4 years he has been in Dubbo. He used to see **Harry Sullivan** now and again in Bourke. **Ernie** enclosed a cheque to the treasurer and his best wishes to all.

• **JACK COLLIS**, Umina who looks after our Central Coast boys and girls, writes that the wife of **Tom "Bricky" Wall**, passed away and was buried on the 6th January at Palmdale. **Jack** sent the Association's deepest sympathy to **Bricky**. **Jack Coates** has had a couple more visits to hospital, is at home at time of writing but has to take things very easily, he will soon start to pick up when the "Tigers" start to roar next month. **Harry Hutchinson** has also had a couple of turns but was also showing improvement at time of writing. Even **Jack** himself was a victim prior to Christmas with arthritis in the neck. With physio treatment which included the Rack it is much better, most uncomfortable and bloody awkward trying to drive a car. Should imagine it would be a bit of a problem trying to down a "Tinny" eh mate! **Jack** and **Gwen** had son **William** home for the festive season, **William** is a Navy boy, they drove him back to Nowra after the holiday and on their way home called on **Cliff Secombe** at Thirlmere, who is reported fit and well. **Scotty Burns** was also in hospital, **Jack** was only able to visit him once because of his own problem but he hopes that they were able to fix you up **Scotty** and he is sorry he was not able to visit you more often.

• **CHARLES URWIN** per pen of wife **Jean** writes of his appreciation for the News and for his meeting with us all at Wagga. **Chas** had intended to go to the Combined Reunion last September, but his health decided otherwise. **Charles** included a cheque for the treasurer, a request for an Association badge, which you would have received by now, and closed with best wishes to all from Wye River.

• **GEOFF ROBINSON**, Quaama, writes of his new address, and to say that after a 20 year's spell as city dwellers, they have gone back to the Sticks. Quaama is a little village about 30 km north of Bega. After years of crowded highways, trains and buses, now all is quiet, no noise, no smog, and very little nuisance, which makes them very contented people **Geoff** enclosed a cheque for the treasurer, and kindest regards to all.

• **CLIVE HARRIS** and wife **Betty** of Aberdeen sends a cheque for sub and a little extra for the Association, both are well at time of writing

although **Betty** has had a couple of visits to Newcastle and Prince of Wales Hospitals previously, appears to be well on the mend now. **Clive** has had a couple of run-ins with **Clancy Scholes** recently, the only one of the boys he has sighted since the Wagga show. Closes with kindest regards and best wishes.

• **BETTY CREASY** per medium of **Monty** a cheque for the treasurer, enclosed to **Monty** with other correspondence and forwarded to the Secretary, no other news from **Betty**, but I would think she would still be keeping busy, and at the same time enjoying herself as she likes to do.

• **V. CULLEN**, Peakhurst certainly won't get writer's cramp in a hurry, I think his name is **Vince**, just an envelope with a subscription enclosed, however, thank you mate for the sub, and perhaps next time, a little news would not go astray.

• **DORRIE LONG**, widow of the late **Bobby**, now living at Sutherland sends a cheque to the Association and a thank you for her copies of the News. **Dorrie** still enjoys reading same and seeing the familiar names. Has joined the St. George Legacy Widows' Club, and can recommend same to any lonely widow. Thank you for the letter **Dorrie** and we are pleased that you can still enjoy your life and your leisure times.

• **TOM HENSLEY** from Caravan Park at Harrington sends a cheque to the treasurer and a thank you for the Pioneer News which he looks forward to receiving, but there is no other news, so I presume that **Tom** is A1 and fit.

• **PETER PEILE**, Caringbah per pen of wife **Erika**, sends a subscription for the paper and tells of a visit from **Monty** midway through the year. **Monty** also gave them **Don Slater's** address and they were able to pay him a visit at Narrabeen. **Don** prepared lunch for them and the two blokes talked non stop. **Don** also gave **Erika** a Rats of Tobruk spoon which takes pride of place on the spoon rack at her place. They intend to see him again soon and also hope to make contact with **Harry Allen**.

• **FRED TIGHE**, Manly with a short note with his address and particulars as requested. **Fred** reports very little news as he has very little contact with any of the battalion, however he enclosed a cheque for the treasurer and best wishes to all.

• **KEITH BOYLE**, Moama on the Murray River sends a letter with the report that the bypass operation on his leg is satisfactory, had to go to Melbourne for a check up and received a good report. Does not have to go for another 12 months. Next door neighbour and **Keith** tried a bit of fishing a while back but might as well have stayed home, travelled eighty miles and caught nothing. That's the trouble with fishing **Keith**, there is plenty of fish around, but there's too much water separating them Closes with best wishes to all and a cheque for the treasurer, and we hope that your wife's leg shows a marked improvement in 1984.

• **HARRY HICKERTON** per pen of wife **Mary** of Scarborough sends a sub for the treasurer, and expresses his thanks for the continuation of our paper. **Harry** loves to read of the doings of his friends, particularly **Frank Gillian**, **George Bates** and **Toby Palin**. He has very poor health these days and is in and out of hospital pretty regularly, Parkinsons restricts his movements and a heart condition doesn't help, and through the paper would like to say "Hello" and all the best to his old

mates. Many thanks for the letter **Mary**, and the spelling error has been corrected.

• **TED JENSON**, Doonside writes a letter with a clipping from a Newspaper of the bulldozing of the old Castlereagh Hotel. **Ted** remarks that some happy reunions were held at the pub, but Redfern Town Hall definitely has more room. Reports that his brother **Allen** fully recovered from the hip operation and could complete a route march any day without problems. **Ted** couldn't make it to Harrington but hopes to be at Coffs Harbour in September and of course Anzac Day at Redfern.

• **DOUG WATERS**, West Croydon sends a short note with a request about Coffs Harbour, all details will be published in Pioneer News, March and June issues **Doug**, letter written by **Doug's** wife and a cheque for subscription was enclosed.

• **JOHN SMITH**, Smithtown per pen of wife **Violet**, sends a subscription for the treasurer and tells that they have been doing a fair bit of travelling around, have not seen any Pioneers except for **Bluey Eather**. **John** talks of the names revived by the paper, and claims that these names have the advantage of all young blokes, fit, and in their prime, in his memory, where as is really the case, this is not so. Many thanks for the letter **Violet**, and while you have that travelling bug keep Coffs Harbour in mind for September 1984.

• **CYRIL AMIES**, Thornleigh per pen of wife **Doris**, sends a letter with a cheque and the news that the family is sorting itself out. The old family home has been demolished, and I just can't quite get what is meant by that, because **Doris** talks of her retirement from working (paid employment) and how busy she intends being in the garden, I assume that they still have their own place to care for. They have had two trips to Brisbane last year 1983, off North again on Boxing Day, and later on in the year off to Cairns and Queensland's North. **Cyril** is still a keen golfer and bowler and **Doris** had decided to attack these two noble arts, so with all that plus the garden, it's going to be a hassle, you will finish up looking for another job, just to go for a rest. The staff where **Doris** was employed gave her a wonderful farewell, quote "The Setting, the company and the gift, beyond her expectations". Closes with the thought that they will be in touch again in the New Year and wishing one and all the best of good thoughts for 1984.

• **HARRY SPREADBROUGH**, Bananalander and wife **Jean** write a thank you to the Secretary for his information re ROTA, and how pleased they were that the **Herrons** had made the trip north in October, so glad to see them and hopefully that they enjoyed themselves. As **Spready** says. "these things go all too quickly", and how they are saving their pennies towards the Coffs Harbour do in September. Closes with best wishes to all and I hope the pottery is still progressing, put a few of your "Objet D'arts" out at the front gate, you may get a buyer or two, to allow you to shout for the mob at Coffs.

• **TOM MCGUINNESS**, Tanilba Bay writes a thank you for the previous issues of the News to his new address provided him with a lot of pleasure of the goings on. **Tom** had a visit from **Noel** and **Rita Trefoni**, had a couple of hours with a beer or two, with them at the Lemon Tree Passage Bowling Club, the local watering hole of **Tom**. **Tom** closes with best wishes to all for 1984 and enclosed a cheque for the treasurer to help keep the house in order.

• **JACK SPOTTISWOODE**, Allambie Heights sends a cheque to the treasurer and best wishes to all Pioneers from **Hazel** and **Jack**. Informs us that they celebrated their 45th Wedding Anniversary in November and claims that it had to be Pioneer Training to make a marriage last that long. **Jack** still very interested in the North Bondi Sub Branch where he often gets tangled up with **Casey Brown**. Also wonders whether any of the troops were in Bathurst about December 1941, whether they remember the Adjutant, Lieut. Beck, and whether he is still hale and hearty. I was not there so cannot answer that question, however **Jack** also mentions the Brigadier of the camp, who had the nickname of Ducksarse, and I'm sure **Jack** if he ever reads this little article, he would be pleased to contact you, so I won't put your address or phone number in.

• **FRED CALLAWAY**, Wahroonga sends a letter to the paper with the news that he has been in Concord again, a week, for a scan of his artificial hip, the hip is still giving **Fred** quite a bit of pain. While there he had a visit from **Ron "Snags" Sinclair** who told **Fred** that **Bill Jollie** was also in for an operation, they both went and visited **Bill**, no mention of what was wrong with **Bill Jollie** so cannot give any further information, however **Fred** and **Bill** had quite a yarn, they are both keen bowlers and played in a Field Day together some 5 or 6 years ago. **Fred** and **Aileen** have not long returned from a three month overseas trip to Norway, Sweden, England, Spain, Switzerland, and Hong Kong, no wonder your hip was playing up, all that jet lag would make anything painful. **Fred** closes with best wishes to all and added a cheque for the treasurer to deal with.

• **IAN HODGE**, Lismore with a letter and a cheque, first **Ian**, **Max Herron** would like your home address before you retire, as we have only the school address on file and I'm sure you don't want to be trotting up to the school to check for mail when the big time comes along. Keep this request in the forefront of your mind please. To the news, **Ian** does not see many Pioneers, (I think they are all a bit old to go to High School) but does see **Gordon Walsh** at Evans Head R.S.L., **Ian** being a member there for the past 20 years. Makes a funny remark about **Tom Manuels'** retirement, **Ian** quotes "I never thought he worked". Also **Tom Morrow** at Woolgoolga while he was there at a conference, claims he is still as funny as ever. Closes with best wishes to all and we hope you get those last P. & C. terms over with not much trouble and have a nice quiet rest, that's before your wife starts finding all those jobs around the house that have been put off for years, just relax and go fishing. (Good Luck).

• **MEL NAYLOR**, Beaufort, Victoria with a letter to the Secretary of another Pioneer living at Beaufort, his address has been filed and papers will be forwarded to him. **Mel** enjoys the News, good to see names that are familiar to him and what they are doing, not so good to read of those that have passed on, however **Mel**, unfortunately as you say we are all getting that little bit older. **Mel** closes with a cheque for the treasurer and best wishes to all Pioneers.

• **OSSIE McCURTAYNE**, Yeppoon sends a cheque to the treasurer and remarks of the beauty of living on the Central Coast, overlooking the Kepple Islands that's if you like the warm weather. Talks of their own built-in air conditioning, "the South East Trade Winds", and it also keeps the flies away. Main interests of life for **Ossie** now are golf, snooker, and Barrier Reef fishing, but claims that the Reef fishing and age are not ideally compatible, so may have to look at something a bit easier. If you find something a bit on the easy side, **Jack Green** will read this and might get the urge to pay you a visit, but I'll tell you, his knees won't stand that Rock Hopping. Good to hear from you **Ossie**, you might get the urge to travel down for a day at Redfern again, don't leave it too long.

• **BLUEY CARTER**, South Geelong sends a congratulatory note to the Secretary on his 25 years of office, a cheque for sub, and a donation to Association funds. **Bluey** has had a stroke earlier on but is getting over the worst now. **Bob Dixon** has helped **Bluey** with accommodation so will be enjoying his company on Anzac Day along with his other mates from the 2/2.

• **JACK SPENCE**, Wingham per pen of wife **Muriel** with a cheque for subscriptions and the news that **Jack** is still keeping in fairly good health, still keeps very active in his vegetable garden, and keeps the supply line pretty busy. Grandchildren are all growing up and the visits by them a little restricted because of the schooling, shows they are all growing up. **Muriel** closes with best wishes to all.

• **CLARRIE PAKES** son of our late B. Coy Q.M. sends a letter to the Secretary with a donation on behalf of his late father, and an apology with regard to the funeral, but old **Clarrie** had insisted that it be purely private and the boy had respected his wishes. **Clarrie**, the Secretary has added your name to the mailing list, however if you do not wish to receive same just mark the wrapper return to sender and we will understand. Many thanks for your letter and we wish you and yours the very best.

• **JACK MARSHALL**, Glen Innes writes a few lines with a cheque for the treasurer and an apology for his writing, don't worry **Jack**, it's no worse than some we receive and a lot better than some too.

**Jack** tells of his wife's hip operation and the wonderful success that it was, she was on her feet after three or four days, and has not looked back since. **Jack's** three sons are spread around the state, one at Warren, one at Lidcombe and one at Glen Innes, while the daughter and family are also at Glen Innes. **Jack** has also had a visit from **Ivan Pepper**, he knew him straight away although **Ivan** was only 18 when they met in camp for the first time, **Ivan** had been playing bowls at Glen Innes when he called on **Jack**. Also reports on all Glen Innes Pioneers, **Tom Manual** hale and hearty, the **Donald** brothers **Vic** and **Bob** both well, and as he will soon be 78 years young, a bit like Barney's Bull, but not that good. **Jack** closes with best wishes to all and hopes for forgiveness on the lateness of his writings.

• **BERN REINERS** of Corryong writes to say he and wife **Mona** are enjoying their retirement. Both are playing golf and bowls regularly but the drought and the recent rains have played havoc with the greens.

**Bern** raves on about his beautiful grand-daughter but that is typical of all doting grandfathers. Thanks for the letter **Bern** and glad to hear you are enjoying your retirement.

• **FRANK CAULFIELD** from Cairns writes to say he recently did a two months trip down South and met up with **Sid Booth** and his wife. They hope to make up a foursome and go to the Coffs Reunion.

While in Victoria he called on **Joe Kyffin** who took him down to the local watering hole and ran into a couple of 2/2 blokes — **Tom McNaughton**, B Coy, and **Curly Fisk**, D Coy.

**Frank's** mother lives in Victoria and is 90 years old and still in good health.

Thank you **Frank** for your kind remarks regarding the work of the Committee and for your newsy letter. Hope you and **Sid** make it to Coffs.

• **SID BOOTH** of Mackay Qld, says he and wife **Jean** look forward to the Pioneer News which in their opinion is a top paper. He is now a retired pensioner and plays bowls and does some fishing. Only other Pioneer he has met is **Dr. Ian Chenoweth**, but he has now moved to Brisbane.

**Sid** and **Jean** have lived up north for the past ten years, having lived in Manly NSW for twenty-one years and is still a Manly Warringah Rugby League supporter. He used to drive "Cab 1930 Red De-Luxe" and has met **Bob Lake** a few times. He goes to Sydney by caravan a couple of times a year so

hopes to make it for Anzac Day this year. He keeps in close contact with **Bill Barnes** of Warren, and was in Sydney for **Speed Gordon's** funeral. He saw **Frank Caulfield** of Cairns at Mackay recently, after they contacted one another.

**Sid** extends his deepest sympathy to **Mrs. Jimmy Darragh** — **Sid** and **Jim** possessed a Jap motor bike between them. He wants to know the whereabouts of **Ernie Handshaw**, **Nev O'Connor**, **Jimmy McFadden**, **Bernie Allen** and **Jimmy Howard**. All these except **Ernie Handshaw**, are on our mailing list, **Sid**, and addresses are being sent onto you shortly. Your regards are sent to **Len Preedy**. Thank you, **Sid**, for your newsy letter and kind remarks and your congratulations to Committee and "Pioneer News" toilers are passed on.

• Being a regular visitor to the south coast, and knowing the address of **DAVE "Bluey" WELLER**, our treasurer called in for a visit to his Bomaderry home. **Dave** was the Battalion Bugler at Greta and was often (or always) cursed at Reveille on those cold winter mornings.

He sailed with the battalion on the Johan De Witt and was injured in Tobruk during the seige whilst H.Q. Coy. were on the Palistrino Flat.

**Dave** has had his ups and downs physically since then but has been greatly comforted by his wife and family who are frequent visitors. Not having any previous personal contact with any Pioneers, although he does receive our "News", he was interested to hear about those members with whom he was closely associated during the war years.

Thanks **Dave** for the donation to the Association.

• From Emerald in Qld., a letter from **BILL BURGER** with a cheque for treasurer and request for Association badge. This will be sent onto you shortly. Healthwise **Bill** keeps the same, and sends his best wishes to all. Youngest son, **John**, is a member of 49 K.Q.R. and was promoted to Sgt. last May, but works full time as painter and decorator.

• **JACK GRIFFITH**, Frankston, per pen of wife, **Biney**, sends a short note with donation. Many thanks.

