

PIONEER NEWS

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

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

Treasurer: VIC WHITELEY

Editors: R. LAKE & M. HERRON

President:

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SAD LOSS OF PRESIDENT

The Association was saddened by the sudden passing of Jack "Mick" Dodson on 27th November, 1984, at Concord Hospital after a short illness.

A graveside service was conducted at Rookwood Cemetery on 29th November and was attended by twenty nine members and their ladies. Also in attendance was a very large representation of members of the Rats of Tobruk Association, Fairfield Bowling Club and R.S.L. Club, Combined Services Club and Five Dock R.S.L. Club. Amongst the mourners were the Federal Member for Lowe, the Hon. Michael Maher, M.H.R., and Councillor Ben Wooden, representing Sir Colin Hines, President R.S.L. of N.S.W., and their State Council.

During the service, many members of various organisations spoke on behalf of their clubs in paying homage to their departed friend and comrade.

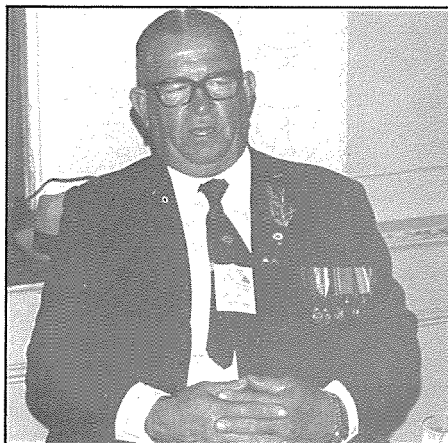
"Mick" served his country during World War II with the 2/1st Pioneer Battalion. After enlisting in August 1940, he took part in the Middle East, New Guinea and Borneo campaigns. Whilst in the Middle East, he served for seven months in Tobruk and in New Guinea was on active duty over the Kokoda Trail in the Owen Stanley Ranges. He was discharged from the Army in Sydney in September 1945.

After being on the Committee of the 2/1-2/2 Pioneer Battalions Association since 1961, "Mick" became Vice President in 1966 and in April 1973, was elected President — still holding this position at the time of his death.

For outstanding services to the Association he was awarded Life Membership of the Association at the Dubbo Reunion in September 1980.

In 1977, "Mick" also became N.S.W. President of the Rats of Tobruk Association, a position he also still held when he passed away. He was also Vice President of the Rats of Tobruk Federal Council, Councillor on the Australian Veterans and Defence Services Council, a Director of Fairfield Bowling Club and delegate to the N.S.W. Bowling Association.

His special project was the War Veterans Home at Narrabeen which he visited at least once a month



The late Jack "Mick" Dodson

to bring news to the members of his many associations. If any ex-serviceman needed assistance, "Mick" was always at hand to lend aid when needed. It was announced at the graveside service that "Mick" had left his Fairfield home to the War Veterans Homes.

The passing of Jack "Mick" Dodson whilst saddening the Association and friends, will leave an outstanding example for others to follow. He was a big man, with a big heart, doing a big job.

His loss is indeed a sad one and his wise counsel on matters pertaining to the welfare of those he loved and cared for will be greatly missed. Our most sincere sympathies were extended to his family of brothers and his sister — may their sorrow be eased a little by the knowledge that so many others share their loss with them.

— "WE WILL REMEMBER HIM."

Letter of Sympathy

Dear Max,

I was shocked to hear on the 18th December, 1984, of the passing of your President, "Mick" Dodson, which I am sure has left a hole in your Executive of the Committee.

On behalf of the 2/2nd Pioneer Battalion of Victoria, I wish to convey to all in Sydney our condolences in this instance and wish to pass on same to Mick's next-of-kin.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish your President Elect, success in his new position.

On the personal side Max, I take this opportunity to wish you and Peg, the compliments of the season and to wish the Association continued success in 1985.

Yours faithfully,

Ted Hansen, President

2/2 Pioneer Battalion Association,
Victoria

QUEENSLAND REUNION

The Reunion at John and Mollie Hunts residence 27th October saw an attendance of twenty three members. Apology was received from Pat Laughren, and newcomers were Rita and Noel Trefoni and Ray Horne. Others present were: George Brooks, Harry and Jean Spreadborough, Bill Hoffman, Nell and Fred Davenport, Claire and Bert Beasley and friend Joyce, Phil Cramsie, Toby Palin, Jim Gray, Mick and Joyce Reilly, Pat and Mary Noonan, Marion and Mick Anselm as well as mine hosts John and Mollie Hunt.

Phil Cramsie did his usual excellent job as Master of Ceremonies.

LAST POST

Marjorie Hood, widow of Bill Hood passed away on 16th January, 1985, after a heart attack. Sympathy has been extended to her family. We are grateful to Phil Barnett for sending us the sad news.

ANZAC FUNCTIONS

Well friends, 1985 is now with us, and we are looking forward to the first of the Association's functions, namely Anzac Day.

We list the order of the day as it comes to pass, hoping that all members who can, will make the effort to attend. The Executive make it possible, and those who attend make the day.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, 24th APRIL AT 3.30pm

The meeting place is the "Blue Room", second floor, City of Sydney R.S.L. Club, 569 George Street, Sydney at 3.30pm.

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

WEDNESDAY 24th APRIL AT 7.30pm

Members of the 2/1 and 2/2 are to be at 19 Hunter Street at 7pm. Form up at 7.20pm and move off from Hunter and Pitt Streets at 7.25pm to arrive at the Cenotaph in Martin Plaza at 7.30pm for the Wreath Laying.

Members of our Ladies Auxiliary will join us for the Ceremony, with the laying of their own wreath.

ANZAC DAY MARCH

THURSDAY 25th APRIL

Assembly points for both units are the same as last year:- 2/1 in Phillip Street near King Street and at the rear of the 6th Division; 2/2 in Phillip Street near Martin Plaza at the rear of the 7th Division. Both unit banners will be displayed at their respective assembly points. Please check city newspapers for any late changes in assembly points.

ANZAC DAY LUNCH/REUNION

THURSDAY, 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 in the past years — Redfern Town Hall, corner Pitt and Wells Streets, Redfern and just five minutes from the station.

Remember Redfern Town Hall NOT the Hotel on the corner as last year because of a cleaners strike at the Town Hall.

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 11.15am and draught beer will be on tap at \$2 per jug, the same as 1982 and 1983. John Winters our Caterer has been engaged again and dinner will be served at 12.30pm and snacks at 2.30pm. Cost of dinner and snacks is \$4 per person.

—JIM FIELD — Publicity Officer

APOLOGY

We apologise to Bert Huttley 2/2 of Bloomsbury for his name being omitted by the Printer from his article in the December issue under the heading of Cape York Trip.

This was an excellent article on Bert's trip up North and was spoiled by the fact no one knew the Author — sorry about that Bert.



from the MAIL BAG

Editor: BOB LAKE

Hello Pioneers wives and families, a New Year on the way and the first issue of the paper for 1985. We hope that all and everyone had a good festive season and for those that have problems that 1985 be an improvement on the past years.

• **TED WILCOX** Dapto 2/1 with a short note of thanks for the receipt of badge and a sub to the treasurer and expresses his pleasure at receipt of the news, looks forward to same and gets plenty of good reading from same. Closes with best wishes to all Pioneers.

• **TOM O'LOUGHLIN** and wife **Nancy** 2/2 Essendon with a card for best wishes for the festive season and thanking both **Peg** and **Max** for the many kindnesses and making their stay at Coffs Harbour such a memorable one. Both enjoyed the whole proceedings and quotes "Looking forward to Dubbo". Closes with best wishes to all.

• **PETER PEILE** 2/1 Carringbah and wife **Erika** sends a cheque to the treasurer and the news that both are keeping reasonably well. Their last little trip away was to Adelaide, Barossa Valley, and five days on the Murray River Queen which was really tremendous for both of them. Have had a lunch with **Don & Ruth Slater**, and **Dardie & Pat Selwood**, with many great tales to tell, really enjoying the company and the get together. Closes with best wishes.

• **VINCE CULLEN** 2/1 Peakhurst per pen of wife **Eva**, apparently **Vince** has declared the use of the pen black, and **Eva** has been secretary to his lordship for 39 years. However he does keep busy, doing lots of chores for the married children and enjoys doing same. **Vince** has a problem with an ulcer and hernia and hopes to have these attended to at Concord in the New Year. **Eva's** mother died in hospital late 1984 and we offer our sincere sympathy. **Eva** is the daughter of an ex-2/1 **Ted Day**, who was killed on the Salient back in 1941. As you know **Eva**, I live at Brookvale and I saw the notice in the Manly Daily, all these years and I never knew your mother was only about five minutes away. Closes with best wishes to all and enclosed a cheque for the treasurer.

• **PAT NOONAN** 2/1 Darling Point, with an interesting letter for the paper. **Pat** and **Mary** attended the Brisbane Reunion at **John** and **Mollie Hunts**, and the day after the show they, together with **Phil Cramsie**, set out in search of the 1942 campsite at Neurum. Caboolture was unrecognisable, and the picture show at Woodford had disappeared. The district tourists map and their own road map did not show Neurum, but a rescue map did, showing same on a secondary road between Woodford and Kilcoy. The most recognisable spot was the road bridge crossing Neurum Creek, a favoured spot for some of our battalion, where they did have an occasional swim and did the washing in the creek, which is still steady flowing. The site of the camp has of course reverted back to pre-war, grazing paddocks and sown crops. Good letter **Pat**, reads quite interestingly for those of the unit that were there and must have renewed some nostalgic memories for yourself and **Phil**. Closes with best wishes to all and added a cheque for the treasurer.

• **FRED CALLAWAY** 2/1 Wahroonga, with a cheque for the treasurer, some photographs taken during the war years and service, some of the personnel, he can remember and some he cannot,

however **Max** sends his thanks for the photos, and they will go into the 2/1 Album. **Fred** and **Aileen** still continue to do their share of travelling, they are off to New Zealand for three weeks in March, and after that in August, hope to have another trip to England with three weeks in Japan on the way over. Intend to drive themselves through England, for about 4 weeks, then on the return trip, will have one week in Singapore. Feel sorry for you **Fred**, I hope you don't get travel sickness, and that the purse strings don't get knots in them. Closes with best wishes, and although unable to march, will be present at the reunion on Anzac Day.

• **MRS LORRAINE CROSSINGHAM** 7 Lucy Court, Bundoora, Victoria, with a letter saying that her father, and one of our favourite comics, **Ted "Bluey" Eather** has passed away. Among his papers were references to his army days and **Lorraine** has been trying to sort these things out. **Max Herron** has written personally to her, and has suggested that we publish through the news that any of Bluey's mates from A Coy that would like to contact the lady put a pen to paper, she is very interested in his younger days of service. Like **Max Herron**, I was in a different Coy to **Blue**, But I know he was a very popular bloke with the unit, and as I said a comic, and to indicate my reason, many years ago, the Battalion had a reunion in Grafton, those days, they were all male turnouts, and on the Sunday we were entertained down by the river by the local chaps and some of their wives. The talk as usual got around to the children of these ladies, some had 2, some had 4, while other nominated three scores, and **Bluey** pipes up, I don't know what you are all skiting about, I've got eight, and they are all girls, I'll have to work till I'm 80 to pay for their weddings, and **Mum** will have to go crop picking too. I'd imagine, **Lorraine**, that you would have been one of those girls at that time, and that's what I mean by comic. Thank you for your letter, and I sincerely hope that some of the chaps that were so much closer to your dad do get in touch with you.

• **JIM STANNARD** 2/1 Nambucca sends a cheque for the treasurer and quite a newsy letter with reference to **Dr Stan Goulston** our Medical Officer in the Middle East. **Jim** visited the worthy doctor in Macquarie St after the war and with no referral, was asked by **Stan** why he had come to him, **Jim** replies, well you looked after us all pretty well in the Middle East, so I thought I'd give you another go. This broke the ice completely, and after quite a yarn about the desert times, gave **Jim** the once over, a couple of prescriptions and presto, all was well again. Still reminiscing, **Jim** recalls a night in camp in Palestine, comprising of **Mark Bernard**, **Buller Spillane**, a couple of others whose names he cannot recall, were having a sing song, accompanied by a banjo, when the orderly officer called out, Put those lights out, and get to bed. The usual Australian expletive was the answer to this order and the officer said "Who said that." The reply was **Percy Brunton** and the officer said **Pte Brunton** report to me in the morning. Of course there was no appearance the following morning, as **Jim** says, the officer was very naive, **Percy Brunton** was an old guy that sold peanuts in Sydney. **Jim** is now approaching the 83 years mark and has had some maintenance performed on the leg, veins, and is progressing favourably, but says that the other leg may have to have a repeat order in the near future. Closes with an apology for his long ramble (It was well worth printing, **Jim**) and sends

best wishes to all, special mention to 14 Platoon, and quotes, at 83, He don't get around much any more.

• **REG ARMSTRONG** 2/2 reports that on a recent trip to Coonabarabran was supplied with the address of **Keith Reynolds "Gandhi"**. Got in touch with **Keith** and he in turn put **Reg** onto **Eric Lindsay** 2/2. Called to see **Eric**, who was out at bowls, however was entertained by his good wife and son for a time and then proceeded on to the Bowling Club, where both **Keith** and **Eric** were playing in the same team. There is no report on the result of the bowls match, but the bar trade showed a distinct increase, and all had a rosy coloured look about them by the time the evening was over. Both these blokes are keeping well, enjoy their bowls, and send their best wishes to all Pioneers wherever they may be. Many thanks for the note **Reg**, and we hope that you enjoyed your trip around.

• **HENRY LISTON** 2/2 Glen Innes with a thank you for the Pioneer News. **Henry** who is a solicitor at Glen Innes quotes that he reads all copies thoroughly but after forty years is not surprised that only a few names ring any bells with him. Enclosed a cheque to the treasurer and best wishes to all for the future.

• **JOE KYFFIN** 2/1 Reservoir "Vi" with a note commending the committee for the Coffs Harbour Reunion. After Coffs **Joe** and **Maida** went north to Brisbane to see the kids. Enjoyed their stay with the family, his grandson showed them their block of land, where they intend to build, and the two girls are both gainfully employed. On their way south again, they called at North Haven where they had a stop with **Wally** and **Maisie Parsons**, and have extracted from **Wal** and **Maisie** a promise to visit the Southern State at the end of February this year. If things go according to plan by the time you read this they will have been to Victoria, so we shall look forward to a letter telling of their visit to **Joe** and **Maida** down south of the Murray. Many thanks for your letter **Joe** and hope to see you on Anzac Day at Redern. *

• **MRS JOYCE GREEN** wife of the late **Albert** writes a thank you to the secretary for the welcome offered to son **John** last Anzac Day. **Joyce** is also enquiring of the address of **Joan Smith**, wife of the late **Reg Smith**. The last address known was Katoomba but mail was returned address unknown. **Mrs Smith** is not on our roll of members, but if any Pioneer knows the whereabouts of **Mrs Smith**, contact **Mrs Joyce Green**, 21 Noakes Avenue, Lalor Park. With regard to the question of photos taken on Anzac Day, the photographer would have been **Jim Field**, 155 Darling Street, Greystanes and if you were to contact **Jim**, explain what you want, I am sure he will give you all the help available to him. Many thanks for your good wishes and we wish you success in your enquiries.

• **PHIL CRAMISIE** 2/1 Clayfield, Queensland, writes a short note that the Brisbane Reunion although members were down, was a very happy event, and after this reunion another request, this time for the address of **Noel Trefoni**, 107 Ballandella Street Toongabbie West 2146. This information is for **Mick Reilly**, and for his assistance to **Noel** with regard to Repatriation. **Reilly's** address for **Noel** is 120 Lyndhurst St, Boondall, Brisbane 4034, Qld. (07) 265.5287. OK **Trefoni**, get yourself into gear, and write or give them a ring. **Phil** closes with kindest regards and best wishes to all

• **MRS BONNY SNUDDEN** wife of the late **Cecil** writes from Cobar thanking the secretary for his information regards retirement villages, and intends giving same plenty of thought before action is taken. **Bonny** will also have the assistance of **Don Bridle** the local representative for Legacy. **Bonny** still enjoys the News, and enclosed a cheque to help keep it rolling.

• **STEVE SNOW** 2/2 Arnccliffe writes that on receiving the Dec issue of the News, realized that he had not paid his rent as he terms it, however, with the return mail, this short note wishing the Association all the best for 1985 and a cheque for the treasurer, that was it, so we can't tell any of his mates any more than that, he believes in that old adage "No news is good news".

• **DENIS GEORGE** 2/1 and now of Beadesert Qld, sends a cheque to the treasurer and the word that over the past couple of years had had a fair bit of illness, resulting in lengthy periods of hospitalisation, hence the lack of correspondence. Likes to read the news, and was glad to read of **Harry Spreadborough**, who **Dennis** last saw in Tobruk after **Harry** had transferred to the Engineers. Closes with best wishes to all with a special mention for the committee and the many ladies who assist to make our Association the great success that it has become.

• **CLIVE HARRIS** 2/1 Aberdeen and wife **Betty** with a cheque for the treasurer and quoting that they had a wonderful time at Coffs Harbour, even though it took a few days to fully recover. They have only seen **Clancy** and **Irene Scholes** for a few hours since that time so have no news to pass on with that regard. Sends a big cheerio to all for the New Year and good health for all in 1985.

• **JOE BLANCH** 2/1 Beadesert writes that he and **Mavis** have returned from a tour of both islands of New Zealand. Had a wonderful time and did the trip in a Campervan. **Joe** attended the Ballina Rats of Tobruk Christmas meeting, where he learned of the death of **Jack Dodson**, and as **Joe** quotes, he will be missed by both the Rota and our own Association. Closes with best wishes to all and a happy 1985.

• **TOM GODDEN** 2/1 now a resident of a retirement village at Pennant Hills with wife, have had quite a busy time getting themselves settled into their new life. **Tom** who will be 80 years young in June finds that the ills of life and age are creeping on to him. Still does his pottering around his workshop although this is a little more difficult, now that the workshop is at the eldest boy's place and some four miles away since their occupation at the village. With all that he still managed to chop a finger off his left hand while tinkering, and resulted with a week in hospital. Closed with best wishes and a cheque for the treasurer to tide him over.

• **AUB BRASIER** Honorary Bugler to our association with a card offering best wishes for the future and a note saying that they had been doing a bit of touring around with the Corrective Services Band, went to Goulburn and Bowral for the Lilac and Tulip Festivals, and then to Grafton for the Jacaranda Festival. The weather for all occasions being spot on. Just make sure you stay on the right side of that band **Aub**, don't know that the other side of the cake is so crash hot, especially when the guardians of the law go on strike. With a daughter and her husband off to the States for the school holidays and his son having a 26th birthday plus the same son winning the Australian Classical Guitar competition last August both **Aub** and **Nancy** have reason to be very proud, however, with all the excitement I hope you still get time to brush up on your own trumpet for Anzac Day. Many thanks for the letter old mate and keep smiling.

• **HARRY HICKERTON** per pen of wife **Mary** with a short note expressing his good wishes to all for the New Year. His health is not real good, but he

keeps plodding along and hoping for a medical breakthrough in the near future, also enclosed a cheque for subs to the treasurer.

• **HAL REILLY** 2/2 Lyneham (ACT) with a cheque for the treasurer and a comment on the article by "Monty" on the Cenotaph at Sydney. A couple of years ago, **Hal** and wife **Delia** were fishing behind an old jetty at Moruya, they noticed an old quarry and local people told them that the granite for the Cenotaph and the pylons of the Harbour Bridge were quarried from this place and the wreckage of one of the barges was still sunk in the river. **Hal** claims it must have been a big industry back in the 20s and 30s, but its all buried under scrub now. Good letter **Hal**, and provides good reading for the News.

