

# PIONEER NEWS

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

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## ASSOCIATION CELEBRATES 40 YEARS

On Thursday 13th March 1986 the 2/1-2/2 Pioneer Battalions Association was forty years old and the friendships of the war years has welded together a very strong Association of both units.

Reprinted below is the minutes of the inaugural meeting, held on 13th March 1946.

### MINUTES OF 2/1 AND 2/2 AUST. PIONEER BNS. ASSOCIATION

On Wednesday 13th March 1946 at 8 p.m. a meeting was held in the Deaf and Dumb Adult Society Rooms, 5 Elizabeth Street, Sydney of serving and ex-service personnel of the 2/1-2/2 Pioneer Bns. Association, Capt. R. Egan occupied the chair.

The attendance was 118 Pioneer Btn personnel and Mrs O'Malley Wood (President of the 2/1-2/2 Pioneer Bns Comfort Fund).

It was proposed that the two units be amalgamated and be known as 2/1-2/2 Pioneer Btn. Association.

A vote of thanks was accorded to Mrs O'Malley Wood and her team of ladies of the Comfort Fund. It was proposed that the Annual subscription to the Association be 10/- (\$1) per member.

Mrs O'Malley Wood accepted the appointment as Patron of the Association (which she held until her death).

Colonel P. E. Macgillicuddy was elected to the position of President (which he held for twelve months).

Proposed by Jim Edwards (Popeye) and seconded by Bob Lake that 24th April 1946 be observed as the day for the Association Smoko.

Proposed by Peter Bell and seconded by John Harnetty that the Association march as a "body" on Anzac Day.

Election of Executive resulted as follows:- Vice Presidents: Lt. Col. C. Davis and Mr. J. Howie, Secretary: Capt. R. Egan, Treasurer: Capt. R. Pegg, Publicity Officer: Mr. J. Harnetty, Committee members: Major F. Allan, Major G. Osborn, Capt. J. Trevelthick, Mr. G. Nicholls, Capt. Richardson, Capt. S. Jones, Capt. J. Morahan, Capt. C. Morahan, Capt. A. McInnes, Mr. P. Bell, Mr. J. Flood.

## COUNTRY REUNION 1986

Arrangements for the Country Reunion at Dubbo on Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st September 1986 are well in hand.

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

This Reunion coincides with the 40th Anniversary of the formation of this great Association of ours so a big roll up is expected.

Please return the cut-out slip as early as possible as the R.S.L. and places of accommodation want early bookings.

## THE BLUE HAZE

This is a very fine book incorporating the history of "A" Force, Groups 3 and 5, Burma-Thai Railway 1942-43 which the 2/2nd Pioneers were a part.

Les Hall the author, presented me with a copy of the book and whilst on holiday recently at a quiet caravan park at Murwillumbah, I read the book and found it the best book on prisoners-of-war I have seen. It made me feel that I was there with the fifteen thousand Australians enduring their hardship, but it also made me realise how fortunate some of us were not to have been POW's.

I would particularly recommend it to 2/2nd Pioneers as it contains the excellent diary kept by our co-patron Colonel John Williams.

Copies can be obtained by writing to Les Hall, 9/92 Harbord Road, Harbord, N.S.W.

— MAX HERRON, Hon. Secretary

Consequently the resolution by J. Edwards and R. Lake was changed to 25th April and to take the form of a luncheon at Warringah Hall, Neutral Bay after the Anzac Day march.

### EXECUTIVE POSITIONS — 1946 to 1985

The three top Executive positions have been held by members as follows:

**President:** Lt. Col. Macgillicuddy 1946, Lt. Col. Davis 1947, Capt. Egan 1948-49, Lt. Col. Davis 1950, Major F. Allan 1951, H. Page 1952-53, R. Pegg 1954, T. Crossman 1955-56, F. Callaway 1957-58, A. McInnes 1959-1972, J. Dodson 1973-1984, R. Dixon, 1985.

**Treasurer:** R. Pegg 1946, I. Dodd 1947-49, R. Pegg 1950-53, W. Robertson 1954, H. Townsend 1955-56, R. McGregor 1957, D. Shearston 1958-74, V. Whiteley 1975.

**Secretary:** R. Egan 1946, F. Whitney 1947, J. Morahan 1950, F. Cheal 1951, M. Law 1952-54, F. Callaway 1955-56, M. Herron 1957.

### REUNIONS BY THE COMMITTEE

Reunions over the years since 1946 have been a means of keeping this Association together. In the old days there used to be the Bi Annual Reunion held each year in addition to the Anzac Day Reunion. Then each year there has been the Brisbane Reunion by John and Mollie Hunt since 1975.

The Country Reunions have also been a great success which first commenced in 1963 by the Committee, so that the Reunions were not restricted to Sydney but were taken to the country members — these have been held at the following places on the dates listed: Port Macquarie 1963; Grafton 1964; Newcastle and Greta 1972; Newcastle 1974; Newcastle 1978; Kyogle 1979; Dubbo 1980; Port Macquarie 1981; Wagga Wagga 1982; Coffs Harbour 1984.

## W.A. PIONEER REUNION

By LEN PREEDY, 2/1-2/2 Pioneers, W.A.

Just a few lines to report on the 2/1-2/2 Pioneers of Western Australia, Annual Reunion on 15th November 1985 at Perth.

Dick and Sheila Hobley came about 1,200 km to attend the Reunion and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Bill Hattley attended for the first time and was so impressed he will be there again next time.

Norm Le Cornu, H.Q. Coy 2/2 of Yokine was another first attender.

At the Reunion there was quite a discussion on "Back to Dubbo" by a group of them attending the Country Reunion at Dubbo on 20/21st September 1986. We will advise the Secretary at a later date.

Another discussion at the Reunion when talking about back to here and there, was a suggestion to have a back to Bellvue, W.A. We have still got a lot of sand and flies and there could be a hot keg of wine still around.

Regards to all Pioneers all over Australia.

## THANKS DUE

Jim Field who very skillfully makes the numerous plaques for the Association wishes to thank those people who sent in "Rising Sun" badges in response to his request in the December issue of Pioneer News.

In particular he would like to extend his thanks to the following: Mrs Jack Allen of Cairns, Pat Noonan of Darling Point and John Hore-Lacey of Moss Vale and states all badges will be put to good use.

## ANZAC FUNCTIONS

Your Social Secretary, Gordon Finlay and his Committee have been hard at work again organising your activities for the 24th and 25th April and they would like to see a mighty roll up on this occasion. So come along, join us, meet old friends and enjoy yourself.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THURSDAY 24th APRIL — SYDNEY R.S.L.

The meeting place is the City of Sydney R.S.L. Club, 569 George Street Sydney at 3.30 p.m. The meeting will finish at 5 p.m. and members will be invited by President Bob Dixon to partake of a few drinks with our ladies.

Then a snack, if necessary, and down to Martin Plaza for the Wreath Laying and an early night at home.

## WREATH LAYING CEREMONY

THURSDAY 24th APRIL — MARTIN PLAZA

This year we have a change in the forming up place so please **do not** report to Hunter Street.

The forming up place will be on the corner of Martin Plaza and Pitt Street on the G.P.O. corner. Last year we had applied for police escort but as they did not arrive we marched without an escort and the Committee decided this was too great a risk to our members, so there will be no long march, just form up at Martin Plaza.

Form up at 7.25 p.m. march off at 7.27 p.m. and lay the wreath at 7.30 p.m.

## ANZAC DAY MARCH

FRIDAY 25th APRIL — PHILLIP STREET

Assembly points for both units are the same as last year; 2/1st in Phillip Street near King Street and at the rear of the 6th Division, 2/2nds 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 changes in assembly points.

## ANZAC DAY REUNION

FRIDAY, 25th APRIL — REDFERN TOWN HALL

At the completion of the March at Hyde Park members of both units will make their way to Museum Station for the train to Redfern for our Annual Anzac Day Lunch and Reunion. Same address as in past years — Redfern Town Hall, corner Pitt and Wells Streets, Redfern and just five minutes from the station.

If for various reasons you cannot march, we would still like to see you at the Reunion — you will be pleased to see so many old faces.

Doors will be open at 11.30 a.m. and draught beer will be on tap at \$2 per jug, which is the same price since 1982. This is subsidised by the Association, just as the lunch is.

John Winters our Caterer has been engaged again and dinner will be served at 12.30 p.m. and snacks at 2.30 p.m. Cost of lunch and snacks will be \$4 per person.

— JIM FIELD, Publicity Officer.

## INFORMATION REQUIRED

Private Thomas William Senter, NX 27400 enlisted in the A.I.F. on 19th June, 1940 and was a member of the 2/1st Pioneer Battalion. He was discharged on the 11th April, 1945.

His granddaughter Kay is endeavouring to write up the family history and would like to trace his movements and activities during the war years.

If anyone knew Tom in the unit it would be appreciated if they would write in to the Secretary who will in turn pass it on to his granddaughter.