• **JOE ROBERTSON**, Findon, S.A., through Pioneer News gives his old friend **John Dowd** a stir. **John** promised to forward **Joe** his Wagga address as soon as he settled — but so far without any luck. (Reckons he might need a beer if he passes through Wagga.) So how about it, **John**, better get pen and paper on the move. Donation has been passed onto worthy treasurer.

That concludes the Mailbag for this issue, to all our members and friends that have been hospitalised, we wish you a speedy recovery and the same to those that may be under medical repairs, the football season will soon be on us again, which will give some of you great pleasure when Manly are beaten, however, I can take it, as I proved at Harrington, have heard from **Max Herron** with good reports for the Coffs Harbour turnout, and will be looking forward to seeing you all at that function. Meanwhile Anzac Day is our next big show, so let's make it a boomer, even if you can't march, just get to Redfern Town Hall you will be made most welcome.

That's it for now, keep sober

Lahey

## SECRETARY'S REQUEST

Please address mail to Secretary as follows:-

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

## 2/1-2/2 PIONEER BATTALIONS ASSOCIATION

**PROGRAMME — COFFS REUNION****Saturday, 15th September and Sunday, 16th September, 1984**

**TOUR OF COFFS HARBOUR** — 10 am Saturday 15th. Booklets and map showing places of interest will be issued to members by motel/hotel owner. These will show places of interest around district so as to arrange own private tour in car. Members are asked to co-operate by arranging people without transport into their car for the tour.

**WREATH LAYING CEREMONY** — Saturday, 15th September.

5 pm: Members to form up at Soldiers Memorial at junction of Grafton Street and Mooney Road. No March. Medals and decorations to be worn.

**REUNION DINNER** — Saturday, 15th September. Coffs R.S.L. Club.

6 pm: Refreshments served in Auditorium bar.

7 pm: Three course sit down meal in Auditorium. Cost - Pre-Dinner drinks, wine or squash for two toasts, plus the meal - per person \$13.00.

**TOUR AND PICNIC LUNCH** — Sunday, 16th September.

10 am: Assemble car park opposite Civic Centre, corner of Castle and Vernon Streets.

10.30 am: Depart from car park after organising people into cars. Map and directions given to drivers for 11 km, 25 minute trip to Bruxner Park and Lookout. Bring own lunch. Refreshments at cost.

**FAREWELL GET-TOGETHER** — Sunday, 16th September. Coffs R.S.L.

6 pm: Drinks purchased by members at Auditorium bar.

7 pm: Smorgasbord dinner in Auditorium and use of bar - per person \$9.00.

**ACCOMMODATION** — Motel: Room only \$24 to \$28. Hotel: incl. bed & breakfast \$12.50 per head, no en-suites. Sapphire Gardens Caravan Park: Units (2 people) \$129 per week, On Site Vans \$80-\$90 per week, Sites \$45 per week.

**EARLY NOTIFICATION** is necessary in order to finalise arrangements with motels etc., tentatively booked at prices above. Post slip below as soon as possible or hand to Secretary at Redfern Town Hall on Anzac Day.

CUT OUT — FILL IN PARTICULARS — COFFS REUNION

Surname ..... Known Name .....

Ladies Name ..... Phone ..... Unit .....

Address .....

**ACCOMMODATION** — If required to be booked by Association insert number of people for each night alongside place of accommodation. **OWN ACCOMMODATION** — If booking own fill in number of people and nights in panel alongside and state place of staying .....

	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.	No.	Nights
HOTEL					
MOTEL					
CARAVAN					

ATTENDANCE: Insert number of people attending Reunion Dinner .....

Tour and Picnic Lunch ..... Smorgasbord ..... Car ..... Train .....

QUESTIONNAIRE: Complete in order of your preference, by number —

☐ Reunion to be held yearly      ☐ Reunion every second year

Next Reunion to be held at — number in order of preference:

☐ Dubbo    ☐ Wagga    ☐ Port Macquarie    ☐ Newcastle

☐ Taree    ☐ Central Coast    ☐ Coffs Harbour

or other place of your choice .....

Post at your earliest to Mrs. Peg Herron, Booking Clerk, 2/1-2/2 Pioneer Btn. Assoc., 3 Enoggera Road, Beverly Hills, 2209. Phone 759 5491. Deposit of \$20 with all bookings. **CHEQUE MADE PAYABLE TO P. HERRON.**

**THE ODE**

Laurence Binyon who wrote "The Ode To The Fallen" was a stretcher bearer in France during the first World War. Born in England in 1869 he died in 1943. Laurence Binyon was a poet, a keeper of paints and drawings of the British Museum, and he was an authority on Oriental Art.

His experiences as a stretcher bearer moved him to write his "Ode To The Fallen" one verse of which has become a universal eulogy for the ex-servicemen and women when they meet and remember departed comrades.

The reciting of the Ode each day in ex-service clubs affects people in different ways. To some it is probably only a routine to be endured, but to others it does stir up a feeling of reverence and possibly memories of comrades and events of years gone by, but do we stop to think of the meaning of the words as Binyon wrote them.

"They Shall Grow Not Old, As We That Are Left Grow Old". We remember people as we saw them last, and those who died so young and so many years ago, we still remember as young and virile, while those friends who have grown old alongside us, we shall remember when they are gone, as old and less active persons as when we first met them.

"Age Shall Not Weary Them Nor The Years (Contemn) Condemn". The trials and tribulations of life can no longer sicken or pall them. As the years go by we will still remember them in high esteem with respect for the cause for which they died. They will never be despised or scorned.

As originally written by Laurence Binyon the word was "CONTEMN" a word very little used these days. The word "CONDEMN" has by general usage taken its place. "CONTEMN": Despise, scorn, disdain, hold cheap or unworthy. "CONDEMN": Blame, censure, reprove.

"At The Going Down of The Sun, And In The Morning We Will Remember Them". They will be remembered somewhere by someone each minute of the day. They are enshrined by our memory forever.

**THE CEREMONY OF THE ODE**

Although this ceremony has only been adopted by Ex-Service Clubs since World War II, its history is reported to go back to World War I.

The Chairman of the Big Ben Council one time was a Major Pole, who was wounded in Palestine, taken prisoner and later escaped to England.

"The Silent Minute".

The chimes and strokes of Big Ben in the tower of the Houses of Parliament in London at 9 o'clock each evening is used to signal the "Silent Minute". This signal was first broadcast by the B.B.C. on November 10, 1940 and is still broadcast each evening at 9 p.m. to millions of people.

The ceremony of "The Ode" is also held nightly at the MENIM GATE in Flanders. The Menim Gate is a British War Memorial astride the Menim Road. It was here around Ypres that three great battles were fought on the Belgian frontier with France in the first World War. There are 55,000 names inscribed on the monument in its hugh hall and 6176 of them are Australians (Who died there).

This then is a brief resume of "The Ode" and The "Silent Minute". Can we put this silence to good use? The power of silence is greater than you think, depending on what you do with it. The Ode originally had seven verses, and it is the fourth verse which we know so well.

**"They shall grow not old,  
As we that are left grow old.  
Age shall not weary them,  
Nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun  
And in the morning  
We Will Remember Them."**

# PIONEER NEWS

Phone: 759-5491

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

Per Annum: \$2

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

Printed by Vaughan Douglas Printers, 1a Quirk Road, Balgowlah.

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

Treasurer: VIC WHITELEY

Editors: R. LAKE & M. HERRON

President: J. (Mick) DODSON

Vol. 29. No. 2

JUNE 1984

Registered by Australia Post, Publication No. NAS 1250

## 2/1 — 2/2 ANZAC ACTIVITIES

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Association's Annual Meeting was held at the City of Sydney RSL Club on Tuesday, 24th April at 3.30 p.m.

The President, Mr. Jack Dodson welcomed all members, especially those who had travelled long distances.

In his report for the year the President praised his Executive Officers for their fine work carried out. In particular he thanked Secretary Max Herron and his wife Peg. He also thanked Treasurer Vic Whiteley and Social Secretary Bob Dixon for their year's work.

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.

Max Law was the Returning Officer for the Election of Office Bearers.

Bob Dixon, Social Secretary gave a brief outline of arrangements for the Anzac Reunion to be held at the Cricketers Rest Hotel. He also gave a run down on the Country Reunion at Coffs Harbour.

This was followed by the Welfare Report by Harry Montague who outlined the year's activities.

General business was next and after discussing all matters put before him the President thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 5.15 pm by inviting all members to join him in a drink at the bar.

### WREATH LAYING CEREMONY

Forty members were in attendance at Hunter Street for the traditional march to the Cenotaph.

They were formed up by our marshal Bill Jollie and on arrival at the Cenotaph the President laid the wreath for the Association and then recited the Ode.

Joan Lake placed a wreath on behalf of the Ladies Auxiliary.

Our Bugler, Aub Brazier then sounded "Last Post" and "Reveille" which was most stirring for such a solemn occasion. We are most grateful to Aub for his continued support.

### 2/1 ANZAC DAY MARCH

Ninety five members paraded at the Phillip Street assembly point for the march on Anzac Day, and it was good to see so many new faces.

After much chatting about past events the troops were formed up in marching order by Marshal Bill Jollie. While waiting for the word to commence the Bankstown Police Youth Club played lively tunes, to the delight of the crowd.

Leaders of the March were Gordon Osborn and John Gilchrist. The standard bearer was Corporal Tim Lloyd, son of the late John Lloyd, and Tim did a marvellous job by carrying the banner the whole march so proudly.

HARRY MONTAGUE, Reporter

### 2/2 ANZAC DAY MARCH

It was that time of the year again when the members gathered together at the assembly point ready to tackle the Anzac Day march through the city to pay our respects to those mates who did not come home and to those who have passed on since the war.

A cold wind was blowing at the Phillip Street assembly point, but Ivor Bellmaine brought along a ration of "good oil" for the troops and it was very welcome having them warmed up for the job ahead.

The banner was carried this year, by Brian Dixon ex Vietnam veteran and son of Bob Dixon. The troops passed a hearty vote of thanks to Brian for a very good job, with the hope that he will be able to repeat the performance next year.

Forty members reported for the parade which was led by Bill Robertson and Allan McInnes. After a long stop in the welcome sun in Hunter Street it was non-stop to Hyde Park with a good band nearby.

It was good to see so many new faces as well as the old ones at the march and a turn up like this makes the march and the day a most encouraging one for the Committee.

Hope to see you all in parade next year.

— REG ARMSTRONG, Reporter.

### 2/1-2/2 REUNION DINNER AT CRICKETERS REST HOTEL

Due to an industrial dispute the Redfern Town Hall was not available for this year's Reunion.

The City of Sydney Council had contacted the Secretary two weeks prior to Anzac Day with the news. Upon contacting our caterer John Winters and telling him the news John made a few suggestions as to venues but these turned out to be already booked. Vic Whiteley then visited the Cricketers Rest Hotel and the Licensee, Ted Maloney said he could cope with our numbers, so Vic then spoke to John Winters who readily agreed to do the catering at the Hotel.

We are deeply indebted to John for his efforts on our behalf and we do appreciate the work he and his team carried out in preparing the dinner.

On behalf of all present I would like to pass on thanks also to the Committee for their untiring efforts in making the Reunion a success, despite circumstances over which they had no control.

— HARRY MONTAGUE, Reporter.

### LAST POST

NEIL (TICH) MCGREGOR A Coy 2/1 passed away in April and the funeral was attended by "Bluey" Walsh as representative of the Association.

Bob and Wally McGregor were present and they expressed thanks to "Bluey" for his kind remarks of sympathy.

BILL HOLMES 2/2 passed away in May and the funeral was attended by twelve Association members, including Bert Holmes, Bob Dixon, Don Linton, and Harry Montague.

To Mrs. Holmes and family we expressed our deepest sympathy, on behalf of the Association.

— HARRY MONTAGUE, Reporter.

### COFFS HARBOUR REUNION

Arrangements for the Country Reunion at Coffs Harbour on Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th September, 1984 are well under way.

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

The cut out slip is to be filled in by each member that is apart from the one hundred and ten people who have already sent in applications after the March issue.

Once again we seek the co-operation of the members with cars to assist in transporting the people around who will come by train.

### W.A. PIONEER REUNION

Len Preedy writes to say their latest Perth get-together was quite a good one and they welcomed new members Jack Monger 2/1 of Redcliffe and Jack Murray 2/2 of St. Halls Head.

They received word that W. McWhirter of Victoria Park has passed away.

Ted Jensen 2/1 had written to Len regarding local member Dick Hobley.

Vince Longmore 2/2 was a welcome visitor from Campbelltown N.S.W. and was doing the rounds visiting as many 2/2nds as he could.

Len was happy to read in the Pioneer News of Sid Booth 2/2 of Bucasia, Queensland and wonders if Sid could give him the latest on the frill-necked lizard. Len sends regards to Sid and his wife.

Editors Note: We thank Len and Joy Preedy for keeping us posted with all the news from the West and we congratulate them both on keeping together the Pioneers by organising these get-togethers.

### S.A. PIONEER REUNION

Joe Robertson 2/2 of Findon S.A. writes to say Geoff Lloyd had contacted him and encouraged Joe to attend the combined Pioneer Battalions in the Anzac Day March. The following is a report by Joe who said he was glad he attended and would do so again next year.

The club is not a very big one and has members from both World Wars covering the four Pioneer units.

The weather was not good and raincoats were the order of the day, although apart from a slight drizzle the twenty-five members who mustered for the march were not affected.

Major Peter Sickman (2/3) led the march and Peter is also the Club President. He was accompanied by Capt. Bob Day 2/3 Medical Officer, a visitor from N.S.W. In attendance were W.O.2 Tom Stacey 2/3 (catering) an ex Aussie from New Zealand and Lt. Allen Olsen 2/2 and son Jeffrey. Plus 2/1sts: Doug Waters, Bill Thiele, 2/2nds: Stan Clarke, Len Norman, Snowy Denton, Joe Robertson, 2/4ths: Danny Lyle, Ted Blanchard, Phil Garner and wife.

Twenty-eight members attended the lunch for a bite to eat and enjoy a few ambers. A good chin wag was had by all and by 1500 hrs most of the troops had dismissed themselves, but as usual some boxed on at a city hotel.

Editors Note: Thank you Joe for the above report and we do hope you are able to attend next year and once again send us a report on the doings of the Combined Pioneer Battalions.

### THE BRISBANE REUNION

SATURDAY, 27th OCTOBER 1984 at 4 pm  
JOHN and MOLLIE HUNT'S RESIDENCE

4/25 MONTFORD ROAD, NEW FARM, QLD.



June issue of Pioneer News with quite a number of letters, a lot writing of the good result of Anzac Day, and of the faces that had not been seen for some considerable time and above all, even with the trauma over the venue with the council cleaners strike, we were able to obtain a substitute residence for the day, a trifle crowded but we were able to operate, which is the key to our success.

• **FRED KILLEN** per pen of wife **Mary** writes from Warners Bay that **Fred** will be retiring in July and both are looking forward to bowls, while **Fred** will continue to cultivate his garden. **Mary** speaks of **Jack** and **Edna Marshall**, has not met up with them for many years, but pleased to know that they are both still going strong. **Mary** closes with a cheque for the treasurer, and apology to **Peg Herron** for not having been in touch, and hopes to see her in the near future.

• **BOB GALES**, Toukley writes that he will be in New Zealand again this year for Anzac Day, returning at the close of April. **Bob** enclosed another supper cloth for a Raffle for the Association, and a table centre for **Peg Herron** personally in appreciation of the work she has done for the Association, we of the committee thank you **Bob** for your kind action because we really know just how much **Peg** works. Also enclosed his deposit for Coffs Harbour and nominates his Hotel, the closest one to the club and is willing to share a room, also nominates his share partner if **Alb Wilkinson** is attending. Many thanks for the letter **Bob**, and your good wishes to all.

• **JOHN WILLIAMS**, Sefton sends a cheque to the treasurer, and informs us of his going to Melbourne for the Anzac Functions. He will attend the Annual Reunion of the 2/2 at Melbourne. **John** has a busy year in front of him. The Cumberland Baseball Association celebrates its 50th Anniversary, and there is plenty to do as Patron of the Association. Will also be in attendance at the Ex P.O.W. National Reunion in October, so with all this on his plate he has apologised for his non attendance at Coffs. Many thanks for the letter **John** and we hope your year is a big success.

• **CLEMM McDONALD**, Randwick, with an apology for not being in attendance at the meeting. **Clemm** has changed his address and is at present living with his mother.

**ROSS (DARKY) DAWSON** who was a member of 17 Platoon D. Coy, 2/2, this address has been noted and back copies of the News have been posted.

• **ROY MCGREGOR**, ex Rathmines and now at Holmesville with notification of this change of address sends a sub to the treasurer and the word that high costs of waterfront property plus vascular problems have forced them to change their abode, however he wishes everyone the best, and could easily be at Coffs Harbour when he reads this issue.