• **MICK PUNTON** Padstow 2/1 per pen of wife **Margaret** with a cheque for the treasurer and the news that they are now proud grandparents. **Margaret** says that **Mick** is lovingly so, however I think that the feelings would be mutual by **Marg** as well. The babe is now 19 months old and when he arrives at Padstow follows **Mick** around like a little puppy, your words **Margaret**, not mine, however we congratulate you both and we hope you have many years of fun and happiness with your new addition, with perhaps more to follow???

• **JACK COLLIS** 2/1 Umina, with the news that he has got wife **Gwen** home again after a long period of trial and tribulation with hospitals. **Gwen** had this problem with her legs at Coffs Harbour and was admitted to hospital shortly after in October. At present she still has her legs up and so **Jack** is still the boss, but I don't hold much faith in that lasting too much longer, once she is mobile, I'll bet that there will be changes. With **Gwen** being on the sick list, **Jack** has not been able to do all he usually does around the Central Coast, so his report on the doings of the troops in the area is a little restricted, however he hopes to improve on that later on. His son **William**, Navy boy, and now on the "Hobart" sails for America in a short time, stopping at many well known places on the way, after the States, onto Canada, and possibly coming back via the Far East, a great trip, and he will do it much more comfortably than we did back in the forties. The facetious remarks about my football team are somewhat detrimental to our friendship **Jack** my boy, however I'll just let it go for now, all I'll say is, that half of my team did not go to England in the off season to help pay the rent, we pay our blokes enough to feed themselves through the summer. The ticket will be negotiated around April I should imagine, I'll have to work out what start I need. Many thanks for the letter **Jack** and we all wish **Gwen** a speedy recovery.

• **BERT HERNE** 2/1 Ashfield with a sub for the treasurer and telling of a bit of trouble with his knee. Has had medical opinion of same and doc reckons an operation the only cure. Not very keen on the operation idea but if the leg gets any worse will have to give same a lot of thought. Apart from the legs is very well in himself, still enjoys his few lagers but has given the smokes away, has to save his smoke money for the pokies at Burwood R.S.L. Had his 70th birthday last October and as he quotes, getting a bit long in the tooth but hopes to see us all at Redfern on Anzac Day.

• **JOE ROBERTSON** 2/2 Finden South Aust, writes a thank you for the continuance of the News which is looked forward to each issue, enjoys reading about the happenings to the mob, and especially so to the blokes he was associated with so long ago. Enclosed a cheque for the treasurer and expresses best wishes to all Pioneers for the New Year.

• **JACK COATES** 2/1 Umina with a report of another visit to the local hospital for a short period resting the ticker. **Jack Collis** visited him and rousing as usual **Coatesy** reckons he is worse than the doc. He and **Lex** were in the West last November, and did a lot of tours. Claims that the Perth people are very historically minded, every tour included a

call at something of the early days. After the Memorials in Kings Park, they walked some three miles along the tree lined roads, and at the base of every tree there is a plate dedicated to a son or member of the family that had passed on. All the famous W.A. battalions of both wars are represented in these beautiful gardens. The **Tobruk Memorial** is some 3 miles from the main memorial, overlooking the Swan River from the Bluff. All very impressive and not to be missed if you visit the West. Reports that **Gwen Collis** has improved greatly after being very ill, and has subbed for **Jack Collis** with the report that **Bricky Wall**, **Ivor Gamon**, **Blue Miller** and **Fred Makin** all OK at last sighting, have to give the old Balmain Tiger (68 years) a new name "Road Runner for the Central Coast" Peep Peep. Closes with his usual bloody garbage about "Tigers alive in 85" with some stamp money for **Vic**, who replies with his usual message, as I do, and looking forward to seeing you on Anzac Day, our best regards to **Lex**.

• **CEC HART** 2/1 of Shoalhaven Heads sent word all is well with him and hopes all Pioneers are enjoying good health too. Many thanks for donation to Association Funds.

• **MAYFORD MORRIS** 2/1 of Dungog send along a substantial donation to the Association for which we are most grateful and many thanks. He wished to be remembered to all Pioneers and in particular his mates in H.Q. Coy.

• **TOM HENSLEY** 2/1 of Harrington wrote to say all is well at Harrington and would like to see the Pioneer Caravan Park crowd back up there some day.

• **JOCK STEELE** 2/2 Padre of Bundeena wrote a very nice letter to the Secretary and enclosed a bulletin of his doings and **Max** said after reading it through three times he just does not know how **Jock** can fit so many things in the one day.

Jock is a member of the Bundeena R.S.L. and regularly sits down at a table and talks with the locals.

Thank you for your letter **Jock** and **Max** was so pleased to receive your bulletin.

• **RUTH RHODES** 2/1 of Canberra and wife of **Jim** writes to say she was pleased with the way we published her article in Pioneer News of the Coffs Reunion. **Jim** retired from work on 23rd November and is looking forward to building a new home at Windsor. Many thanks for your letters **Ruth**.

• **JOHN DOWD** 2/2 of Wagga writes and thanks the Association for sending the Pioneer News which he finds most interesting. At present **John** is waiting on approval from the Veteran Affairs for permission to have an operation for a hip replacement. Best of luck **John**.

• **HARRY MOWBRAY** 2/1 of Queensland writes to thank Peg Herron for the accommodation she arranged for them at Coffs Harbour. They had a great time. **Harry** said it was good to see faces he had not seen for so many years, especially those of No.2 Platoon who had a run in with Sergeant Talbot on their first night on Piquet duty at Dubbo. He still reckons Gordon Osborn wore a kilt and sporan when they detrained at Greta on the 6th June 1940.

Harry states **Nev Woodham** and **Betty** his wife are in bowls as **Nev** is the Bowls Secretary. **Harry's** wife **Dorothy** is Lady President of the Cleveland Bowls Club.

• **JACK SPENCE** 2/1 Wingham per pen of wife **Muriel** encloses a cheque for the news and the following report. Both went to Newcastle for the Rota Christmas Party. It was held in the daytime and they had a wonderful time. **Jack** renewed old friends and some not so old, reported that **Larry Robson** had not been very well, a few weeks in hospital, but is OK and up and around again now. It's not so long ago that **Larry** used to call and see **Jack** and **Muriel** when he did his North Coast express, and here we have **Jack** at 85 years, reporting on **Larry**. He still keeps pretty good health for his years, and his garden, still the main producer

in Wingham. The heat at times gets a bit much for both of them, but they still enjoy life and wishes the same to all and everyone of the Association.

• **MONTE REID** 2/1 & 2/2 Cessnock with a cheque for the treasurer and a thank you for the paper. **Monte** claims you have to read it twice, just so that everything sinks in. With the reference to **Bob Lee's** letter in the last edition reminds **Monte** of a previous occasion when **Bob** was in town and rang to say Hello. **Monte** was not at home at the time and his daughter answered the phone, they talked and **Bob** asked the girl had dad ever told of the time when he, **Bob** has saved **Monte's** life. The answer being in the negative, he expressed surprise, and went into a long involved story of the event. On **Monte's** return home later, I was severely taxed about the happening and it took quite a lot of explaining of **Bob's** sense of humour. Another occasion, when a bus load of tourists stopped outside my gate, the same **Bob** dashed from the bus to greet **Monte**, all the passengers of the tour waved and cheered, and **Monte** still wonders what wonderful story **Bob** had told to make them so enthusiastic, however he was still very pleased to see the bloke again. **Monte** also speaks of 5 Platoon and quotes that reference to same would not be complete without mention of **Reg Collett, The Maynards, Spot Sullivan, Norm Phillips, Mo Simpson, Porky Cunningham** and **Clacker Clark**. There are still many more but names are fading. **Monte** is still involved with the small local church, and on two occasions, Anzac Days, working bees, had been performed so at 11 o'clock **Monte** had conducted a simple memorial service. His only problem was that the only discussion of war he could talk on was Pioneers, and quotes, "I guess some of my friends must wonder who else took part in the hostilities," Closes with the fact, that although his letter was rather long, all well paid secretaries and editors have to read all correspondence, no matter what is written and for this he expresses his thanks to the members of the committee for their application to the Association over the many years.

• **MRS E SALOWAY**, Toongabbie widow of the late **Cec** writes to tell us that after five years of waiting she has finally been granted the War Widow's pension. Sends her letter to specifically thank **Monty** and **Mr Brown** of Legal Aid for the aid and assistance offered her over this trying period and we hope that your future is a lot happier as a result of this result.

• **JIM FIELD** 2/2 Greystanes and wife **Kathy** went for a drive a while back and called in on **Bob Guinnane** who at that time was assistant manager at the Campbelltown R.S.L. This has now been altered as **Bob** retired on the 12th February 1985, one of their first plans is to take a holiday at Harrington, and who knows may eventually migrate that way. **Jim** and **Kath** on behalf of the Association wished them all the very best for the years ahead.

• **FRANK CAULFIELD** 2/2 Cairns (Qld) sends a cheque to the treasurer and the news that he and wife **Betty** have had a six week holiday down Melbourne way. They have four children and all have settled in Melbourne so they had plenty to keep up with. **Frank** claims he put on 1½ stone in weight while **Betty** has refused to apply herself to the scales as yet, so he cannot comment. While in Melbourne **Frank** caught up with lots of 2/2 blokes, to name a few **Jack (Gill) Tuckwell** and **Jimmy Dawes** whom he met at the hotel in Coburg. **Tom McNaughton** who is still talking about the Wagga Reunion, **Joe Byffin** 2/1 and **Frank** have been mates for years, **Joe** bashed his ear with the Coffs Harbour Reunion and the hospitality he and **Maida** received from the **Herrons**. **Frank** also ran into four old original 2/2. These chaps were taken at Java, and were guests of the Nips for about three years. **Graham Smith & Tiger Timms**, and **Tiger** has had both legs amputated. The day that **Frank** met them was **tiger's** 81st birthday and the Reservoir R.S.L. Club had presented him with a Pint Tankard and

the way it went down would have put many younger people to shame. The 3rd Pioneer he met was **Keith Cain** who worked at Port Melbourne Tram Depot years ago. The 4th was **Barry Barnett**, and **Frank** and **Barry** have something in common, they are both grandfathers to three lovely children, **Barry's** daughter being married to **Frank's** youngest son. The four men mentioned all attended the big P.O.W. reunion held in Melbourne last year, all said it was a fantastic week and with special mention made of **Ted Hansen** who went out of his way to make their stay the best ever. Back in Cairns after their trip, and they walked into the big wet, they have had 15 inches of rain in the first week of February, so getting washing dry is quite a problem, especially when you have grandchildren staying with you. **Frank** closes with the hope that some day he will get the chance to attend a reunion in Sydney, it is one of his big ambitions, but that has to be left in abeyance for the time being.

• **HARRY SPREADBOROUGH** 2/1 Queensland who must have some trouble with sleeping because all his letters appear to be written in the early hours of the morning, says that the reunions, both at Coffs Harbour and at Brisbane were very successful and were enjoyed by them both. On the return from Coffs, they decided to go home by the inland road, intended joining the coast road at Moorball, however they missed that turn, so went through to Murwillumbah, and a beautiful drive it was. They have had a phone call from **Mick Anselm** and wife **Marion**, **Mick** said he was going to Sydney for Anzac Day and **Marion** said Ha Ha, however **Harry** thinks it's not a bad idea, and is giving same quite a bit of thought. Has been in touch with a few blokes from the 2/4 Field Coy, and this would be a good way to see both Engineers and Pioneers that he has not seen for so long. **Jean** would not accompany him at this time, due to a long long overdue dental appointment, been waiting six months for same. **Harry** has mentioned Nelsons Bay to quite a few people and has had glowing reports, claims that their appetites have been whetted along these lines already, however that's for the future, and time will tell the story. **Harry** closes with best wishes, and states that it is now daylight so he will go out and water the garden, "See what I mean with my opening remarks?"

That concludes the Mail Bag for this issue, there is not a lot for me to add, football has not yet started and that's my key subject. All eyes are now focussed toward Anzac Day and we hope for as much success as in earlier years, just a special mention to **Nev** and **Phil Andrews**, intend to write before you read this so don't get things in a knot. Good wishes and good health to all.

—LAKEY

NEWS ITEMS

• Whilst on his rounds at the Lady Davidson Hospital at Turramurra "Monty" met up with new member, Stan Stanbridge, H.Q. Coy 2/1 and immediately enrolled him as a member of the Association.

• At a Remembrance service to fallen comrades at Davistown RSL Club remembrance plaques were presented to the widows of two Tobruk veterans. Henry Austin Hutchison and William Clogg, both 2/1st Pioneers. Thanks to Jack Henderson for sending along this information. Hope you are now well on the road to recovery Jack.

• Jock Russell 2/1 is at present residing at "A" Block, Lady Davidson Hospital, Turramurra, and is receiving training in the use of spare legs as he is now a double leg amputee. "Monty" has visited him regularly and states Jock is bright and cheerful as ever. It would be appreciated if other Pioneers would pay Jock a visit.

• Bob Gales 2/1 of Toukley has been an inmate at Concord Hospital with a chest complaint and is pleased to report he is getting on very well. "Monty" has visited him and Bob is happy to hear all the doings of his mates.

COMBINED PIONEERS

The combined Pioneer Get-together of 2/1, 2/2, 2/3 and 2/4 Pioneers will be held in the Pacific Lounge of the Wagga R.S.L. Club on Saturday 14th September 1985. Assembly time will be 6.15 to 6.30pm for drinks followed by a Smorgasbord Dinner, at \$12 per head.

There is to be a privately organised barbecue for the Sunday (The Baker Boys). Cost will be kept to a minimum.

For further details contact Jack Morgan, 282 Lake Albert Road, Wagga or Ken Knight, 11 Warrawong Road, Wagga.

RELAXING HOLIDAY

As there is no organised Reunion by the Association in 1985, members who in the past have gathered at the Caravan Parks, decided at Coffs Harbour to go away together in 1985 and have a relaxing holiday.

There is to be nothing organised as at past Country Reunions, just a quiet time at the Halifax Caravan Park from the 14th to 21st October, 1985.

This was announced at the March Committee Meeting by Bob Dixon who invites any member to attend as long as they arrange their own accommodation.

NEWS ITEM OVERSET

• On the return journey from Coffs Harbour, Bill Tasker and Max Law called in to see Sid Jopson at Port Macquarie. Gwen and Vince Petrich were already with Sid as they too had decided to pay him a visit. Sid was pleased and happy to have his mates from yesteryear call on him. He looks a little better and states he is on the improve.

• During a session at the bar after the Reunion Dinner at Coffs Harbour, Brian Kybert, Bill Tasker, Noel Trefoni and Max Law were calling to mind a few of the boys they had not seen for a few years and one name that came into the conversation was Keith Lane, "B" Coy.

The very next day on arriving home from Coffs Harbour, Max Law met Keith in the local shopping centre at Kareela. On mentioning the many enquiries about his whereabouts Keith said he receives the Pioneer News, but does not get around very much now as he has a very troublesome leg.

2/1 SPECIAL PIONEER COMPANY

Clarrie Gardner of Vaucluse wrote in to ask if we had any information on the 2/1 Special Pioneer Company.

After a lot of research Harry Montague came up with the following details.

The 2/1 Special Pioneer Company was formed at Dubbo on 2nd January 1942 and consisted of members from the 9th Pioneer Training Battalion. On being gazetted the Pioneer Company was classified as being reinforcements for the 2/1 and 2/2 Pioneer Battalions.

Whilst carrying out training at Dubbo the Army disbanded the Pioneer Company, as the 2/1st Pioneer Battalion were on their way home from the Middle East and the 2/2 Pioneer Battalion were prisoners of war in Java.

The personnel were distributed to the 2/11 Royal Aust. Engineers and to the 2/2 Field Company, who under the command of Major Bond, an original 2/2nd were transferred to Darwin.

After the war these people formed an Association of their own, known as 2/1-2/2 Special Pioneer Companies, and from time to time have advertised their Reunions in the Sydney papers.

—HARRY MONTAGUE, Reporter.

SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE

Subscriptions are due on 1st April. Please address to:

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

PIONEER NEWS

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President: BOB DIXON

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2/1-2/2 ANZAC HAPPENINGS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Association's Annual Meeting was held at the City of Sydney R.S.L. Club at 3.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 24th April with a roll call of thirty eight members. Chairman, Max Law, opened the meeting and immediately handed over to Vice President, Gordon Finlay who then conducted a short memorial service to our late President, Jack (Mick) Dodson.

On resuming the chair, Max Law welcomed all members, particularly those who had travelled long distances, such as Harry Spreadborough and John Hunt, Queensland, Joe Kyffin, Victoria, and Wesley Crosswell, Tasmania.

Past President, Allan McInnes then presented Bob Dixon, Social Secretary, with his Life Membership Certificate. Report elsewhere in Pioneer News.

A very comprehensive report on behalf of the Executive was given by Bob Dixon covering the past twelve months.

Election of office bearers for the ensuing year was carried out by our country Vice President, Doug Shearston, resulting in two new changes in the form of Bob Dixon as President and Gordon Finlay as Social Secretary.

One very sad result of the elections was the resignation of Welfare Officer, Harry (Monty) Montague after forty years of dedicated service to the Association. Age has at last caught up with "Monty" and he will be sadly missed.

The Balance Sheet was presented by Treasurer, Vic Whiteley and duly passed with our financial position, being in a good state. The Balance Sheet had been audited by Arthur Watson A.A.S.A. and copies forwarded to the Department of Services.

WREATH LAYING CEREMONY

The Wreath Laying Ceremony was attended by thirty seven members with new President Bob Dixon placing the wreath and saying the "Ode to the Fallen" on behalf of the Association. Peg Herron laid the wreath on behalf of the Ladies Auxiliary and it was good to see twelve of our ladies join in the march at Martin Plaza.

The banner for the 2/1 was carried by Harry Spreadborough and for the 2/2 by Pat Egan M.M. Once again, Last Post and Reveille was sounded by Aub Brasier who comes along every year to carry out that duty for the Association. Well done, Aub.

2/1 ANZAC DAY MARCH

Ninety two members paraded at Phillip Street for the march on Anzac Day and it was pleasing to see so many new faces, and particularly our officers in the form of Gordon Osborn, John Gilchrist, Cyril and John Morahan, Steve Clark, Stan Jones, Ken Stuart, George Nicholls, Gordon Finlay, Ossie McCurtayne and Bill Jollie.

The troops were formed up by Bill Jollie and while waiting to march off, were entertained by that wonderful band from the Bankstown Police Youth Club.

Leaders of the march were Gordon Osborn and John Gilchrist. The standard bearer was Tim Lloyd, son of the late John Lloyd and Tim carried it with

pride, especially when passing our band of ladies near Park Street with his mother (Mary) as cheer leader.

— GORDON FINLAY, Reporter

2/2 ANZAC DAY MARCH

Thirty two members were assembled at Phillip Street for the march and when Bob Dixon and myself went around with the money bag, they all weighed in, Bob Ginnane being the first.

Morry Ballard was at the assembly point but was not able to attend the Reunion. George Nicholls accompanied by son-in-law Les Scarse, joined us at Phillip Street but not at the Reunion. Les is ex-Vietnam.

A hearty vote of thanks to Brian Dixon, son of President Bob Dixon, for carrying the banner so well. Brian is ex-Vietnam.

The march was led by Major Bill Robertson, Capt. Allan McInnes and Lt. Ray Harris and we were fortunate in having a very good band. The sight and cheers of our Ladies' Auxiliary was music to our ears. God bless their hearts.

On reaching Hyde Park, everybody breathed a sigh of relief and most headed for the Reunion, others elsewhere, but all with the expressed hope to be on deck again next Anzac Day. So ended another Anzac Day parade.