**LAST POST** By MAX LAW — Welfare Chairman

**VINCENT GEORGE PETRICH**, 2/1st of Wentworthville passed away on 17th December 1985. Our short note in the December issue gave no indication that Vince was having trouble, apart from his eye problem. Vince became ill again and was returned to Concord Hospital. His stay this time was a relatively short one.

The funeral service at Pine Grove Crematorium on the Great Western Highway was attended by twenty two Association members, and many members from the Wentworthville R.S.L.

Bill Tasker carried out the R.S.L. service and President Bob Dixon recited The Ode to the Fallen. Max Law, Welfare Chairman, had assisted with the funeral arrangements on behalf of the Association.

Vince had been an ardent supporter of the Association for many years and was a Committee man of long standing.

The sympathies of the Association and its members were conveyed to Gwen and her family.

**HENRY PHILLIPS O'CONNOR** 2/1st otherwise known as "Curly" passed away on 23rd October,

1985, in hospital. He was cremated at Woronora and the service was attended by Bill Tasker, Percy Penrose, Jack Clarke and Max Law.

The R.S.L. service was conducted by the Welfare Officer of Kogarah R.S.L.

The sympathies of the Association were conveyed to the wife and family.

**THOMAS BRUCE HERRON**, who was the younger brother of our esteemed Secretary, passed away on 31st October, 1985 in Concord Hospital. This was the same day as George Stafford passed away in a ward in the same block.

Sympathy in their loss was passed on to Max and Peg as well as the family by Gordon and Olive Finlay who attended the funeral on behalf of the Association members and Committee.

**DARYL C. (HARRY) BELFORD** 2/1st of Wollongong, passed away on 28th July, 1985 from a heart attack. At the time Harry was holidaying at Coffs Harbour.

He was 76 years of age and would be remembered mostly by members of H.Q. Coy 2/1.

We are indebted to Phil Cramsie for informing us, of the sad news and for passing on the Association's sympathy to Mrs Belford and family.

**NELSON BAY GET-TOGETHER, 1985**

The photos below were taken at Nelson Bay on 14th to 21st October, 1985. Some of our members are missing but we regret we were unable to publish all the photos.



**Back Row:** from left: Gwen Collis, Maisie Kempnich, Joyce Walker, Ena Garnon, Marea McKay, Ruth Rhodes, Marj Kerslake, Joan Lake, Peg Whiteley, **2nd Row:** Renee Wood, Peg Herron, May Sloggett, Gert Vickery, Kath Field, Jane Hope, **Front Row:** Olive Finlay, Heather Marshall.



**Back Row:** from left: Jim Rhodes, Vic Whiteley, "Snow" Vickery, Jack Collis, John Gibson, Ivor Garnon, Fred Wheaton. **Front Row:** Bob Lake, Jack Kempnich, Gordon Finlay and Jack Kerslake.

**NEWS ITEMS**

by HARRY MONTAGUE, Reporter

**NELL SKOYLES** of Mittagong rang me recently to say that Ted has been very sick and is a patient at The Elizabeth Belvoir Nursing Home at Mittagong.

To all aspects his medical condition could be a lot better, and on behalf of all Pioneers, best wishes were conveyed to Nell.

If any member happens to be visiting Mittagong, it would be appreciated if they could pay Ted a visit and have a chat about old times. The hospital is situated on the main highway.

**BOB HEWSE**, who is considered to be Australia's oldest ex-serviceman has lived at the Association for the Blind nursing home in Victoria Park, Perth.

"Old Bob" as he is affectionately known served with the 5th Pioneer Battalion in France and Belgium but unfortunately he has been blind for a number of years.

Last month he celebrated his 106th birthday and it certainly was a glorious occasion.

**AUSTRALIA'S YOUNGEST SOLDIER**

According to the Veteran Affairs news sheet the youngest person to ever join the Australian Armed Forces was Jim Martin, who was born on 3rd January 1901 in Hawthorn, Victoria.

On enlisting on 12th April, 1915 he gave his age as eighteen and his occupation as a farm hand and joined the 21st Battalion of the A.I.F.

Recruiting Officers noted that the six foot Jim Martin was one of the fittest men they had examined.

After training at Seymour and Broadmeadow camps in Victoria, Jim embarked on the S.S. Berrima for Egypt. Later he was Gallipoli bound on S.S. Southland when the vessel was torpedoed south of Lemnos and spent four hours in the water before being rescued by a hospital ship. On the 8th September he landed at Gallipoli and later was wounded and transferred to the hospital ship S.S. Glenart Castle but sadly he passed away from heart failure and was buried at sea. His death is recorded in the Lone Pine Cemetery at Gallipoli.

**AUSTRALIA'S OLDEST SOLDIER**

Information was recently obtained from the Veteran Affairs stating that the two oldest Australian Veterans known were James Gordon "Pop" Williams (105 years) and Robert Hewser (106 years).

The first named Digger is said to be the only surviving serviceman from the Boer War but "Pop" does not agree.

He states that as a member of "C" Squadron 7th Australian Commonwealth Force, the troopship after leaving Brisbane in 1902 for Durban, broke down en route, and the conflict was over before the ship arrived.

However "Pop" served with distinction in the Australian 2nd Light Horse in Palestine during World War I and was most disappointed when he was rejected on enlisting for World War II at the young age of sixty one.

Incidentally, "Pop" is still residing at Brisbane and is as cheerful as ever at a nursing home.

**LAST POST**

**BRUCE STEVENSON** (Lieut) 2/2nd Pioneers Victoria passed away on 21st December 1985 after a long illness, and at the funeral the 2/2 Association was represented by Sam Coles, who conducted the R.S.L. Service, Bill Condon and George Murphy.

It was indeed a fitting tribute to see so many seats in the church occupied by many of his friends and ex-work mates.

Sincere sympathy was extended to Mrs Beryl Stevenson, and she was most grateful for the assistance accorded her by Sam Coles and was also appreciative of the attendance of the Pioneers.

**JACK McINTYRE** 2/2nd of Lemon Tree Passage passed away in December 1985 and the Association, through Peg Herron, passed on sympathy to Jean and her family.

**ARTHUR MURPHY**, 2/1 of Sutherland.

# MAIL BAG

Editor: BOB LAKE

Hello Readers, First issue of the News for 1986, and a big year for the Pioneer Association. Anzac Day, and we hope a successful effort at Redfern, then later on in the year, the Dubbo reunion, so putting it all together, we look forward to a very successful social gathering of all our friends and all Pioneers.

• **JACK SPENCE** per pen of wife Muriel 2/1 at Wingham sends a letter of good wishes to all and a cheque for the treasurer. Jack has had a bad trot lately, had an operation for cataracts a short time ago and has not been able to get around as much as he would like. Muriel quotes that just sitting is not Jack's cup of tea, and there's always weeds to be dug out of his garden, however they are hoping for a marked improvement over the next few months, and closes with best wishes to all for the New Year.

• **PETER PEILE** per pen of wife Erika with a cheque for the treasurer and reports that Peter is still having problems with his back, despite two months in Concord earlier last year, he now has to go back in again when a bed becomes available. While awaiting this decision, he still enjoys his garden, roses are his speciality, and looking forward to the festive season at Caringbah. Closes with best wishes to all.

• **COLIN CAMERON** 2/1 Campbelltown with a cheque to the treasurer and takes this opportunity to wish all members and families a happy new year.

• **SID JOPSON** 2/1 Port Macquarie per pen of Myrtle with a cheque for the treasurer, and the news that they visited daughter Anne at Wallawong, then on to Scone to pick up with son Greg, here they contacted the Hunter Valley Wog and that cancelled out their intention to attend the Rat's Christmas dinner at Newcastle. On this excursion Myrtle reports that Sid travelled well, then he goes on to upset the average by having a slight stroke, this has been dealt with and while still having to rest, has pulled through and is still able to get around with full use of all working parts. Let's hope that '86 can provide a little better report for the both of you up there at Ann St.

• **RAY BURROUGHS** 2/2 A.C.T. with a cheque for the treasurer and the news that on a recent trip to Canberra, Tom Brabin got off his tail and rang Ray, whereupon a night out was arranged and attended by Tom and wife Jean, Gordon Sheen and wife Noëlia, Harry Reilly and wife Dehelia and my wife Merle. It was agreed at this little get together that they were far too long between, and that in the future, they would be more regular and much more often. It was back to the Burroughs' residence for coffee and drinks with plenty of ear bashing to provide the sweets, and the culmination of a wonderful little get together. Closes with best wishes for '86.

• **JACK GRIFFITH** 2/2 Frankston per pen of wife Biney with a short note quoting that Jack enjoys receiving the paper and encloses a cheque for the treasurer, but nothing else, come on wife, what about telling us some of his and your doings over the past many years.