• **GEORGE PATTERSON**, St. Ives writes with regret that he will not be able to attend the March on Anzac Day, owing as he claims, "that the minor complaints which are attracted to him as he reaches for his 81st birthday seem to just keep coming". His main trouble is knees, and while he thought only Australian Cricketers were the males with full rights to knee problems, not so, **George** has got some too. Well **George**, while I can't come up with any instant cures for bad knees, unless you could trade them in, we thank you for the letter, and the treasurer has your cheque in his hot little hand.

• **HEATHER WIGGINS**, the niece of our late member **Hugh Wiggins** and a fresh recruit to the mailing list writes a thank you for the sending of the last issue, **Heather** had written seeking information of her late uncle, and has now requested that we include her as a regular, welcome aboard **Heather** and I hope you find some interest in our paper.

# MAIL BAG

Editor: **BOB LAKE**

• **MICK PUNTON** per pen of wife **Margaret** with a cheque to the Association for subs, **Mick** and **Margaret** still live at Padstow, and apparently **Mick** is still unable to put pen to paper, many thanks **Margaret**, and we wish you both good health and happiness.

• **JACK MCGREGOR**, Shortland sends a sub to the treasurer and quotes they have not finalised their arrangements for Coffs but will be in touch, sends best wishes to all, with special mention to D. Coy 2/2 for Anzac Day and the future.

• **ARTHUR WHITE (SOOTY)**, Cundletown sends a short note to let us know that he is still alive and kicking, sends a cheque to the treasurer, and quotes, "If I win lotto, he might make a date for Anzac Day, but that's a big if." **Soot** quotes nothing much happens up that way, could suggest you take up bowls and then attack **Fred Brooks**, might help to liven the place up a bit. Sends best wishes to all and special regards to **Peg**.

• **MRS. DOROTHY WALSH**, wife of **Gordon** with a letter dated 1.4.84 with the news that **Gordon** was very ill, also enclosed subs for **Gordon** and **Vince Christensen**, as we all know **Gordon** did pass away mid April, and to you **Dorothy** we extend our deep and sincere sympathies. We all know what a wonderful bloke **Gordon** was to us mates, and to you I know, he would be just that much more so.

• **RAY TOWNSEND**, Ryde with a short note of thanks for the News a cheque for the treasurer, and a commendation for the time and effort of the committee for the success of our paper and Association.

• **PAT LAUGHREN**, Nambour with a short note that at time of writing he has contacted some disease which has the big feller confined to the house. We hope that by the time you read this, you are well and able to kick another goal or two. **Pat** wishes all Pioneers, tons of luck and plenty of good health, also enclosed a cheque to keep **Vic Whiteley** happy. Many thanks **Pat**, and a speedy recovery.

• **GEOFF DYNON**, our merry Medic of the War Years, and now resident of Strathfield sends a short note, but no cypher code to enable us to read it. I'll bet you don't leave many written messages for your wife **Geoff**, enclosed a sub for the treasurer, and sorry to hear of **Bricky Wall's** loss. Pleased to hear that **Jack Collis** and **Cliff Secombe** were well, and enquires of **Sgt. Eric Hawkins** and sorry **Geoff** (???). Has seen **Cedric Kerr** and **Tom Blamey** and both are fairly well. **Eric Hawkins** was in attendance at Redfern 1983 but I don't think he was present this year. Many thanks for the letter **Geoff** and we hope you enjoy continued good health.

• **JACK COLLIS**, Umina with a letter commenting on the success of Anzac Day. **Jack** was honoured with Life Membership of the Association on Anzac Day, and possibly for the first time since I have known him, **Collis** was speechless. His letter expresses his thanks for the presentation and on a sadder note, reports that **Harry Hutchinson** is in Brisbane Waters Hospital in a critical condition, as **Jack** says, he has seen the old boy sick before, but not like this, as the Doctor quoted to **Jack**, the Pilot Light is very weak and he is not sure that it will light up again. Many thanks for the letter **Jack**, that bloody lottery ticket is looking a bit sick, however, if not before, see you at Coffs.

• **RON WEBSTER**, Ryde encloses a cheque for subs and remarks how good it was to march behind the Bankstown Police Boys' Band, **Ron** watched the end of the march and observed other units with no band making heaving going of the distance. Closes with his appreciation of the News and how he enjoys its contents and

congratulates the committee on their good work for the Association.

• **BILL WRIGHT**, Wyoming on the Central Coast with a thank you to the committee and all members for a wonderful day at Redfern. He really enjoyed seeing the two "Oldies" **Arthur Ludington** and **Bricky Wall** in attendance and that they had such a good time. **Bill** is off to Queensland and was enquiring for addresses of **Porky Graham** and **Bill Gamble**. I assume that **Max** has sent you **Porky's** address but **Bill Gamble** is not on our mailing list, so can't help you with that one, have a good trip **Bill** and enjoy yourself.

• **DARYL (HARRY) BELFORD**, Wollongong sends a cheque to the treasurer and a thank you for the News. He is still battling along, in his late 70s and has been endowed with a bad heart and other internal problems over the past 10 years. However he is not complaining, and when he read of the death of **Phil Cramsie's** wife, wrote a letter to **Phil**, and they have renewed their correspondence after 40 odd years. Also reflects on **Tommy Morrow** and how he remembers **Tom** for his skill with a pencil or crayon and quotes **Tom** and **Jolliffe** would have made a wonderful pair only for the war. Thank you **Daryl**, we did not know of these skills, we must pull him into the squad. A few pencil sketches could go well in our paper. **Daryl** enjoys his Anzac Day at the Bowling Club, they have a service, then the ladies provide lunch and the club provides the free drinks, as usual Fairy Meadow did them proud. Many thanks for the letter mate and the good wishes.

• **KEITH REYNOLDS**, Coonabarabran writes a short note with a change of address, still at Coona, and a subscription for the treasurer, no other news to pass on, so thank you **Keith** for the note.

• **HARRY REILLY**, Lyneham, A.C.T. sends a short note of apology for his tardy response to the paper, enclosed subs for a few years arrears and closes with best wishes and kind regards to all.

• **JACK (WOODHEAP) HARVEY**, Caringbah writes of a very good day on Anzac Day at the local pub, **Jack** was so very pleased to see **Jim (Blue Eyes) Rhodes** whom he had not seen for over 40 years, reckons that now he is at Canberra he should make it many more times. Also had a few words with "Three Course" and discussed his latest diversions. Also passes on his consolations to me, after all the good advice I offered him, he has to make a comment like, "To be walloped by Norths" it's almost more than I can stand. Did ask **Three Course** if he catered for the lunch, but **Laurie** denied any participation. Thank you for the kind words of congratulations **Private Harvey**, keep up the good work, and why not make the trip to Coffs Harbour in September, with my advice you would have no problems and your wife could meet **Blue Eyes** and his wife at the same time?? Give it a bit of thought.

• **NEVILLE ANDREWS (CRIM)** now a resident of Kingscliff, with I would say, his first letter written since he was discharged some 39 years ago to pass on some information. It all started in September 1977 when they travelled to Kingscliff for a holiday, they arrived there on the Sunday, bought the house on Tuesday, then had to go back to sell up the place at Enfield, and eventually settled at Kingscliff 9 am on the 10th February, 1978 and pleased that all the hassle was behind them. It has been a wonderful 6 years for both of them, one long holiday, being able to do what you like, when you like, and when you can, must have something to do with it. They have good neighbours, and friends at Murwillumbah. They have some garden when its not too hot for plants to grow and **Phyl** has stacks of indoor plants that love the climate. He claims **Phyl** has become very cheeky since she has been getting her own money. Their family have all grown up and they see them quite a bit, eldest son **Phillip** and family are in Brisbane, **Phillip** has been promoted to Wing Commander with the RAAF, **Graham** and

2/1 - 2/2 PIONEER BTN. ASSOCN. invite all PIONEERS and their LADIES  
to a COUNTRY REUNION at COFFS HARBOUR

on SATURDAY, 15th September and SUNDAY, 16th September  
1984

TOUR OF COFFS HARBOUR - Saturday, 15th September, 1984. Map of Coffs Harbour and pamphlets showing places of interest will be issued to members by arrangement Motel/Hotel. These will assist in arranging own private tour in car. Members with cars are requested to assist people without own transport.

WREATH LAYING CEREMONY - Saturday, 15th September. 5 p.m.: Members to form up at Soldiers Memorial at junction of Grafton Street and Mooney Road. NO MARCH. Medals and decorations to be worn.

REUNION DINNER - Saturday, 15th September. 6 p.m. Pre-dinner drinks in the Auditorium Bar, first floor of Coffs Harbour Ex-Services Club, Vernon Street. 7 p.m. Three course dinner in Auditorium. Cost: Pre-dinner drinks, wine or squash for two toasts, plus the meal, per person \$ 13.00.

TOUR AND PICNIC LUNCH - Sunday, 16th September. 10 a.m. - Assemble car park opposite Civic Centre, corner Castle and Vernon Streets. 10.30 a.m. Depart from car park after organising people into cars. Directions given to drivers for 11 Km., 25 minute trip to Bruxner Park and Lookout. Bring own lunch. Barbecue facilities available. Bring fold up chairs or rugs, if available, to sit on grass. Some seating. Refreshments, at cost. Bruxner Park brochures will be included in envelope left in members room by Motel/Hotel.

FAREWELL GET-TOGETHER - Sunday, 16th September. 6 p.m. Drinks purchased by members in the Auditorium Bar, first floor of Coffs Harbour Ex-Services Club, Vernon Street. 7 p.m. - Smorgasbord in Auditorium and sole use of bar. Informal evening after meal. Cost per person \$ 9.00.

ACCOMMODATION - Motel, room only \$ 24/\$26. Hotel: \$ 12.50 per head B & B. Sapphire Gardens Caravan Park: Units \$22.00 per night. On site vans \$ 80 - \$ 90 week. Van Sites \$ 45 per week.

POST particulars below at earliest to Mrs. Peg Herron, Booking Clerk, 2/1-2/2 Pioneer Btms. Assn., 3 Enoggera Rd., Beverly Hills, 2209. Phone 759-5491. DEPOSIT of \$ 20.00 with all bookings. CHEQUES MADE PAYABLE TO P. HERRON -- NOT ASSOCIATION. FINAL DATE: 1st September.

SURNAME ..... KNOWN NAME ..... LADIES NAME .....

ADDRESS ..... PHONE ..... UNIT .....

ACCOMMODATION: If required to be booked by Asscn. insert no. of persons for each night alongside Motel/Hotel.

	FRI.	SAT.	SUN.	MON.	NO. NIGHT
Hotel					
Motel					

ATTENDANCE: Insert no. people: REUNION DINNER ..... TOUR AND  
PICNIC LUNCH: ..... SMORGASBORD: ..... CAR ..... TRAIN .....

JUNE 1984

PIONEER NEWS

PAGE 3a

MAIL BAG (continued)

HARRY MOWBRAY of Ormiston, Qld., writes to say he and his wife Dorothy will be attending the Coffs Harbour Reunion and will be transported around by Harry and Jean Spreadborough.

Harry mentions that he went to Kyogle for the funeral of Peter Bell with Nev. Woodman and Harry Spreadborough. He regrets he was not able to spend more time with the boys after the funeral. It was forty years since he had been back to Kyogle, his place of enlistment. But like all good things - a nice place, lovely people and many kind memories.

Harry ends by saying he hopes to see all his old comrades, especially the boys of 11 P.Lt., B Coy., at Coffs Harbour in September.

DOUG SHEARSTON, 2/1 of Forster, in his letter mentions the name of his son's book as "Sticks that Kill". We had to state that fact in the main part of Mail Bag and we apologise, Doug, and do hope that Trevor keeps up the good work. Perhaps some of the Pioneers might buy a copy and bring it to Coffs to read in their spare time.

NORM BUCKPIT of Greenacre called on the secretary recently with his subscription. Many thanks, Norm, and hope you have been able to catch up with Bob Gratton.

UNIT	MON. NO. NIGHT	SUN.	G.T.	Hotel
.....				Hotel
.....				Hotel

ACCOMMODATION: If required to look I by Assoc. of persons for each night Hotel Motel Hotel.

Insert in people: BOARD: REUNION DINNER: CAR: TRIP: .....



family are at Wamberal where he is an accountant, and baby girl **Dianne** is married and at Canberra where she is in the Public Service. **Neville** and **Phyl** are going to attend the do at Coffs Harbour, we will all be looking forward to getting a glimpse of that ugly mug again, just thinking, the last time I saw you **Nev**, was at Port Macquarie when you walked in with a mate of yours, we were there with my sister and her husband, its got to be 10 years ago. **Nev** closes with best wishes to all, enclosed a cheque for the treasurer, a badge has been posted, and looking forward to seeing you both at Coffs.

• **KEN COLLIER**, Essendon sends a cheque to the treasurer and good wishes to all for the Anzac Function. Not a lot of news down his way, the football has started and with it the cold weather, which doesn't please him at all. Healthwise he is holding his own, a bit of foot trouble and the usual aches and pains, but since he received the T.P.I. the repat mob have gotten off his shoulders for which he is truly grateful. Your request for a badge received and by the time you read this you will have been wearing it for quite awhile. Thank you for your letter and your good wishes, we return same to you.

• **BRUCE RICH**, Narrandera, the usual short note from **Bruce**, good wishes, best regards, and a cheque for the treasurer, no other news, our thanks and good wishes to you and keep sober.

• **IAN HODGE**, Goonellabah our headmaster of the Richmond River High School with a short note answering our request. In the last paper we told of **Ian's** coming retirement and for future reference we needed his home address away from the school. Many thanks **Ian** and we hope you enjoy your retirement for many happy and busy years.

• **JACK STONE**, Cullburra with subs for the treasurer and best wishes to all members of the Association. **Jack** has had a few ups and downs but still enjoys the odd glass of ale and his weight is proof of same.

• **HARRY SPREEDBOROUGH**, Alexandra Hills, Queensland writes a note to say that thanks to **Harry Mowbray** he was able to attend the funeral of **Peter Bell** at Kvoyle, and it was there that he heard of the passing of **Gordon Walsh**. **Harry** was very upset over this news, as he explained, it was only over the last few years and through the Pioneer News that he had been able to renew his friendship with **Gordon** and he expresses his thanks that this was made possible. He and **Jean** have made their own booking at Coffs, they are staying a full week, (join the crowd) to give him a chance to prepare and recover. Probably get plenty of preparing **Harry**, not so sure about the recovery department, we find that you have to get home again before that happens but who cares, that's life with the Pioneers.

• **PHIL BARNETT**, Lismore with a thank you for the News over the past years and providing him with the doings of his old mates. **Phil** comments on the deaths of **Peter Bell** and **Bill Hood**, both men were dedicated Legatees, **Peter** at Kyogle and Lismore and **Bill** at Lismore also. Flooding in the area postponed the funeral of **Peter Bell** but after these subsided quite a number of ex-servicemen were present showing the esteem in which **Peter** was held in the Kyogle district. Enclosed a cheque for the treasurer and sends his best regards to all.

• **JACK KEMPENICH**, Fingal Bay, per pen of wife **Maisie** with a sub for the treasurer, and quotes it's a long time since those few days at Harrington, **Maisie** would like to see more of those weeks than the big reunion weekends, because it gives more time to get acquainted and not so much work for the few. Even suggests that we could do one at Fingal Bay, you just might mention that idea while we are at the caravan park at Coffs. **Maisie** paints a pretty good picture of Fingal Bay, golf, bowls, fishing, boat trips, and various beaches, even a nude one, we blokes would spend half our time chasing you women away

from that one. — Never made the Brisbane reunion, **Maisie** has a brother in Sydney who was taken ill, so quite a bit of their time was spent attending to him. Can assure you that **Lakey** is still bearing up under the strain of the football problems that are arising. Glad you received the plant o.k., and it should be o.k. providing it's kept in the fridge, however if it does not work, give me a ring, and I will try to get another one up to you. Many thanks for your letter **Maisie**, you will just have to give that man of yours some encouragement to put pen to paper, wants you to do all the work.

• **JACK MONGER**, Redcliffe, W.A. sends a sub to the treasurer and the request for an address, our secretary has forwarded you this personally. Quotes that after so long he had almost forgotten about Army until **Len Preedy** started stirring things up a bit, but has since joined the group, has been posted the last 2 years copies of Pioneer News, This should really get the icicles melting, and with the fitness he claims to have, reckons at 70 the Kokoda Track would be just a Sunday hike, good on you, but do the hike on your own, you won't get many volunteers from this mob.

• **MRS. VERA SIMPSON**, Queensland, writes of the passing of her husband and member of our Association, **Bill Simpson** on the 12th March 1984. You have received a personal letter from our secretary informing you of the passing away of **Ivor Evans**. **Vera** also enjoys reading the News and claims that with spare beds at her home Pioneers passing through Brisbane would always be welcome. That's a wonderful gesture **Vera**, and much appreciated, rest assured that copies of the paper will be posted to you on publication.