— REG ARMSTRONG, Reporter

LIFE MEMBER & PRESIDENT

At the Annual Meeting, Bob Dixon was presented with his Life Membership Certificate by Allan McInnes. The citation stated it was for twenty two years of service of an outstanding nature to the Association. Bob was an ardent supporter of the Anzac Reunions for the 2/2nds when they had them at Ricketty Street and was an attender at all the Church parades by Stan Claughton.

Bob has been on the Executive team of the Association since 1972 and for the past five years has been Social Secretary.

Also at the Annual Meeting, Bob Dixon was elected President of the Association upon the recommendation of the Executive and all Pioneers wish him well in his new position.

Congratulations Bob on your Life Membership and your new position.

COUNCIL GRANTS FREE USE OF REDFERN TOWN HALL

The Executive of the Association are most grateful to the Council of the City of Sydney for granting them free use of the Redfern Town Hall on Anzac Day, 1985.

In a letter to Council on 22nd May, 1985, the Council were thanked for their kind gesture, and because of their contribution, members are not charged an entry fee. Therefore, the Executive considered all members should be made aware of the Council's generosity by publicising the fact in Pioneer News.

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

COUNTRY REUNION 1986

At the Executive meeting on Wednesday, 22nd May, it was resolved that a Country Reunion be held at Dubbo on Saturday/Sunday 20th and 21st September, 1986.

The decision to return to Dubbo was made by the majority of our readers who filled in a questionnaire sheet displayed in the March 1984 issue of Pioneer News. Seventy five per cent voted that the next Reunion be held at Dubbo.

Full details will be supplied in future issues of Pioneer News.

NEW SOCIAL SECRETARY

At the Annual Meeting, Gordon Finlay was elected Social Secretary of the Association, and takes over the helm from Bob Dixon. Gordon has been Vice President of the Association for many years and has a wealth of experience to assist him in carrying out this important position. All Pioneers wish you well, Gordon.

W.A. PIONEER GET-TOGETHER

A Pioneer Get-Together was held at Anzac House, Perth on 22nd March, 1985 and was well attended. Members Dorothy and Ted Lyon made a 300 km return trip for the day.

Sadly, two members had passed away since their last meeting — George Hobley and Pat Love.

Organiser Len Preedy states there is a lot of interest in their members coming to Sydney as a group, either for Anzac Day or a get-together such as a Country Reunion. Len is open for suggestions, so perhaps some of our readers might have a few ideas.

EDITOR: Many thanks for your news Len, and our suggestion to your people would be to come over for Anzac Day 1986 or come to the Country Reunion at Dubbo on Saturday/Sunday 20th/21st September, 1986. We would make you all most welcome at either of these functions.

HARRY MONTAGUE RESIGNS

At the Annual Meeting on 24th April, 1985, Harry "Monty" Montague tendered his resignation as Welfare Officer of the Association.

Chairman Max Law accepted "Monty's" resignation with regret and stated it was a sad blow to the Association and he would be greatly missed. "Monty" said it was becoming increasingly difficult for him to travel around in public transport at his age, but he would continue to keep an interest in the Association.

On looking back in the records, one sees the name of Harry Montague as attending the first Committee meeting on the 23rd March, 1950. In 1953 he accepted the position of Publicity Officer, which he held for ten years. In 1968, he was elected to the position of Welfare Officer which he has held now for seventeen years.

On the 23rd October, 1970, "Monty" was presented with his honorary Life Membership Certificate for his outstanding service in visiting the hospitals and attending to the needs of our members.

No man has a greater love of his Association than Harry "Monty" Montague and all we can say is thank you "Monty" for a job well done. We salute you.

ANZAC REUNION WITH 2/1-2/2

It was pleasing to the Association organising committee to see a roll call of one hundred and thirty nine members at the Redfern Town Hall on the occasion of the Annual Reunion. Many of those present were regulars with quite a few more, who have been turning up only in recent years, and are gradually becoming "new regulars". This is very encouraging and our attendance for the reunions are still holding well, thus maintaining our record of a very strong association.

To commence proceedings our new President Bob Dixon recited the Ode with remembrance to our late President, Jack "Mick" Dodson and introduced Colonel Gordon Osborn who welcomed everybody and congratulated Bob Dixon on his new position and on having been presented with his honorary Life Membership Certificate.

There were quite a few "new" faces — some not having attended for twenty years or more and George Stafford was one who admitted being "out of touch for some twenty years" but has promised to become a regular. Good to see you, George, and kind regards to Jean.

Another who had not been seen for quite a long time, arrived at Redfern with a stock of thick, white hair, a big smile and the look of a very healthy person. At eighty three years of age, Mick Anselm certainly does not look his age, and told of starting his service career at the age of thirteen when he joined the navy aboard the R.A.N.'s first training ship, *H.M.A.S. Tingara* and carried on during and after the First World War for a period of thirteen years service. Mick will be remembered as batman to Major Tunbridge.

Another member we had not seen for many years was George "Snowy" Hemmings who now resides at Riverwood. Snowy has only recently retired and looks very fit and well. He was pleased to see all his mates, particularly when Ray Horne turned up late in the afternoon.

Fred Callaway is now becoming a regular following so many years of absence and he was given a grand welcome from the usual noisy "B" Company table — Mick Dwyer, Ron Callaghan, Bill Tasker, Tom Crossman, Brian Kybert (he was in Yugoslavia at this time last year), Frank Gillian and others.

Then we had "Bricky" Wall and this year quite recognisable *without* his beard. Just another one looking good at seventy eight and was in the good company of Jim Anderson and Frank Bartley — all three joined up together, along with the late George Johns.

There were at least fourteen former officers present at the Reunion and all of them consistent supporters which is great to see. The host appeared to be Gordon Osborn who was seen going from table to table chatting with all and sundry. Thank you Gordon and to your fellow officers for their continued support.

Four members of the Royal Australian Navy were welcomed by host Bob Dixon and they certainly appeared to enjoy themselves. They were Petty Officers Gus Dundas and Mick Rayner and Able Seamen White and McCullum. Gus is the son of Bill Dundas, who was in Tobruk with the 2/1st and Gus and his three mates are serving on the *H.M.A.S. Tobruk* which at the time was berthed at Garden Island. Gus mentioned that he has been with the *H.M.A.S. Tobruk* since it was commissioned on 23rd April, 1981, and this was the first time the ship had been in Sydney on Anzac Day, as its home port is Brisbane.

Dick Lewis has had a long run of illness and bad luck, as he lost his wife some time ago, just after he suffered a stroke. Dick was guided to the "B" Company table where he spent most of the afternoon, although quite a few of his mates from other tables soon found him. Dick lamented that he had not received a copy of Pioneer News since

1979, but then told of his several changes of addresses, without forwarding them on to the Secretary. You will shortly receive back numbers Dick, as your new Newtown address has been handed to the Secretary. Good to see you, Dick.

As mentioned in this column two years ago as to the absence of Ron Irwin, well he finally turned up at Redfern and it was good to see him once again, and now we expect him to be a regular.

It was good to see "Bluey" Miller again and he was obviously enjoying himself.

The handling of the beer kegs was once again looked after by our regular volunteers, Terry Bird, son of the late Joe Bird, and Terry's mate, Bruce Mansfield. Thanks again for your great effort Terry and Bruce, and it was very much appreciated by all members. Vince Petrich and Gordon Finlay were the hardworking pair selling the beer tickets.

Joe Kyffin (who admitted he needed a haircut) travelled up from Melbourne to be at all the Anzac functions. Jack and Jean Clarke found a bed for Joe, and Jean was heard to say she would be glad when the week was over — Jack and Joe would not stop arguing — sure she didn't mean it.

A couple of visitors were Arthur Murphy and Ivor Garnon's "big" brother Dan (with Ivor of course). They were on a table with Joe Kyffin, Jack Clarke, Roy Jardine, Jack Coates, Wal Parsons, Albert Brown and son Ray and Earl Jones.

The raffle conducted by Assistant Secretary, George Walker, was won by Bob Ginnane who kindly donated the dozen bottles of beer to the wrapping committee — thanks Bob.

Pat Laughren of Queensland sent a telegram to Secretary extending congratulations and lots of luck for Anzac Day. Thank you, Pat.

Bill Hoffman of Kyogle rang Secretary and sent best wishes to all Pioneers from the Kyogle team. Thanks, Bill.

The day finally came to a close at 4.30 p.m., just as the beer ran out, and within minutes a number of our Ladies' Committee began cleaning up the hall, washing up the glasses and jugs and wiping down the tables and other duties needed to hand over the hall in the same clean condition as when we arrived. Thank you, ladies.

See you all next year.

— MAX LAW, Reporter

2/2 ANZAC NOTES

The first person to greet me was Clancy Scholes and does not look a day older than when I saw him at Coffs Harbour. Tom Wood, Bluey Locane, Brian Neiberding and Bert Beasley were swapping tall tales, while "Apples" McKay and Gavin Todd had no hope of getting a word in.

Percy Penrose and Clem Moroney took very good care of yours truly when the food came around and even collected a spare issue of rations for Les Graham. Wally Coe and Pat Egan had a great yarn with "Clackers" Clarke who had not been seen for some years. He looks none the worse for wear.

Another turn-up was the appearance of Harry West "D" Coy and we had not seen Harry for thirty six years. Bill Robertson was amazed at the ear bashing he got, or perhaps dazed would be a better word. Don Linton and Ian Willmore had their heads together for a long time and age seems to have dealt very kindly with both of them.

Russ Harrison and Ray Harris fought the battle of Purringi over again and I wonder who won. Bob Lee, John McKnight and Jack Henderson were sitting at the same table swapping yarns. Jim Field, our official (unpaid) photographer, did a mighty job as mess orderly. Reg Cairns was last seen bending the elbow with Vince Livermore and it must have been the soft stuff.

Bruce Metcalf, John McDonagh and Jack

Crouch were at the same table as Tib Martin, Matt Elliot and Clem McDonald all of "D" Coy and what a team. Also at the same table was Bob Ginnane and Bill Henry. Charlie Henry sent along his apology for not making the trip from Bodalla.

Ray Levy and Don Barraclough seemed to be doing very nicely for themselves, especially when the savouries were served. John Hunt was speaking to as many as possible and inviting all to Brisbane in October for a Reunion at his home. Allan McInnes, Bill Robertson and President Bob Dixon seemed to be everywhere and yarning with everybody.

Many enquiries for news of Mick Egan, Archie Stanton, George Paricos and Pat Collins who were all notably absent. And that is that for 1985 — what will 1986 bring?

— REG ARMSTRONG, Reporter.

WELFARE CHAIRMAN

At the Annual Meeting, Max Law was elected to the position of Welfare Committee Chairman, a position held by our late President. Max still retains his position as Vice President and Chief Reporter. The Executive are most grateful to Max for carrying out this dual role.

Would members now please note that all hospital visitations and funeral attendance be notified to Max Law by phoning or writing — 37 Solveig Crescent, Kareela, 2232. Phone: (02) 528 6887. Max will then contact one of his team, appointed in the various suburbs.

LAST POST

BOB MORROW 2/1 passed away on 20th February and will be sadly missed by all Pioneers, especially his mates in D Coy. Bob attended most Anzac Reunions and was a popular figure even going back to the Sussex Hotel days.

Our sincere sympathy to his wife Eileen, and family — he will be sadly missed.

KENNETH "MICK" REILLY B. Coy 2/1 passed away on 18th May. News of his death was kindly phoned to us by Nell Davenport and Mick Anselm. To Mick's family, our sympathy in their sad loss.

RAY HILL D Coy 2/1 passed away in April and the funeral was attended by Max Law and Jack Clarke. Ray was a regular attendee at Anzac Reunion.

Our sympathy is extended to his wife and family.

2/2 PRESIDENT RETIRES

Ted Hansen, who is the President of the 2/2nd Pioneer Bn Association in Victoria, retired recently as Building Inspector, after many years of service with the Council of the City of Knox, Victoria.

On the 1st March, the Mayor, Alderman and Staff of the Council, as well as builders, developers and friends, assembled at the Council Chambers to farewell Ted on his retirement.

The Mayor of the City of Knox, Alderman Geoff Draper, introduced the guests and spoke of the long and dedicated service Ted had given to the City of Knox.

Following the Mayor's speech, Colonel John Williams, who was Ted's Commanding Officer in the 2/2 Pioneer Bn, spoke of Ted's activities whilst serving with distinction with the unit in the Middle East, Syria and Java. In 1942 Ted became a prisoner of war and was one of the sixty per cent who survived after three and a half years of captivity.

Later in the evening, Ted was presented with a radiogram and all joined to wish Ted and Dot a happy and healthy retirement.

EDITORS NOTE: We are indebted to Colonel John Williams for the above article.

The Executive of the Sydney-based association would also like to extend best wishes to Ted and Dot and hope they have a long and happy retirement.

BRISBANE REUNION by JOHN HUNT
SATURDAY 26th OCTOBER, 1985 at 4 p.m.
4/25 MONTFORD ROAD, NEW FARM, QLD.

BURMA-THAI RAILWAY HISTORY

A complete history has been compiled on "A" Force (Group 3) of the Burma-Thai railway.

Included are extracts of the personal diary of Colonel John Williams, 2/2 dating from Batavia to the termination of "A" Force at the 105km camp at Burma.

The book is not a story but covers the activities and experiences of: "Anderson Force", Black Force, Green Force, Ramsay and William Forces plus Group 5 which was attached to Brigadier Varley's command at end of 1943.

Included in the writings are extracts of diaries compiled by J. Tom Morris, AAMC of Green Force; Tony Clive of Postal Force; Ramsay Force; Fagan POW diary; Black Force; William Force; "We called him Tommy" and other contributions. All are accurate and authenticated.

Foreword is by his Honour, Judge Phillip Head, ex POW, who held the rank of Major in 8th Division HQ.

The book is expected to be published in September and forward orders would be welcome, which will act as a guide to the number required for publication.

Cost per copy is \$25 plus \$3 for postage and handling to be sent to:

LES HALL, "Jindalee" 9/92 Harboard Road, Harboard, NSW 2096
Phone (02) 93 1551.

LAST POST

ARTHUR "SOOTY" WHITE, died in June and the funeral was attended by Fred Brooks, Bill Nicholson and Doug Shearston.

Arthur was a very popular identity of the Signals Platoon 2/1 and resided in Sydney for many years until he retired and moved up to Taree a few years ago.

To Mrs. White and family we extend our sincere sympathy.

"We will Remember him"

2/2 PIONEER BTN. ASSOCIATION

The Annual Meeting of the 2/2nd Pioneer Association was held in the Carry-on Headquarters in King Street Melbourne, on Thursday, 2nd May.

The election of office bearers for the ensuing year resulted in:

PRESIDENT: Ted Hansen, re-elected for the twelfth year.

VICE PRESIDENTS: Ted Campbell, Mac Enlish, Col. Hamley,

SECRETARY: George Murphy

TREASURER/EDITOR: Jack Hocking

AUDITOR: Col. Hamley.

WELFARE: Ted Hansen, Bill Condon, Bob Evans.

COMMITTEE: Clint Barnes, Sam Coles, Frank Coulson, George Dunn, Jack Fitzgerald, Tom Gaisford, Reg Goodman, Tom Gore, Don Hose, Norm Jones, Bluey Kelly, Bill Mayne, Col Shea, and Keith Vincent.

HOSPITAL VISITATIONS: Don Hose.

It was with deep regret, the meeting accepted the resignation as Secretary of Col Shea who has been secretary for 11 years and unfortunately he had to give the game away on Doctors orders.

Col's main task over the years has been to organise our Reunions which have been most successful. Although Col has remained on the Committee it would be appreciated if, in future all Association matters be referred to President Ted Hansen (729 3481) or the new Secretary, George Murphy (874 2872).

George (VX94580) joined 2/2 at Morotai and with "C" Coy. did the landings at Tarakan and Balikpapan and was discharged in 1946 with the rank of Corporal.

Some 110 Pioneers, plus invited guests attended the Reunion on Anzac Eve, 70 Pioneers marched on Anzac Day and 22 attended the Annual Meeting. All successful.

-JACK HOCKING, 29 Grandview Road, Chadstone, Victoria, 3148

MAIL BAG -- Some of the letters received after going to Press -

MARY KILLEN, 2/1, of Warners Bay, wrote on behalf of Fred, to say he had his eye removed after a lot of trouble and was now much improved. He hoped to have the artificial eye in place in June. Fred has been playing bowls again and is very keen. Best wishes are passed on from both Fred and Mary to "the gang" and we do hope you keep improving, Fred, and good bowling.

TOM PENFOLD, 2/1, of Tarro dropped us a line to let us know his eye operation was also quite successful and can now read the paper without glasses. Thanks for the donation, Tom, and your good wishes passed on to all Pioneers.

CLAUDE DENSMORE, 2/1, of Wallsend, also with some cash for the treasurer, and a few lines to say that he and his wife "don't get around much any more". They have celebrated 60 years of married life and we wish you many more happy years together. Claude sent best wishes to all the boys, also to the secretary and his wife.

AUB. RIDGLEY, 2/1, of Manly, was thrilled to receive back numbers of the Pioneer News and the names really brought back some happy memories. He has looked out for Bob Lake when visiting the Leagues Club, but so far has not had the luck to meet up with him. Aub. has met Bob (Lofty) Hannon at Manly Memorial Club and Bob pointed out another Pioneer at the bar - Fred Tighe - who is not keeping the best of health. In regard to your enquiries re Lieut. Tope, Lieut. Nicholls, George Peacock and George Paricos, both Harry Tope and Harry Nicholls are deceased, George Paricos is O.K. and living in Eastwood and we haven't George Peacock on our mailing list.

Aub. sends congratulations to the secretary and his willing band of helpers for such a wonderful job in keeping the Pioneers in contact over the years and success for the future. Keep well, Aub, and so nice to hear from you after all these years.

GEORGE PARICOS, 2/1 and 2/2, of Eastwood was sorry he could not attend the Anzac functions, as age is catching up with him, but hopes to be there in 1986. He sincerely hoped all Pioneers had a great day. George was saddened to hear of the passing of Mick Dodson - it was indeed a sad loss to the Association.

WAL "DESSO" PAGE, 2/1, of Cudgen, still going strong and enjoying his bowls recently played at Coraki with another Pioneer, Loyal Butcher, ex D. Coy., 2/1. Wal also met up with another 2/1 Pioneer Jack Bryans of D. Coy., who is enjoying good health. They all had a good game together, even though they lost on points. Loyal is now living at Kingscliff and with Jack and "Desso" wish all Pioneers and their families all the best.

JOYCE REILLY, widow of the late Mick Reilly, 2/1, of Brondall wishes to sincerely thank the Association for the floral tribute sent to Mick's funeral. Joyce was deeply grateful to the Qld. Pioneers who attended the service and a special thanks to the Kyogle boys who made the long trip to Brisbane to be there.

MAIL BAG

Editor: **BOB LAKE**

June issue of the Mail Bag and once again a good selection of letters. Anzac Day has been and gone for another year and was good to see the regular faces that attend each year, plus as always, the few that make the effort on the odd occasion, but all are made welcome on our big day.