• **DOUG WATERS** 2/1 West Croydon, S.A. with short but decisive letter enclosing a cheque for the treasurer and the news that (1) Bert Molloy was recovering from his operation at last sighting. (2) Met up with Bill Theile 2/1 and Len Norman 2/2 last Anzac Day for the March. (3) Wishing you all the best for Christmas and New Year. As I said, short but decisive, we reciprocate the good wishes, and a thank you to the wife, who wrote the letter, and your cheque with the treasurer where it is doing most good.

• **VINCE CULLEN** 2/1 per pen of Eve from Peakhurst with a cheque for the treasurer and the news that Vince had an operation on the stomach last February, and still attends the clinic at Concord. He has off days, but mostly okay and though they cannot venture very far, they have had two trips to Evans Head visiting their daughter this year. Vince could possibly find plenty to occupy him at that little spot, if he attended the RSL and enquired for Pioneers. Quite a few of the boys reside around that area. Hope his recovery continues favourably and thank you for the good wishes.

• **LLEW JONES** 2/1 Bexley per medium of Bill

Tasker, a cheque for subs from Llew of 12 Platoon, B Coy with best wishes.

• **REG ARMSTRONG** and Coralie, Coonabarrabran with a letter relating to the death of Keith Reynolds, this letter arrived too late for the publication in December although we did make Keith's demise in the Last Post. Reg did post to Mrs Reynolds a card expressing sympathy on behalf of the Association and we thank you for the thought on our behalf. At time of writing they were not into their new house, but were confident that a few more weeks would do the job so by the time of reading this the new abode would be almost second hand. Thank you for the letter Reg, and the good wishes, and hope that the Coona weather continues to agree with you both.

• **WALLY PARSONS** 2/1 North Haven with a rare occasion that he puts pen to paper. However Wal's letter was in reference to Keith Reynolds, also but on arrival was just too late to make the December issue. To a happier note, Wal and Marie also tripped down south and while there, looked in on Joe and Maida Kyffin, spent a few days with them and enjoyed the hospitality. Closes with best wishes to all, and hoping to see us all on Anzac Day.

• **JACK COLLIS** 2/1 Umina with best wishes to all for '86, and quotes that such a good time at Nelson Bay, next comes Anzac Day and then Dubbo, its certainly a social whirl this year. Jack reports that not too many Pioneers on tap over the Christmas break, thinks they may have all gone on holidays, what for, to get away from the "tourists". Have had son William home on leave over the holiday period, off HMAS Hobart, and was returning to the ship on the 6.1.86 after a month's leave. Jack also enclosed a card from Mrs Jean Stafford to all Pioneers on the demise of her husband George, and expresses his sympathy of Vince Petrich passing on. Well Collis, I suppose I'll fall for the thimble and Pea again, yes the lottery ticket is on again, you know, since 1947 when Manly & Parra were taken into the comp, we used to say, we can always beat Parra, now over the last three or four years since its been costing me money, the bloody wheels have fallen off. Also on the subject, my physical disposition has nothing to do with home brew, I just like it, but the health kick is easy, good living, plenty of smokes, plenty of beer and no nonsense, why don't you try it sometime.

• **PHIL CRAMSIE** 2/1 Brisbane with a letter on the death of Harry Belford dealt with elsewhere in the paper, and sends best wishes to all from all in Queensland and especially for a successful reunion in Dubbo. You and a few of the Queenslanders could make it more so, by getting a party together and make the trip, give it a bit of thought.

• **PETER PRIEST** 2/1 Gympie per pen of wife Dot, with a cheque for the treasurer, and a run down of their travels. They travelled north with caravan to Townsville then west, across Australia to Broome. A wonderful place, and from Broome to Perth where the wild flowers are impossible to describe. Dot quotes, Australia is a wonderful place and should be a must before thinking of overseas. They arrived back from the west to have Anzac Day at Evans Head, and later a further three weeks at the Head, where they teamed up with Allan 'Dora' Black and wife Val, Amy and Bill Facey who reside there, and Norm McEvoy who spends Anzac Day there every year. All their family well, and glad to see home again after a year of travel and enjoyment and are hopeful of making the trip to Dubbo in September.

• **HARRY MOWBRAY** 2/1 Ormiston (Qld) with a cheque for the treasurer and reports of a week in Greenslopes with stones in kidney. Okay again now, and are off to spend Christmas with the family at Ayr and Ingham. Harry has not been in touch since Coffs Harbour and expresses his sympathy over the illness of Bruce McNaughton, and also had to miss out on the Brisbane show at Hunts because of family commitments. Closes with best wishes to all for 1986.

• **ERIC "BOMBO" REYNOLDS** 2/1 Macksville with a cheque for the treasurer and informing us that they have been doing their usual thing, tripping around. Have just had a week in Victoria with the children and grandies, travelling by XPT to Sydney and then on overnight coach to Trafalgar. Had a one day stop in Sydney, had a look at the big city, lunch at Centrepoint, where they serve a beer and a moselle with the meal, quotes, that's the only hotel he ever goes to. The Farm is still progressing favourably, the chooks are laying, and there will be

plenty of gardening and mowing for the next few months. Eric has not been doing much golfing lately, but Joyce plays regularly with the ladies on each Monday afternoon. Closes with best wishes and hopes to be with us at Dubbo in September.

• **JOE KYFFIN** 2/1 Reservoir (Vic.) with the information that his wife Maida has lost her eyesight, we extend our sympathy to you both, but Joe will carry on the good work and provide the eyes for her. Had a visit from Wal and Marie Parsons in May last year and spent a few good days together, while Jack and Jean Clarke were to go down for the Cup, however their visit did not eventuate. Joe will be up to Sydney for Anzac Day, and claims that September and Dubbo can't come quick enough for him. Closes with best wishes to all and a special mention for Snow Jardine.

• **TOM O'SCOTT** 2/2 Brisbane with a request that he would be interested in a copy of the history that we are trying to compile, the answer is 'yes', when it is finally published. Tom also expresses a wish for a copy of the "2/2 Pioneer History Book". Perhaps our only chance for that would be this, "would any person with a copy of 2/2 Pioneer History Book to spare, kindly forward same to the Secretary, and quote your charges for same". Hope that someone in Victoria reads this Tom, and comes to your rescue.

• **HARRY HUCKERTON** 2/1 Scarborough per pen of wife Mary with a change of address, they have taken to a retirement village unit, very comfortable with two bedrooms, completely self contained, and all the chores are done for them. The big home was getting too much for Harry, with its never ending duties and maintenance. Enclosed a cheque for the treasurer and wishes for a cheerful and happy 1986 to all.

• **HARRY SPREADBOROUGH** 2/1 Alexandra Hills (Qld.) with a letter to say that the weather up their way has been lousy, has not been terribly active over the last few months and doesn't know whether it's getting old, getting tired or just lazy, just take your pick Harry: Harry and Jean had left for a trip to Mt. Isa when they learned of the death of Dennis George so were not able to attend the last ceremonies. Had occasion to go to Redcliffe short time ago, and called in on Harry and Dot Saunders, found them in good health, and enjoyed a cuppa and a good yarn before moving on. It was Garden Competition time and Jean's sister had won about three prizes for their efforts so Harry and Jean had time to admire the efforts. Also took time to call at Joe and Mavis Blanch at Beaudesert while at a pottery excursion, and there again, morning tea, lunch and a good yarn prior to getting away before the peak hour traffic of the evening. Sounds a good way to put your time in Harry, you and Jean should do it more often. Send their best wishes to all for the new year.

• **MICK BYE** 2/2 Dubbo and with his coastal residence at North Haven sends a letter with regard to the picnic at Dubbo, he had sounded out a couple of ideas, but was decided that the travelling entailed was a bit much, so reverted back to the original plan. Mick agrees with this and states that even coach trips can be very tiring, even though one just sits back and enjoys. Mick expects to be back in Dubbo early February but claims he might even go back to the Coast especially if the fish are biting. Enclosed a cheque for the treasurer and best wishes to all from he and Hilda. Hope Hilda can keep up with all the cooking of that fish.

• **BOB EVANS** 2/2 Essendon (Vic.) with a cheque and apology for the lack of correspondence. It appears that while going through some papers he came across a letter from our secretary enquiring about accommodation in the sixties, on reading that letter with the date and year, now realises why he is getting so crotchety and decrepit (his words, not mine). Never mind Bob, your apology and cheque fully accepted, as with your good wishes to all for 1986.

• **PADRE JOCK STEELE** 2/2 Bundeena with a letter of his attendance of Anzac Day last at Coffs Harbour. Thirty years ago he knew almost everybody that attended their Dawn Service, this time around, he knew two. Time marches on. However he did find something that he had wanted for many years, to watch the march on TV and while he saw our units, he quotes on the death of Padres, claims that Padres either don't like to march or the TV crews don't like Padres. Jock has had a stint at

**MAIL BAG — Continued**

Engadine, September and October while the minister took some long service leave, he enjoyed his stay, meeting the people and getting to know the congregation. However he was quite happy to return to Bundeeena, where he enjoys a morning swim, quotes, its about half a mile from bedroom to bathroom, perhaps a little further when the tide is out. Gives a good report on the health and welfare of the family and closes with best wishes from Kathleen and Jock.