• **PETER/ERIKA PEILE**, Caringbah write that they attended the funeral of **Gordon Jones** 2/2 Pioneers at Nerang earlier in March. **Peter** met **Gordon (Paddy)** in late 1941 Palestine and they have been like brothers ever since. **Gordon** had been a tram driver in Melbourne for years prior to his retirement to the Gold Coast some seven years ago, and has been in a wheelchair for the past two years with a heart condition. **Peter** and **Erika** represented the Association while from Victoria **Col Shea** had sent condolences on behalf of the 2/2 and himself to **Gordon's** wife **Kathleen**. Many thanks for your efforts on our behalf and our sympathies to you on the loss of such a good friend.

• **DICK SEDDON**, Newcastle sends his usual well written letter,?? with a deposit for Coffs and a sub for the treasurer. **Dick** did not attend Anzac Day in Sydney, decided to March with the R.O.T.A. Newcastle Sub Branch. Offers his best regards to all, with special mention of B. Coy boys, **Blue Moxey**, **Jack Coates** and **Noel Trefoni**. **Dick** saw **Clancy Scholes** at Singleton Army Barracks, also reports that **Ted Simpson** and **Nugget Laurie** are both on the not too well list. Thanks for the letter **Peter**, see you at Coffs.

• **TIM WOOD**, Kingsgrove writes his many thanks for the receipt of Pioneer News which he looks forward to and reads with great interest. Enclosed a cheque for subscriptions and best wishes to all, no other news, thank you **Tim**.

• **ALEX DURIE**, Coffs Harbour writes that since **Larry Robson** gave up his rounds of the North Coast he has been too lazy to write and so must be a year or so in arrears with subs and enclosed same. **Alex** will be at the reunion in September and will be available with his car when required and is available to help in any other way. Has not been to a reunion since Port Macquarie and he does not say which one. There have been at least three held there, so you should see quite a bit of difference in some of the faces, some get better looking, others don't, and we all get that much older. Still enjoying good health, has had one major operation, it was successful, and claims o.k. (weight for age). Still manages to play golf, tennis, and grows flowers for a hobby, so looking

forward to renewing acquaintance with you in September.

• **JACK COATES**, Umina with his usual newsy letter, states that as they train it up to Narrabri twice a year to visit No. 1 son, he stands at the doorway or looks through a window as they pass the old Silver City, and claims the ghosts are still there. His suggestion for 1985, Newcastle and maybe a bus lunch at the old place. Did you do the trip "Back to Greta" some years back?? **Jack** was in Concord sometime prior to March and as it's a teaching hospital, you get students calling around with their questions, however a young bloke **Bruce Watt** introduced himself, turns out he is the son of **Barry Watt**, one of our own officers. Told the young bloke to get the old man down from the North Coast for Anzac Day and Coffs Harbour, well he didn't show at Anzac Day so maybe he will turn up at Coffs. **Bob Dixon** has the "where's it all gawn" story covered **Jack**, separate to this. **Jack** brought his letter to a close with a cheque for the treasurer, a deposit for Coffs Harbour a few Pommy stamps for **Peg**, and a wish for **Whiteley** and I to say Tigers to Roar in 1984. Q.K. mate, we will do as you ask but I don't think it will be in a very loud whisper. Good luck, see you in the spring at Coffs.

• **JOHN DOWD**, Wagga with letter speaking of the Mini Reunion held in September of last year. Quite a few came from over the border (Mexico). **Bob** and **Nell Guinane** stayed with the **Dowds** for three days and all had a good time, as did all those that attended. Anzac Day in Wagga is a big day, as in most country towns, but Wagga with its population of over 50,000 plus the 2 branches of the Service, Army at Kapooka and Air Force at Forest Hills makes just that much difference. Four bands a big march attendance and big crowds attending both the march and the Service. Afterwards, at the club, a get-together of Servicemen and women, very well attended and for a very small charge hot and cold smorgasbord and free beer, what more could anyone ask. — At an earlier date **John** had attended a Marching Out Parade at Kapooka, and was astounded at the difference in the place from 1943. The troops really get good treatment there, we, or I should say a lot of us, were there 2 years ago and were very impressed, although there would be no way that I could stand the strain of that training course. Many thanks for your letter **John** and your sub is with the treasurer.

• **MRS. DOROTHY COOPER**, Balgownie widow of the late **Nobby Cooper** writes a note to pass on regards to the boys of A Coy., 2/1, and hope they enjoy the reunion on Anzac Day. **Dorothy** makes special mention of **Frank Gillian**, **Gordon Finlay**, **Geoff Robinson**, **Don Slater** and **Bert Holmes**. Has just returned from a coach trip to Adelaide they always wanted to make the trip but together it was not to be. Enclosed a cheque for the treasurer as she has always continued her association with the battalion. Regarding the Tobruk Spoon, you have already received a letter from the secretary dealing with that information.

• **DOUG SHEARSTON**, Forster, writing from the office of the bowling club, where he spends quite a lot of honorary time in his official capacity. Writes that he will be in the same position on Anzac Day, but will be missing all the crowd at Redfern. August is the deadline and **Doug** is retiring from all positions at the club allowing him to do some of the things that they want to. He and **Roma** are looking forward to Coffs and like most of us will stay the full week. **Roma** is still progressing with her weaving, **Doug** quotes that he should be sporting some way out sports gear in the near future, that's if she gets past making things for the grandkids. **Doug's** son **Trevor**, has had his last book published and a couple of weeks ago was the 5th best seller in Australia. Let's hope he is on the way to making a "quid" in the very

*Continued next page, Column 3*

# ANZAC REUNION WITH 2/1 — 2/2

Despite the sudden change of arrangements as to the venue for our Reunion, and resultant rather cramped conditions, everyone I spoke to stated it was a very successful day. A good roll up ensured that there were no complaints.

But where do we start.

Fred Calloway, although not seen at Reunions lately looked hale and hearty and was in deep conversation with Jack Coates, Roy Jardine and Ray Horne, who by the way looks as young as ever.

Clancy Scholes seemed to be in every group I called on, as he certainly moved around.

One "old" mate who attended the Wreath Laying Ceremony, the Anzac March and Reunion fooled a lot of people. That may not be anything in itself but those who saw "Bricky" Wall will know what I mean. With a wide brimmed straw hat, dark glasses, and the most magnificent untrimmed beard one could wish to see, Bricky Wall certainly caught everyones eye.

At one small table I interrupted Beau Hannaford, Clem Cook and Perc Penrose talking "Grandchildren".

Outside, around one of the few big tables the B. Coy. mob were having a day all to themselves and they reckoned the beer was good but said it was a pity there were no jugs as at the Redfern Town Hall. To start with, Mick Dwyer, Sailor Hall (not seen for quite a few years), Bill Tasker (retiring at 65 in August), Dick Blakeney, Jim Gray, Tom Crossman, George Bates, Vince Petrich, Bert Holmes, Ron Callaghan, Len Weymen and the leader of the "Harmony Group", Clem Maroney, who was in very fine voice particularly for Irish songs. An apology from Yugoslavia — Brian Kybert.

Last year we mentioned the support by our officers and this year they did it again with another good roll up. Led by Gordon Osborn the group included Padre Jock Steele, John Gilchrist, Alan McInnes, Gordon Finlay, Bill Jollie, Ken Stuart, George Nicholls, Ray Harris, Bill Robertson, Steve Clarke and "Porky" Graham.

Arthur Ludington, at 83, certainly moved around and saw just about everyone, as did George Paracos. "A" Coy was well represented by "Lofty" Hannon, Geoff Robinson, Eric Guthrie, Harry Montague and Harry Allen. "Lofty" came up from Shepparton.

"Jumma" Hall could not control his table especially with Jack "Split the wind" Pearce dropping a tray of plates, and others laughing about the "accident". Jack Clarke, Joe Kyffin (from Melbourne) Jack Coates and Wally Parsons were the offenders.

John Crerar from Ungarie turned up for his first Sydney Anzac Day and from Brisbane we welcomed John Hunt and Phil Cramsie. Jack Dolaghan told us that Mick Anselm should have been with us, but did not make it as he had recently had a piece of Derna Shrapnel removed. Mick at 82 did not know it was there.

Frank Cheal mentioned to me that he was thinking of retiring shortly and buying a house on the coast.

Following his surprise Life Membership presentation, Jack Collis was in a wandering mood when I found him with Jack Kerslake, Gus Hunter, Jack Harvey, Doug Hatch and Lance Gayden. Not far away was Bob Lee and Pat Egan.

Special welcome was extended to John Evans, son of Ivor. John marched with his father's mates, and then arrived at Redfern where Jack Claypole led me to him. Ivor Evans died on 5th January this year, and John who was very proud of his father told me of Ivor's two M.I.D.s and of him being wounded three times. John was looked after by quite a few of Ivor's mates.

Saw John Hunt in earnest conversation with Jack

Copland — no doubt telling him all about the next Brisbane reunion on 27th October this year.

Tim Lloyd was at the Reunion and enjoying the company of his late father's mates. Tim did a good job of carrying the banner and he looked very smart. We appreciate your effort on our behalf Tim and hope you can do the same for us next year.

Jack Collis and his fellow servers, Gavin Todd, Mick Egan and Jack Pearce did a terrific job with the meals especially seeing the cramped conditions in which they had to work.

Harry Montague was in earnest conversation with Jack Armour 2/1 Bandmaster who apart from his bad legs was in a cheery mood. Jack passed on his regards to all his Pioneer mates.

Please accept my apologies if I have missed anyone who passed on information. So if I don't see you at Coffs Harbour will see you next year.

— Reported by MAX LAW.

## 2/2 ANZAC NOTES

The Reunion at the Cricketers Rest Hotel was a great affair and I feel sorry for those who were not able to attend.

One of the first I saw at the Reunion was Arch Stanton who lives close to the Hotel so hope your legs let you come along again next year Arch.

"Bluey" Carter came all the way from Geelong especially for the March and Reunion and received a bonus for his efforts when he met up with John Hore-Lacy at the assembly point, where they both got to work at the ear bashing job and when last seen late in the afternoon they were still at work.

"Apples" Mackay was in good form as usual and brought a friend Ed Gunter from the U.S.A. with him, and he certainly was enjoying himself.

George Nichols, once again at the Reunion under the watchful eye of his son-in-law, Les Cruise, ex Vietnam veteran and both were walking reasonably straight when leaving the Reunion.

Noel Grant and Bob Lee were very chirpy at the March. "Bluey" Locane gave Bob a message from "Clackers" Clark who was unable to be present. "Bluey" reports that Jimmy Muir is not the best.

Doing a great ear bash were the "D" Coy boys in the form of Bill Robertson, Clem McDonald, Bob Guinane, Bruce Metcalf, Frank Cheal, Horrie Sedger, Ray Harris, and Russ Harris. Had a lot of queries as to where was Tib Martin, Matt Elliot, Kev Achurch and the Henry Bros.

Saw "Butch" Ballard and Les Graham at the March but did not see them at the Reunion. Both Sid Booth and Bill Barnes were very much on the ball and Alex Mitchell and Brian Neiberding had their heads together and I had to look twice at Brian, seeing he has eradicated the fungus on his upper lip.

The Brisbane evergreen Bert Beasley was having a great yarn with Mick Egan who told me that he sometimes sees my old mate Steve Snow.

Alan McInnes, Gavin Todd and Ian Willmore were all at the same table and seemed to have some weighty matters to discuss and they looked very serious.

Don Linton, Bill Lewis, John McDonagh and John Knight were at the march and stated they were all fit and well.

Flashes here, there and everywhere with Jim Fields camera working overtime at various parts of the march and later at the Reunion.

Gil Short and Wally Baird gave a good account of themselves at the March and Reunion.

Could not close without a hearty vote of thanks to Social Secretary Bob Dixon and his team for a pleasant day and I apologise if I have missed out on anyone.

— REG ARMSTRONG, Reporter.

## CITATION

At the Anzac Day Reunion, our Patron, Gordon Osborn presented Jack Collis with his Life Certificate and read the Citation as follows:—

"To Jack Collis for twenty four years of service of an outstanding nature to the Association, thereby qualifying for life membership.

Jack was for many years our Welfare Officer in Sydney before moving to Umina. He has carried on as Welfare Officer in the Gosford area by visiting sick members at home and hospital. He has been a regular correspondent in keeping the Pioneer News informed of our members in that area.

Each Anzac Day, Jack has carried out the task of organising the serving of meals.

This Life Certificate is presented in recognition of his many years of valuable and faithful service voluntarily given to the Association."

Congratulations to you Jack on being presented with your Life Certificate — from all Pioneers.

## ANZAC DAY RAFFLE

As the supper cloth kindly donated by Bob Gales was not claimed on Anzac Day, it will now be used as a Lucky Door prize at the Coffs Harbour Reunion. Hope this meets with your approval Bob, and many thanks.

**LAST POST BY HARRY MONTAGUE, GORDON WALSH H.Q.** Coy 2/1 passed away in April and at the funeral I expressed the sympathy of all Pioneers to Mrs. Walsh.

Gordon was well known by all Pioneers as he had worked at the Department of Veteran Affairs and helped many a Pioneer in his life time. He was a regular correspondent passing on news of his travels up north and we will all miss his numerous articles.

The funeral was attended by Max Law, Roy Jardine, Vince Christenson and Harry Montague.

## MAIL BAG — Continued from page 3.

near future. Very pleased to know that it is printed in Australia, be a good job to do 592 pages. Brings his letter to a close with best wishes to all, a cheque for the treasurer and his deposit for Coffs, many thanks for the news, and looking forward to catching up with your wife, your pipe, and yourself at Coffs.

• **ALBERT BARTON**, 2/1 of Yagoona writes to say he saw the Anzac March on television and said it looked great. **Albert** said he appreciates receiving the Pioneer News as it brings back many memories as he reads the happenings of the boys.

**Albert** and his wife **Gwen** and their boys are well and sends regards to **Max** and **Peg Herron** and hopes they are still enjoying their retirement.

• **IRENE HEPBURN**, 2/2 of Bankstown writes to say how she enjoys reading the Pioneer News just as **Frank** does. **Tom Woods** often rings **Frank** and it cheers him up considerably and **Irene** said she will take **Frank** out and see some of his mates.

• **KEN HARRISON**, 2/2 of Long Jetty wrote to **Bob Dixon** and said he was not in real good shape as he is a candidate for open heart surgery at St. Vincents Hospital on 18th June. Consequently **Ken** was unable to make any of the Anzac functions but sends his regards to all the old mob. Thanks for the subscription **Ken**.

That concludes the Mail Bag for this issue, I will not dwell on Anzac Day, that's covered elsewhere, but I must mention the shock I got when a bloke came in the door and said **Neville Hall**, I looked at him, and he said, come on **Lakey "Sailor Hall"** I nearly fell off the chair, as I don't think **Sailor** has been to a turnout for over 20 years. He looks well and is big enough to be that way. I missed **Gillian**, and my ribs are much the better for it, don't stay away too often though **Frank**. A big cheerio to all, a get well soon wish to all that may be on the sick list, and looking forward to meeting many blokes and brides and Coffs Harbour.

— LAKEY.

# PIONEER NEWS

Phone: 759-5491

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

Per Annum: \$2

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

Printed by Vaughan Douglas Printers, 1a Quirk Road, Balgowlah.

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

Treasurer: VIC WHITELEY

Editors: R. LAKE & M. HERRON

President: J. (Mick) DODSON

Vol. 29. No. 3

SEPTEMBER 1984

Registered by Australia Post, Publication No. NAS 1250

## HISTORY OF THE CENOTAPH, SYDNEY

Following a request from one of our members in reference to the history of the Cenotaph in Martin Place, Sydney, interviews were arranged with the R.S.L., Sydney City Council, and the "Sydney Morning Herald" and every possible assistance was given by all concerned.

The word Cenotaph means an empty tomb or a monument erected in honour of a person who is buried elsewhere. The wording on the Memorial is therefore appropriate — "To Our Glorious Dead".

In the early days of 1920 the general public had settled down to days of peace after the 1914-18 War and with the return to normal civilian life of the country's fighting men, the public wanted an appropriate memorial in the heart of the city.

In the R.S.L. records, the first reference to the erection of a Hallowed Shrine at the present site appears in 1924 when mention was made of a sub committee, and a generous offer by Mr. Hugh Macintosh, managing director of "The Sunday Times" to give publicity to the project.

However it does seem that the inspiration and initiative for the memorial can be attributed to Mr. Fred Davison, a metropolitan Vice President of the R.S.L.

As this movement was making good progress and with the newspaper publicity assisting, a number of prominent citizens were invited by the State Secretary of the R.S.L. to form a committee to further the project. When formed this was known as the Sydney Cenotaph Committee.

The committee under the chairmanship of Mr. Justice Ferguson of the Supreme Court held their first meeting on 24th February 1925 and the following resolution was carried: "That steps be taken for the erection of a memorial in Martin Place in memory of N.S.W. Fallen Comrades".

On 13th May 1925 it was decided that a deputation wait on the Premier, Sir George Fuller asking for assurance from the Government that they would support the erection of the memorial.

The assurance was agreed to by the Government.