- **TOM MUTTON** per pen of wife Pat, of Harrington ex 2/1, writes a short note with a cheque enclosed for subscriptions, and the news that both are well, ageing, but well, and send their best wishes to all.
- **MISS HEATHER WIGGINS** of Melton, Victoria, with a letter requesting information of her late uncle **Hugh Wiggins** ex 2/1. Your information can be obtained by writing to Aust. Army Records, Medals Section, 366 St. Kilda Road, Melbourne. **Heather** informs us that she was successful with the H.S.C. last year and is now studying a Bachelor of Applied Science majoring in Chemistry. On behalf of our Association we wish you every success in your venture.
- **JACK BERTRAM** 2/1, Newcastle, with a short note that he would not be in Sydney for Anzac Day, but sends his best regards to all and will be in touch at "Halifax Park", Nelson Bay in October.
- **NOEL HIBBARD** 2/1 Meadowbank, with the briefest of notes wishing all and everyone good luck and good health and enclosed a cheque for his annual subscription for the treasurer.
- **JACK MORGAN** 2/2, Wagga, with a short note of regret at the passing of our late President, **Jack (Mick) Dodson** and pays his respects to the man that applied himself to the task of being a friend and mate to all who knew him.
- **BRYAN SMALLHORN** 2/1, Armidale, another short and to the point note, with a cheque for the treasurer that he hopes will keep in front and a request about a battalion tie. Sorry **Bryan** but we do not have a battalion tie, all we do have is the Association Badge, which can be adapted to a tie bar, and these are available from the Secretary at a small price on request.
- **MRS DOROTHY COOPER** widow of the late **Norm (Nobby) Cooper**, with a cheque for the treasurer, and a special thought for a Coy, including **Frank Gillian** and **Geoff Robinson** on Anzac Day. **Dorothy** also expresses her sympathy at the loss of **Jack Dodson**, and closes with best wishes and the hope that we continue to enjoy good health for many years to come.
- **JACK MCGREGOR** 2/2 Shortland, with a letter including his subscriptions for 1985, and apologising for being a bit late. Claims time gets away from him with such big decisions, such as what to do with himself today etc. **Jack** is always happy to receive the Pioneer News, and notes that young **Bob Dixon** is recovering and busying himself with Halifax Park, and the doings of the Association. Closes with best wishes to all and the future success of the Association.
- **GEORGE HUNT** 2/2 Narrandera, per pen of wife **Ethel**, with a cheque for the treasurer and telling that **George** has retired and enjoying good health apart from some leg trouble. Also expresses her sorrow at the deaths of **Bill** and **Marjorie Hood** and extends their sympathies to the family and relatives.
- **COLIN CAMERON** 2/1 Campelltown, with a cheque for the Treasurer and a request for an Association Badge, badge was despatched per post on the 27.4.85, so should be in your possession by the time you receive this paper.
- **MARK BERNHARDT** 2/1, Woollahra, a new member to the Association with a cheque for the treasurer, and a thank you for the past and future copies of Pioneer News, as a new member **Mark**, how about a letter telling of your Coy and your doings over the last 40 odd years, it will surprise you

at the interest that an old acquaintance creates to the members.

- **DON SLATER** 2/1 Narrabeen, with a short note on the success of the Coffs Harbour reunion and quotes that they are getting better every year, we like to think this is so **Don**, why not try to arrange an attendance some time, I'm sure you would not regret the effort. Closes with best wishes to all and a cheque for the Treasurer to keep the wheels turning.
- **ALBERT RAYNER** 2/1 Kyogle, per pen of wife, with a sub for the Treasurer and telling that **Albert** is to attend Greenslopes Hospital on the 17.4.85 for another check up. By the time you both receive this Newsletter, we hope that everything is OK, and no further problems have arisen over the period.
- **PHIL BARNETT** 2/2 Lismore, with a letter commenting on the fitness and well-being of **Monte Reid**, passes on his kindest regards to him, and all good wishes to all Pioneers, enclosed a cheque for subscriptions for the treasurer, and we hope that everything goes on as well for you at Lismore.
- **BOB O'BRIEN** 2/1 Darlinghurst, sends a short note with a couple of old photos enclosed, these photos are very acceptable and will be placed in the 2/1 Pioneer Photo Album. Many thanks, **Bob**.
- **BILL MORROW**, Canberra, no letter from **Bill**, just a cheque enclosed for subs, many thanks **Bill**, you won't get writer's cramp.
- **DAVID WELLER**, Bomaderry, with a cheque for the Treasurer, a correction of his address for Pioneer News, and passes forward his best wishes to all. Another who does not believe in wasting ink.
- **TED MCCOURT** 2/2 Ryde, with a substantial cheque for the Treasurer, an apology for his lack of attendance at the march and reunions, however **Ted** who has retired and in receipt of the T.P.I., does look forward to receiving the Pioneer News and keeping up with all that is happening.
- **BOB LEHMANN** 2/1 Miami, with a cheque for the Treasurer and a thank you to all for the assistance offered to him in his endeavours to have his disability accepted by the Repat. **Bob** is quite happy now, has been placed on the T.P.I. and looking forward to a little peace and quiet.
- **BETTY CREASY** widow of the late **George** of Portland, sends a cheque for the Treasurer and a thank you for the Coffs Harbour reunion. Since 28.12.84 has had three grandsons with her, so is hoping to take a couple of them to attend the Tobruk Sunday at Newcastle. Closes with best wishes to all, and a special mention for **Bob** and **Jean Dixon** and hopes all is well with them.
- **KEITH REYNOLDS** 2/1 Coonabarabran, with the briefest of notes, best wishes to all, and enclosed subs for 1985. Many thanks, **Keith**, keep sober and keep your nose clean.
- **JACK SPOTTISWOODE**, Allambie Heights, sends a cheque for the Treasurer, and expresses his thanks for the Pioneer News. **Jack** and **Hazel** both celebrated their 46th Wedding Anniversary last November, (accept the congratulations of the Association on this happy event) and both are keeping reasonably well. Closes with best wishes to all.
- **VERA SIMPSON** widow of **Bill**, 2/1, now resident of Queensland, sends a sub for the Treasurer and a thank you for Pioneer News. Is pleased to read of **Monty** and devotion to the cause of his mates. **Vera** only met **Monty** once, but will always remember his cheerful attitude, and wishes him lifelong success, health and happiness. **Vera** served with the English WRNS during the war, and was still serving with the WRENS in Sydney where she first met **Bill**.
- **KEITH BOYLE** 2/1 Moama, with a cheque for the Treasurer and the news that the operation on his leg is a complete success, and has no need to attend hospital any further. His wife has also been in hospital, but could not find what was causing her trouble, home again, and although having to use a stick, can still get around and that is her main object. **Keith** and his neighbour have had a couple of

successful fishing trips, on both occasions caught roughly fifty red fin between them so have not been short on supply. **Keith's** wife is the winner on these occasions, as she loves fish, however, **Keith** only likes to catch them, doesn't eat fish. They have not had rain at Moama since last September, needless to say, quite a lot of his time is spent in watering the lawns and gardens. Your letter **Keith** arrived too late for the March issue of the News, hence the delay in this reprint.

- **JACK MCGAHEY** 2/2 Woollooware, with a cheque to the Treasurer and commenting on a couple of names in the News that revived old memories. Does not want a roll call, but to mention two, **Harry Spreadborough** and **Mick Anslem**. **Harry** would probably remember the hut in the Wadi El Kuff, and **Mick** would recall the chicken which he purchased from a farmhouse on the ridge. **Mick** kept the chicken as a pet, however, a A.S.C. convoy that camped overnight near them put paid to that, all **Mick** found the next morning was a small heap of feathers. What he would do to those . . . if ever he caught up with them was something too awful to behold. **Mick** has also called up on the phone a couple of times lately and both are keeping well.
- **DR GEOFF DYNON** 2/1 Strathfield, our merry medic of the army days sends his best wishes to all, a cheque for the Treasurer, and the order to keep up the good work. Many thanks **Geoff**, you haven't made that trip to Redfern as yet.
- **THEO REID** 2/1, Parramatta, with a thank you for the News and all the good reading. **Theo** is looking forward to the march and reunion, and only hopes he can remember all those faces. Enclosed a cheque for his subs and looking forward to the Dubbo reunion.
- **JACK MURRAY** 2/1 West Australia with a thank you for the News which he looks forward to receiving and reading the names, although he doubts if he would know many of them by now. Attended the get-together at the Anzac Club in Perth in March, arranged and conducted by **Len Preedy**, and a pleasant evening was enjoyed by all. Wishes all and everyone good health and luck, and enclosed a cheque for the Treasurer.
- **BOB (LOFTY) HANNON**, 2/1 Shepparton, Victoria, with a cheque for the Treasurer and an apology for not attending Anzac Day, however his legs are not behaving as they should, wishes to be remembered to all with special mention for **Jim Rhodes**, **Jock Russell** and telling me he is still right there with me in support of the Sea Eagles. Thanks, **Lofty**, we need that with these Pioneers.
- **CHARLIE KERR** 2/1, Maryborough, Queensland with a letter of news plus a bit for the Treasurer. Has had a few trips around of late, a month or so spent on the Dorrigo, Bellingen, Coffs Harbour area, and on the return journey, spent some time with their daughter and husband in their new home at Gattin. Daughter **Cathie** then produced her first child so back to Gattin for the Christening. While at this time of events, **Zeta**, I think that must be **Charlie's** wife, was hospitalised with a kidney problem, where at time of writing she was still in receiving treatment at Toowoomba Hospital. Sincerely hope that by the time you are reading this, **Charlie**, that everything is OK again and that she is enjoying better health. Also tells of his son, **Fraser**, who has landed a top job with Boral and is stationed at Lae, New Guinea. Told his dad that he went over the Kokoda Trail but did it the easy way, by plane. **Charlie** still sees **Toby Palin** quite regularly, **Toby** receives the T.P.I. but is still mobile, does a fair bit of walking especially toward the T.A.B. quite regularly. Also had a visit from **Peter Priest** and his wife recently, they are now living at Gympie. Closes with best regards to all, with special mention for the "Sigs" plus **Lakey** and "Pear Shape".
- **DICK SEDDON** 2/1, Newcastle, with an apology for his non attendance at Redfern. He and **Jack "Gildo" Griffiths** were on the way, attended the

Dawn Service at Newcastle and it was there that **Dick** took a bad turn. Shaky legs, hot and cold shivers, however it was home to bed and call the doctor, who attended and could not find anything wrong. His own doctor attended the following day, and once again, could find no reason for the problems, however at time of writing, the old bloke was feeling pretty much back to square one, just one of those things that crop up on odd occasions. He has found time to report that **Ted Simpson** is in a bad way now and in a nursing home, **Nugget Laurie** and **Bruce Mitchell**, also very sick, and both of these chaps are on oxygen 24 hours a day. All the other Newcastle blokes are fairly fit and keeping the flag flying. With regard to your subs, you should know by now that subs are always due irrespective of when you paid, so let those moths out old mate, it's a good cause.

• **ARTHUR WHITE (SOOT)**, Cundletown, with a note enclosing a sub for the Treasurer and the information that he has not been as good as could be, doctor nominates asthma, and **Soot** runs out of puff if trying to walk any distance, would never make the finish of a march now. **Soot** reports that he has had a couple of beers with **Fred Brookes** and also **Bill Nicholson**. **Nicko** is living at Cundletown now, and he also has a problem with asthma. Next time I go to Laurieton, will call in on you **Soot**, just a social call, would also like to see **Nicko**. It's got to be 20 years since I saw him last, one lunch time at the Sussex Hotel. Thanks for the good wishes, and we hope that your puff problems improve for you.

• **MICK ROBERTS** 2/1, Leeton, a cheque for the Treasurer, and extends his sympathies on the loss of **Mick**, as he quotes, "He will be sadly missed with his devotion to a grand job that only a man of his calibre could excel in!" Extends his best wishes to all B. Coy boys and had intentions of making the trip to Sydney, however it was not to be, as his wife has suffered another mild heart attack and that stops that. Sends his best wishes to **Max Law** and **Joy**, and all the Pioneers, not many Pioneers around the Leeton area, however, he does hope to make the trip to Wagga for the combined get-together in September. Signs himself off with best wishes from "one of the young Pioneers". OK **Mick**, who is kidding who?

• **PERCY FISK** 2/1 Toongabbie, with a short note that he would not be in attendance on Anzac Day, would be in Condobolin on that day, however they did enjoy themselves at Coffs Harbour and he saw two mates, **Allen** and **Phil** whom he had not seen since 1944. Extends his best wishes to all and enclosed a cheque for the Treasurer.

• **MEL NAYLOR** 2/1 Beaufort, Victoria, with a cheque for the Treasurer and the information that **Mal Slee** passed away on 25.2.85 at Beaufort Hospital. **Mal** had suffered from cancer but had never let it beat him until the end. **Mel** extends his best wishes to all for a prosperous and healthy 1985.

• **ERIC REYNOLDS (BOMBO)** 2/1, Macksville, with the news that they are both well and still getting around quite a bit. Had a trip to Victoria again to see daughter **Allison** and this time they travelled by air and Greyhound bus from Kempsey to Sydney by East West, then on to Melbourne via the east coast. Anzac Day he spent at Macksville where the R.S.L. put on a very good show. Prior to that was Easter, and **Bombo** reached the ripe old age of 70. **Cyril** and **Doris Amies** were passing through that way and called in to see them, spent a couple of pleasant hours discussing old times. Closes with best wishes to all.

• **JIM McDONALD** 2/1, Tuncurry, a sub for the Treasurer and a complaint that the fish are not doing the right thing at the present time. Claims that the weather up there has been very good, have had some rainy days but they get most of the bad rain at night. Have been playing more than their fair share of bowls lately, five days a week and loving every bit of it, claims its easy to play a lot but it's harder to improve. Has a game with **Doug**

Shearston and **Alex Boyd** on occasion, **Alex** being a top class bowler. Closes with best wishes and hoping to meet up with us at Halifax Park in October.

• **CHARLES WILBY** 2/1 Moree, with expressions of sympathy on the loss of **Mick**, that he would not be in attendance at the Anzac March, and the fact that those old crooked legs are starting to act up against him. Arthritis is his big problem both knees and ankles and a hundred paces without rest is just a bit beyond him. **Charlie** writes that he always thought he was one of the older brigade of Pioneers, but realises that he is only a boy almost, only 76 years so keep smiling. **Charlie** spent the usual couple of weeks at North Haven with the bowls, and was sorry that he did not know that **Wally Parsons** was living there, would have looked him up as he had plenty of time to spare however claims, God willing, will get in touch next year. Wife **Kit**, has got those itchy feet again, and is off to New York very soon to see the family, so the old bloke is on the look out for a good cook as she will be away about 3 months. He won't go, claims he has to look after the dogs and the garden. Four of the blokes made a trip to Mitchell, Queensland a couple of weeks back, 600 miles to play 3 rounds of 10 ends. Stayed 2 nights and played only one day, only one green, and that rough as they come. They managed to win their matches and beat the Queenslanders but the only fly in the ointment was that he couldn't have a drink on the way back because he was the driver. Serves you right! It's been good to hear from you again, old mate, sorry about the old legs and thanks for the good wishes, the Treasurer accepts both the good wishes and the cheque and wishes you and **Kit** well.

• **GORDON BELL** 2/2 Tumbarumba, with a cheque for subs and states he enjoys reading the News and the reports from other members of the Association. Wishes to pass on his regards to **Bob Lee**, and hopes that **John Dowd** recovers well from his hip operation and replacement, and hopes to attend the reunion at Wagga in September.

• **FRANCIS HEPBURN** 2/2, Bankstown, per pen of wife **Irene** with the news that **Frank** is coming along slowly, enclosed a cheque for subs and closes with best wishes to all on behalf of **Frank** and herself.

That completes the mail bag for this issue, since Anzac Day, Whiteley and wife, and Joan and I did a six day trip to Albury, Bright, Myrtleford, Rutherglen area to anyone that has not visited the area, can thoroughly recommend same, and Joan and I are off on Monday to Kingscliffe where we intend to inflict our persons on the Andrews Family, this could lead to an interesting period, and will let you all know about it in the next issue. Football is back in the news, and for my two opposition mates, Jack Coates and Jack Collis, all teams are going very well, the Tigers for Coatesy and Parra for Collis, but take note of the table — Manly still holds second place, a short head in front of the two mentioned. Long may it continue, with best wishes for good health to all members and wives and looking forward to seeing a few of same at Nelson Bay in October.

So long for now — **LAKEY**.

ANZAC DAY RAFFLE

BOB GALES, 2/1, once again made and donated a very nice supper cloth for our Anzac Day Raffle and we thank you, Bob, for your kind gift. This will be his last effort, as Bob has suffered a mild stroke and is now a patient in Wyong Nursing Home. He had great difficulty in finishing the cloth, as he has very little use of his hands.

Per pen of his daughter, Doreen Riley, we received news of Bob's illness and our thanks and best wishes to you, Bob, for all the lovely handwork you have made and donated over many years.

Earl Jones was the lucky winner on Anzac Day.

H.M.A.S. TOBRUK VISIT

Reported by **RENEE WOOD**

On Anzac Day this year, when the 2/1-2/2 Pioneers gathered after the march at Redfern Town Hall for their Reunion, four sailors from the Brisbane based naval supply ship *H.M.A.S. Tobruk* joined in the festivities after having been invited by 2/1 member Roy Jardine.

Evidently they enjoyed the hospitality and company of our group so much that, in return, they invited the Pioneers and their ladies to visit their ship the next day. The senior sailor who extended the invitation was Gus Dundas, the son of Bill Dundas, 2/1.

The group of people who accepted the invitation were as follows: Joe Kyffin, Jean and Jack Clarke, Joyce and George Walker, Kath and Jim Field, Marie and Wal Parsons, Mary Lloyd, Jack Collis, Ruth and Jim Rhodes, Jean and Bob Dixon, Marea and Chris McKay, Max Law, Peg and Max Herron, Renee and Tom Wood, Irene and Clancy Scholes and daughter Wendy, plus friends of the Scholes — Marie and Stan Madden.

Upon arrival at Garden Island, we were escorted up the long gang plank by our host Gus and with the assistance of Mick Rayner, "Rabbit" Burrows and Candi were taken to the Senior Sailors Wardroom where we were welcomed with liquid refreshments. After partaking of refreshments we were divided into two groups and tour leader for one group was Gus while the other tour leader was Mick. The tour of the ship took one and a half hours and consisted of visiting places such as: Bridge, Engine room, galleys, sick bay, disaster operations room, helicopter pad and gun decks.

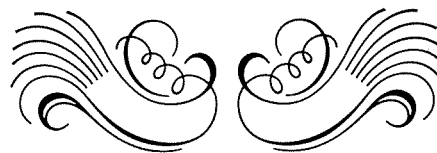
This modern naval ship which was commissioned in April 1981 is the second ship to bear the famous name *Tobruk*, and their motto, "Faithful and Strong" is certainly a fitting one for such fine men who acted as our hosts.

During our visit the Army were loading the ship with tanks, trucks, jeeps, heavy earth moving equipment and stores. Their destination was Darwin where the army were engaged with overseas forces on a two month manoeuvre.

Inspection of the ship completed, it was then back to the mess for more chatter and more refreshments.

On behalf of the Senior Sailors mess, Gus Dundas presented to our President Bob Dixon, a plaque from the *H.M.A.S. Tobruk*. In reply, Bob thanked Gus and Mick for their tour of the ship and for the plaque which he said would be placed on the wall of our office, situated at the home of our Secretary, together with plaques of our Association and the Rats of Tobruk association. The president also said we would present to the Senior Sailors mess on their return a plaque from the 2/1-2/2 Pioneer Bns Association.

Time then for farewells, thanks extended to our hosts, Gus and Mick and also all the other sailors on the *H.M.A.S. Tobruk* who gave up their free time and made our visit most enjoyable.



APOLOGY BY SECRETARY

The Secretary wishes to apologise for omitting the name of the town where the "Relaxing Holiday" is to be held, as stated in the March issue of Pioneer News.

It is to be held at the Halifax Caravan Park at Nelson Bay, N.S.W. on 14th to 21st October, 1985. There is nothing organised as at Country Reunions, just a quiet get-together of members who usually stay together at Caravan Parks.

PIONEER NEWS

Phone: 759 5491

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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: BOB DIXON

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THANK YOU, MONTY

At their recent Executive Meeting, it was resolved that, as Harry Montague had decided to stand down as the Association Welfare Officer, after so many years of sterling service, his retirement should be suitably recorded.

Accordingly, members of the Executive arranged to invite Monty and his wife, Jean to a testimonial luncheon at the Exhibition Hotel on Saturday 22nd June, when a suitable presentation would be made.