• **BERN REINERS** 2/1 Corryong Victoria, wrote to say their youngest son, Lex was recently married so that is all their children off their hands.

In addition to that they gained during the year another two grandchildren, Brian with a girl and Mandy with a son — "all of them the greatest kids ever born".

Bern states Mona is really good in fact looks fitter than he is. They are both playing nine holes of golf twice a week as well as doing an hour walk around Corryong each night. Thanks for the newsy letter Bern and we may see you and Mona at Dubbo.

**ROY MCGREGOR** 2/2 of Maitland regrets having missed out on writing to us last year but has been busy building their new home.

Roy states he has made a complete change of lifestyle from lakeside living with steep paths and

stairs to a hobby farm with gentle slopes and lots of space.

Despite the work involved Roy says he appears to be fitter and healthier than ever, so something is agreeing — maybe the air and clean water or just the different no tension lifestyle.

Roy sends best regards to all Pioneers and is looking forward to the Country Reunion at Dubbo in September, but will try and get down for Anzac Day.

Nice to have heard from you Roy, and please extend our regards to Marion.

• **KEITH BOYLE** 2/1 of Moama wrote to say he looks forward to receiving and reading about the doings of the Association in the Pioneer News and seeing some of the names that he knows.

Keith had to take his wife Marj to St Vincents Hospital on New Years Day for operations to try and get blood circulating down to her feet. She now has nice warm pink feet instead of cold and purple as previously.

They both hope to be able to make it to Dubbo arriving Friday and leaving Monday. Keith sends regards to all for 1986.

• **BOB HANNON** 2/1 of Shepparton, via the pen of wife Mabel, wants to be remembered to all Pioneers and has recently had a month in Heidelberg Hospital with lung problems. Thanks Mabel for the letter and we wish Bob a speedy recovery.

• **DAVE DENNY** 2/1 of Lismore writes to say he is pleased to receive the Pioneer News and thanks the Committee for doing a good job. Dave is still breathing and walking around and states these days some of us take three steps forward and two backward but are still in front. Thank you Dave for your letter and best wishes.

That concludes the Mail Bag for this issue, not a lot to report from my department at the moment, football has yet to get into motion, preparations for Anzac Day the main topic, and the lead up to Dubbo in September being the main objects at time of going to press. Looking forward to seeing a big roll up at Redfern and wishing all a good and healthy 1986. — LAKEY

**DONATIONS TO ASSOCIATION**

Many thanks to Jean Montague, wife of "Monty" 2/1, for the very lovely rug she has made and donated for our raffle on Anzac Day and we do appreciate your kind gesture, Jean.

Also our old friend Bob Gales, 2/1, of Toukley has once again sent us a hand-painted supper cloth to be used to raise Association funds and we thank you most sincerely, Bob, and your daughter, Janet, for writing and sending it on. The Executive have decided to keep the cloth as a prize at the Dubbo Reunion.

**KEEP OUR FLAG FLYING**

The Australian flag was born with the creation of Federation at the dawn of the century. A contest resulted in 32,822 entries, seven judges representing the Army, Navy, Mercantile Marine, Pilot services and Parliament, unanimously choosing five equal winning designs. Thus was produced "the flag of stars".

The Exhibition Building, Melbourne, was used to display the numerous flag entries, the exhibition being opened on September 3, 1901 by Lady Hopetoun, wife of Australia's first Governor-General, and Australia's first Prime Minister, Edmund Barton. On the building's dome a huge flag of the winning design flew gloriously in a strong south-westerly breeze.

The Union Jack reflected the new Federation's historical background, the Southern Cross its place in space, and the large star the six states of the Federation. Here was a flag containing history, heraldry, distinctiveness and beauty. It has flown over 70 years of Australia's history as a nation.

Why pull it down?

**WREATH LAYING CEREMONY**

Form up place has been altered to the corner of Martin Plaza and Pitt Street on the G.P.O. corner, NOT Hunter Street as previous years.

**SINCERE THANKS**

Peg and Max Herron would like to thank all Pioneers for their kind expressions of sympathy in the recent sad loss of Max's brother Bruce.

**2/1-2/2 PIONEER BATTALIONS ASSOCIATION****PROGRAMME — DUBBO REUNION**

**Saturday, 20th September and Sunday 21st September, 1986**

**TOUR OF DUBBO** — Saturday 20th September. Map of Dubbo and pamphlets showing places of interest will be issued to members by arrangement with Motel and Hotel owners. These will assist members in arranging private car tour. Members are requested to assist those members without transport.

**WREATH LAYING CEREMONY** — Saturday, 20th September, 5 p.m.; Members to form up at Soldiers Memorial in park, Darling Street, opposite Church Street. No march. Medals and decorations to be worn.

**REUNION DINNER** — Saturday, 20th September, Dubbo R.S.L. Club. 6 p.m. Refreshments served in Auditorium Bar. 7.00 p.m.: Three course sit down meal in Auditorium, Cost: Pre-dinner drinks, wine or squash for two toasts, plus the meal — per person \$16.00.

**ZOO TOUR & PICNIC LUNCH** — Sunday 21st September, 9.30 a.m.

Assemble in R.S.L. car park, Brisbane Street then depart from car park after organising people into cars. Directions given to driver who will organise maximum number of people into car so as to reduce car parking area at zoo. Bring own lunch, fold up chairs and rugs to sit on grass. Eight barbecue plates only on camp site. Some seating available. Refreshments at cost. Entry fee, per person: \$3.00.

**FAREWELL GET-TOGETHER** — Sunday 21st September Dubbo R.S.L. 6.00 p.m.: Drinks purchased by members in "Dugout" Bar. 7.00 p.m.: Smorgasbord dinner in "Dugout" lower ground floor, and full use of bar with informal evening afterwards. Cost per person: \$12.00.

**ACCOMMODATION** — Motels: Room only, \$38-\$40 double. Merino Motel, breakfast included \$45 double, \$35 single. Hotel En-suite: \$44 double, \$32 single. Standard: \$38 double, \$26 single. All rooms include Breakfast. Dubbo City Caravan Park: Excellent on site vans \$20 night (2 persons). Sites (inc. electricity) \$7 (2 persons).

**EARLY NOTIFICATION** is necessary if requiring above accommodation as tentative bookings have been made with proviso that deposits will be sent in May, to the motel/hotel/caravan park owners. Deposit of \$20 required with all bookings (\$10 for van sites) with slip below to booking clerk, Mrs. Peg Herron, 2/1-2/2 Pioneer Btms Assoc. 3 Enoggera Road, Beverly Hills, N.S.W. 2209 (Phone: 759 5491). Cheques must be made out to P. Herron, NOT Association.

**CUT OUT — FILL IN PARTICULARS — DUBBO REUNION**

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

Ladies name ..... Phone ..... Unit .....

Address: .....

**ACCOMMODATION** — if required to be booked by association, insert number of people for each night alongside place of accommodation.

**OWN ACCOMMODATION** — if booking own fill in number of people and nights in panel alongside and state place of staying

	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	
Hotel					
Motel					
On-Site					
Van Site					

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

Zoo and Picnic Lunch ..... Smorgasbord ..... Car ..... Train .....



# PIONEER NEWS

Phone: 759 5491

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

Per Annum: \$2

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## ANZAC DAY WITH THE 2/1-2/2

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Association's Annual Meeting was held at the City of Sydney RSL Club at 3.30 p.m. on Thursday, 24th April. For the election of office bearers the President called upon John Hunt, Country Vice President to act as Returning Officer.

The Balance Sheet was presented by Treasurer Vic Whiteley and was audited by Arthur Watson A.A.S.A.

### WREATH LAYING CEREMONY

Following the Annual Meeting forty five Association members plus the ladies formed up at the G.P.O. in Martin Plaza for the Wreath Laying.

At 7.40 p.m. the order to move off was given by the marshal Max Law and the group proceeded to the Cenotaph where the service was conducted.

It was one of the largest gatherings for some years. The battalion banners were carried by Bill Tasker 2/1 and Pat Egan 2/2. Wreaths were placed on the Cenotaph by Ruth Rhodes for the Ladies Auxiliary and by President Bob for the Association. Last Post and Reveille were sounded by Aub Brazier, our capable adopted bugler.

One of the marchers was Roy Swanson 2/2, from Victoria who had contacted the Secretary and was enrolled on to the Association. Welcome Roy.

### 2/1 ANZAC DAY MARCH

Even though the estimated start time was 10 a.m. there were many members assembled before 9 a.m. and the numbers greatly increased by 9.30 a.m. and the march marshal Bill Jollie began to get troops formed up at 9.45 a.m. when he saw movement ahead but it turned out to be a false alarm.

The attendance was one hundred members which is an increase on last year. The band of the Bankstown Police and Citizens Club once again was excellent and the crowds lining the street were also greater in numbers. The 2/1st banner was again carried by Tim Lloyd, son of the late Jack Lloyd and the march was led by Patron Gordon Osborn and John Gilchrist.