A few weeks after the deputation a general election took place with the result that Mr. J.F. Lang became Premier.

The subject of design was not on a competitive basis and the committee asked the Premier, Mr. Lang, to agree to the Government commissioning Sir Bertram Mackennall to undertake the designing and erection of the Memorial. For this purpose Mr. Lang indicated his Government would provide 10,000 pounds.

### DORMAN LONG, CONTRACTORS

In May, 1927, the committee decided on the title of "The Martin Place Memorial Committee" and later that month met with Dr. Bradfield and Mr. Martin of Dorman Long & Co. who were contractors for the erection of the Memorial. This firm also contracted for the erection of the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

The masonry work for the Memorial was cut, hewn and dressed at the Moruya quarry of Dorman Long and consisted of Moruya grain. The overall size is 9ft 6½ inches and the base 22 ft long.

On 2nd August 1927 the ship arrived in Sydney from Moruya with the huge block of granite which weighed over seventeen tons. It was indeed a spectacle to witness the team of twenty horses hauling this terrific load from the dockside to Martin Place. The overall task of unloading, hauling and embedding onto mortar in position took only three hours.

The Dedication took place on 8th August, 1927, and was presided over by the Governor of N.S.W. Sir Dudley De Chair. Premier Lang delivered the speech of Dedication. Mr. F. Davison of the R.S.L. was appointed Custodian.

At a meeting of the committee on 19th December, 1928 it was resolved that the unveiling of the Cenotaph would take place on 21st February, 1929, which was the anniversary of the day the Australian Light Horse entered Jericho City during the Palestine campaign.

During the second and third weeks of February, 1929, work proceeded according to schedule in fitting the bronze statues of the Sailor and Soldier to their respective pedestals.

The model of the soldier selected was that of William P. Derby, Regimental number 6 of the 15th Infantry Battalion and the 4th Field Ambulance. He passed away in Queensland in January 1936 aged 66 years.

The model of the sailor selected was that of Leading Signalman John William Varcoe of the R.A.N. He was born at Baker's Swamp N.S.W. on 20th July, 1897, and educated at Dubbo Public School. He enlisted in the navy on the 3rd June, 1913 and served on H.M.A.S. Pioneer from December 1914 to November 1916 then transferred to H.M.A.S. Parramatta until November 1919. He was awarded the D.S.M. on 17th May 1918. He passed away in October 1948.

### CENOTAPH CUSTODIAN APPOINTED

The Cenotaph was unveiled on 21st February, 1929, by the Governor of N.S.W. Sir Dudley De Chair who placed the one and only laurel wreath on the Cenotaph. Addresses were given by Premier Bavin and Sir John Monash.

Since 1928 a Custodian has been appointed annually by the R.S.L.

At least once a week the Custodian removes from the Cenotaph all dead and withered tributes and detaches the cards and ribbons. The cards are kept for another use and after being laundered the ribbons are distributed by the R.S.L. Women's Auxiliary to ex-service women in mental hospitals and to girls in orphanages — all for the use of hair ribbons. Thus from tokens of sorrow these ribbons bring joy to many others — young and old.

An arrangement also exists whereby Rover Scouts of the N.S.W. Scout Association voluntarily clean and scrub down the Cenotaph with soap and water at two monthly intervals. In consequence it continues to have the best appearance of any Monument in Sydney.

— Compiled and researched by Harry Montague who expresses gratitude for the generous assistance given by the R.S.L. and all those who so kindly helped with information.

## COFFS REUNION

An advertisement appears on page four of this issue, outlining all details of the Country Reunion at Coffs Harbour on the 15th/16th September 1984.

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

It is also suggested that members seek out an envelope with their name on the front which should be placed in their room of the motel/hotel. Contact the reception desk if not in the room. This envelope contains maps/brochures for the Saturday morning tour also information for the Sunday tour.

We ask the co-operation of all members with cars to seek out and look after those members coming by train. In some cases it could be a good walk to the Ex-Services Club from their place of abode. In addition there is the Saturday morning tour and tour/picnic lunch on the Sunday.

At the time of going to press one hundred and sixty applications had been received.

**JIM FIELD, Publicity Officer**

## PIONEER GATHERING

On Thursday, 28th June eighteen members of the Association gathered at the Earlwood Ex-Service Club for lunch and refreshments.

The occasion was to celebrate the retirement of Bill Tasker 2/1 from the Club where he has been Secretary Manager for the past twelve years. The lunch was in the way of farewell by his friends in the unit.

At the conclusion of the lunch Association President Jack Dodson wished Bill all the very best in his retirement from all Pioneers and in particular those who were present.

In reply Bill thanked the President for his kind remarks and also thanked all members who attended the lunch.

In attendance were the following members: Stan Jones, Bert Holmes, Bob Burnside, Bob Lake, Jim Grey, Jack Dodson, Mick Dwyer, Gordon Finlay, Max Law, Jack Clarke, Pat Noonan, George Walker, Laurie Kelly, Roy Jardine, Vic Whiteley, Frank Gillian, Jack Stone.

Apologies for not attending were extended by Max Herron who had a previous engagement.

— **GORDON FINLAY, Reporter**

## SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE

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

When forwarding new address, please state old address.

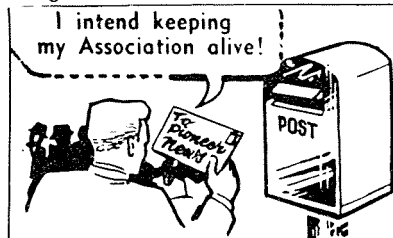
If you no longer want Pioneer News sent, mark wrapper, "Return to Sender", and return to Secretary.

All correspondence to Secretary as follows:—

M. HERRON, Hon. Sec.

2/1-2/2 PIONEER BTN. ASSOC.

3 Enoggera Road, Beverly Hills, NSW 2209.



# from the MAIL BAG

Editor: BOB LAKE



September issue of the Mail and once again a good response from the members.

• **BILL LANYON** 2/1 now resident of Belfield sends a note of apology for his lack of writing, a cheque for the treasurer, and a promise of more regularity in the future. **Bill** doesn't go for a lot of news, but does appreciate the receipt of the paper keeping him in touch with his mates of yesteryear and closes with best wishes to all Pioneers for good fortune and good health.

• **THEO REID** 2/1 of Parramatta writes a thank you letter to the secretary for the information regarding the boys of the R.A.P. **Theo** has looked up quite a few of these blokes since, and recently spent a great day with **Jack Collis** and wife, plus **Bricky Wall** at Gosford and claims a new lease of life since that great day. **Theo** will not be attending Coffs Harbour but will definitely be a starter at the next one. Closes with a cheque for the treasurer and his thanks for the pleasure of the Pioneer News.

• **KEITH BOYLE** 2/1 of Moama sends a newsy letter and reports of finally catching up with **Noel Grant** of Altona after about 39 years. Spent a pleasant couple of days, the first day being a bit of a problem because with **Noel's** arrival, also arrived **Keith's** son and wife with plans to take them both to lunch for Mum's birthday, however it worked out O.K. and the Pioneer Party had a luncheon at the Golf Club the following day plus a great bit of ear bashing of past 40 years. **Noel** and wife left the next day for the return trip to Altona with promises that they would definitely meet again. **Keith's** wife is slowly recovering from her illness and he is pretty good, has to have a Repat check up once a year but has no worries on that score. Closes with best wishes to all and claims any Pioneer travelling that way would always be welcome.

• **BERNIE DALY** 2/2 Taree sends a cheque to the treasurer and the information that the **Dalys** have booked their accommodation at Coffs also that of **Don Murray** who will be travelling with them. **Bernie** had the Anzac Day March on video and claims he had the Pioneers with sore feet by the time he had them going back and forth on tape.

• **JACK GRIFFITHS (GLIDO)** Mayfield, writes a happy little note of thanks for another reunion organised, and is happy to report that he and **Esme** will be there, and they are also transporting **Dick Seddon** with them. Keep that Red Mill under the seat till you catch up with **Wheaton** and I, we will both be happy to help you with it. **Jack** is still President of the Newcastle Rats of Tobruk, also President of the Gallipoli Legion and found it impossible to get to Sydney for Anzac Day. Will be with us for only 2 days and nights at Coffs, and then proceeding on to Grafton for a visit to their daughter. **Jack** enclosed cheques for his bookings at Coffs, and also one to keep **Old Moneybags Whiteley** happy.

• **JACK COLLIS** 2/1 Umina, with a short note that **Harry Hutchison** is still fighting on, showing a ton of spirit, **Jack** also apologised for missing **Peg Herron** on Anzac Day but had to leave a little earlier owing to family commitments, however has enclosed his deposit for Coffs and will be able to make up for lost time up there.

• **BILL WRIGHT** 2/1 Wyoming, with a letter telling of his glorious six weeks in Queensland, good weather, you must have just got in before the storm **Bill**, however he missed out on seeing **Porky Graham** and **Bill Gamble**. Did contact **Bill Gamble** by telephone and had a lengthy chat with

him, also convinced him that he should be on the list and enclosed his address, **Max** has noted the address and back numbers of Pioneer News have been posted. **Bill** closes with best wishes and will see us all at Coffs.

• **JACK MURRAY** 2/2 West Australia, has sent a short note of thanks for the back numbers of Pioneer News forwarded to him and is very pleased to become a member of the Association. **Jack** was with the 2/2 in New Guinea and Borneo and enclosed a cheque for the treasurer to start the ball rolling. Many thanks **Jack**, and welcome to the club, you won't regret it.

• **TOM MCGUINNESS** 2/1 Tanilba Bay with a thank you for the Pioneer News and a request for some information. **Max** has written to you personally on this matter and has requested me to do the same through the paper. **Tom** wants anybody who was in B.Coy 2/1 at roadwork between Ipswich and Esk in 1942, Company H.Q. at Fernvale to contact him personally at 18 Army Avenue, Tanilba Bay 2301, Phone 049-824 995, he would be so very grateful. **Tom** has a back problem and he quotes, it's not getting any better. We hope that gets you some response **Tom** and take note of what **Max** wrote to you, you may get some further results.

• **JIM RYAN** 2/2 Richmond, Vic., writes a thank you for the News, a sub for the treasurer and the news that at last he has retired. **Jim** has moved into some elderly people's flats and is settling in O.K. Still plays a bit of tennis and will possibly join a bowls club later on, but intends doing a few trips in his winding down period. Many thanks for the letter **Jim**, and hope you enjoy retirement as much as we are.

• **ALLAN SHAW** 2/1 Narrabeen, sends a cheque to the treasurer and a thank you for the back issues of the paper. Has a bit of eye trouble and a spur on the heel and has an appointment for same on the 27.7.84. **Allan** speaks of old names and remarks that he and **Peter Bell** were side drummers in the original band. Sends regards to all with a special mention for the Newcastle mob, his original hometown.

• **JACK COATES** 2/1 Umina, better known as the Balmain Tiger, sends a letter with the information on **David Lucas** an ex Pioneer living on Macleay Island, Queensland with his daughter and son-in-law **Diane** and **Rod Lindner**. Talked quite a bit to **Jack** has not been in any contact with the mob since discharge. Has been very sick, stroke and coma for awhile but is slowly coming good. **Jack** also mentions that he and **Lex** on a cruise down the Brisbane River saw the HMAS Tobruk tied up and took a couple of photos of same. Also mentioned that **Jack Collis'** son **Bill** has been posted to HMAS Hobart and will be off soon on a 4 months tour of duty. Still falling for the baby sitting duties as he quotes, Dad on the paddock, Mum at work at the hospital, and Grandad on the sideline with the kids, a fitting duty for a tiger. **Max** has written you with regards the books, but I think the tiger's roar has sunk to a low growl now mate, not that my mob are doing it any easier. Thanks for the letter mate, and I hope to see you at Coffs. Thank heavens it won't be grand final time, I don't think I could take another one like last year with all those Pioneers around.

• **PAT LOVE** 2/2 Rivervale, West Aust., sends a cheque to the treasurer and a thank you for the News. **Pat** says he would not know **Max Herron** "naturally so as **Max** was 2/1 but still appreciates the work of **Herron** for his dedication to the

Pioneer Association. **Pat** was also a member of the 2/33, and receives the newsletter from them also, so keeps quite a check on his old mates of the years of conflict.

• **CLAUDE DENSMORE** 2/1 Wallsend, with a short note apologising for his late subscription, claims it's becoming a habit lately, no apologies are necessary old mate, I hate to think of the state I shall be in if ever I get to 82 years, it's still nice to receive a few lines and your good wishes to all are reciprocated likewise.

• **JACK MCINTYRE** 2/2 per pen of wife **Jean** with the bad news that **Jack** has had a very bad stroke. He had taken himself off to Melbourne to visit old friends, and was actually at **Col Shea's** home visiting when he went down. They got him into hospital, rang **Jean** and she stayed with them, quotes, marvellous people words cannot describe **Frank Ball** visited **Jack** regularly in hospital, and drove them to the plane for their journey home. **Jack** is making a very good recovery and they are planning to be at Coffs in September. Thank you for your letter **Jean** we sincerely hope that the recovery continues to please and your cheque is in the safe hands of the treasurer.

• **FRANK CHEAL** 2/2 Port MacQuarie with a cheque for the treasurer and the advice of a change of address from Armidale as from the 7.7.84. How do you feel about that **Frank**, from the cold of the tablelands to the waters of the coast, a bit of a toss up this last few weeks.

• **TED (BLUEY) EATHER** 2/1 Kempsey, sends a cheque for the treasurer and the news that he is still getting along O.K. Always pleased to receive the News and to know how things are around the troops. **Bluey** sees a bit of **John Smith** at Smithtown but has still not made it to Macksville to look up **Bombo Reynolds** and **Ray Horne**. He claims t.at the old metal valve in his heart is still going strong and he can still go to a dance and dance all night. **Blue** misses **Larry Robson** doing his north coast run, **Larry** always kept them posted on the latest news, also collected their subs for them I'd say he spoil you blokes more than your own wives do. Still does the three Services on Anzac Day. Dawn Service at Fredericktown, and then back to Kempsey. Has not had a drink or smoke for nearly 10 years now, but claims he had more than his share prior to that. Closes with best wishes to all and will confirm his plans about Coffs before he reads this paper.

• **MRS. MARJORIE HOOD** wife of the Late **Bill** 2/2 with a letter on **Bill's** demise, and the fact that we were possibly not notified, we know only so well how upset one gets at the loss of a loved one, and as was explained by the secretary we received the message per the Rats of Tobruk. Again we offer our sincere sympathy and hope that you attack the future as **Bill** would want you to, chin up, with your memories to provide you with the support and strength necessary in your darkest hours.

• **BERN REINERS** 2/1 Corryong, with a newsy letter and that they are all fit and well. Wife **Mona** had a 60th birthday in June, and as he says must be improving with age, hitting the golf ball very consistently while his game is going to the dogs. They have intentions of a holiday soon, going north to Brisbane, then a coach tour to Cairns, 15 days, before making a leisurely trip home down the coast. **Bern's** son and wife are doing a trip about the same time so it's possible that they may meet at Cairns. **Lex** number 2 son is on long

service leave and rang from Glasgow one Saturday night. He and another chap and a girl have an old Kombi which they are touring in. **Bern** claims they will be glad to get away from Corryong for awhile the weather has been terrible, very cold, and the worst still heavy fogs which hang around nearly all day, making every thing so damp and miserable. Closes with best wishes to all and with the chance of getting together in the near future.

• **TOM MANUEL** 2/1 Glen Innes, with quite a lot of news, some for the Last Post unfortunately, **Eric John O'Hara**. A little on the brighter side **Jack Rodgers** 2/1 still in some pain but being well attended by wife **Joyce** and family. As **Tom** says, still growling but they have become used to that. **Jack and Edna Marshall** 2/1 very well, **Jack** has unloaded some of his spare birds, has kept some with **Edna's** approval. Feathered ones of course. **Bob and Shirley Donald** both well, **Shirley** and another lovely voice teamed to entertain the R.S.L. Pensioners Dinner, they have 4 of these a year, and both sang beautifully, the old songs that are so much appreciated by the age group involved. Recently seen and in good health **Col Noon, Clive Meak, Kings Plains and Vic Donald** all doing O.K. **Tom** passes on his best wishes to **Alex Durie**, and also informs us that in reference to my comments last issue on **Geoff Dynon's** handwriting, that all doctors' write like that so that patients can't decipher what they have to take. **Tom**, speaking of **Geoff Dynon** also makes a comment, "does **Geoff** remember their short cut to the 'CRATER' and **Lt. Col. Buckley's** remark, 'that they were never again to be teamed for guidance', on the Atherton Tablelands." How about that **Geoff**, put pen to paper and give us all the full story but don't take all the blame yourself. Many thanks for a good letter **Tom** and best wishes from us all.

• **MRS. BONNIE SNUDDEN**, Cobar widow of the late **Cec** writes for some information which was dealt with by personal letter from the Sec. and a thank you for the regular Pioneer News. **Bonnie** received a card from wife **Connie** telling her of **Allan Stephs** recovery down at Coleraine, Vic. and was so pleased to hear the good news. **Bonnie** closes with best wishes and kindest regards to all members and families of the Association.