Upon announcement at the June Committee Meeting three members announced their intention of also attending and consequently twenty three members, including their ladies gathered for pre-lunch drinks and later, sat down to a hot meal served by the hotel staff.

President Bob Dixon opened the official proceedings, by outlining quite a number of Monty's achievements in assisting our members over many years. This covered such areas as pensions and the difficulties experienced; the regular visitations to hospitals and nursing homes to cheer up the sick; and attending the funeral services of departed comrades.

Our Patron, Gordon Osborn then supported the President, with further tributes to Monty's endeavours. Gordon called Monty to the official table and presented him with an Association Plaque carrying the colours of the 2/1st and 2/2nd Pioneer Battalions, which contained the simple inscription "Monty — For Service". In making the presentation, Gordon wished both Jean and Monty

many happy years together in their future retirement.

Monty responded by thanking the President and Patron for their kind remarks, the Executive for arranging the luncheon and the members for their attendance. Monty then proceeded to relate his memories of places and incidents and especially those of his old Pioneer mates — a rather humorous, nostalgic and moving story of the early war years.

Ladies Auxiliary Secretary, Peg Herron then presented Jean Montague with a flower arrangement and spoke of the tremendous support Jean had given Monty and the Association during his many years as Welfare Officer.

Prior to leaving the dining area for after dinner drinks, a vote of thanks was passed by Vice President Max Law to mine host Doug McGill, who arranged for the smooth running of our function, and to his two attractive assistants, Bridget and Mary, who are sisters, for their prompt and smiling service with the meal.

And finally to Monty and Jean — a big thank you "for years of service" to 2/1-2/2 Pioneer Battalions Association.

MAX LAW, Reporter

WELFARE REPORT — MAX LAW, Welfare Chairman

ERIC BARBER from Trangie spent a few weeks in Prince of Wales Hospital Randwick, recently and while there Eric's wife Leila stayed at the hospital during his period of treatment.

Regular visits were made by Bill and Win Tasker, Max Law and Bill Robertson. After a period back home Eric and Leila returned to the hospital for a few days and I am pleased to report that the doctors have given Eric a clean bill of health.

Both are now looking forward to the coming Country Reunion at Dubbo on 20th and 21st September 1986.

BOB BURNSIDE has been waiting to be admitted to Concord Hospital — he has a letter dated 7th October, 1984 to prove it, but because of the "Doctor's problems", the waiting list has been getting longer. Bob is suffering quite a lot of discomfort and could be better than he is at the moment.

RON CALLAGHAN is now out of hospital after an operation involving open heart surgery. Ron has had a rough time but is already on the way to full recovery. Bill Tasker visited the hospital and is keeping in touch with Ron.

HARRY MONTAGUE was in Concord Hospital in July for a hernia operation and was visited by Bob Dixon, Max Law and Max and Peg Herron. Monty was in good spirits and expected to be only in hospital two weeks.

VINCE PETRICH had a stay in Concord Hospital in July with eye trouble and was visited by Max Law, Max and Peg Herron. Vince had lost his eye about six months ago and now had developed problems with the artificial eye.

LAST POST

BOB FRANCIS GRATTON 2/1 affectionately known as "Guts" passed away in May and the funeral was conducted at Rookwood on 24th May.

Bob had spent most of his last two years in the Home of Peace at Marrickville. Unfortunately this information was not known to the Association, otherwise a representative would have visited him.

The service was attended by Max Law who conveyed our sympathy to Bob's brother, who is the last of seven boys.

GEORGE WATSON 2/1 of Clovelly passed away in June and the funeral on 26th June was attended by Bill Robertson and Max Law. A RSL service was conducted by the Welfare Officer of the Clovelly RSL.

The Association's sympathy was conveyed to George's family.

SYDNEY "SHREWIE" PERCIVAL 2/1 passed away on 24th April after a lengthy illness and through a neighbour the sympathy of the Association was extended to his widow, Eileen.

"Shrewdie" was a very popular member of "D" Company 2/1st Pioneers.

BERNARD "BLUEY" SIMMONDS 2/1 of England passed away very suddenly on 21st May and the news came as a great shock to Jack Bertram and Max Herron who had looked after "Bluey" when he came to Australia for four weeks in April 1982.

To his wife, Kathleen and family we extend our deepest sympathy.

HOSPITAL VISITATIONS

Would the family of any Brisbane member in hospital, please contact the below mentioned so they can organise visits.

Phil Cramsie (07) 262 5272

John Hunt (07) 358 4349

BRISBANE REUNION

SATURDAY 26th OCTOBER 1985 at 4 p.m.

at the residence of

JOHN and MOLLIE HUNT

4/25 MOUNTFORD RD, NEW FARM QLD.

Telephone: (07) 358 4349

Acceptance requested by October 18.

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

I have been asked by the Executive to prepare this annual report, for in normal circumstances it would have been prepared by the President but due to the passing away of Mick Dodson, our President since 1973, this could not be.

I feel I should commence this report by saying that Mick was a President of top rank, a 2/1 Pioneer man to the core, and more than that, a fantastic friend to all. We miss him around and we will never forget him.

On a happier note, I should place on record the request of Harry Montague to relinquish the position of Welfare Officer of the Association. Harry has been faithfully attending to Welfare for many years in all aspects. To you Harry we give full praise and we salute you for a job well done.

The Association has progressed well over the past twelve months and membership has remained static as we lose a few and gain a few. Remembering the age bracket we are in, we could not expect anything else.

The financial state of our Association is good and for this position we thank all those members who weighed in so well.

Pioneer News is our life line and without it our Association would become stagnant for it is also the mouthpiece of every member to every other member, Australia wide. For this reason we must give it our full backing and we do thank Editors Bob Lake and Max Herron for their unstinting work in this regard and I know this effort is recognised by all members.

The Anzac functions and Coffs Harbour Reunion were most successful and all who attended had a marvellous time. The Executive are even now working on the details for the 1986 Country Reunion at Dubbo.

This report would be lacking and incomplete if I omitted to say that all office bearers have given of their best, soundly backed up and directed by the Committee and recently by the general committee, who, when asked to assist in numerous ways, important ways, did so eagerly. This getting together and doing, is another reason why our Association is so cohesive and strong.

I have recorded in the past and I do so again, our deep sense of debt and thanks to our women folk for their close and valued assistance, and we trust they will stay close in the future.

In conclusion (bearing in mind the sad loss of members who have passed on) we have every right to congratulate ourselves on the efforts of the past year and I am sure we can look forward confidently to the future — the year ahead.

— BOB DIXON, President

ARMY MUSEUM PRESENTATION

On Tuesday, 23rd July, forty five members of the Pioneer Association and the Rats of Tobruk Association gathered at the Victoria Barracks Army Museum for the occasion of presenting to the Museum medals belonging to Mick Dodson our late President.

Bob Dixon, President, was assisted by Gordon Osborn, Patron, in organising the ceremony in the theatre at the Museum. Bob called upon Ned Dodson, brother of Mick, to make the presentation of medals to Colonel Ron Thirlwell, Director, Army Museum, after reading a citation in Mick's honour. Present were Mick's sister-in-law, Alma and her family and Jean, Mick's sister.

Bob then called on Rats President, Joe Maddeley, who presented Mick's Life Certificate from the Rats, to Colonel Ron Thirlwell.

The Director responded with thanks for the both presentations and stated they would be treasured, and stored for all to see.

Meet our new Office Bearers

BOB DIXON, President

Bob was born at Goulburn N.S.W. on the 19th November, 1913 and in 1918 moved to Merrylands where he has lived for the past sixty seven years.

On 25th November 1939 Bob married Jean, a Queensland girl who had moved to his area. While working in a food producing mill as foreman, Bob and Jean had their first child, a daughter, Margaret.

Bob joined the 2nd AIF in December 1941, and was drafted to the 2/1 Pioneer Training Battalion at Dubbo and then to Bathurst where he was posted to the 2/2nd Pioneer Bn. From Bathurst he was sent to Wagga, across to Western Australia and then to Queensland with the Mortar Platoon H.Q. Coy 2/2nd Pioneer Battalion.

Whilst serving with the 2/2nds in New Guinea, Bob was promoted to the rank of Platoon Sergeant. During this period their second child, son Robert was born. Returned to Australia then back to the islands to Morotai, Tarakan and Balikpapan. Was discharged from the army on 10th January 1946.

Upon discharge Bob took up civilian life by working at various jobs including self employment then two more sons, Brian and Peter, and now eleven grandchildren, with another one on the way.

After giving valuable service on the Committee Bob was elected in 1972 to the position of Vice President of the Association. Then in 1976 he transferred to the position of Assistant Secretary (Social) and held that position until 1985. Bob has assisted in the organising of all social functions, such as Country Reunions and Anzac Day functions. He has acted as Master of Ceremonies at these reunions and has carried out the task in a splendid manner.

On 24th April 1985 at the Annual General Meeting, Bob was presented by Allan McInnes, Vice President, with his Life Certificate, which was presented in recognition of his many years of valuable and faithful service voluntarily given to the Association.

GORDON GRAHAM FINLAY ASSISTANT SECRETARY (SOCIAL)

Gordon was born at Busselton W.A. on 1st May, 1914 and moved to N.S.W. in 1918 where he spent his boyhood days at Glenreagh and in 1930 moved to the South Coast. Gordon enlisted in the 2nd AIF on 29th May 1940 from Berry and was posted to the 2/1st Pioneer Battalion. After spending the night at Ingleburn camp and then to Greta by train on 30th May.

Gordon was a sergeant in A and C Companies and served with the 2/1st campaigns, including Tobruk and the Owen Stanleys.

In 1943, Gordon was posted to the Officers Training Unit and was commissioned as a Lieutenant and sent to the 14/32 Infantry Battalion which saw service in New Britain. He was discharged from the army in October 1945 and then worked with Clyde Batteries until 1960 when he went to Marshall Batteries as Production Foreman. Gordon retired from Marshall Batteries as Production Manager in July 1974.

Gordon married Olive (Large) at Glebe on return from Middle East in 1942 and now have three children, Jan, Helen and Geoffrey. They have seven grandchildren.

Olive and Gordon are very keen travellers and have caravanned over most of Australia, in the states of Qld., N.S.W., W.A., S.A. and N.T.

Bowls is Gordon's sport and he plays for Cabrawale Diggers and the Rats of Tobruk.

Gordon was Vice President of the Association from 1963 to 1974 then transferred to Publicity Officer from 1975 to 1979. He then took on the position of Vice President from 1980 to 1985. Gordon has been a tower of strength in assisting at all the Country Reunions and Anzac Functions.

In 1982 at the Wagga Reunion, Gordon was presented with his Life Membership certificate by Mick Dodson which was presented in recognition of his many years of valuable and faithful service voluntarily given to the Association.

WELFARE COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Welfare Committee, Max Law, seeks the co-operation of a member's family to notify him direct as to that members stay in hospital.

He also seeks the co-operation of the deceased members next of kin if they would publish in the newspaper obituary notice the name of the unit of the member. Also to notify him direct as to the funeral arrangements.

In both hospital visiting and funeral attendance the Chairman will call upon the undermentioned members of his Committee to assist him.

— MAX LAW, Chairman Welfare Committee
37 Solweig Cres., Kareela. Ph: 528 6887

NORTHERN SUBURBS:

Fred Callaway, 19 Bristol Ave, Wahroonga. Ph: 487 1949
Allan McInnes, 11/47 Milson Rd, Cremorne Pt. Ph: 90 2069
Jack Pearce, 22 Surfers Pde, Harbord. Ph: 939 1974

EASTERN SUBURBS:

Bill Robertson, 5 Barry St, Randwick. Ph: 665 2586

ILLAWARRA SUBURBS:

Jack Clarke, 25 Arlington St, Rockdale. Ph: 59 3757
Jack Harvey, 10 Karoola Cres, Caringbah. Ph: 524 7329

Bill Tasker, 3 Killara Ave, Kingsgrove. Ph: 78 6658

WESTERN SUBURBS:

Harry Bentley, 300 Parramatta Rd, Ashfield. Ph: 798 8760

Bob Dixon, 26 Holdsworth St, Merrylands. Ph: 637 4619

Jim Field, 155 Darling St, Greystanes. Ph: 636 1404

Gordon Finlay, 5 Nth Liverpool Rd, Mt. Pritchard. Ph: 602 8483

Bob Lee, 103 Links Ave, Concord. Ph: 73 1965

GOSFORD/CENTRAL COAST:

Jack Collis, 24 Hobart Ave, Umina. Ph: (043) 41 2977

DEPT. OF VETERAN AFFAIRS

It is now possible for all ex-servicemen and women to inspect their personal file and service records, held by the Department of Veteran Affairs.

The section dealing with this service is located at Room 901 on the 9th Floor of Grace Building, 77 York Street, Sydney. A special room has been made available in which a person can inspect their file.

A person will be able to see the original documents signed on enlistment, discharge from the forces, how questions were answered regarding medical history and whether medical treatment received during service was properly recorded or not recorded at all.

To avail oneself of this service, a letter should be forwarded to the Department of Veteran Affairs stating — "I wish to inspect my personal file". Where it is not possible to call at the Department a request can be made to have specific documents posted to an address as follows: — "Under the Freedom of Information Act, would you please forward to me at the above address, copies of the following documents from my personal file". Then clearly identify the specific documents required, service, medical or Pension documents, etc. Include the following details:- full postal address, telephone number, full name, date of birth and service number.

It is preferable that a person inspects the documents themselves, as there may be items recorded which may cause embarrassment, if seen by other persons.

If a claim has been made in the past and has been unsuccessful, this inspection service would be of special interest. In the past a person was "knocked back" without a reason given. With this new system a person can see why the claim was unsuccessful.

Records are difficult to assess once the veteran has died. The widow will be given access to the records upon application, however it could be difficult to obtain the necessary information needed in a claim for a war widow's pension.

This is a good reason to have documentation now, so that the records would be immediately available for the advocate of the widow. In a person's interest it is strongly recommended to obtain at least copies of the service documents at the earliest opportunity.

A change of government could mean a repeal of this act. For further information, ring Frank Potter, 290 7774 or Ted Smith 290 7778 at the Department of Veteran Affairs.

— Reported by HARRY MONTAGUE

DUBBO REUNION 1986

Saturday/Sunday, 20th, 21st September

Further details in December issue

LETTER TO EDITORS

Dear Sirs,

On behalf of my wife Jean and self I would like you to accept our sincere thanks and appreciation for the testimonial luncheon that was extended to us by the Executive of the Association. To have been guests of the Executive was really a tremendous honour and was indeed pleasing to see the members and their wives assembled to wish us the very best.

I would also like to thank President Bob Dixon and Patron Gordon Osborn for their fine speeches on my behalf, and the consequent presentation of the Association Plaque, expertly made by Jim Field. This plaque will be always treasured. Jean extends thanks to the Ladies Auxiliaries for the lovely flower arrangement, presented by Peg Herron.

Thanking you on behalf of my wife and self,
— HARRY MONTAGUE

LAST POST

BILL BURGER HQ Coy 2/1 passed away on 14th July at Greenslopes Hospital Brisbane after a long bout of illness. Bill was 70 years of age.

John Hunt and Phil Cramsie attended the informal gathering of relatives and friends at the funeral parlours to pay homage to Bill.

Deepest sympathy was conveyed to the family on behalf of the Association.

Should any of Bill's friends in the unit wish to convey sympathy to Bill's widow, Jill and her children, Peter, Heather and John, the address is Mrs. Jill Burger, 27 Retro Street, Emerald, Qld. 4720.

— Reported by PHIL CRAMSIE

HENRY JAMES (JOCK) ROGERS D Coy 2/1 of Glen Innes passed away on 5th August and the funeral was attended by Tom Manual and members of the Glen Innes RSL.

Jock had been in ill health for some time both in hospital and at home.

Sympathies were extended to Joyce and family on behalf of the Association.

— TOM MANUAL

• **REG ARMSTRONG** 2/2 and wife **Coralie** have moved to Coonabarabran and are about to build a new home. Send best wishes to all Pioneers — especially the members of the Pioneer News wrapping team of which he was a member — thanks **Reg** and we wish you and **Coralie** the very best.

NEW 2/2 SECRETARY

George Murphy has been elected to the position of Secretary for the 2/2nd Pioneer Battalion in Victoria and to George the Executive of this Association extend congratulations on his appointment. They also offer him full support in his new job.

George takes over from Col Shea who had to resign as Secretary because of ill health. This Association extends to Col Shea their thanks for a job well done and do hope his health improves.

George had written to this Association congratulating Bob Dixon on his appointment as President — thank you George.

On reading of the relaxing holiday at Nelson Bay on 14th to 21st October, George said he was going there in September for two weeks but because of work commitments, could not change the dates but wished all who participate a pleasant holiday.

RISING SUNS WANTED

Jim Field, Publicity Officer, has been making plaques for the Association to be presented to various people for their support to the Association. He has used up his own supply of rising sun army lapel badges, and if any member has a spare one Jim would appreciate it if that member could send it to him at the below mentioned address.

Jim donates his time and material to the Association whereas the charge of \$20 is to cover expenses by the professional signwriter.

The Association would be most grateful if you could send any spare badges to Jim Field, 155 Darling Street, Greystanes 2145.



September issue and quite a good response from some thirty or more members, and most added cheques for subscriptions and donations. Many thanks to all members, and to the womenfolk that so often have to actually put the pen to the paper.

• **ERIC LINDSAY** 2/2 COONABARABRAN and wife **Norma** have just completed a three week tour of the Red Centre, and while I will not enclose all totally, will give a brief outline of same. Journey started from Cooma through Broken Hill following the Indian Pacific line to Peterborough, Wilmington, ascending Hall Rock Pass to New Spencer Gulf and on to Port Augusta to spend a night. Moving on through very remote country, salt pans and the like, to Coober Pedy, where just about everything and everyone lives underground, but the homes and churches were actually very beautiful. Plenty of opals, mostly of the pale colouring. Moving on across the Gibber Plains where population is zero, until they arrived at a Motel Complex at Marla Bore. The complex had everything and would please the most fastidious traveller. Onward the next day over the border into the territory and that night arrived at the Rock, once again the complex perfect, and here they spent a couple of days, where they flew over the Rock and the Olga's, much easier for a couple of oldies. Quite a lot to see around the Alice, Flying Doctor's Base, Casino, Simpson's Gap, Stanley Chasm, and Panorama Gulch, this alone making the rough roads worth the trip. Next day they journeyed onward and so to Tennants Creek. Did quite a lot of touring around the area and Katherine but the most interesting being Mataranka, a tropic forest with a thermal pool, tall palms, and eucalypt trees. Did the cruise of the Katherine Gorge. Onward further to Adelaide River War Memorial for Australian Servicemen which is kept in perfect condition. A couple of days to explore Darwin, then on the Arnhem Highway via Humpty Doo, the Bark Hut, then to South Alligator Inn and Kakada. Here they visited the Uranium Mine and the town of Jabira, where again they took a flight over the Arnhem Land and Crocodile River, the place is far too big to see it any other way. On across the Barkly Tablelands through the large Cattle Stations and on to Mt. Isa. Quite a nice town with plenty of complexes to meet the travellers' requirements. The trip from here to home again was quiet and very remote, not much difference from day to day. **Eric** quotes to finish his letter, "It was a wonderful trip, but one wants to be in very good health to make the trip of 11,000 kms or you would have trouble from exhaustion. Both **Max** and **Peg Herron** have done this trip by coach, and they say they would recommend it to anybody. Many thanks for the letter **Eric**, and we hope that you have now settled back for a spell of rest."

• **DICK BLAKENEY** 2/1 MARSFIELD with a short note wishing everyone the best of health, congratulations to the committee and a cheque to be passed on to the treasurer, after the previous letter, that was quite a break, thought I was going to develop writers cramp with that trip of **Eric's**.