### 2/2 ANZAC DAY MARCH

The attendance was thirty nine members and the banner was carried proudly by cadet Wayne Higgins. The march was led by Bill Robertson and Ray Harris. Allan McInnes, usual co-leader, wrote from England with good wishes to all Pioneers for a most successful Anzac Day.

### ANZAC REUNION DINNER

From Hyde Park, all roads led to the Redfern Town Hall — by train, taxi or private car and on arrival members lined up to receive their name tags from Bob Lake and Ray Harris and pay their dinner fee to Bill Robertson and Max Law.

The kegs were tapped and while some members were lining up others were organising tables and it was not long before it was realised the numbers were going to be higher than expected so more tables had to be brought in.

It would be impossible to name each one of the one hundred and thirty five members present so can only mention a few. Jack Dologhan advised that Mick Anselme had another stroke and sent his regards to all Pioneers. On one particular table just inside the entrance a very happy group led by Jim Anderson of D Coy 2/1st consisted of well known supporters of the same company — Brickly Wall, Gordon Anderson, George Brooks and happy Jim Gray and were all talking of Jim's old accordion, which was heard right through the Desert especially in Tobruk. Jim wants all to know the accordion is still

in the home garage, maybe not in working order, but it has survived.

A mention must be made of the number of people who spent most of their day giving their time to ensure the day was an enjoyable one for all concerned. Once again we acknowledge the work carried out by Terry Bird (son of Joe) and Geoff Finlay (son of Gordon) who are learning their trade by attending our bar each year. They are very keen and really help all members in making sure the jugs are always full. Thanks fellows. Gordon Finlay kept an eye on Geoff while selling the beer tickets and no freebies.

The happy smiling face at the entrance upstairs was that of our tireless and dedicated treasurer, Vic Whiteley, who sat at his table right through the day making sure he could extract as much in subscriptions as possible and Vic was very ably assisted by our really hard working secretary Max Herron.

The kitchen planning officer, acting and unpaid, was Jack Collis, who also functions as our Central Coast Welfare Officer. Jack did a magnificent job ensuring that every one in the hall was fed.

Must not forget our President Bob Dixon who as always, carries out all official duties on the microphone and keeps order when required.

Mention should also be made of the increasing number of sons who attend our function — not just to watch over Dad but to assist where they can. Such sons included (apart from those already mentioned) Peter Gilchrist (son of John), Jack Harvey and son, (Jack will celebrate his fiftieth wedding anniversary on 29th August 1986), Radley and John, sons of Bluey Miller (a very proud dad) and towards the end, Don Barraclough introduced his wife Mona, daughter Julie and granddaughter Elke.

Our stalwart officer group who are with us every year numbered around fourteen and some comments were made about other former officers who could come along but for some reason do not. It is a pity but, if on reading this mention, they would turn up, a warm welcome would be offered, as it is to our regular group.

Incidentally, Steve Clarke handed in two articles, which are well put together and will certainly be used in our planned story of the 2/1st Pioneers. Ken Stuart and Jim Gray have also sent in excellent articles and we say thank you to these people.

Another big thank you to each of our members who contributed details of table groups at Redfern, but unfortunately lack of space has prevented mention of everyone — please forgive us.

A member at the Reunion advised a number of members of the passing of a former Senior Officer who resided in the country and the story cannot be confirmed so could the informant ring Max Law (528 6887) and quote the information.

Also on the same day a slip of paper was given to me with a name I cannot decipher but with a phone number 750 8800 which I know is an art school. Any clues?

— MAX LAW, Reporter

### JIM FIELD — LIFE MEMBER

At the Annual Meeting, Jim Field was presented with a Life Membership Certificate for many years of honorary service of an outstanding nature to the Association.

Jim has been Publicity Officer for many years and for the past five years has organised and arranged the wreaths for Anzac Day and country reunions. He has also made the Association plaques for the various presentations over the last four years.

Congratulations to you Jim on a job well done.

## ANZAC DAY THOUGHTS

By George Nicholls 2/1

I enjoyed myself so much on Anzac Day, that I thought for once, I should acknowledge the efforts of those who made it possible, hence these few lines in appreciation.

From the start I thought the 2/1st march, under such ideal conditions, and behind such a marvellous band, seemed to be more regulated, with less stops and certainly less arduous than other years.

Once at Redfern, I felt the whole exercise went without a single hitch, thanks to mine host, Gordon Finlay and his willing staff who made sure that sufficient "medicine" was always on hand. The catering, as usual was excellent and served with a minimum of fuss although I just cannot work out how Porky Graham and I always get landed with a serving tray.

I thought Patron Gordon Osborn's few words referring to Mrs O'Malley-Wood's team of workers for the Comforts Fund and the inauguration of the Association on 13th March 1946, very appropriate to Anzac Day in the year of the fortieth anniversary.

The discreet use of the "whistle" by our President always achieved the desired results, in fact, I thought the "troops" were particularly well behaved. Lurking in a quiet corner was our efficient treasurer and not missing a trick. I did hear one wag remark "Vic Whiteley is known far and wide for his ability to disturb the moths in any careless Pioneer's pocket", but truly, Max and his team combined perfectly to make the day a huge success.

I was extremely pleased to see the "young brigade" more in evidence and no doubt operating as "minders" for their elders, and don't some of us require such assistance these days.

Another pleasing feature I observed, whilst I was still capable of observing, was that after lunch the members seemed to intermingle more than ever before, which I thought was good.

I was blessed with good company at my table and thoroughly enjoyed the efforts of those who briefly came and went to rekindle memories of the past.

I thought it was just one "helluva" day, so on behalf of my rotund friend, affectionately referred to as Porky Graham, who I know shares my feelings, may I first congratulate all the organising committee for making the day so successful, and secondly to thank you all sincerely for allowing us to be part of it.

Kindest regards and every success in the future.

## WELFARE OFFICERS' REQUEST

Both Welfare Officers request that the family of members notify them when our members are in hospital so that they can make arrangements for a visit.

They also request that when a member is deceased that the family notify our Welfare Officer and to include in the death notice the unit the member belonged to, so that arrangements can be made to attend the funeral.

The Association Welfare Officers are: Central Coast Region — Jack Collis, 24 Hobart Avenue, Umina, phone (043) 41 2977. Sydney Region — Max Law, 37 Solveig Crescent, Kareela, phone (02) 528 6887.

## BRISBANE REUNION

SATURDAY 25th October 1986 at 11.30 a.m.  
at the residence of John Hunt  
4/25 Mountford Road, New Farm Qld.  
Telephone: (07) 358 4349 by Oct. 17th  
Acceptance requested by October 18th



Hello Folks, another issue of Mail Bag and a very big response of letters, with quite a lot including deposits and requests for Dubbo in September. It looks like being a very successful operation with over one hundred and fifty applications to hand so far.

Before going on to the letters, I have to report that Jack Pearce 'Split the Wind' was attacked by some young thug in Manly last Wednesday, however the 'old bloke' got stuck into the thug and saved his wallet although he finished up with eight stitches in his arm. We all wish you a speedy recovery Jack, if you are going to continue to go fishing on your lonesome, perhaps you should take a few karate lessons.

• **ERIC CAUSER** 2/1 Macarthur, Vic, with a cheque for the treasurer for subs and also a photocopy of a Nippon bank note with signatures of the sigs at Barico. The names that were readable were as follows, L. W. Lucky, A. Jenson, W. Parsons, J. Caughey, L. Hollis, L. Denham, R. Gash, A. Roberts, D. Shearston, J. Pitman, W. Hutchinson, R. MacFarlane, T. Healy, O. Watson and A. Crute. Do any of you blokes remember this particular note? Many thanks Eric, don't know whether we can put a photo of note in the paper, but will try.

• **CEC HART** 2/1 Shoalhaven Heads, with a sub for the treasurer and advising that he had two visitors at the Head, in the persons of Lance Gayden and George Walker, and was very pleased to see both. Cec has had a cancer of the throat, has had chemo and ray treatment and on last examination was passed okay. Closes with best wishes to all with a special mention to Gordon Finlay.

• **JACK COLLIS** 2/1 Umina with a deposit for Dubbo and the news that Harry Hamer has had a spell in hospital but is home again and looking well. That's one bloke that appears to be a bit travel shy, what's the matter Harry, haven't you got a compass to get you back home again, would like to see you put in an appearance at one of our turnouts. Jack Coates still has his ups and downs and still visits the doctor, but he still attended Redfern on Anzac Day, as did 'Bricky' Wall. Jack has made another request regarding members with illness, this has been given a special report in Welfare. Jack, since Anzac Day with Gwen have had five days relaxation at Nelson Bay. They called around to Fingal Bay but could not see Jack or Maisie. He was having a clean up (not again) and came across some old photos of the Battalion Hockey Team taken in Palestine after Tobruk, he had a couple of enlargements done and sent one to Dr Stan Goulston. Received a very nice letter back from Stan, and was informed that the photo would go into the album that the doctor has kept during his term with the Pioneers. As I remember the doctor was a very keen photographer, and strangely enough, always seemed to have his camera with him, even when the orders were, all cameras to be left at base. I also recollect the doctor standing beside the Gun Pit taking photos of the Stukas the day they bombed Pilsitino. Collis as usual closes with some sarcastic remarks about the football directed at myself, well at time of writing my fat friend, I know who is leading the football and my team is also on the same line, the crack about the Magpies I will answer in my own way at Dubbo.