• **FRED WHEATON** 2/1, Sawtell wrote me a letter late June, sorry **Fred** that I did not answer it straight away, "I'll owe you a rum" but your offer of assistance re the Coffs Show greatly appreciated but the operation was fully organised. Of course we may find you a job or two over the period but nothing concrete as yet. From the note received, it appears **Fred and Jean** have been overseas but you did not say how long you were away and where you went. While in London, **Bluey Simmons** called at their hotel and took them to his home where they had a great day. Had a couple of beers, but **Blue** is not 100% has a heart problem and **Fred** claims **Blue** has never forgotten that hair cut they gave him back in 1941. While on the subject I hope you are both coming to Coffs, when speaking to **Max** last, they had not heard from you, naturally as you were away, but I hope you do come, I know it is only a short way away but would still like to see you both join us at the Caravan Park for a few days. Most of us are arriving there on the Wednesday 12.9.84 and staying a full week. Promise we won't put you on the wood heap or any hard manual labour, so keep your options open, speak nicely to the boss.

• **SID JOPSON** 2/1 of Port Macquarie has not been well of late but with complete rest is coming good. In a letter from **Myrt** she mentions their daughter **Ann** has presented them with another grand-daughter on the 28th June. They are also expecting their daughter-in-law to present them with another grandchild sometime in September. This will make ten grandchildren.

**Sid and Myrt** celebrated thirty seven years of marriage on the 19th July and it was a very quiet occasion.

**Sid** was pleased to have a call from **Vince Petrich** in June and was happy to chat with him about old times.

Thank you for your letter and subscriptions **Myrt** and keep up the good work of looking after **Sid**.

• **JACK COLLIS** 2/1 of Umina sends along a second report to say **Harry Hutchinson** is now out of hospital and at home being looked after by his wife **Hazel**.

The family have placed **Jack's** citation for life membership in a place of honour on the wall so that all visitors can see it. **Jack** said the family get as big a thrill as he does to see it.

He states he will get down one day to Strathfield and call on **Doctor Dynan**.

• **COLIN CAMERON** of Campbelltown, writes to say all is well up his way and wishes to be remembered to all Pioneers.

• **JACK HOCKING** 2/2 of Chadstone, Victoria writes to say **Col. Shea** was taken to Royal Melbourne Hospital in June with heart trouble. **Ted Hansen** had visited **Col** and said he could be in hospital for some time. We do hope by now **Col** is fully recovered and all in Sydney send their regards and best wishes to you **Col**.

• **WYN HAYDEN**, wife of **John**, 2/1, Orange, writes a long letter with many thanks for the Pioneer News and apologies for not writing sooner.

Was pleased to see that **Bill Jollie** was marshal for the 2/1sts on Anzac Day and mentions that **John** is unable to make the Sydney march on account of him being the permanent marshal in Orange and enclosed a cutting from the local paper with **John's** photo in it.

**John's** knees are not the best and in time will have to have a knee replacement.

Their son, **John**, has two daughters, aged ten and seven, and they have also become grandparents again with the arrival of their first grandson, to daughter **Helen**. There were a few worrying weeks after the baby was born and eventually he was taken by air ambulance to Sydney for specialist treatment. However, he is now progressing well and keeps **Wyn and John** on the go – we all know that feeling!!

**Wyn** says the weather in Orange has them almost bogged to the knees and says if fine weather doesn't soon put in an appearance they will be sprouting webbed feet.

Thanks for your newsy letter, **Wyn**, also for the donation to Association Funds. Your good wishes are passed on to all Pioneers and we hope you and **John** keep well and make another of our country reunions in the future.

That concludes the Mail Bag for this issue this is one of our quieter magazines, and I can't say much about the football, I'll save it all for Coffs, golf sticks are a must for this week, so don't forget to pack them in, to the home brewers, unlimited supplies are allowed, and keep your elbows in working order. That's it for now see you all at Coffs.

—LAKEY

## NEWS ITEMS

**MAVIS HALL**, daughter of the late Mrs. O'Malley Wood, called on Peg and Max Herron recently and was pleased to hear of the progress of the Association. Mavis still lives in Dubbo and since the death of her husband has been kept busy managing the home.

Mavis was interested in the albums of both Pioneer Units and also the photos and newspaper cuttings which have been displayed at our Country Reunions.

Nice to keep in touch with you, Mavis, and best wishes from all in the Association.

**BOB DIXON**, our popular Social Secretary, is at the moment in Concord recovering from a lung operation. His wife, Jean, expects Bob to be in hospital for several weeks and unfortunately they will be unable to attend the Reunion at Coffs.

Our very best wishes to you, Bob, for a speedy recovery and we shall certainly miss you at the Reunion functions.

## SECRETARY'S REQUEST

Please address mail to Secretary as follows:-

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

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1984

At the Annual Meeting one stopped to think back over the years since the end of World War Two nearly thirty nine years ago.

Many members have passed on over those years, but still this, 2/1-2/2 Pioneer Battalion Association remains as strong as ever. All members may not now be in good health, but lack of good health is made up by enthusiasm and support for the Association.

Very seldom nowadays do we refer to the 2/1 Pioneer Battalion or 2/2 Pioneer Battalion for over the past twenty years we have been united as one body 2/1-2/2 Pioneer Battalion Association.

Throughout the years the numerous Reunions in the different country towns are looked forward to and are well attended. Never has there been any trouble at these Reunions and the name of the 2/1-2/2 Pioneer Battalion Association has been held to the fore, with invitations to return to those towns visited.

We come to the Anzac Day March which is the day we remember the ANZACS who fought and died so that we, today could live in a free and democratic country.

We remember all sailors, soldiers, airmen and women from all conflicts since 1914, who gave their lives and those who have passed on since. The 2/1-2/2 Pioneer Association has always indicated that to survive "we must Remember

Them" and keep alive the name of Anzac.

Our Association alone in the past twelve months lost seventy members – "Lest We Forget".

At the Annual Meeting of 26th April 1957 a comparatively young man took over the reins of the Secretaryship of the 2/1-2/2 Pioneer Battalions Association. His dedication in an unpaid position (many times costing money by his wife and self) has bonded together this Association. As a committee man and President over the years I have an insight knowledge of the work this man has performed. Let me as President, on behalf of all members of the 2/1-2/2 Pioneer Battalion Association express thanks to that man – Max Herron.

Let us not forget the work by Max's wife Peg carried out for the Association – this is greatly appreciated by all members.

The Committee over the past year has worked hard and endeavoured to keep the standard of the Reunions to such a high one that all members look forward to the next one.

Owing to leg problem this will be the first Anzac March I have missed since 1946, but my thoughts will be with you all.

I thank all members for their confidence in electing me as your President over the years and I sincerely thank you all for making my position an easy one.

—PRESIDENT JACK (MICK) DODSON



## BRISBANE REUNION

**SATURDAY, 27th OCTOBER, 1984**

at 4 p.m. at the residence of

**JOHN and MOLLIE HUNT**

4/25 Mountford Road, New Farm, Qld. 4005.

Telephone 358 4349

Acceptance requested by 19th October.

## PIONEER GET-TOGETHER

Calling ex-members of any of the Pioneer Battalions. A get-together dinner is being held at the RSL Club, Wagga on Saturday, September 8th, 1984.

For further details contact: J. Morgan, 282 Lake Albert Road, Wagga, Ph. (069) 22-6577, C. Knott, 17 Wallendry Avenue, Wagga, Ph. (069) 21-3091 or K. Knight, 11 Warrawong Street, Wagga, Ph. (069) 21-3529.

### 2/1-2/2 PIONEER BATTALIONS ASSOCIATION

## PROGRAMME — COFFS REUNION

**Saturday, 15th September and Sunday 16th September 1984**

**TOUR OF COFFS HARBOUR** — 10 a.m. Saturday 15th. Booklets and map showing places of interest will be issued to members by motel/hotel owner. These will show places of interest around district so as to arrange own private tour in car. Members are asked to co-operate by arranging people without transport into their car for tour.

**WREATH LAYING CEREMONY** — Saturday, 15th September, 4.30 p.m.: Members to form up at Soldiers Memorial at junction of Grafton Street and Mooney Road. No march. Medals and decorations to be worn.

**REUNION DINNER** — Saturday 15th September. 6 p.m.: Pre Dinner drinks in the Auditorium Bar, first Floor of Coffs Harbour Ex-Services Club, Vernon Street.

7 p.m.: Three course dinner Auditorium. Cost: Pre-dinner drinks, wine or squash for two toasts, plus the meal, per person \$13.00.

**TOUR and PICNIC LUNCH** — Sunday, 16th September, 10 a.m.: Assemble car park opposite Civic Centre, corner of Castle and Vernon Streets.

10.30 a.m.: Depart from car park after organising people into as few cars as possible. Map and directions given to drivers for 11 km, 25 minute trip to Bruxner Park and Lookout. Bring own lunch. Barbecue facilities available. Bring fold up chairs or rugs, if available to sit on grass. Seating available for sixty people. Bruxner Park brochures will be included in envelope left in members room by motel/hotel. Refreshments at cost.

**FAREWELL GET-TOGETHER** — Sunday 16th, September. Coffs RSL 6 p.m.: Drinks purchased by members in the Auditorium Bar, first Floor of Coffs Harbour Ex-Services Club, Vernon Street.

7 p.m.: Smorgasbord dinner in the Auditorium and sole use of bar. Informal evening after meal. Cost per person \$9.00.

**TRAINS** — will be met by a welcoming committee consisting of Jim Field Director and assisted by Bob Lake, George Walker, Vince Petrich, Gordon Finlay and Vic. Whiteley.

On alighting from train, walk to exit and watch for large sign "Pioneers report here". Cars will then transport members to place of accommodation.

**TRANSPORT OFFICERS** have been appointed at each place of accommodation and their role will be to organise transport for the members who have travelled to the Reunion by train.

In addition to organising the transport at their own place of abode it is anticipated that the Transport Officers will liaise with one another with a view to assisting each other.

Places of accommodation with phone numbers and Transport Officers are listed below:—

<b>Sapphire Gardens Caravan Park</b> , Pacific Highway, 53 6282 —	<b>JACK COLLIS</b>
<b>Premier Motor Inn</b> , Pacific Highway, 52 2044 —	<b>VINCE PETRICH</b>
<b>Bananatown</b> , 15 Grafton Street, 52 4411 —	<b>JOHN HUNT</b>
<b>Golden Glow</b> , 19 Grafton Street, 52 2742 —	<b>FRED BELLINGHAM</b>
<b>Chelsea Motor Inn</b> , 106 Grafton Street, 52 2977 —	<b>BERN DALY</b>
<b>Hotel Coffs Harbour</b> , High Street, 52 3817 —	<b>PHIL CRAMSIE</b>

**PLEASE BRING THIS PROGRAMME WITH YOU TO THE REUNION**

## LAST POST

**BILL HOOD** 2/2 of Wamboral passed away suddenly in March from heart trouble. He had not been enjoying good health for a long time.

Upon his request the funeral was a private one and his remains were taken back to St. Paul's Church at Chatswood where he was married.

Bill was a well liked and respected man in the 2/2nd Pioneers and to his wife, Marjorie and family we extend our sincere sympathy in their sad loss.

**ERIC J. O'HARA** 2/1 of Glen Innes passed away in June and the funeral was attended by our Glen Innes representative, Tom Manuel. The President of the RSL at Glen Innes conducted the service and the gathering was a very large one.

Eric trained and cared for racehorses as well as making available his veterinary knowledge to all people with animals free of charge.

He trained some famous New Zealand horses in his time and was widely respected for his efficiency and kindness to animals.

He was a quiet man with more friends than he came to realize.

Tom Manuel extended to Eric's widow and family the sincere sympathy of all Pioneers. He also arranged for her enrolment into Legacy.

**JIM MUIR** 2/2 of Bankstown passed away on 14th July after a long illness, and the funeral was attended by Jack McDonagh. The President and members of Bankstown RSL were also in attendance.

Bob Dixon and Jim Field had on numerous occasions visited Jim while he was in hospital.

Jack McDonagh extended to Jim's family the sincere sympathy of all Pioneers.

**BLUEY CARTER** 2/2 of Geelong passed away on the 14th June at his home. This news was related by Bob Dixon who had Bluey staying with him over the Anzac period. Bob states Anzac Day was a great time, but for him it was a special time because of the visit of his platoon mate Bluey Carter of Geelong.

Bluey had a fantastic time with all concerned and went home vowing to stir things up, Pioneer wise in Geelong. But this was not to be. He was a great mate and is sadly missed by his wife and family and all his friends. The four days he spent with Bob and Jean will never be forgotten.

## CONCORD HOSPITAL

The Repatriation General Medical Centre at Concord is now equipped with a unique night landing system for helicopters, thus giving it greater urgent capabilities.

This new system was officially opened by the Minister for Veteran Affairs, Senator Arthur Gietzelt on 26th January, 1984 who performed the opening ceremony of what is known as the Australian designed, "Rotorstrobe Navaid System".

The new modern arrangement is a portable system which could guide up to six helicopters into the Medical Centres ground should a disaster strike.

The equipment gives approach and landing positions on the helipad. Incidentally it won a major prize in 1981 on the ABC Programme "The Inventors".

R.G.H. Concord, although Federal funded through the Department of Veteran Affairs, plays a major role in the N.S.W. medical system, and is also part of the Armed Services Medical Programme.

In the past, night time helicopter landings have been assisted by ambulance headlights trained across the sports ground.

Under the present system, pilots will be able to see the main beacon at the Medical Centre from up to thirty kilometres away and then approach, under guidance, to their assigned positions on the landing pad. —HARRY MONTAGUE, Reporter

# PIONEER NEWS

Phone: 759-5491

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

Per Annum: \$2

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

Printed by Vaughan Douglas Printers, 1a Quirk Road, Balgowlah.

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

Treasurer: VIC WHITELEY

Editors: R. LAKE & M. HERRON

President: J. (Mick) DODSON

Vol. 29, No. 4

DECEMBER 1984

Registered by Australia Post, Publication No. NAS 1250

## COFFS "BANANA REPUBLIC" REUNION

Our Reunion on Saturday 15th September 1984, dawned fine and sunny, allowing those who had not seen Coffs Harbour before, ample time to explore this lovely area. Of course, others were content to take things easy before the events of the afternoon and evening.

### WREATH LAYING CEREMONY

At 4.30 p.m., in bright sunlight, approximately 180 Pioneers and friends gathered at the Coffs Harbour Memorial to pay their respects to fallen and past comrades.

Gordon Finlay, Master-at-Arms on this occasion, introduced Ivor Garnon who spoke of the reason we were gathered together at this hallowed spot. Captain Jim West of the Salvation Army continued the service in a most impressive and inspiring manner, for which he was ably thanked by Max Law. The Ode to the Fallen was recited by Col. Gordon Osborn. This was followed by the laying of wreaths — for the Association, Allan Crute; for the R.S.L. Sub-Branch, President Tom King; for the Services Club, President Reg Hannaford, and Sue Malcolm of 2/5 A.G.H. for the nursing sisters. A most impressive service rekindling the bond of friendship that binds our Association together.

### REUNION DINNER

Following the service, all hands gathered at the Services Club for a chat, a drink, and then a most enjoyable dinner.

The issuing of name tags took a little time by our ladies, but what a difference they made. Many of us, self included, could not put names to faces. It's an awful feeling calling an old mate the wrong name.

Jack Griffiths (Glido), with his good wife Esme, ably filled in for Bob Dixon who, because of illness, could not attend and we do hope he is now well on the way to good health. "Glido" was in good form and kept things moving along and, miraculously, when he asked for silence, received it. It think they were stunned by his Russki joke.

The evening continued on, the official duties and toasts being capably given and received by all. Col. Gordon Osborn, standing in for President Jack (Mick) Dodson, who unfortunately could not attend, welcomed our guests, to which Reg. Hannaford (ex R.A.A.F.) responded. Gordon then spoke in appreciation of those responsible for the success of the function.

A lovely supper cloth, made and donated by Bob Gales, was won by Stella Daly and Stella certainly appreciated her good fortune.

Bernie Daly organised his crowd well with Leo and Mary Cornelius, Jack Morgan, Fred and Evelyn Bellingham, Dick and Heather Marshall (all the way from Victoria). Don Murray was sitting quietly managing to get a word in now and then, also Bob and Nell Ginnane. Many more 2/2nds were gathered together talking and enjoying proceedings in the persons of Nev. O'Connor and his friend, Betty Rosenberg, Jack and Dot McGregor, Roy and Marion McGregor, Dick and Alison Walker, Bert and Olive Beaton (also from Victoria), Bill Russell, Len and Gwen Hope, Brian Neiberding, James and Eileen Taylor (from Urunga and who had read about the "do" in the Coffs paper) and Tom and Nancy O'Loughlin from Essendon, Vic.