• **CHAS URWIN** 2/2 WYE RIVER, VIC. Pleased to receive the News, sorry to read of the demise of **Mick**, they only knew him a short while, meeting him at Wagga. **Chas** has had his eyes operated on and has much pleasure in being able to write this letter himself, enclosed a cheque for the treasurer and best wishes to all.

• **TOM BYE** 2/2 IRVINEBANK, NTH QUEENSLAND with the news of his move to the above address. **Tom** was at Cairns, but after an operation on his lung, was advised to move from the coast and the humidity so chose the above. The town is, or was, an old tin mining centre. (I may be wrong but I have a recollection of the area being used as a Light Artillery Range during our stay on the Tablelands) and **Tom** has bought a house, there is no mail delivery, so has to get mail from the post office (situated next door to the pub), what a great idea. **Tom** has enclosed a cheque for the treasurer,

and quotes, "If you can get it cashed let him know and he will write a bigger one and we shall go halves". Many thanks for the letter **Tom**, and sincerely hope that your health improves with your change of residence.

• **TED SHEPLEY**, Secretary of the Leeton RSL while not a Pioneer, came back with the 2/2 from the Middle East and was caught with them in Java. Belonged to the 2/6 Field Engineers, but has been receiving the Pioneer News for some considerable time and has enclosed a cheque to assist with the expenses involved. Finds the paper very interesting but cannot remember many of the names, after all the years, although he was with quite a few 2/2 from Java through to Singapore, Burma, Thailand, Saigon and Japan. Has been secretary of the Sub-branch for some 31 years and finds very few Pioneers in Leeton. **Mick Roberts**, **Les Gavel**, **Stan Marston** and **Allen William Mason** could possibly be others but do not belong to the Sub-branch. Many thanks for the letter **Ted**, and hope you have many more "News" to pore over.

• **PETER (DICK) SEDDON** 2/1, Newcastle, and a special thank you for the subscription for 1985 and 1986. Since **Dick's** last letter, the Newcastle area has lost **Nugget Laurie** and **Ted Simpson** within a few days of one another. **Ted** had been very ill for a long time, but **Nugget** had a spot on the lung, didn't last long, and came as a bit of a shock. **Bruce Mitchell** is much the same, never without an oxygen bottle now, while **Jack Bertram** and **Larry Robson** are both in good health. **Larry** was crook for a while, but fully recovered, and **Jack Bertram** received a letter to say that **Bluey Simmons** in England had passed away. Heart problems was the cause, was just as well that **Blue** made that trip to Australia when he did, he really enjoyed that time, and his return again on his retirement was just not to be. Many thanks for the news **Dick**, and the cheque for the worthy treasurer.

• **MRS JOYCE REILLY** widow of the late **Mick** who passed away May 1985 writes a thank you to the Secretary for the News, enclosed a cheque with her best wishes to the Association. **Joyce**, you will continue to receive the News, however if you do not want to receive same, just a short note will do the trick. Some wives still receive the paper to keep up with the names of their husband's mates, while others think that the memories are too hard, just you please yourself and once again our sincere sympathy.

• **SID ABERCROMBIE**, 2/1 Western Australia with the news that a strong possibility of a contingent from the West could make the trip east for Anzac Day, or the Dubbo Reunion, with Dubbo the most popular at present. The Waussies get together at Anzac House a couple of times a year, but the roll call is unfortunately small, however **Len Preedy** still soldiers on and works on it to see that it continues. **Sid** closes with thanks for the News which keeps them abreast of the happenings in the East of their fellow ex-soldiers, enclosed a cheque, and hopes to see us all sometime next year.

• **MRS S. GRANGER**, Schofields, widow of the late **Bill Granger** 2/1 with the information that **Bill** had passed away a year ago at Concord Hospital. We thank you for the information and may we offer our belated sympathies to you and the family. **Bill** was an original of our battalion, and I am sorry that we did not know of his illness at the time, and apparently our Welfare Officer had no knowledge either. Our Secretary has suggested that he keep you on the mailing list for the paper, however if you have no need for same, just a short note saying so would suffice, and we thank you for the cheque enclosed with your letter.

• **IAN HODGE** 2/1 LISMORE with a cheque for the treasurer and the news that he retires from the High School on 23rd August and will be a resident of Evans Head from that time onward. Claims that he will have shifted camp to the land of fishing, golf, gardening and the company of his mates of many

years standing. Congratulations, **Ian**, and when you get settled, you will possibly find time to renew some Pioneers who also reside around that area.

• **BRICKY WALL** 2/1 resident of Gosford with a short note to say all is well with the Pioneers of the central coast and also enclosed another substantial cheque for the treasurer. Many thanks old mate, and mere words of course cannot express our appreciation of your efforts on the Association's behalf.

• **CEC SLOGGET** 2/2 and wife **May** have completed a trip and tour of Cairns and the Atherton Tablelands. Everything has changed of course and **Cec** could not even find our old camps. Trinity Beach of course is a modern resort, far removed from the rumble of trucks, and troops wading ashore doing invasion training. **Cec** encloses a cutting from a Cairns paper, which claims that Veterans of W.W.II would be pleased to know that identification memorial markers will be positioned over the various areas. In all 22 signs will be erected, 14 in the Herberton Shire, 6 in Atherton, and one each in Mareeba and Eacham Shires. To any who might wish to make note. Wondecla area, and 6th Div. is three kilos toward Herberton from Ravenshoe/Atherton Road turnoff. Although these markers will possibly take some months to complete, I would suggest that enquiries at council offices would supply anyone with the information that they may require. **Cec** and **May** enclose a cheque for the treasurer and are looking forward to seeing everybody at Nelsons Bay in October.

• **ERN LUNN** 2/2 with a short note to say all Pioneers at Dubbo are well, looking forward to the reunion in 1986, and enclosed a cheque for the treasurer.

• **HARRY SPEADBOROUGH** 2/1 ALEXANDRA HILLS, QLD. with a change in habit, this time his letter being written in the afternoon instead of while waiting for the sun to come up. Reason being rain, buckets of it and coming right across the continent from W.A. **Harry** arrived home from Anzac Weekend to another chore, to help his daughter **Kay** and son-in-law **Graham** to move from Jimboomba to Mt. Isa where **Graham** has acquired a position of accountant manager of a chain of cattle properties. Took almost a week to arrange all this then on the way home, had a ding in the car so this necessitated repairs. Expects to be spending some holidays at Mt. Isa now with the family out there but will be leaving it until spring, too cold in winter. While at Jimboomba **Harry** looked up **Dennis George** per phone, and had quite a good talk to him. Also found out where **Joe Blanch** lives, so that provides an excuse for a return visit to Beaudesert sometime. Also has a mother who turns 90 years in August so will be engaged in organising a party for this occasion. Apologies for his brief visit over the Anzac Day period, however he did enjoy the Annual Meeting and they had committed themselves to the move of the family. Both **Jean** and **Harry** send their regards to all the boys and girls down south, and looking forward to renewing greetings in the near future.

• **TOM BLAINEY** 2/1 NOBLE PARK, with a sub for the treasurer and their pleasure at receiving the News. Had a visit from **Larry Robson** while he was down in Melbourne, received a phone call from him and he turned up at the next meeting. **Tom** and **Vi** are off for three weeks to Queensland in July and are hoping for some nice weather, same weather has not been kind to them over past few years. Closes with lots of luck and best wishes to all.

• **MARK BERNHARDT** 2/1 WOOLLAHRA sends a congratulatory letter on behalf of the Pioneer News and the pleasure he gets from reading same. Over the years **Mark** has been in contact with lots of the blokes, and in regular contact with **Aub Ridgely**, have decided to both try to get to a reunion in the near future. Keep it in mind **Mark**, it's not overseas to get from Woollahra to Redfern. Would also like for **George Paricos** to read this

paper and by ringing 389 7853, you could be in verbal contact within seconds. He is looking forward to this **Paricos**, so don't let him down.

• **BETTY CREAMY**, PORTLAND with a letter of apology to **Peg Herron** for missing out on Anzac Day however **Betty** had a few problems, a bad tooth abscess being just one of them, they watched the march on television, a bit critical of some claiming that cameras were more on bands than the troops. Also reports that the Dubbo show is being advertised on local television there now, can't say I understand that, although I may be reading the letter the wrong way. Many thanks for the letter **Betty**, and **Peg Herron** has written to you with regards to **Ruth Rhodes**.

• **JACK COLLIS** 2/1 UMINA, with a note telling of his enjoyment on Anzac Day, and his trip over the HMAS Tobruk on the Friday. **Jack** reports no one in hospital on the central coast at time of writing, and would like to repeat the following — should any Pioneer on the central coast be hospitalised would a family member or friend contact **Jack** on 41 2977 and he will call on them as soon as possible. **Jack** and **Gwen** both looking forward to Nelsons Bay, and praying for good weather. Reports a phone call from **Cliff Secombe** that a Pioneer **Alfred Lance Druiitt** was being buried at Leppington, a few of the locals got in touch with our old **Padre Albert Pitt Owen** who is now a Picton Local and he conducted the Service. **Cliff Secombe** represented the Association. Well mate like you say that football is really giving me the gripes, I was thinking of hiring a few pommy soccer fans to come down to Brookvale and give my mob the treatment, but you have to have guts so I'll go back, and yes, its still a ticket, whether its first, last, or up the creek.

• **REG BUTTSWORTH** 2/1 MT DRUITT with a sub for the treasurer and a little bit of nostalgia to pass on. June 1940, in camp were the 9th Field Coy. R.A.E. Glenfield, parade before **Colonel Mills**, who expressed his concern at the number of his troops transferring to the A.I.F., at the conclusion of his address, the following members stepped forward to transfer, **Stan Jones**, **Jack Trevehick**, **Cyril** and **John Morahan**, **Jack Flood**, **Bill Hood**, **Dick Chalmers**, **Harold Noakes** and **Reg**. All of these men joined the Pioneers, most of them became officers with our 2/1 Battalion, and some later on were commissioned with the 2/2 Pioneers. Unfortunately some of these named have passed on, while those that are still with us still take an active part in the Association. Many thanks for the letter **Reg**, and quite sure that most blokes would not have known that so many had come from the one Militia regiment.

• **JOYCE CARTER**, **NEE TOMLINSON** with the news that she has taken the plunge and married again. **Joyce**, widow of the late **George (Snowy) Tomlinson** married **Tom Carter** in December, 1983 and inherited another full grown family, one thing **Joyce**, you will certainly have a start when you bring out your brag book of grandchildren. Still residing at Dubbo so nothing to stop you making an appearance when we are all up there next year, the Secretary says "that we would deem it a pleasure to continue sending you the "News" if you would like it, nothing more to add except that we of the Pioneer Battalions Association offer our sincere congratulations to you and **Tom** and wish you both a long and happy association.

• **JIM RYAN** 2/2 RICHMOND, VIC. with a sub for the treasurer and the news that he has been retired for twelve months and is enjoying the easy life. Although pestered by many friends, he has not taken to the bowls as yet, still stays with the tennis which he plays once a week, and quotes, win a few, lose a few, and let the hard ones go through. Is heading off to Queensland on a coach tour from Brisbane to Cooktown and passing through some of the areas where we were in camp so many years ago, should revive a few memories. **Jim** has not been to a reunion in Melbourne for many years, may trot across next year, but claims that the "News" does a lot to keep him in the picture of what the boys of the 2/2 are doing with their lives, might add that this letter will apply to so many other blokes too. **Jim**.

• **TOM MCGUINNES** 2/1 TANILBA BAY with a sub for the treasurer, and a thank you for some address that he had asked for. **Tom** had intended doing this at Anzac Day, but a transport problem put paid to that. It had been arranged for a few of the sub branch boys to be driven to Newcastle Railway on

the morning, however this broke down so it was just not to be. Health has improved and he and wife **Beryl** are off to Perth for a holiday in September. They are going by train and intends to contact **Len Preedy** while there. **Tom** is also a bowler, and missed **Len** at the last RSL Bowls carnival. **Tom** had also had a letter from **Mick Reilly**, and offers his sympathy to **Mrs Reilly** and the family in their sad loss.

• **MICK BYE** 2/2 DUBBO, but writing from London where they have been since the end of April. Have had a fourteen day tour of Britain and Ireland, a 28 day tour of Europe including France, Spain, Italy, Switzerland, Austria, Germany and Belgium. Mostly Australians in the group, the weather was kind and so the tour was most enjoyable. There is always a slight language problem but as **Mick** quotes, "we seem to get plenty of beer, and plenty to eat, so no problems. Intend to attend the Edinburgh Military Tattoo in August, and plan to spend a week or so in both Scotland, and Ireland, staying on farms". It will allow them to get to know people so much better. **Mick** has offered plenty of support to the Dubbo project when he returns to Australia in August and will probably be in touch with **Gordon Finlay** in September. Many thanks for the pleasure trip **Mick**, makes us peasants feel a bit envious, however, have a good time and enjoy yourselves to the fullest.

That concludes Mail Bag for this issue, while Coates' mob are going OK and Whiteley is driving me mad with St. George, I think the less said about the football the better, in fact my district at time of writing is having a bad trot, the ferries are playing up, the weather has turned on us, it even rains here more than it does over the other side, just can't take a trick so will close down with best wishes to all, and hope to see some of you at Nelsons Bay in October.

— LAKEY

CENTRAL COAST REPORT

Jack Collis, Welfare Officer for the Central Coast reports that he had a visit from Jack Bertram and Larry Robson who were doing the rounds and whilst in Umina also called in on Jack Coates.

Jack Collis visited Bill Wright who is in a nursing home at Wyoming and also Bob Gales who is a patient at a Wyong nursing home. Bill is waiting for a call to go into Concord Hospital for an operation on his back. Bob is waiting for his brother to return from an overseas trip, so Bob can return home and receive assistance from his brother. Bob has to walk with the aid of a walking frame, but was as cheerful as ever.

Jack and his wife Gwen visited their son William, who is a sailor on board the HMAS Hobart, and were shown all over the ship. William sailed recently for Canada with stopovers at Vancouver, Suva, Pearl Harbour, San Diego and several other ports.

Jack had called in to see Brickly Wall but found he was away. Jack had not seen Bluey Miller for awhile but heard he was well.

BURMA-THAI RAILWAY

A book has been compiled on the complete history of "A" Force (Group 3) of the Burma-Thai railway.

Cost per copy is \$25 plus \$3 for postage and handling to be sent to: Les Hall, 9/92 Harbord Road, Harbord, NSW 2096. Phone: (02) 93 1551.

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.

SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE

With subscriptions, send news of family and happenings. Include christian name, surname, company, battalion and present address, all in block letters please. If a change of address, state old address too.

If Pioneer News is no longer required, mark wrapper, "Return to sender" and drop in post.

All correspondence to Secretary as follows:- M. Herron, Hon. Sec., 2/1-2/2 Pioneer Btn Association, 3 Enoggera Road, Beverly Hills, NSW 2209.

KINGSCLIFFE 1985

— BOB LAKE

As stated in the last issue, Joan and I inflicted ourselves on Nev and Phyl Andrews at the end of May. We arrived at Murwillumbah at about 12 o'clock daytime, met at the train by Nev and Phyl and transported to their place at Kingscliffe. The Andrews have been there now for just on seven years, and as usual Neville has done his homework with regard to what is happening. We were never home much, doing the trips of the district and Nev able to speak with knowledge of what everything was all about. The projects that are in progress around the Tweed are numerous and I am sure that we saw most of them. Of course some time was taken to partake of refreshment, and the girls did get a chance to tickle the pokies, but they did not need Mayne Nickless to transport their winnings at any time. When I left Sydney I had Doug Turner's address, and on the Thursday I rang Doug, and Nev and I went to the house to call on him. Close to 40 years since we had seen one another and possibly would have passed him in the street, but standing on his front porch, it was Doug Turner, a little grey in the hair, and a few more wrinkles but still Doug. Talking with Doug and wife Gert, we discovered that there were a few Pioneers in the area, so suggested that we contact them and arrange a get-together, at a club or some such place, however Gert suggested, why not a barbie at their place, so this was accepted. Contacted by telephone (wonderful instrument when time is short) Brian (Paddy) Gray and Gloria, Brunswick Heads, Jack and Olive Richards, Lennox Head, Len (Spino) O'Conner and Alma Tumbulugum, Loyal and Francis Butcher, Kingscliffe, Wally (Desso) Page, Kingscliffe, plus ourselves and all arrived at the Turner household on Tuesday, a real BYO your own beer, your own meat, your own selves. The weather was perfect for the day, and its possible that the neighbours must have wondered what had hit the street. I cannot put into words the pleasure it was to see these chaps, more so Doug and Gert, whom we had never met, the same with Francis and Alma, and Len and Butch, as most blokes would know him better. Len was in Mortars, and Butch in R.A.P. I would say this Mini lasted about four hours, and apart from eating and drinking, the gums never stopped chomping. Paddy, as usual the complete entertainer, kept the laughs coming with his remember this remember thats, while the ladies, almost strangers at the start, were in complete harmony by the time lunch was served. There were fifteen of us in all, and to Doug and Gert, on behalf of all those present, and the whole Pioneer Association, I say thank you both, as this day really put the icing on the cake for Joan and I on this holiday with Nev and Phyl. We did take a few photos of this day, but as most cameras today are coloured, it's not possible to print these in the Pioneer News, however I will take them to Nelsons Bay and Dubbo for all to see. On the credit side I also collected lotsa dollars for the Association.

LAST POST

FRED DAVENPORT 2/1, passed away on Friday 2nd August in Brisbane and the funeral was attended by John Hunt and Phil Cramsie.

Fred enlisted early in the war and was sent to the Middle East, where he took part in the first push in the desert and was later one of the Rats of Tobruk.

I met Fred in Palestine early in 1942 after he came out of Tobruk as we had been good friends in Leeton before the war.

Fred had a tough time over the last few years. When he retired about ten years ago he and wife Nell, embarked on a round-Australia trip by caravan, but unfortunately Fred was stricken with a brain tumour whilst in Western Australia and had to be brought back to Queensland where he had been living for many years.

Fred was then confined to a wheelchair and needed constant attention. He was unable to speak, which made life frustrating for him. However he suffered a stroke and quietly passed away.

To Nell and family, the sincere sympathy of all Pioneers has been extended.

— TED SHEPLEY, 2/6 Field Coy, RAE

PIONEER NEWS

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LAE AIRPORT Silent Memorial to Our Soldiers

— By MAX SATTLER

LAE (Nadzab) airport sits silent and unused on the floodplains of the Markham River about 45 km behind P-NG's second largest city.

Built with Australian money in the mid 1970s this international standard airport at Nadzab could easily be mistaken as a monument to Australian soldiers who parachuted onto the exact site on September 5, 1943. They were the advance guard of engineers sent to construct a crude airfield to allow troops of the 7th Division to be brought in for the assault on Japanese-held Lae.

After the Japanese were turned back on the Kokoda Trail in September, 1942, the retaking of Lae became the focus of General MacArthur's plans.

Airlifting the 7th Division into Nadzab was one third of a three part plan. The 7th would advance down the Markham Valley, the 3rd Division would move in on nearby Salamaua and the 9th Division would be landed on beaches east of Lae.

General Blamey instructed the 7th to play "second fiddle" to the 9th which was to have the honour of retaking Lae.

A massive force of 300 aircraft from Port Moresby was used in the move to establish an airfield at Nadzab. And how suitable this spot was. The wide expanse of flat land and the open approaches on all sides made Nadzab ideal.

RSL President in Papua New Guinea, Norm Osborn, told me, "The main runway of Nadzab Airport is the old No. 1 strip put down by the advance party which was parachuted in." He added, "You know, most of those chaps were having their first jump."

War-time Nadzab was a hive of activity in the days which followed the first parachute landings. Within three days several thousand troops of the 7th Division had been flown in, mainly in those faithful workhorses, DC3s. Then the rains came, preventing further landings for almost a week.