• **CLIVE HARRIS** 2/1 Aberdeen with a short note, that the weather up there has been terribly hot and dry, need rain badly, enclosed his deposit for Dubbo and closes with best wishes from he and Betty.

• **JACK HARVEY (WOODHEAD)** 2/1 Caringbah with a letter to nominate for Joyce and himself to Dubbo, what a great result mate, and on behalf of Vic and Max, I am glad that our hounding of your ear has at least produced the correct result. You'll never regret it.

• **JACK CLARK** 2/1 Rockdale, with the news that he and Jean have had a nice little spell at Killarney Vale, they hoped to contact Ivor and Ena Garnon

before their return home, then they go into solid training preparing for Dubbo.

• **MRS JEAN MCINTYRE** widow of the late Jack, with a thank you to Peg and Max and the committee, and the news that she is coping with the problems that had gathered around her, her daughter and son-in-law have helped solve her housing problem by doing a swap for her, and so she has a comfortable home on a nice flat block, as compared with one on a steep slope which she found difficult to handle. Has had her sister from Coffs Harbour with her for a time and this has had a helpful effect. Wants to continue her association with the mob, and the News will continue to arrive at Lemon Tree Passage. Our best wishes Jean.

• **BOB GALES** per pen of daughter Marie informs us of a tablecloth for Anzac Day in the post, makes mention of Albert Wilkinson and tells he is sorry that he will not be able to attend any further funtions, no longer able to travel. Enclosed was a cheque for the treasurer and best wishes to all.

• **MERV ANDREWS** 2/1 Lismore with a cheque for subs per letter from Bill Hoffman, with best wishes to all.

• **JOHN TOOKER** 2/1 Major, Chatswood with a letter wishing to join the Association and to renew his acquaintances of so many years ago. I believe that John was the proprietor of a newsagency for many years and so Anzac Day was another working day to him. On behalf of the Association, welcome aboard, and we sincerely hope to see you at the functions that are on from time to time, like Dubbo 1986. By the time you read this you will have received the back copies of the News posted to you by the Secretary and I will send you the application form for the Rats of Tobruk.

• **COLONEL JOHN WILLIAMS** 2/2 Sefton with a cheque for the treasurer, best wishes to all and a successful Anzac Day at Redfern.

• **MRS BONNIE SNUDDEN** widow of the late Cecil, 2/2 of Cobar with a cheque for the treasurer in appreciation of the News, and wishing all a very successful reunion at Dubbo.

• **ALBERT BARTON** 2/1 Yagoona with a cheque for the treasurer and the news that he took the easy way out on Anzac Day and watched the March on television, "quotes that the boys looked great on TV and the commentator was quite good. Always glad to receive the News, and he and Gwen are still very interested in their Charity organisation, claims that he is keeping a chair well oiled for when we may need it.

• **MRS JEAN STAFFORD** widow of George 2/1 Noraville with a subscription for the continuation of the News, and expresses her sympathy for the family of Vince Petrich. Offers her best wishes for a successful Anzac Day and reunion, and remembering what a great day George had put in at the last one in 1985.

• **TOM GODDEN** West Pennant Hills, with a note to enclose a cheque for the treasurer and to say that he would watch the March on television. Tom will be 81 in June and states that things don't get any better with age, walking is quite a problem, and that is restricted to very short distances. Closes with best wishes to all and have a happy day on the 25th.

• **MRS DELLA WOODHOUSE** widow of the late Bill, ex Sgt. Cook, and later Quartermaster Caterer, with a change of address. Della has sold up her home at Miranda and has purchased a home at Springvalley Avenue, Gorokan, Central Coast, and offers a cuppa to all and any Pioneers that reside in the area. Jack Collis has already been notified of your address Della, and he will surely be in touch.

• **PERCY FISK** 2/1 Toongabbie with a short note that he would not be attending on Anzac Day, going away again, but enclosed a cheque for the treasurer and states that they will see us at Dubbo.

• **KEITH BOYLE** 2/1 Moama, with a cheque for his deposit for Dubbo, he is looking forward to seeing some of the A Coy boys that he was with on the

Tablelands and at Balikpapan. Has only seen Noel Grant and Bob Bally since the war ended, and is looking forward to what looks like being a great weekend. Keith also hopes that his wife who has had some leg problems will be a bit more mobile by the time September comes around. Don't worry Keith, if she can't get to us, then we will just have to get to her.

• **CHARLIE KERR** 2/1 Maryborough Qld. with a welcome but sad letter to say that his wife Zeta had passed away in October. Was in hospital at Toowoomba for a knee operation and suffered a heart attack. Please accept our sincere sympathies. They both had such great plans, had decided to move back to Gatton to be near their daughter and family and these plans were well on the way prior to the operation. Charles spent Christmas at Gatton and then headed south to Coffs Harbour, Bellinger and Dorrigo, then on to Newcastle to see his brother. On the way down he called on Alan and Beulah Crute, spent a few hours, and on the way back called on Doug and Roma Shearston, also spent a few hours. Reports that all these people are looking good and not letting the passing time cause any problems. On his return home he met his son and family who were down on leave from New Guinea. Fraser has a job with the Boral Gas Pty, Operations Manager, and is based at Lae. They all like it up there and there has been no major problems to date. Spent a couple of weeks with them at Gladstone then another couple of weeks at the Gold Coast, played up a bit, and visited the Casino, but did not cause the management there too many problems. The family have since returned, and he spent Easter with his daughter at Gatton. Also reports that he sees Toby Palin quite often, they often run into one another at the TAB. Closes with best wishes to all, special mention to the Sig Platoon, and a cheque for the treasurer.

• **SAM COLES** 2/2 Chadstone Vic. with a cheque for the treasurer, and the news that they are very busy down south, with the wrapping of their own "newsletter" and the arranging of the March and Reunion in Melbourne. Sam is always glad to read the Sydney edition of Pioneer News, and is looking forward to being with the boys in Melbourne on the 25th.

• **JOE ROBERTSON** 2/2 Findon, S.A. with a sub for 1986 and is looking forward to meeting the boys at the March again this year. Naturally, Joe marches in Adelaide, and as he quotes, all things considered, they had a pretty good roll up last year, and are hoping for the same this time. Closes with best wishes to all and a successful day for Sydney.

• **FRED SARGENT** 2/2 Wangaratta, Vic. with a sub for the treasurer, and a thank you for the Pioneer News. With regard to our President, Fred, I don't think he is the man you refer to, as Bob Dixon was a carpenter by occupation and I do not think he was a P.O.W. Your enclosed copy regarding the sinking of the Southland makes very interesting reading Fred, but I am afraid it is too much for this issue of Pioneer News. However Max may keep it for a time later when news is a bit on the slow side.

• **JOHN HUNT** 2/1 New Farm, with a very short note and another cheque. Good 'eavens, that was a costly operation wasn't it Johnny Boy. I won't elaborate any further on that old mate.

• **MAJOR GEORGE PATTERSON** 2/1 with a change of address card, but still resident of the St. Ives area.

• **TOM MUTTON** 2/1 per pen of wife Pat, with a cheery letter, enclosed a cheque for the treasurer and the news that they will not be going to Dubbo, as Tom is not able to cope with the travelling, so they stay close to home at Harrington. Tom is reasonably well, but has to be kept quiet most of the time and this of course restricts both their movements. Keep the chin up Tom, and best wishes to you both.

• **JACK COATES** 2/1 Umina with a newsy letter

describing his trip down the Murray on the Explorer. Reckons that "Three Course" never dished up "Munga" like those Explorer chaps. To top the cruise off, met Harry Sheils and wife doing the same trip. Jack also posted a card from Wentworth, where the rivers join up, and in a souvenir shop there purchased an Africa Star for \$12.00, a Defence Medal for \$5.00. Thinks that medals were of United Kingdom origin. Also on display were another Africa Star, two more Defence Medals, a Pacific Star, and a France and Germany Star so as Jack says, after some 8½ months in the desert, another 18 months or so in New Guinea, could have stayed home and purchased the same gongs for a few dollars forty years after. Never mind Coatesy, you would not have had the pleasure of all of us Pioneers for 5½ years to keep you company and to keep you on the straight and narrow. Looks like those "Tigers" of yours need an injection of whatever they give "Tigers" to keep them awake through the second half.