After the main course, Jack Griffiths presented

Gordon Osborn with the Life Membership Certificate of our Association, an award which we were all very pleased to see Gordon receive for his past and present efforts on our behalf. For the first time since I have known Gordon he was lost for words. Congratulations on a job well done, Gordon.

Another group of 2/2nds chatting at the dinner table were Reg and Coralie Armstrong, Jim and Kathleen Field, Don and Nancy Linton, Frank and Jean Locane, Cec and May Sloggett, Tom and Renee Wood, Chris and Marea McKay, Clemm McDonald (banner bearer for the 2/2) and Norma Lowe were all contributing to the conviviality of the night. John McKnight and Alice Byrne were with Jack Morgan, who was having a rest after organising the earlier combined Pioneer Reunion at Wagga. I may have missed some couples, but as people were starting to move around it was hard to record all names. It is pleasing to see so many of the two battalions mixing, as we all have wonderful memories to share.

Laurie Kelly was in good form and I am sure Daph is much wiser now. Sitting around and enjoying proceedings were John and Jose Gibson from Dungog, Ivor and Ena Garnon, Jack (Dog-Tired) Clarke with Jean, Bob Burnside, Jack Bertram and yours truly. Nearby were Max and Peg Herron, Doug and Roma Shearston (who found an old friend in Marie Parsons), Wally Parsons, Jack and Gwen Collis (Gwen lost her voice with too much talking), Allan and Beulah Crute and our good friend and helper from the "9 mile snipers" Reg Ward. Inside the door Eric Guthrie, Bob Gales, Bill Wright, Doug Waters (all the way from S.A.) and his friend from the 2/8 Field Ambulance Bill Sims, were all enjoying the proceedings.

Clancy Scholes and Irene had a large group to control in Fred and Jean Wheaton, Alec and Jean George, Clive and Betty Harris, Dick Seddon, Bob and Joan Lake with Jane Hope, Jack and Mavis Green and Jim and Ruth Rhodes. It was lucky that Clancy had young Wendy there to keep an eye on them.

Further along were George and Joyce Walker, Gordon and Olive Finlay, Jack and Marj. Kerslake, Vic Whiteley and Peg, having a good yarn to Jack and Maisie Kempnich. Near them Harry and Jean Spreadborough appeared to be having "a ball". Also near this group, Eric & Leila Barber, Ted & Mary Carter, Jack and Marie Dolaghan. Jack said he would make sure there were plenty of oysters if we have an informal get-together at Nelson Bay next year.

Looking good in retirement was Roy Jardine and Phyllis, and Jack Stone, with Nell, thinks Culburra is great. Max Law and Joyce were with Bill and Win Tasker, Brian and Betty Kybert, Noel and Rita Trefoni and enjoying the night. Pat and Mary Noonan appeared to be having a deep discussion with Joe and Maida Kyffin (also up from Victoria), whilst nearby were Vince and Gwen Petrich.

Amongst others present, all enjoying themselves, were Joe and Mavis Blanch, Neville and Phyl Andrews, Claude and Dot Campbell, Percy and Ruby Fisk (with son Paul and his wife Sheree), Pat and Ray Horne, Joyce and Eric (Bombo) Reynolds. Bob Lake's old sparring partner — the Balmain Tiger — Jack and Lex Coates were sitting with Jack and Joyce Martin, Allan (Dora)

## CITATION

At the Coffs Harbour Reunion, Master of Ceremonies, Jack Griffiths presented our Patron Gordon Osborn with his Life Certificate and the Citation read as follows:—

"To Lieut.-Colonel Gordon Osborn, M.V.O., E.D., for thirty eight years of service of an outstanding nature to the Association, thereby qualifying for life membership.

On 13th March, 1946, at the Inaugural Meeting of this Association, Gordon was elected to the General Committee and the following meeting was elected to the Executive of the Association.

Despite Army postings overseas and interstate in the ensuing years, Gordon still continued to keep an active interest in the Association.

For the past fifteen years Gordon has been a regular attendee of the Country Reunions and has taken a major role in all these functions. At the Dubbo Reunion in 1980 a Civic Reception was given in his honour.

Gordon was elected Patron to the Association in 1974. He has been leader of the Anzac Day March for many years and has attended the Anzac Day Reunions as guest speaker on numerous occasions.

This Life Certificate is presented in recognition of his many years of valuable and faithful service voluntarily given to the Association."

Congratulations to you Gordon, on being presented with your Life Certificate — from all Pioneers.

and Val Black, Ted and Jean Felton and Paddy and Gloria Gray, whilst John and Mollie Hunt were with Phil Cramsie busy organising for Brisbane in October. Heard Betty Creasy is moving to Newcastle, so should see more of her in the future.

George Brooks, Bill Hoffman, Harry Montague, Albert Wilkinson, Bluey Cross and Harry and Dorothy Mowbray were all chatting together, whilst nearby were Pat and Fay Kempnich, Rocky and Thelma Watts and Jack and Valda Pearce. Missed Alex Durie and was sorry to hear that his wife is not too good.

Our nursing sisters, Sue Malcolm, Vera Hamilton and Win McKenzie again honoured us with their attendance and we did enjoy their company. We hear Sue has had a street — Malcolm Street — named after her in recognition of her services as Matron of Coffs Harbour Hospital for so many years, also a Wing at the hospital.

After the Ode, Allan Crute was presented with an Association plaque and Beulah with a necklace (the work of Jim Field) for the work they did in Coffs to ensure the success of the Reunion. Jack Griffiths also expressed the thanks of all members to the organising Committee — Peg and Max Herron, Vic and Peg Whiteley, Gordon and Olive Finlay, George and Joyce Walker, Bob and Joan Lake, Jim and Kath Field and, although not present, Bob Dixon and his good wife, Jean.

It was a wonderful night and I am sorry for those, who through illness and other circumstances, could not be with us. However, there will be more. All too soon the night came to a close and we all went back to billets to prepare for the morrow — a glorious day at Bruxner Park.

— LARRY ROBSON and JACK BERTRAM, Reporters.

## COFFS HARBOUR TOUR and PICNIC LUNCH

Sunday, 16th September, 1984 was also a beautiful day and by 10.30 a.m. the Pioneer Battalions' Association members, wives and friends were a happy group as they met together in the Council car park for the Tour and Picnic Lunch on the final day of the Reunion.

The committee-appointed transport group did a great job arranging for members who were without transport to be placed in cars where space was available. By around 10.30, the first cars took off for the run of about 6 miles or so out of town and up the narrow winding road to picturesque Bruxner Park, a Council area virtually straddling a narrow ridge with magnificent views of the coast on one side and typical Australian bush on the other.

It did not take long for everyone to sort themselves out, some in groups on the ground and others taking up the small number of picnic tables and benches around the several permanent B.B.Q. spots.

It was intended to publicise a lot of names in this report, but there were so many members, wives and other guests that to list everyone would make this edition the size of the local telephone book and just as interesting to read.

Before we left town, Bill Tasker realised he had no way of keeping his "tinnies" cold, and showing great Pioneer initiative he dashed to the only place open on the Sunday morning at that time, the local markets, and conned the local fruit-shop keeper into selling him a polystyrene fruit container (complete with lid) for the princely sum of \$1.00. Then next door to the drive-in bottle shop man to give him a couple of shovel fulls of ice cubes for free, then purchased and packed his cans inside and had plenty of very cold beer for the rest of the day.

Up on the mountainside, the ridge ran down at a fairly steep angle and it did not take long to find out which end the noisiest bloke in the group had settled. Joey Blanch was camped at a table near the top and made sure everyone knew what he had to say — all day.

The conservationists (and that included almost everyone — with the exception of a lady or three) were in their glory as, when the food hampers were opened, out of the bush came a number of very well fed goannas. They caused some consternation at first but the animals were not concerned, and wandered about from group to group receiving enough food to keep them going for another week.

Clancy Scholes and Laurie (3 Course) Kelly took over the role of "nature study advisors" and gave interested groups detailed (and I mean **detailed**) information on the habits of goannas in their natural environment. Laurie's description of the method used by an attacking goanna of clamping its teeth around human fingers for instance, was well worth recording, particularly the bit about the creature's "sawing" action as it chews through the fingers.

It was an excellent day for an outing and a real picnic atmosphere was maintained with all people in ones, twos or more moving around from group to group exchanging greetings, enquiring about old friends, and any other subject which would be a reason for swapping a beer or two. The ladies also moved around and there are many who have really become good friends over the years.

It was the Ladies Committee who organised cut lunches for those members who were accommodated in the town hotels and were unable to arrange a picnic lunch, and their action was very much appreciated.

Although there were a couple of toilets on site, most of the boys felt it was easier to "go bush" — particularly towards the end of the day. Some, however, showed their age by finding that the climb back up again reminded them of the

Kokoda Trail without the rain, and judging by the puffing and blowing the boys were not in as good a condition as September, 1942.

As the day came to a close and the process of breaking camp began, the usual "emu" parades made sure the grounds were left in as clean a condition as they were found. Patron Gordon Osborn, in typical boy scout and Pioneer tradition, picked up a cardboard carton with crockery, left-over food etc., as used by our three nursing sisters and himself and carried the somewhat heavy load up the hill to the car park. It was only then that Gordon found out that someone with a fine sense of humour had also included a bag of empty cans in the carton. Although no one knows the real culprit, Jack Griffiths strongly denied the accusation by the loud voice at the top of the hill (as mentioned earlier) and reversed the accusation. It was almost bayonets at 50 paces at one stage, but peace reigned when the two contestants agreed that it was "somebody else — probably the usual passing Chinese gentleman."

The very pleasant day came to an end and the groups headed back to Coffs for a brief rest prior to assembling again at the Ex-Services Club for the farewell smorgasbord dinner — and what a delightful meal. Once again, the detail which was put into the organising of the evening function was outstanding and a great credit to the organising committee who carried out the necessary duties.

The various groups again settled in for the last of the week-end nostalgia and the bar was kept busy by two or three groups of Pioneers who didn't want to say good-bye.

Before the festivities began to slow down, as time quickly passed by, our Patron Gordon Osborn addressed the assembly, firstly thanking the organising committee for the planning, the working group who carried out their duties so well, the Ladies Auxiliary for their part in assisting at various functions and, finally, a very special thanks to Peg and Max Herron for the work that they did in making the week-end the outstanding success that it was. Gordon also thanked, on behalf of the Committee, the many members, their wives and friends who travelled from far away places to Coffs to make yet another very successful country reunion.

Finally the evening came to an end and it was quite noticeable that the "old diggers" did not seem to have the energies needed to kick on a bit longer as they once did. As they said good-bye, it seemed that all promised to "see you on Anzac Day and again at the next country reunion".

The week-end was so full of activity and the time passed so quickly, that it was hard to imagine that suddenly it was time to leave the motels and the hotels and head for home, most by car, a large group by train and one, namely Bob Burnside, by plane. Those who were unable to be with us certainly missed out on yet another great country reunion.

We hope that by recording just a few of the activities, members who **missed** out will not feel left out.

— MAX LAW, Reporter

### LAST POST

**ARTHUR LUDINGTON** 2/1 passed away in August after a long stay at Concord Hospital. Right up to the time of his death Arthur really enjoyed the visits of his friends from the Association.

It was a wonderful tribute to Arthur to see so many Pioneers at the funeral and sincere sympathy was extended to all his family.

**PAT "BLUEY" WALSH**, "B" Coy 2/1 passed away recently and the funeral was attended by Bob and Joyce McGregor and Harry Montague. "Bluey" had been a committee man and worked with Harry on hospital visitations. Our sympathy to Mrs. Walsh and family.

## REUNION JOTTINGS by RUTH RHODES

Appreciation must be extended to Max and Peg Herron, Allan and Beulah Crute for the excellent organization of yet another successful and enjoyable reunion of 175 Pioneer folk.

The warm welcome at Sapphire Gardens Caravan Park was greatly appreciated, and Mike, his wife and partners are to be congratulated on making our stay so pleasurable.

The new Pioneer folk who came to stay there were, as is the usual practice, drawn into the Pioneer circle of activities by those who have previously attended.

Those who arrived a few days prior to the official weekend lent a hand with the final preparations for the Ceremony and Dinner on Saturday evening. Plans were also set for the transport of people from the aeroplane and train, regardless of arrival times, and for their transport on Sunday, also.

Even though it was necessary to resort to taped music for the Ceremony, due to the illness of the two chief bandmen, Captain Jim West of the Coffs Harbour Salvation Army performed the ceremony with sincerity and reverence for the wreath laying at the War Memorial. Marching was forgone this time, as it is felt to be an added strain on some of our "Boys".

The official Dinner and Proceedings at the Coffs Harbour Servicemens and Womens Memorial Club were carried out ably and well, with Jack Griffiths acting as Master of Ceremonies. We were sorry that Mr. Bob Dixon and his wife were unable to attend, owing to his recent surgery, and hope that his future health will be assured.

The weather continued to be gracious, making our trip through the banana plantations to Bruxner Park on Sunday very pleasant for the Barbeque and Picnic Lunch. The unexpected attendance of five tame goannas provided welcome entertainment and the rewards of sausage and chicken leftovers were greedily devoured before scuttling up trees or back into the bush.

Then back to the Club on Sunday evening for the delicious Smorgasbord and more conviviality, thus rounding off a wonderful weekend.

The picnic lunch tour to Dorrigo proved most enjoyable, for those who remained after the weekend. Some of the group followed the 5.4 km trail through the tree and fern covered mountain of Dorrigo National Park, passing the two waterfalls which were well worth viewing, then we all travelled into the township of Dorrigo, taking the forest road from there, through Bonville Village for home.

The evening Barbeques and singsongs around the camp fire have become regular entertainment with the addition of jokes and anecdotes related mainly by male members, although the prize this year must go to Max Herron for his rendition of his dog story.

Each year, more mateships are being restored, and Pioneers who have not yet been able to attend are urged to make every effort to come along and be welcomed into future gatherings, both formal and informal.

Many thanks, once again, to the willing and able band of workers, led by Max and Peg Herron, for a memorable stay at the Coffs Harbour Reunion 1984.

- Bob Gales presented Peg Herron with a table cloth he made in appreciation of her efforts in organising accommodation for the country reunions. Many thanks, Bob, your kindness was very much appreciated.

- Unable to attend the Reunion this time, Mary Lloyd was very thrilled to receive a greeting card (bought and passed around by Clemm McDonald and Norma Lowe) with so many good wishes and signatures. Mary sends a big thank-you to all for the kind thought.

# MAIL BAG

Editor: **BOB LAKE**

The final issue of Mail Bag for 1984 with a good response from members with letters, subscriptions, and donations for the paper. The Coffs Harbour week was another great success for all who attended, which in turn brings a smile of satisfaction to the committee in the knowledge of a job well done.

- **CHARLES URWIN** 2/2 of Wye River, Victoria with a letter per pen of wife **Jean** with a cheque for the treasurer, and an appreciation for the receipt of the News. **Charles** has a problem with his eyes and **Jean** has to read the paper to him. Was very pleased to hear that **Pat Love** was still going strong the last time that they were together was at Borneo, they were both in the same A. Coy. Also received letters from **Dick Ryan** 2/2 and **Bill Hoffman** 2/1 and regrets that he would not be with them at Wagga. **Charles** hopes to be able to do his own letter writing in the near future and first letter will be to **Murray Haby** in Horsham who gives him lots of news. **Jean** closes with best wishes to all on behalf of **Charles** and herself.
- **GEORGE TAYLOR** of 2/2 of Warrnambool, Vic. writes a short note and enclosed a copy of a poem written about a boxer who was quite good in his time. If we have the space in this issue I will try to have it printed as a special favour to **Mick Eddy** for his mates if they are still around. Many thanks for the letter **George** and best wishes from all.
- **PHIL BAWDEN** 2/2 of Leongatha writes a short note expressing his wishes for a successful reunion and an apology for his non attendance, however is looking forward to a picnic at Jells Park, Melbourne in the near future. **Phil** enclosed a cheque for the treasurer and best wishes to all.
- **JOHN HAYDEN**, 2/1 Orange with a short note regarding his dues, this has been rectified, and the news that his brother **Ernie** is away on a tour of England and Europe but could be making his way home very soon. **John** and family have had a week down at Bangor with his son and family doing the trip via Bowral, Kangaroo Valley, and Wollongong. Closes with best regards and a successful Coffs Harbour reunion.
- **PAT MACFARLANE**, 2/1 Blacktown with a very short brief note, with a cheque for the treasurer and a quote, good wishes to all and good luck.
- **NOEL HIBBARD**, 2/1 Meadowbank with much the same as **Pat's**, please find enclosed a cheque for 1984-85, best wishes, but no news so keep up the good work.
- **BLUEY SIMMONDS**, 2/1 now resident of Kent, England with a letter of thanks for the News. **Blue** had a very pleasant day or so in April, with a visit by **Fred** and **Jean Wheaton** who were doing a tour. **Blue** had not seen **Fred** for nearly 40 years, when he was in Australia 1982, **Jack Bertram** took him to **Wheatons** but they were not at home. Had a great old yarn, and **Fred** and **Jean** told us of their visit when we were with them at Coffs. Was also sorry to hear of the death of **Peter Bell**, but was fortunate to see him back in 1982. Another name that revives memories is **Harry Mowbray** an old original 11 Platoon, sends his very best regards to **Harry**. **Blue** has also had a set back in health, a heart attack at Easter, is going along ok now but has to keep his tablet intake up to scratch, 13 tablets a day, (you must nearly rattle by now) and has had to retire early, so has joined the ranks of leisured gentry like a lot more of us. **Blue** closes with best wishes to all and kindest regards.
- **DR. STAN GOULSTON**, 2/1 and our original medical officer, sailed with the unit in 1940 and remained with us till 1943. **Stan** was then taken from the Pioneers to Duntroon for 3 months, then to Northern Territory with H.Q. at Alice Springs, from there to Australian Army Staff in United

Kingdom where he served till 1945. This was very interesting work, medical liaison which took him to France and Germany and later took care of the returning Prisoners of War. **Stan** states that although he has taken very little part in the activities since the war, he remains very close in spirit, and despite the war, regards the years with the 2/1 as among the happiest in his life, and that the time served helped to develop a maturity, which, otherwise would have been impossible. Wishes all his old surviving comrades and friends of the 2/1 the very best, and a thank you to the committee for their efforts on behalf of the Association. A great letter Doctor, and so pleased to receive same, the last time I saw you was outside the Castlereagh Hotel with your wife some twelve years or so ago, and have only to close my eyes and can see you with **Eric Hawkins** tagging along behind with that 38 revolver on your hip doing your rounds of the Fig Tree and surrounding areas. Would be more than pleased to see you just call in to Redfern Town Hall on Anzac Day, can assure you of a very sincere welcome from the troops that had the pleasure of knowing you.