When the rain stopped a pent-up force of almost 200 aircraft arrived at Nadzab the following day with back up troops.

The push toward Lae was on in earnest.

Intent on holding Lae, the Japanese used every tactic they knew to stem the advance of the 7th Division. They skirmished with the Australians in cat and mouse encounters, set ambushes in the thick jungle undergrowth and dug in to fight tenaciously. Japanese field artillery constantly bombarded the Australians.

Won Victoria Cross

During a particularly fierce engagement, Private Kelliher won a Victoria Cross when, with complete disregard for his own life, he wiped out a Japanese machine gun post and dragged a wounded mate to safety.

Despite General Blamey's order, General Vasey, commander of the 7th, had a secret ambition to be first into Lae.

He was probably not aware that the favoured 9th Division advancing along the coast east of Lae was having to contend with two flooded rivers as well as the Japanese. The Busu River in particular was a raging torrent from the heavy tropical rains which beset the entire campaign to recapture Lae.

The 9th was stopped in its tracks by the swollen Busu for several days.

Now within 5 miles of Lae, the 7th Division found the Japanese resistance starting to fall away. Vasey quickly recognised that the enemy was fighting token rearguard actions to allow the remnants of its garrison to flee into the mountains behind Lae. He motivated his troops to press harder.

Norm Osborn told me, "They moved a shade too quickly because the leading troops were strafed by allied aircraft close to Lae. They weren't supposed to be there and were mistaken for Japanese."

He also recounted how the 7th Division was led into Lae by an Australian brigadier brandishing his pistol and urging his men to quicken their pace.

The 25th Brigade of the 7th entered Lae at 11 a.m. on September 16, 1943, just 11 days after engineers had parachuted onto the Markham River flats at Nadzab.

Later the same day the ill-fated 9th Division arrived.

The wide Markham flats on which deserted Lae (Nadzab) Airport stands is a favourite place for souvenir hunters.

To me the most obvious reminder of this great war-time airfield is the impressive but silent airport which now marks the spot. Its main building and control tower protrude like sentinels on the open ground which at the height of the allied offensive in New Guinea was the world's busiest airfield.

(Reprinted by courtesy Sun Newspaper)

Gavin Todd 2/2 wrote to the "Sun" pointing out inaccuracies in the above article and his letter is printed below. He also received a letter from Max Sattler apologising for the inaccuracies but that his intentions were good.

— EDITOR

The Editor, The Sun Newspaper
Dear Sir,

The article "Lae Airport — Silent Memorial to Our Soldiers" by Max Sattler in the Sun on Thursday, May 16, is full of inaccuracies.

As a journalist, Max Sattler should at least confirm the facts and not rely on garbled accounts such as he received from RSL President in Papua New Guinea, Norm Osborn.

The paratroopers who jumped over Nadzab air strip on September 5, 1943, were Americans of the 503 Parachute Regiment. The only Australians to jump were a few intrepid volunteers from the 2/4 Field Regt, with two 25-pounder guns. There were no Engineer paratroopers that day.

Apart from the American paratroopers, the Nadzab operation was a 2/2 Pioneer Battalion show. The engineers at Nadzab were part of the main force of Pioneers, who were air-lifted from Port Moresby to Tsili Tsili from whence they marched, with 800 native carriers, for five days to the Markham River. At the same time a select party of Pioneers and Engineers ferried boats down the Watut River into the Markham to provide a crossing for the main body.

They joined the main body opposite the Nadzab strip, and crossed the Markham (up to one mile wide and with many channels) to link up with the gallant American paratroopers.

Finally, the Nadzab strip was not constructed — it already existed but required clearing of obstacles and kunai grass, and checking for land mines, to enable 7 Division to be flown in.

Mr Sattler can check this information from the official history, "The Story of the 2/2 Pioneer Battalion."

Yours sincerely, G. TODD

EDITORS NOTE: Thank you Gavin, for the above articles and for taking the trouble to write to the Sun Newspaper outlining the inaccuracies in their article.

COUNTRY REUNION 1986

At the March Committee Meeting it was resolved that a Country Reunion be held at Dubbo on Saturday, 20th September, 1986 and that all details be formulated by the Executive.

Consequently the Social Secretary submitted a Tentative Programme to the Committee Meeting on 25th October which they approved and is outlined below.

Mick Bye of Dubbo has agreed to act as a co-ordinator and we are grateful to Mick for accepting this position, as no Reunion can be held without that local contact.

Costing will be published in the March issue of Pioneer News after the Social Secretary has visited the RSL.

Accommodation bookings will be carried out once again by Peg Herron. Details will be supplied in March issue of Pioneer News after Peg has visited Dubbo in February to survey the motels, hotels and caravan parks.

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME Saturday, 20th September, 1986

- 9.30 a.m. TOUR OF DUBBO by car — organise train people into cars.
- 5.00 p.m. WREATH LAYING CEREMONY — no march.
- 6.00 p.m. REFRESHMENTS at the RSL Club.
- 7.00 p.m. REUNION DINNER at the RSL Club consisting of a three course sit down meal.

Sunday 21st September, 1986

- 10.00 a.m. CAR TOUR departs RSL Car Park for a picnic lunch at the Western Plains Zoo. Train people to be organised into cars.
- 7.00 p.m. FAREWELL DINNER consisting of a smorgasbord meal at the RSL Club.

BRISBANE REUNION

It is all over again for another year and even the left overs were gone — Mollie must be growing smarter.

There were only twenty three starters at the Reunion on 26th October at Mollie and John Hunt's residence but a happy and stalwart band they were.

Toby Palin beat George Brooks for first arrival this year, followed soon after by the Beasleys, Blanches, Noonans, Phil Cramsie, Nell Davenport, Anselms, Spreadboroughs, Laughrens, Bill Hoffman, Bill Dundas and Winston McKibbin, who is very proud of his new hip.

A vote was taken that the next reunion be held on Saturday 25th October 1986 at 11.30 a.m. with lunch at 12.30 p.m.

MOLLIEJEAN HUNT

MINI REUNION

On Friday afternoon September 27th, a group from Sydney descended on Long Jetty, Central Coast — by previous arrangement — to call on Betty and Brian Kybert who live at Bateau Bay. The visitors were Win and Bill Tasker, Rita and Noel Trefoni, Win and Mick Dwyer and Joyce and Max Law. Plenty of activity including a long drive up to Tambourine Dam for Saturday barbecue and refreshments, formal dinner for 10 at RSL dining room Saturday night and a delightful Sunday spent with Betty and Brian, sitting around the television watching the direct telecast of the Sydney League Football Grand Final — with refreshments of course. Thanks to Betty and Brian.

A great get together and time was all too short — but we will do it again one day.

Unfortunately Laurel and Tom Crossman had to cancel out at the last minute due to Laurel's three week stint in hospital due to an abscess on her leg.

NELSON BAY GATHERING

By ENA GARNON

Ivor and I have just spent a wonderful week relaxing at Nelson Bay at the Halifax Caravan Park in the company of the Pioneer "Boys" and their wives, which amounted to an attendance of thirty nine members.

On the Monday evening, our first day, we had our familiar "Pioneer Circle" and fully discussed the plans for the week to come, which were so well arranged for us by the Committee of Gordon, Max and George.

Thanks to Jack and Maisie Kempnich we spent a delightful Tuesday evening at their lovely home. The evening commenced with a barbecue in the Kempnich garden and then a very interesting slide showing of the Herron's trip overseas. Max is an expert cameraman with a good looking model (Peg) to pose for him. We finished off the night with lovely supper and many thanks to Maisie for the ginger kisses. The evening was an excellent one and the only mishap was George Walker slipped on some rocks in the garden and sprained his ankle but with three R.A.P. members on the job plus a nurse, he was in good hands.

Larry Robson brought Jack Bertram to visit us at the Park on the Tuesday, and so enjoyed our company they stayed for lunch and did not leave until late in the evening.

Roma and Doug Shearston joined us from Forster for the trip to the R.A.A.F. base at Williamtown on Wednesday and we were fortunate enough to be there for the "War Games" exercises. This turned out to be an unbelievable sight of the Mirage Jets and the FA-18 Hornets taking off in flight formation for combat over the town.

We were given an excellent demonstration of guard dog duty and their handling. Both man and dog are trained to perfection and the dogs are magnificent pure bred German Shepherds and their handlers are a credit to the R.A.A.F. We were then given an inspection of the museum by the Warrant Officer in charge of the party, who explained the squadrons history to our members.

After a relaxing day on Thursday we had a barbecue on our "parade ground" between two on-site vans and after the meal Max played his tape of Irish jokes by Hal Roach which was excellent and caused many laughs. Fred and Jean Wheaton joined us as they were staying at another caravan park. It was an excellent night and I was able to move around and get to know the ladies more so than I have been able to at the big reunions.

Friday night was a dinner at the RSL Club and were all seated together and waited on with an excellent meal. Because it was her birthday the Committee had organised the dinner especially for Renee Wood. It was a real treat to see Renee's face when they carried in a super birthday cake, and presented it to her. Later on we all sampled a piece and it was indeed a nice cake — many thanks to Maisie.

Later on Maisie and Jack Kempnich were presented with a lovely indoor plant and a sincere thanks card for all their work in organising our stay at Nelson Bay.

Saturday saw the usual weekend weather, rain and wind, but that did not deter the brave ones who ventured out for a harbour cruise (not including yours truly). Jean and Jack Bertram arrived for the weekend and it was a shame it rained after five days of good weather. However all enjoyed the trip around the harbour because it was a fully enclosed boat and the commentary was most interesting.

Sunday saw rain early in the morning but cleared with the sun shining brightly so most people went for walks along the beach. That night was another barbecue on the parade ground and more Irish jokes. All Pioneers at the barbecue decided they would return to the Halifax Caravan Park in 1987 because they had thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

My thanks to the organising committee for arranging this wonderful week and good health to all Pioneers until we meet again at Dubbo.

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

At the October Committee meeting Bill Jollie, Senior Vice President was appointed on to the Executive Committee as Deputy Chairman of the Association. Congratulations Bill and many thanks for accepting this very important position.

WELFARE REPORT

BOB BURNSIDE finally managed to get himself a bed at Concord Hospital and has had his prostate operation. He was kept happy with visitors — Jack Clarke, Roy Jardine and Jack Stone. Bob's final entry into hospital was delayed due to the illness of his wife, Jean.

It is regretted that we must advise Jean passed away on Sunday, October 6th and condolences have been passed on to Bob. The above mentioned members as well as Pat and Mary Noonan, and Max Law attended the funeral.

JACK COATES celebrated the 10th anniversary of having open heart surgery by coming south to Concord for a short stint and a check up. He had a few visitors from our Association and certainly seemed happy in himself. Jack is now back up north at Umina and taking it easy.

VINCE PETRICH finally decided that seven weeks in Concord was enough and is now home again after a second serious operation on his eye. During his stay in hospital another eye patient was admitted to the bed opposite and discussion soon revealed that the new patient was Bob Pawley.

BOB PAWLEY, now living in Port Macquarie. Bob joined HQ Company (2/1st) in Queensland prior to embarkation for Morotai and Balikpapan. He mentioned quite a few names that he could remember including Fred Wheaton and Sid Jopson. Bob is now enrolled in the Association and we may see more of him in the future.

PETER CRAIG spent a few days in the same hospital for a skin problem and soon returned to the Blue Mountains for his own special treatment at the local RSL and good mountain air.

BILL WRIGHT had a period at Bellcross Private Hospital, Killara but the information was a little late in filtering through. A phone call to Bill just prior to returning home let him know he had not been forgotten.

GEORGE STAFFORD had been having a period of hospitalisation first in Gosford Hospital and then being transferred by ambulance to Concord. I visited George a few days after his transfer, however I am sorry to report George passed away early in November and his funeral at Ourimbah was attended by Jack and Gwen Collis, Brian Kybert, Ivor Garnon, Bill Tasker, Jack Robinson and myself.

— **MAX LAW** — Welfare Chairman

LAST POST

REGINALD WILLIAM BUTTSWORTH passed away in the Nepean Hospital on August 28th. Advice of Reg's illness was received only a few days prior to his passing but we had no information as to where we could contact him. When contact was made to his daughter, Mrs. Apo, unfortunately it was just a few hours after Reg had passed away.

After further phone calls, Mrs. Apo agreed to insert mention of 2/1st Pioneer Btn. in the funeral notice.

The service at Leppington Lawn Cemetery was attended by Gordon Finlay who contacted Mrs. Apo and passed to her the sympathy of Association Members.

FREDERICK ALLEN WILLIAM TIGHE passed away (suddenly) on September 4th. Fred was in the workshop platoon (2/1st) for quite a while. After the war and due to his father's illness, he took over the family business. Fred was president of the Manly RSL for several years.

Bob Lake and Jack Pearce attended the Church Service and Roy Jardine attended at the crematorium.

KEITH LESLIE REYNOLDS passed away in Concord Hospital (Intensive Care) on October 7th. Keith was in the 2/1 Pioneer Btn. Signals Platoon and more recently lived at Coonabarabran.

We thank Reg Armstrong for sending a sympathy card to the family on our behalf and we also thank Wal Parsons for writing to us with the news of Keith being in hospital and of his death.

CHARLES WALTER KEMP (Charlie) passed away in September. Charlie, a brother-in-law of Noel Trefoni joined the 2/1st Pioneer Bn. in New Guinea ("B" Company) but on return to Australia with the battalion, broke his leg in a football match. He was transferred to hospital and did not return to the Pioneer Btn.

Noel Trefoni attended the funeral service and passed on sympathies to Charlie's family.

— **MAX LAW**, Welfare Chairman

FLINDERS RANGES TRIP

by Gordon Finlay

I recently had the pleasure of a trip to the Flinders Ranges in South Australia with my wife Olive and Peg and Max Herron.

Olive and I started off a few days in advance of Peg and Max so that I could stay a full day at Dubbo, looking over the arrangements for the Reunion in September. The morning was spent in the company of Mick Bye 2/2, who is our contact at Dubbo, and, had a great morning tea of scones, jam and cream provided by Hilda Bye. While in Dubbo we ran into Jack and Maisie Kempnich.

We moved on next day to Cobar and stopped at Trangie to have morning tea with Eric and Leila Barber 2/1 and once again scones, this time mixed up a little, pumpkin and raisin as well as plain. We had a look at some old and some new photos of Eric, Bill Tasker and a couple of others of "B" Company I did not know. Eric looks and feels well again — good for you Eric.

From Cobar on to Broken Hill for a day of looking around then on to Port Augusta for some last minute shopping before moving up to the Flinders Ranges where we met up with Peg and Max.

We spent six glorious days in the Flinders Ranges and could have spent more I feel. Twice we walked up into Wilpena Pound, carrying our lunch and eating it sitting on a log within view of the old homestead, which has not been lived in for seventy one years. Our first walk into Wilpena Pound we took a supposedly ten minute walk to a lookout and thirty minutes later we were still climbing. On reaching Wangarra Lookout it was a breathtaking sight and was well worth the steep climb. Max took some glorious photos which he showed to the people at the Nelson Bay get-together. Our second visit to the Pound we walked up the middle of the Pound until my old legs gave out, but it was worth the effort.

We spent two full days driving through the valleys and gorges and along creek beds which all had water running in them. At times it was rough going but the Commadore took it in its stride quite well. Once again the views from the ridge tops and looking back up the gorges were out of this world. We were all intrigued by the shapes of the River Red Gums which were all along the creeks and the flats everywhere.

After leaving the Flinders Ranges a few days at Tanunda in the Barossa Valley and sampled a few of the wines and brought a few home too. We had a good look around at the old buildings and visited quite a few of the Lutheran Churches and their cemeteries.

Leaving Tanunda we passed through the river towns of Berri and Renmark then pushed on to Mildura where we stayed. Mildura is a lovely city and we were most impressed with the cleanliness of the streets and the glorious colours in the flower beds in the middle of the street.

Then on to Hay where the ladies had a little flutter on the pokies while Max and I sank a few — nearly too many and talked of our trip. Next day we parted company, the Herrons heading for home via Wagga while Olive and I took off for West Wyalong to visit relatives. I took the opportunity to visit John Douglas and almost had a promise out of him to join us at Dubbo next year. John has not been the best of late and has had to give up golf, because the ball will not go where he intends it to go, however he still manages to walk for an hour every morning. Once again John's wife came to light with scones and cream for morning tea.

Then home through Goulburn where I rang Snow and Gert Vickery with the promise they would join us at Nelson Bay.

So ended a very enjoyable trip of four thousand kilometres which I would recommend to all Pioneers.

WANTED

1. Have you a Diary from the service years?
2. Would you put pen to paper and record your thoughts, memories, and experiences of your platoon, coy.
3. We would like to compile a short history of the 2/1 Pioneer Btn for the benefit of all members.
4. If you can oblige with any of these requests, kindly post to Max Herron, they will be looked after, and returned if so required.

MAIL BAG

Editor: BOB LAKE

Hello Folks, final issue of the Pioneer News for 1985, and hope that everyone has enjoyed this year's productions. Have had some good times and bad, but would say that the good does overshadow the bad as far as our Association is concerned. To those that lost loved ones we offer our sincere sympathy and can only hope that 1986 does not treat us too harshly.

• **BILL HOFFMAN 2/1 Kyogle** with a note enclosing subs for **Brian Jackson, Evans Head & Merv Andrews, Lismore** and a request from **Bert Bettens** ex A Coy for information on **Clem Maroney** and **Rolly Porter**. **Bill**, the information is as follows. **Clem Moroney** still with us and lives at Canley Vale, but the only **Porter** on our lists, **Charles Porter**, Daphne Avenue, Bankstown. **Albert Brown** was in Kyogle at time of writing and **Bill** had a short talk to him at the time Spent last Anzac Day at Evans Head, and met up with **Peter and Dot Priest, Alwyn (Dora) Black, Jack (Banjo) Martin, and Brian Jackson** at the ceremony. Also intends being at the Combined Pioneers Reunion in Wagga in September, and will combine this trip with a visit to his sister at Cootamundra, and then back for the Hums Reunion at Brisbane in October. Closes his letter with best wishes to all.

• **JOE BLANCH, 2/1 Beaudesert** writes a cheery note with a sub for the treasurer and quotes "been having a quiet year". They have had a long cold winter, and Joe has been having trouble with his eyes, several visits to the doctor, two small operations at Greenslopes, all pretty well again now, and fortunately his eyesight has not been affected. Saw **Jack Shearman, Paddy Gray, Jack Martin, Ron Cross, Alwyn Black and Brian Jackson** at a recent Rats of Tobruk meeting. **Bruce McNaughton** has had another heart turn and **Ted Felton** not as good as he could be. Well, Joe, it looks like **Mavis** is a better judge of football than you are, at least she picked the winner, while I can only say "I'm glad Saints did not win all three grades, **Whiteley** would have been bloody impossible. Joe wishes the Caravan Party a good week at Nelson Bay, decided that he was not quite ready for such a long trip at this time.

• **BRUCE MITCHELL 2/1, Greta**, with a cheque for the treasurer, has been in hospital a couple of times recently, and looks forward to our paper. Wants to know if same cheque will put him in the plus or minus department, that's a silly thing to ask **Whiteley** Bruce, nobody ever gets into the plus department with that bloke, he just can't help himself. Closes with best wishes to all with special mention for the old gang of 13 Platoon.