• **RICHARD COBBLE** 2/1 Loftus, a new addition to the membership, picked up the notice in March/April issue of Reveille and as an ex D. Coy member of the 2/1 has forwarded his name and address plus a cheque and has been enrolled on the mailing list. Welcome aboard Dick.

• **TOM McNAUGHTON** 2/2 Reservoir, Vic. with a cheque for the treasurer and pleased to be receiving his news so regularly, also gets the Newsletter from Melbourne so between the two he is more than up to date. Mentions that he has seen Joe Kyffin on occasion, as they are both in the same suburb. Closes with best wishes to all for April 25.

• **COL McDONALD** Padstow with a thank you to the Secretary for inviting him to join us on Anzac Day. Col is a brother in law of our Doug Shearston and his unit marches in Melbourne. In appreciation of his great day he also enclosed a cheque to help things along.

• **JIM STANNARD** 2/1 Macksville and now a resident of the Veterans Autumn Lodge, or sometimes known as the "Youthless and Toothless". Jim also responded to the last issue's request for information of Tich Senter, which has been forwarded to Tich's granddaughter. On behalf of the Association may I offer you sincere thanks for your response of the Tich Senter request, and may you enjoy many more birthdays at Autumn Lodge.

• **JOE WHITE** 2/2 Armadale, Vic. with a thank you for the continued editions of the News and included a cheque for the treasurer. Joe had intentions of being in Sydney for 1986, and he fulfilled that statement. He attended both the Annual Meeting and Anzac Day at Redfern, where he enjoyed the company of Brian Neiberding and a lot more that he had not seen since 1946. He did see some of the boys at Wagga in 1982. Have also been instructed to thank you for all the stamps you have forwarded to Peg Herron over the year.

• **PHIL BARNETT** 2/2 Lismore with congratulations to the Officers and committee for a job well done over the years, he was saddened to read of the demise of Bruce Stevenson and quotes that he will be sadly missed by all his friends. Closes with best wishes and a cheque for the treasurer.

• **CHARLEY WILBY** 2/1 Moree, with a cheque for "Squizz" and apologizing for non-attendance at Anzac Day. Claims that he will have to make the effort very shortly as has turned 77 years young, feels like 27 but not nearly as dangerous. Still plays his bowls and at time of writing championships were in progress. He liked the photos of the groups at Nelson Bay in the last issue, but can't understand how the blokes managed to cotton on to the good looking "sorts". His wife has been over to America to see their son and family, who have a dairy farm just out from New York. Many thanks for the letter Chas, and on behalf of Whitely, Jardine and all the transport platoon we wish you well and hope to see you soon. What about making the trip to Dubbo over four or five days.

• **STAN CHANDLER** 2/2 Wangaratta, another new addition after the advert in the 2/2 Vic Newsletter. Stan's name has been enrolled on the mailing list, and although he is now a TPI, and cannot get around to much claims that it's just a possibility that we may see him at Dubbo. Max Herron has already posted back issues of the Pioneer News to him, just to get him in the picture.

• **BILL MAYNE** 2/2 Box Hill with an introductory letter to the Secretary. Bill was in B Coy, and was taken prisoner at Java, where he worked on the

Burma line. Was also a member of the party on the Rakuyo Maru which was torpedoed and after three days was picked up by Japs and taken to Japan. Bill and wife Feebee have applied for an on-site van at Dubbo, so with luck we will all meet Bill and wife face to face in September. Thinks that maybe Peg Herron and Phoebe could be related, has your missus got red hair Bill? Don't know that we could cope with two loveies like that.

• **PAT COLLINS** per pen of wife Edna thanking us for the back copies of Pioneer News, and the members who visited Pat while he was in hospital. While Pat is making a good recovery, he is still a long way from full strength so will be unable to partake of the events arranged for this year, however we all wish him a quick recovery, yourself good health, and a thank you for the cheque enclosed.

• **MAYFORD "SNOWY" MORRIS** with a cheque for the treasurer and the words, Many Thanks — Snowy, written across the sheet of paper. Thank you for the cheque Snow. on Anzac Day Snow had his usual good day with the troops at Redfern, but in the aftermath left his glasses and his hat in the hall. Max Herron finished up with the glasses, and I finished up with the hat. As we had no idea of the owner of these items, we just had to wait for an enquiry, which arrived by phone on Sunday and as we were off to Broken Hill on the Monday, there was quite a hassle to get a box to fit the hat and post same on the Monday morning, glad to be of service Snow, but don't do it too often will you.

• **BETTY CREAMY** widow of George 2/1, Portland, with a cheque for the treasurer and best wishes to all Pioneers.

• **JACK PAINTER** 2/1 Narrandera, with a letter requesting a Dubbo booking. Jack is a new member, having picked up the news from the ad in Reveille and claims to have no news for now but enclosed two cheques, one for subscriptions and one deposit for Dubbo.

• **STAN GAVAN** 2/2 Greystanes, another new member, again thanks to Reveille, and offering that if his fading memory serves him correctly, was in 13 Platoon A Coy. Enclosed a cheque for subs, and secretary has posted Stan back copies of the News.

• **JACK GRIFFITHS** 2/1 Mayfield with a lengthy letter of their doings over the past few months and have nominated that he and Esme will be at Dubbo. They have already attended the World Reunion of the 'Rats of Tobruk' at Surfers and remarks on the success of same. Some 950 sat down to a three course meal on three separate occasions without any hitch at all. Gildo also listed other Pioneers at the reunion as follows: Jack & Jean Bertram, Fred & Jean Wheaton, Ivor & Ena Garnon, Joe & Mavis Blanch, Dick Seddon, Jack Pearce, Pat Noonan, Jack Stone, Roy Jardine and Laurie "Three Course" Kelly. Jack has also been very well occupied with his dual role as President of the Rats of Tobruk and the Gallipoli Legion Club, however that has all been attended to and now is getting himself and Mum preparing for Dubbo. Offers his thanks for the continued dedication of the committee on behalf of the Association.

• **GEOFF LLOYD** 2/2 Highbury, with a cheque for the treasurer and with best wishes to all the boys on Anzac Day. Wishes that he could be with the mob but until such time as his wife is much stronger, they will not be doing any travel. Also confirms the address of C. W. Ryall another 2/2 member, and back issues of Pioneer News have been forwarded to Charles.

• **FRANK HEPBURN** 2/2 Bankstown per pen of Irene with a cheque for the treasurer, and the news that they have celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary and their five children gave them a dinner at the Canterbury Hurlstone Park RSL. The couple also received cables from the Governor and Lady Rowland, Mr & Mrs Bob Hawke, Mr & Mrs Neville Wran and Mr Paul Keating. May I, on behalf of the Association offer you both our hearty congratulations, and hope that Frank continues to progress favourably.

• **ALEC MITCHELL** 2/2 Wyoming, with a cheque for the treasurer and the news that he has been retired for nearly two years and enjoying it all immensely. They have had a few trips, their last effort being to the Central West, Mudgee, Gulgong, Sofala and Hillend, all lovely old places, with the people of Gulgong very proud of their town. On the last day they visited Dubbo and the Zoo, but as he claims, on a bus tour, you don't get quite enough time to really enjoy the sights and would like to do

something the same again with more time. Alec has enclosed a photostat copy of an article concerning the 2/2 written by Snowy Dodd that was published in the Women's Weekly dated October 23, 1943. It deals with the 55 mile trek by the Unit as its part in the battle for Lae. The article is far too long to be published as a whole in this issue but the salient point was the march, 55 miles in open flat country in four days would have been just a hop, step and a jump, but when the terrain is mostly a single track, through mud, swamps and numerous hills over 2000 feet high, on one tin of Bully and one packet of biscuits per man per day, it's not to be wondered at that they were glad to reach their goal, and this the bank of the river Busu, where the following morning the actual job commenced. River had to be waded, most times running fairly swiftly at about waist to chest deep for approximately 800 yards, then linking up with the Paratroops marched another five miles to the airstrip to find that the Nips had retreated and the open sesame was available to the aircraft to come in. Quite an article written by Snowy Dodd and he closed it with "We felt very proud to be Pioneers". Many thanks for your letter Alec and we hope you can arrange yourselves some more good trips. How about Dubbo around the end of September or 20th to 24th, just for fun.

• **JOHN DOWD** 2/2 Wagga with the news that for those interested, the operation on his hip has been a success and reports no pain and no tablets. Had an enjoyable Anzac Day at Wagga, with Jack Morgan and Dud Stanforth in attendance. Closes with best wishes and something to please the treasurer enclosed.

• **BOB DONALD** 2/1 Glen Innes with a report of the preparations for 2/1 at the local sub branch for Anzac Day. Reports that Tom Manual has been in strict training for the event while Jack Marshall and brother Vic Donald still going along strongly. A ceremony for the unveiling of the grave of the old warrior (Jock) Henry Rogers will take place at this year's Dawn Service. I assume Bob that this is some local custom, as I do not recall having heard mention of this before. Bob closes with best wishes and added subscriptions for both himself and Tom Manual.