• **BILL RUSSELL**, 2/2 Tamworth with a short note confirming his intention of attending Coffs Harbour, looking forward to renewing acquaintances with everyone and enclosed a cheque for the treasurer for the association, received with thanks **Bill**, good luck at Tamworth.

• **"MAC" McKIBBIN** with a cheque for the association, apologises for his non attendance at Coffs Harbour, and a notification of a new change of address to Currumbin Waters in Queensland. Hope you enjoy your new surroundings **Mac** and look forward to seeing you at some later functions.

• **JACK COLLIS** 2/1 Umina, with the news of the death of **Harry Hutchinson**, **Harry** has been very ill for quite a long while now and the funeral was attended by a large following, as **Harry** had been such a good worker for the Gosford area. The battalion was represented by **Ivor Garnon**, **Tom Wall**, **Jack Coates** and **Jack Collis**, and he also sent a sympathy card to **Hazel** on behalf of the unit. On a happier note, **Jack** expresses appreciation for the great week at Coffs, he feels sure that every reunion gets that little bit better than the last, (I am inclined to agree), however on their return journey, **Jack** and **Gwen** called in to Forster for a few days, they called and saw **Jim McDonald** and wife **Cynthia**, spent a couple of hours telling them what they had missed and have convinced them that they should attend the next one. Many thanks for the letter **Jack**, hope you received that no good lottery ticket that I posted to you.

• **WAL PAGE (Desso)** 2/1 now at Cudgen, writes to apologise for his non attendance at Coffs and wishes all every success, as he claims, we have not had a failure with reunions as yet. **Desso** also plugs a commercial for his second son **Terry**, he has opened a physio clinic in Penrith so if it's aches and pains you have, it's him to see, end of commercial. Question **Wal**, can he help grow hair?? **Wal** closes with a cheque for the treasurer, and the news that he spends most of his time playing bowls, should have started same years ago, and best wishes to all members and families.

• **DICK RYAN** 2/2 Wagga, with a short note to let us know he is still around and a cheque for subscriptions. He had received his last issue of Pioneer News and was hoping for a good attendance at Wagga, where **Jack Morgan** and **Ken Knight** have done a good job. **Dick** was not sure of his movements for the weekend, but would certainly be at the dinner on the Saturday night. Closes with best regards to all Pioneers.

• **WAL NEW** 2/1 Ingleburn, with a note that it is many years since he has been in touch, **Wal** moved around for quite a lot of his life, but has retired now and is more or less settled at Ingleburn. Expresses his thanks for the back copies

of Pioneer News, and thanks to **Gordon Finlay** who was responsible for organising the back issues. **Wal** sees **Gordon** quite a bit now as they play bowls at the same club each Thursday. Re your enquiry for **(Bluey) Darrell Reed**, his address is 30 Beach St, Swansea, so get your letter writing gear into action. **Wal** closes with best wishes to all and a cheque for treasurer.

• **BERN REINERS** 2/1 Corryong, with a letter that they had been up north and came back to shocking weather. Their intentions had been good, they had hoped to call on the **Crutes**, the **Shearstons**, and the **Herrons**, however these intentions were not to be, as **Bern** quotes, I get my nose pointed toward home and I keep going. Not over keen on all the city traffic either, quite happy at the wheel around Albury and such, but not so happy at the big smoke. Enjoyed the trip around the Tablelands but says the only places still recognisable are the railway stations at Tolga and Kairi, and our old campsite well under water of the Tinaroo Dam. They enjoyed their holiday, did not try to do too much at once so did not get tired of travelling, and managed a few games of golf in the times available. Closes with best wishes to all and claims that one day they will come to the big smoke even if they travel by bus or train. Keep trying, **Bernie**.

• **MRS HAZEL HUTCHINSON** wife of the late **Harry**, with a letter of thanks to the association for their assistance at the death of her husband and a special thanks to **Jack Collis** for his many good deeds of help over the period. Many thanks for the letter **Hazel**, and I am sure your kind thoughts of **Jack Collis** are greatly appreciated.

• **BOB LEE** 2/2 Strathfield, writes with the information of the death of **Arthur Daldy**, covered elsewhere in the paper, and goes on to tell of a bus trip that he and wife **Joan** took up through Cessnock last January, on passing **Monty Reid's** place **Bob** could see one ladder going up to the roof and another ladder up to the chimney and has been wondering ever since whether **Monty** had been playing Santa Claus or was he looking for him. Also receives an occasional phone call from **Vic Norman** at Proserpine Q. He won't sit down and write, despite all his promises. Also sorry to hear that **Bob Dixon** has been in hospital. I have been in contact with **Bob** by phone and he is still as chirpy as always and that's one good report to be able to make. **Bob** closes with best wishes to all and a successful Coffs Harbour.

• **ROY LEADBEATER** 2/2 Rockhampton Q., a very short note with a cheque to the treasurer and states that he is not much with the pen so thanks for the "News" and good wishes to all.

• **MURRAY HABY** 2/2 Horsham Vic., with a letter to the association, a sub for the treasurer, and the news that it is now 12 months since he retired from the work force. Has heard it said "How did I ever get time to go to work" and is now inclined to believe same, has taken up golf again plus the bowls for the new season, a spot of fishing now and again, and keeping up with 8 grandchildren certainly does not help for much spare time, however I am sure that you will be able to weather it out. Your request for badges has been attended to, and you should have same when you read this paper.

• **ERN LUNN** 2/2 Dubbo, another two line letter with best wishes to all and a cheque for annual subscriptions, thank you **Ern**, but next time, how about telling us what you are doing with yourself.

• **JACK SPOTTISWOOD** 2/1 Allambie Heights, with the good news that he and wife **Hazel** are both well. **Jack** is still very much involved with the North Bondi R.S.L. and will be in contact with our **Casey Brown**, who does not have his first ale until 11.30am. **Jack** also found the article regarding the Cenotaph in the last issue very interesting and believes that more similar articles would be appreciated, in fact is going to pass his copy on to **Ken Cliff** who is interested in all Australian

memorabilia. **Jack** closes with best wishes to all Pioneers and enclosed a cheque for subs to the treasurer.

• **HARRY SPREADBOROUGH** 2/1 from "Joh's" country sends a letter written before Coffs Harbour offering his assistance with any job that we wanted attended to, this was adjusted as such, and we arrived at the park on the Wednesday to find **Harry** and **Jean** safely ensconced in their little unit. He had arranged to look after the **Mowbrays** on their arrival by train. **Harry** was also pleased that there was no march on the Saturday, reckons his legs are not what they used to be so was quite content just to attend the service.

• **VIC DONALD** 2/1 Glen Innes, writes a thank you for the back issues of "Pioneer News", and although it put his gardening programme back a few days, was so pleased to receive same and catch up with the goings on of the Association. **Vic** quotes that there is not a lot of news for him to contribute as **Jack Marshall** and **Tom Manuel** always get in first from the Glen. Closes with best wishes to all and enclosed a cheque for a few more copies.

• **MICK BYE** 2/2 Dubbo, with a letter telling of his last holiday. Could not afford another trip to New Guinea this winter so did a trip North. Went as far as Rockhampton, then back to Hervey Bay for a fortnight, then back to North Haven for another three weeks, a terrific break from cold and chilly Dubbo. While at North Haven they were so impressed with the peaceful and leisurely pace of the place that they bought a place there. Will still stay at Dubbo for a few more years but will spend a fair bit of the year at the coast, as **Mick** says, he can take quite a bit of beautiful weather and spot of fishing. He knows that **Frank Cheal** is at Port, well **Mick**, I (**Lahey**) have two sisters in the area, one at Dunbogan and one at Lakewood so have been known to be in the area occasionally, also **Wally Parsons** and wife are permanent at the Caravan Park at North Haven, so the next time you write, you best nominate the address of the purchase at the village. **Mick** closes with a cheque for the treasurer to help keep the billy boiling and best wishes to one and all.

At the conclusion of the affairs at Coffs Harbour, I was handed an envelope by **Vic Whiteley** for inclusion in this issue of the News, and he reports — **Harry Spreadborough**, taking a lead from **Bricky Wall** has been collecting cans, and has donated the proceeds of the sale of same to the Association. Well done, and thank you **Harry**. Also credited to the News Account was \$26.00 collected in excess of expenses for the hire of coach on Saturday and Sunday nights by the resident Pioneers of the Sapphire Gardens Caravan Park. While on the subject of the coach, I think we should express our thanks to **Vic Whiteley** who was totally responsible for the idea of the bus, and this eliminated any worries of car driving on those two big nights for any and all of us at Sapphire Gardens. Thank you, **Victor**.

• **LEN PREEDY** 2/2 West Aust, with a subscription for the treasurer and the news that a Pioneer get together held at Anzac House, Perth was attended by eight people and it was decided to have another on the 22/3/85. **George Hobley** has had a spell in Hollywood Repatriation hospital and was unable to attend but his wife **May** attended for him. Remarks that it's good to see the South Aussies getting into the act and sends his best regards to **Snowy Denton**. Closes with the request to keep up the good work with the paper, and best wishes to all.

• **ROY SWANSON** 2/2 Dutchmans Bay, where the hell is that? sends a sub for the treasurer and apologises for his lack of correspondence, apology accepted **Roy**, as is the subscription, and hope you continue to enjoy News.

• **MRS MARJORIE HOOD** widow of the late **Bill** 2/2 writes a thank you for the expressions of sympathy afforded by the Association. **Marj** has

advised that she will be living at Gosford on the Central Coast.

• **JO THOMAS**, widow of **Bill Thomas**, 2/1, passed on a donation to funds per President **Jack Dodson**. Our best wishes to you, **Jo**, and many thanks.

• **ERIC REYNOLDS** 2/1 Macksville, with a letter of congratulations for the success of Coffs Harbour. **Eric** and **Joyce** left Coffs on the Sunday, only an hour's trip to their place. They have been in touch with **Allan** and **Beulah Crute** who reported that we had enjoyed the rest of our week together. It's getting toward that time of the year again and **Eric** and **Joyce** will be having the family and grandchildren from Victoria over the festive season.

That concludes the Mail Bag for this issue, and for 1984, and on behalf of the committee, and members, to all wives and members, families, wherever they may be, may we say best wishes for the festive season and good health for many years to come.

—LAKEY

## VALE—EDDIE AITKEN, O.B.E., E.D.

Edward Faucett Aitken was born on 30th January, 1913. He joined the A.I.F. and the 2/2nd Pioneer Battalion on 16th May, 1940 and was immediately given command of "A" Company with the rank of Captain.

He was taken P.O.W. at MERDJAYOUN on 17th June, 1941 with several members of "A" Company. He was taken via a tremendously tortuous route to Italy and repatriated to Beyrouth on 30th August, 1941.

Eddie was promoted to Major on 7th November, 1941. He was in command of the training battalion when the main body embarked on the "Orcades" on 31st January, 1942. Eddie returned to Australia and was one of the main-springs in the re-formation of the battalion.

He saw service in the Ramu Valley, New Guinea, with the battalion and was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel subsequently. Eddie had the honour of commanding the battalion at the landing and campaign in Balikpapan, taking over from Lieutenant Colonel Davis, who was evacuated sick. He was discharged on 20th November, 1946.

He rejoined the Army and after a period was G.S.O.I. Southern Command, he was seconded to the United Nations as military observer in Jakarta in November, 1949. He was subsequently appointed a Military Attache in Bangkok in 1957, after which term he became G.S.O.I. Northern Command and resigned from the Army in 1961.

It must be recorded that Eddie wrote "The Story Of The 2/2nd Australian Pioneer Battalion", which was published in 1953. He was also awarded the Order of the British Empire on 1st January, 1959.

Eddie became Regional Manager of the Snowy Mountains Authority at Island Bend and Eucumbene. After a term as Senior Personnel Officer with Austral Standard Cables, he retired.

In April, 1975, he went to live in Burleigh Heads, Queensland, in Anzac Parade (where else?).

He died suddenly on 2nd August, 1984, and in the opinion of many people, was the battalion's most distinguished soldier. The battalion was represented at his funeral by Leo Cornelius and Pat Sherman. He is survived by his widow, Gwen — a talented and gracious hostess — and daughters, Pam and Diana.

Eddie wrote and delivered an Anzac Day address in 1962 which opened by saying — "I personally subscribe to the belief that, despite what theologians say, there is only one sin against nature, and, that is, to be afraid".

The passing of this great man is a loss to all Pioneers.

—LEO CORNELIUS, Reporter

## COMBINED PIONEERS—WAGGA

The Combined Pioneers Get-together Dinner held at Wagga R.S.L. Club on Saturday, 8th September saw an attendance of seventy nine which consisted of eleven 2/1-2/2nd, twenty three 2/3rd and eighteen 2/4th.

Although this figure was four less than last year a most enjoyable time was had by all. The following day thirty members attended a barbecue at the home of one of the 2/4th members.

A similar function is to be held on the 14th September, 1985 at the Wagga R.S.L. with a barbecue the following day. Full details will appear in later editions of Pioneer News.

— Reported by **JACK MORGAN**

## CAPE YORK TRIP

Dear Max and Bob,

Many thanks for the Pioneer News which arrives regularly. Every once in a while the name of an old camp mate crops up in the "News". In the last issue, a new member from W.A. by the name of Jack Murray. We were in the same tent at Trinity Beach, Cairns, for about nine months while doing our beach landing training.

At present I am recuperating from a trip to the tip of Cape York which I made with two of my married sons and another friend. We went in two, four-wheel drive vehicles with two to a vehicle. Bill, my second son drove my utility while my eldest son and friend travelled in the other full cab cruiser.

It took four days from Bloomsbury, Qld., to the top. On the way home we took more time and went through a National Park and on to Cooktown where there is a most interesting museum.

More than half the people we met along the way were from interstate. There were many families, consisting of women and small children. The weather was first class and I enjoyed sleeping under the stars in army blankets once again. A lot of the road is poor being badly corrugated but there is one stretch for about 150 kilometres south of the Jardine River which is near the top that is really terrible. It took us between six and seven hours to do this stretch.

For anyone interested in doing the trip good maps are available from the R.A.C.Q. in Queensland. I understand also that lots of four-wheel drive clubs in the South have plenty of information regarding the "Track". The recommended time of the year is May to October. To be there in the "wet" would be disastrous. S.T.D. phones are available at all the townships. Cooktown still does not have it.

I have not seen my Pioneer mate from the machine gunners — Vic. Norman for some time. I believe he was at the dawn parade in Proserpine last Anzac Day. I attended the march and dinner.

A special "cheerio" to all members of No. 1 Platoon 2/2nds who served in New Guinea and Borneo.

## LAST POST

Early in August **ARTHUR DALDY** 2/2 of Cootamundra passed away after being a patient at Concord Hospital.

Arthur joined the reformed 2/2 Pioneers at Wagga and was soon promoted to Corporal and saw service in New Guinea and Balikpapan. He became platoon Sergeant after the New Guinea campaign after the boarding out of Sgt. Aub Camm.

Other members of the Number 5 Platoon were Corporal Bob Lee, Pat Egan M.M., Jim Field, Wally Coe and of course Lieut. Monty Reid.

The Pioneers have lost a good mate in Arthur Daldy who was a good soldier and being a "good soldier" says it all.

To Nancy his wife we all offer our heartfelt sympathy.