• **ALLAN CRUTE 2/1, Woolgoolga** per pen of wife **Beulah**, with a cheque for the treasurer and the news that all are well. They have both been down to Macksville for a visit to **Eric and Joyce Reynolds**, had a lovely day with them, and of course arrived home with more than they took. **Beulah** also writes of son **Denis** and his wedding to **Christine**, it was a lovely wedding and went to New Zealand for the honeymoon. The next page and a half of **Beulah's** letter is for **Peg Herron** about weddings, so I'll pass over to the next item, which has Alan being kept busy round the homestead, has built a big new cupboard in the laundry and new front steps, good work mate. Have decided they will not be at Nelson Bay but hope to attend Dubbo in 1986. Both enjoy reading the News, and have applied for Allan's Service Record from Veteran Affairs just to refresh the memories of dates and overseas trips. Sorry they cannot help **Jim Field**, but have no more Rising Sun badges in stock. Many thanks for the letter folks, and closes with best wishes to all.

• **JACK CLEMENT 2/2 Baulkham Hills** with a sub for the treasurer, and that he and **Bert Huttley** have kept in touch by correspondence. **Bert** lives at Proserpine, Queensland and they were both in 1 Platoon. Also receives the Newsletter from 2/2 in Victoria and finds plenty of news of interest from that. Closes with best wishes and thanks for the News and that it may long continue.

• **GEORGE MURPHY 2/2** and the new secretary of the same with a card from Shoal Bay where they have been having a short holiday. Unfortunately the weather has not been too kind for **George**, with lots of rain, and it looks like it has waited for him to go home before improving. Left him with very little else to do but attend the Nelson Bay RSL to imbibe a few ales and invest a few bob in the pokies. Hope you were not too badly disappointed with the result of that venture **George**, and better luck next time.

• **ALBERT BARTON 2/1 Yagoona**, with greetings to all, a cheque for the treasurer, and more active than when he was so called actually employed. He and wife **Gwen** give a lot of their time to the aged homes, providing visitations and giving the old people that feeling of being wanted and not forgotten. They attend homes at Summer Hill and Greenacre, and promise that they will look us up when we arrive at one of these places, if and when we make it. Thanks a lot **Alby**, will look forward to seeing that noble head of skin approaching my wheelchair.

• **MICK PUNTON 2/1 Padstow** with a short note to say, still alive and kicking, and that the thought of retirement is very active in the mind, so much so that he declares June 1986 to be the D Day. Mick enclosed an apology for being late with same but enclosed a cheque for the treasurer to keep his blood pressure down.

• **NOEL HIBBARD 2/1 Meadowbank** with the shortest of notes, I think the sheet of writing paper was only to wrap the cheque in, expresses best regards to all, and the sub for the treasurer.

• **HORRIE SAUNDERS 2/1 Woody Point, Queensland** per pen of his wife **Dorothy**, with a cheque for the treasurer, and expressing Horrie's appreciation of the Pioneer News. Horrie has had the misfortune to suffer a stroke some two years ago, and has not been able to get about much since, we thank you **Dorothy** for your kind efforts, and we sincerely hope that Horrie has no further problems in the future.

• **MRS. E. SALOWAY** widow of **CEC, 2/1** with a cheque to the Association and expressing her sincere thanks to **Mr Brown, Monty** and the legal aid for the efforts on her behalf, after a long hard battle, she has been granted the war widows' pension which at least gives her some light at the end of the tunnel. We are happy for you, Mrs. E. and thank you for your donation.

• **COL SHEA 2/2 Footscray**, with a thank you to all those friends in the north for the gift. **Jim Field** had sent to Col on his retirement from office of the 2/2 in Melbourne, one of our Pioneer Plaques and for his wife **Frances**, Jim had enclosed a necklace, as most of the Pioneers would know, **Jim Field** is into Lapidary, and the necklace for **Frances** was one of his own creations. Both recipients are more than pleased with the result and hope to be able to attend a reunion in the near future providing his health continues to improve.

• **NELL DAVENPORT**, widow of **FRED** with a letter of appreciation for the support offered by **John and Mollie Hunt, Nell and Pat Loughren and Phil Cramsie** over the past many years prior to Fred's demise. As Nell quotes, they had been on borrowed time for the past ten years, and another massive stroke did the final damage. Fred Davenport looked on Pioneers as family, and Nell quotes again, that she hopes that she can continue to do the same. Rest assured Nell, your letters, and your company will always be welcome wherever Pioneers get together.

• **BERT HUTTLEY 2/2 Bloomsbury, Queensland** tells of his little adventure with daughter and son-in-law on a trip to the centre. They covered Ayers Rock, Darwin via Mt. Isa and was most impressed. Climbed the Rock, needless to say **Bert** was last to the top and claims that he only just made it. Next day they flew over the same area and the Olgas and this is definitely the correct way to go. Also had a flight over Kakadu, plus a uranium mining project, saw water buffalo wallowing in the mud, and the rock formations of the escarpment are really something. Were also shown where the woman was taken by a crocodile while bathing in the lagoon, she was saved from death and was treated for severe mauling. This had happened some months before **Bert's** trip, and information was supplied by the pilot of the aircraft. Found the roads of the territory far better than their Queensland counterparts but the price of petrol was tough. They covered almost 8000 kilometres over eleven days

and son-in-law and daughter did all the driving which pleased **Bert** no end. Last year he went to the top of Cape York, this year the Centre, next year??

Jack Dargaville and his wife, called on **Bert** some time back, they had a smoko and a bit of a yarn. They were heading north to the top in the Pajero. **Bert** closes with best wishes to the Sigs, a cheque for the treasurer, and a P.S. "Climbing the rock reminded him of Mt. Misery at Canungra jungle training camp". The only difference being, of course, that at the Rock you have to be forty years older old mate, and that's something else again.

• **WALLY BAIRD 2/2 Collarenebri** with congratulations to **Bob Dixon** on his life membership and on being elected President of the Association. The weather up Wally's way is on the improve, they talk of dry spells like between July 1984 and July 1985, that's a dry spell, but since then some rain has fallen, and the country is looking good again. Had the misfortune to roll the car back in July, got out of same with some bad bruising, minor abrasions, a week in Moree hospital, no bones broken, and the car a complete write-off. Not bad Wally, what else do you do for 'kicks'. The small sub branch at Colby is getting smaller with quite a few of the soldier settlers selling out and retiring, and Wally himself has retired, still at Bogibel, but has handed over the running of the place to his son **Brian**. Closes with best wishes to all and enclosed a cheque for the treasurer.

• **DON MURRAY 2/2 Taree** with a cheque for the treasurer and few notes on the Taree contingent. **Bernie Daly** has had a couple of weeks in hospital but is home again now in the capable hands of **Stella**. Don has now taken to bowls so needless to say, the growing of peas for a pastime has gone by the board. Don't let it get to you mate, its a pretty rugged game especially at one end.

• **MRS JOAN HOWE 2/1** widow of the late **Bill** with a thank you note and requesting that the Pioneer News be continued to her, this has been attended to Joan and we welcome you to the mailing list, and we hope that you get some satisfaction from our little paper. At times you will read of functions to be held, and we hope that you take advantage of same, and accept on your own behalf, make yourself known, and enjoy the company of those present, and meet some of our ladies.

• **CLIVE HARRIS 2/1 Aberdeen** with the news that he and **Betty** are going along reasonably well at time of writing, and hopes that all readers and families are enjoying the same. Encloses a cheque for the treasurer and hopes to be with us at Dubbo next year.

• **FRANK CHEAL 2/2 Port Macquarie** with a cheque for the treasurer and news that he has contacted **A. Sauvarin 2/2** at Port. His name has been added to the mailing list, reports that nothing much has happened other than trips to Melbourne, Sydney and as far north as Coottown, and he should have retired in 1946. Sends kindest regards to all.

• **JACK COATES 2/1 Umina** with his usual interesting letter to all, and his thanks to the many that visited him at Concord at his last visit to same. He in turn, when allowed up, was able to contact **Vince Petrich, Bob Pawley and Ron Callaghan**. Jack writes of **Reg Buttrose** (deceased) whom he met at Sydney Showground June 1940. **Reg and John Riley** were in charge of their draft to Greta on the 5th June 1940. Jack recalls Riley's quote, I'm going somewhere in this army, and as we all know, he did just that, promoted to Major before being killed in action in 1943. Reports that **Bluey Miller** and wife **Edna** are well and they had attended a Central Coast R.O.T.A. meeting while he was in Concord. Also reports that the death of **Nip Kearsley's** wife was in the local paper last week, also a **George Senter** of Buifs Point, who sounds like our "Tich" to Jack although the age of 81 years, does not ring quite right to him. I would not argue Jack, but "Tich" Senter always appeared a whole lot older than us, as was **Tich Young**. Jack is now on standby awaiting another call from St. Vincents for another bypass, quotes that around again, and up comes another ten years, we hope so Coatesy and good luck from us all. He and **Lex** rang up their Ruby Anniversary on 26.10.85, well done folks, you have the doubtful pleasure of sharing the same day as my eldest granddaughter who was fifteen years young on the same day, I must tell her of the special company she shares her birthday with. Jack closes

MAIL BAG — Continued

with best wishes to all and in big letters his slogan "Tigers to Click in Eighty Six". Many thanks for a good letter Jack, your cheque with the treasurer, and success to the operation. Suppose that Collis has told you he got me for another lottery ticket this year, its becoming bloody monotonous.

• **JACK COLLIS 2/1 Umina** with a letter written at Nelson Bay telling of the illness of **George Stafford**, of the proposed operation to **Jack Coates**, while **Bill Wright** has had his operation and is now home again. Has called, but cannot catch him at home **Bricky Wall**, bit of a gad about our Tom, while **Bob Gales** is home again after a stint in Wyong Nursing Home. Jack's comments on Nelson Bay, while the weather was a bit unkind at times, the visits to Williamtown Air Base, the trip around Port Stephens on the ferry were all well worth the time, and as he quotes, "No matter where we are, what the weather is like, our get-togethers are always a winner, and that's what its all about". Closes with a thank you to me for his annual ticket.

• **JIM FIELD 2/2** while at Nelson Bay spoke to me about Rising Sun Badges. Jim has appealed through the paper for any spare badges that you may have stored away, and on this occasion has asked me to thank **Ted Jensen** who has forwarded some badges to Jim. Jim uses these badges in his production of Pioneer Plaques, and should anybody have any of these around would appreciate same.

Just a special mention for my friend at Sawtell. Fred and Jean Wheaton, appeared out of the blue at Nelson Bay, and were welcomed wholeheartedly by all. Fred suggested a sweep on the Caulfield Cup and this was acted upon. However, I did leave the paper with who had what at the Caravan so some people did not know what horse they had drawn. Naturally some castigating remarks were forthcoming, however, my shoulders are broad and I accepted it as was necessary (no option) so **Leonard Frederick**, your horse was **Silver Award** which, with a lot of others brought up the rear, and don't get your knickers in a knot, but the winner was held by **1. Gordon Finlay, 2. J. Rhodes, 3. M. Herron**, and I suppose you will notice that all are Committee. I also sold some raffle tickets while on that picnic, and sorry to say, I did not sell a winning ticket, 1st went to Dee Why RSL, 2nd to Narrabeen Hotel, and 3rd to a member of our own Golf Club, sorry about that, but thank you for your support. Nelson Bay will be reported elsewhere in this issue but I would like to express personal thanks to **John and Maisie Kepnich** for their efforts on our behalf, also for their oysters which were bloody lovely, to the co-managers of the Halifax Caravan Park for their help and assistance, even if they do retire on the profits of their ice sales to us, and to all those that attended which in turn made the holiday and rest(?) so very enjoyable.

That completes the Mail Bag for this issue, and also for the year of 1985, so on behalf of the Association, Committee, and the editors, may I wish each and every one a Merry Christmas and a prosperous and healthy, happy New Year, and let's look forward to as much success for 1986.

Good Luck — LAKEY.

LAST POST

JOHN ("TREV") TREVERROW, D. Coy., 2/2 passed away in September and his funeral service at Woronora was attended by Colonel John Williams, Bill Robertson and Russ Harrison.

The service was conducted by the Lidcombe R.S.L., of which he was a member, and the sympathy of the Association was conveyed to Mrs. Treverrow and her three sons.

We are indebted to Russ Harrison for passing the sad news to the Association.

DENNIS GEORGE 2/1 of Beaudesert, Queensland, passed away on 30th September and the funeral was attended by Ray Blanch, Phil Cramsie and John Hunt.

To his wife John Hunt extended the sympathy of the Association and its members.

BILL HOWE 2/1 passed away on 12th September, 1985. Bill had been a regular attender on each Anzac Day but because of ill health he missed this year. Bill had been in hospital for some time before passing away. To his wife Joan we extend our deepest sympathy in her loss.

GLIDO'S TRAVELS AROUND NEW SOUTH WALES

Dear "Sir & Madam" (alias Max and Peg),

This may come as a surprise to you to receive a letter from "Griffo" but it is also a surprise to me to know that I still have ink left in the pen after having written the title of the "addressee". However, whilst I still have some ink in the "biro" I advise you that I have made the "big effort" to write because of two reasons (1) to advise you of my recent trip to Grafton and the number of Pioneers I met and (2) and very importantly, is to send you some money.

As is customary I will deal with No. 1 first:

I have a daughter, Anne, who lives in Grafton and pursues the occupation of High School teacher there so it has been my practice to visit Anne during the Grafton Cup Carnival and I have done this for the past five or six years generally accompanied by my wife, Esme, but this year she stayed with our other daughter Jill and her family, so I made the trip on my lonesome. I like to follow the horses but the horses I follow have the same problem as me as they mostly like to follow the other horses.

However, I made it to Grafton in time for Ramornie Handicap Day and by the end of the day I was sorry I had not stayed in Mayfield. I backed up the next day, Grafton Cup Day, and fortunately got it all back and I stayed for the following Saturday and Wednesday, South Grafton Cup Day, and overall finished a few "schooners" in front. That's why I can eventually get around to Item 2 and send you a few "bob".

The main thing is to tell you of the Pioneers I met — all 2/1, all at the races, and all old originals.

1. **TED "NOBBY" FELTON** — Never misses a race meeting. They call him the "Starter". The gates don't fly open until he is on the course. Also met his lovely wife, Jean. The last year has not been a good one for "Nobby" as he had a coronary, was discharged and home for two weeks when he had another one and was re-admitted. However, he is OK again now, lost a little bit of weight and looks OK so it looks like the Grafton races will be able to continue.

2. **JACK "BANJO" MARTIN**. Still a resident of Casino, but never misses a big meeting at Grafton. Like "Nobby" he is in the same category as the "Starter" at Casino. He looks well but has had a few arterial problems and has had several by-passes. Wishes to be remembered to all his old mates.

3. **FRED WHEATON** and his good wife Jean. Both look well and Fred shows no ill effects from his heart by-pass operation. Fred is still Vice-President at Sawtell RSL which is now a very nice club and a pretty big operation. Both Fred and Jean spend a lot of time golfing, beach fishing, bowling and an hour or two a week at the RSL Club. Visited Fred on a couple of occasions at Sawtell, sampled Jean's pumpkin scones and coffee and had a game of golf with Fred at Sawtell. It blew a gale and was bitterly cold. Jean did not play because of the weather and I don't blame her. Nine holes was enough for us and we adjourned to a warmer spot and a more pleasant occupation. Fred still enjoys a drop of "Red Mill" Rum. Fred, Jean, Esme and I have made arrangements to go to the "Rats" World Reunion at Surfers Paradise in April 1986.

Fred was hitting the golf ball pretty well so tell Lake and Whitley they had better get in some practise.

4. **BILL "BLUEY" WADE** — Bill has been making the pilgrimage to Grafton each year for the past 12 or 14 years with a couple of his mates from Buladelah. This year they tried their luck at the Brisbane Racing Carnival but came back to Grafton licking their wounds and I don't think they had fully recovered when they left for home on the Friday the day after the Grafton Cup. Bill is still on the executive of Buladelah Bowling Club, a club he helped to create and would appreciate a visit from any of the boys who may be passing through. Can be found there almost any day from 4 p.m. onwards. Had a few beers with Bill and his mates at Grafton RSL and he told me that he refuses to write letters so gave me money to pass on to the Rats of Tobruk and the Pioneer Associations so I have to write. What you could literally call "passing the buck". Bill is fortunately still enjoying good health. Also reckons he has not had a Pioneer News for some time. We all met after several races in the appropriate place and actually had a "Mini Reunion".

5. **CLIFF CORBETT** — Did not meet up with Cliff until the following Wednesday, South Grafton Cup Day, and also at the races. Cliff still does not receive the Pioneer News and this may be partly my fault. I had met him previously on several trips to Grafton

when he gave me his address and I was under the impression I left it with you when I was in Sydney last time for Anzac Day. After the War Cliff (original B. Coy) had a property in Queensland for several years but later came to Grafton where he had a Taxi but has been retired now for a couple of years. Reckons he had driven thousands of people to Grafton races but had never been on the course until this year. He had just come out of hospital after an operation to remove stones in the kidney and could not have a beer but we still had a good yarn and he looks and feels pretty good.

6. Just before the last race I saw another familiar face and it was none other than "Bricky" Wall. Reckons he had not run into one Pioneer since being in Grafton but I was able to round up Cliff Corbett and Ted Felton and we were able to have a yarn after the "last". "Bricky" said he is 79 and he looks pretty fit. He is an original Grafton resident and I think he enlisted from there. He was in the company of his niece who is a Grafton resident.

7. On the way back home I dropped in to see Sid and Myrtle Jopson. As you know, Sid has not enjoyed the best of health for years and whilst he is cheerful enough he is a long way from being A class. He reckons his only outings are to the doctor, the pathologist and occasionally to hospital. However, he is endeavouring to get himself fit enough to travel to Scone in September so that he and Myrtle can do a baby sitting job for No. 2 son Greg and his wife. No. 1 son Brian and family are domiciled in Young whilst daughter Anne and family are residents of Wallalong near Maitland. We had a good yarn and Sid was pleased to hear about his old mates in Grafton.

8. On Friday, July 26, 1985 the day after I arrived home, I attended the 50th Anniversary Dinner of Stockton Sub Branch RSL and as soon as I walked in I spotted another familiar face hiding behind a schooner and one I had not seen for some time. It was Max "Slim" Wilson. Slim joined the 2/1st in 1943 (I think) at the age of 17 and still retains the same figure as when he joined the army. I'd like to know how they do it! He recalled the other name he was known with in the unit "Pull Through", a very apt description which he reckons was given to him by Merv. Rees from Dorrigo. Loves a beer and spends a fair bit of time (and money) at Stockton RSL. He looked a million dollars. We had quite a yarn and as the night wore on we heard that hearty laugh which anybody who knew Slim in the Battalion, would recall.

9. Yesterday I dropped into Westcott Home, at Stockton and saw Jock Russell (C. Coy). As you know Jock has unfortunately had both legs off, one above and one below the knee. He is managing reasonably well. He has two artificial legs but finds it hard to manage. However, he tells me he can now manage to walk a bit with the aid of a walker. He can manage without the artificial legs to get in and out of his car. He has hopes of going to the Brisbane Reunion with Larry Robson. However he looks good, is cheerful enough and happy in his environment but I'm sure he would appreciate a visit if any of his mates are passing that way.

On the way through I wandered around Macksville and dropped in to the RSL in the hopes of seeing Ray Horne or "Bombo" Reynolds but no luck.

Locally I see Don Crookes occasionally in Mayfield. He is now living at Beresfield.

I regularly see Jack Bertram and Dick Sedden, both are well. Dick has got over his problem which stopped us from getting to Sydney last Anzac Day but we will make it next year. Dick has passed the 78 mark and is still living on his own but is going OK and I have a beer or two with him at least once a week, generally at the Gallipoli Legion Club of which I am still President.

You have probably been informed of the passing of both Ted Simpson (A Coy, HQ Coy) and Even (Nuggett) Laurie (C Coy) both old originals. I conducted the funeral service (ex-service portion) on behalf of the Rats of Tobruk on both occasions and expressed the sympathy of 2/1, 2/2 Pioneer Bn Association to their wives and families on both occasions.

I think I have gone far enough! Best regards to all from Esme and myself,

JACK GRIFFITHS 2/1