• **D. N. MANSKI** Nhulunbuy, Northern Territory, with a request for news regarding the history of the 2/2. D. Manski is a veteran of Vietnam (2 tours) and his late father Len was a member of the 2/2 New Guinea and Borneo. Should any of the 2/2 recall Len Manski would they like to send any details to the above at Post Office Box 44, Nhulunbuy, Northern Territory 5797, he would be very pleased to receive same.

• **MRS J MICHELOTTI** Cobram Vic. with a request to join and receive the Pioneer News. Her brother Cpl Parkes "Benny" Goodman VX21001 was a member of the 2/2, served in Syria, and later captured in Java. He was put to work on the Railway and finally was lost at sea September 1944 at the age of 26 years. The paper will be posted most gladly, and we hope that you derive some satisfaction from its information.

• **MARK BERNHARDT** 2/1 Woollahra with a sub for the treasurer and a thank you to the committee and editors for the compilation of the News. He comments on a day spent at the Manly Leagues Club last year, where he, Aub Ridgley and George Paricos got in touch with me, Lakey, where I went up and met them. As they do not partake too much of the amber fluid, I suggested that they come back home, where I bought out photos taken at all the country reunions, plus a few from the Middle East. They all enjoyed themselves and I drove them down to the ferry at about four o'clock. Since then all three turned up at Redfern for Anzac Day, where again they were seen to be enjoying themselves.

• **GREG KNIGHT** Neutral Bay, with an application to be posted on our mailing list. Greg, whom I think is of a younger generation, is interested in the history of the War in the Pacific, and has recently completed a tour of New Guinea, where he climbed the Kokoda Trail and visited Milne Bay, Buna, Lae, Madang and Rabaul, and he claims, fascinating just to visit some of the places he has read so much about. You will have received back issues of the News by now, and Secretary has placed you on the mailing list for future copies.

• **ARNOLD HORTON**, Young, a new member from the 2/1 with a request for future issues of the paper, this has been attended to and would suggest that a few more details in your next letter would give all those that knew you a better idea of whom they

are reading about, after all, 40 odd years is a long time to place Arnold Horton.

• **MICK EGAN** 2/1 Bexley with the information that he had been involved in a car accident some time back and had been out of action for some time. Is okay again now, and has plans for a trip to Queensland. Will not be back in time for Anzac Day so wants to say hello to all his mates that he will miss and enclosed a subscription to keep him in touch via the News.

• **JACK KEMPNIICH** 2/1 Fingal Bay per pen of wife Maisie, with late condolences to Max and Peg on the loss of his brother, also with their application for Dubbo. At this stage, they are both mothering their granddaughter, seventeen years old and studying music at Newcastle. As a young lass from the country Maisie is keen to see that she settles in and in the right company in her first break away from home. Jack is still fishing madly. Maisie tells that they were walking past the rubbish tip one day, he saw an old mattress and wanted to drag it around to the beach so that he could sleep on it, she said "that figures." He was joking, but Maisie wasn't. Also makes the question, is the Ridge still on, reckons her fingers are itching to get into that Opal dirt again, might strike it rich, (I wouldn't hold my breath Maisie). Met Snow and Gert Vickery a few days previously, they were visiting their daughter and were to call around if they could find the opportunity. Many thanks for the letter, see you both at Dubbo.

• **DOUG SHEARSTON** 2/1 Forster, with a quotation that being retired one should be able to decide his movements for events 12 months ahead, however not so for Doug and Roma, on September 20th (our Dubbo date) is participating in a pottery exhibition at Possums Brush so will be staying with them for the period of time, so for the Shearstons, no Dubbo. Reports Roma is well, and President of the "Spinners and Weavers" club this year, and so far, nothing but trouble. The sudden death of their treasurer, then on Easter Weekend, louts, local or imported, set a fire under their Hall, as Doug quotes, cleaning up after a fire is not his idea of a good way to spend one's time. He also informs that they have had a visit from a burglar, some money was stolen plus a couple of pieces of jewellery, reckons that the bloke was a very tidy chap, they had been home for more than two hours before they realised that they'd had an uninvited visitor. Closes with best wishes and from myself personally, keep sober.

• **ALLAN CRUTE** 2/1 Woolgoolga, with a letter requesting a van for Dubbo, reckons those western towns get carried away with the charges for motels. They will stay with family at Parkes, then travel to Dubbo on Saturday morning. Beulah also chipped in with a note for Peg Herron. I won't go into all the fine details, but she speaks of her visit from Charlie Kerr, and also tells of their visit to Shearstons, they stayed for a very long hour and saw the three books that Trevor, Doug's son, has written. They had also had a visit from Eric 'Bombo' Reynolds and Joyce of Macksville. Eric as usual, supplied some of his special hen eggs. Question Beulah, "what else lays eggs besides hens?" Sorry Beulah, just couldn't resist that bit of sarcasm, but I'll apologise to you at Dubbo.

• **JOE KYFFIN** 2/1 Reservoir Vic. with a letter to say that he is improving in health but still gets occasional funny turns. Joe, as was reported to us, had the misfortune to have a stroke some short time ago, we are so very glad to hear from yourself that you are on the improve. He also quotes that he will not be available on Anzac Day, but will be thinking of all of us, and regretting his not being there. Reports that wife Maida is coping well, her health is quite good, but she has lost her sight. You certainly get your problems in large lumps, don't you old mate? Claims he is looking after himself, he hasn't had a drink for six weeks, cut it out Joe, Bondy will go broke. However, he is adamant that he will be with us at Dubbo and on that note, there will be no one that will be more welcome.

• **FRANK CAULFIELD** 2/2 Cairns with a sub for the treasurer and the news that he would not be available for Anzac Day or Dubbo. Reckons that leave passes are becoming a bit hard to get. Frank is the bloke that made that long train trip in 1982 from Cairns to Wagga to be with us. He has had a few problems health-wise, had an accident in the garden and damaged two discs in the spine. He has spent eight days in hospital, has had numerous

injections for the spine and now is at home where he must spend at least a month. Claims it is very boring, and just shows how dangerous working in the garden can be. They survived Cyclone Winifred okay, no structural damage but lost quite a few of their trees and shrubs, winds reached 160 kph at Cairns, however further south winds reached 220 kph. Brings his letter to a close, writing in bed and the tide keeps running out of his biro, is not the easiest way to put in time, so wishes everyone a successful Anzac Day and a Dubbo reunion, with a special mention to all the D. Coy personnel.

• **MRS MARY LLOYD and MRS JANE HOPE** per media of the telephone, have asked me to express their pleasure to all their brothers and sisters (what a wonderful relationship) for the wonderful week they spent at Broken Hill. Meals were good, "pokies" so-so and the visitations to the district were terrific. Thoroughly enjoyed. I hope that covers what you wanted to say "sisters".

• **MAY OLLIFFE**, wife of the late Joe 2/1, with best wishes and a cheque for the treasurer. May was not at the wreath laying this year, opting to be with son Greg in Jakarta where he was the Padre for the Australian Embassy observance of Anzac Day. Many thanks May, and the Pioneer News will continue to arrive at Kingsford.

• **JOE WHITE** 2/2 Armadale Vic. writes to thank the President and Committee for making him most welcome at the Anzac Day functions and said it was great to be back in Sydney for the first Anzac Reunion in forty years.

Thanks from Peg Herron for the stamps Joe. She said they were terrific. Also many thanks from Max for the photos — hope you don't mind but he sent one to Jim Field and one to Wayne Higgins who carried the banner for the 2/2.

Many thanks Joe for your best wishes.

• **ART LEIGH** 2/2, Rockhampton sends greetings to all Pioneers and hopes all are in good health just as he is. He is most pleased to receive the Pioneer News and considers it the best.

That completes the Mail Bag for this issue, our trip to Broken Hill was a great success, but is covered elsewhere in the paper. I know Joan and I had a wonderful time in really great company. I sincerely hope that Jack Collis and Jack Coates realise who is at the top of table at time of writing, so will close with best wishes to all Pioneers and their ladies and the final words, "Up the Eagles".

So long for now.

— LAKEY

## LAST POST

**JOE OLLIFFE**, 2/1 passed away at a nursing home in Randwick on 19th May, where he had been a patient for many years.

The funeral was private, but the Association's sincere sympathy was passed on to his widow, May, and family, Colleen and Greg.

**BARRY WATTS** 2/1 passed away on 4th May 1986 from a heart attack. Barry originally came from Macksville and was a cousin of Peter Craig.

The funeral was held at Palmdale on May 7th and was attended by Gwen and Jack Collis, Kel Walker and Ron Wilson (brother of Bob Wilson 2/1). Sympathy was extended to the family on behalf of the Association.

**CAMM — Marjorie Ann**, passed away on 13th March after a long illness at Frankston Hospital, Victoria, late of Narrabeen War Veterans Home. Loved wife of Aubrey deceased of 2/2 Pioneers. Taken from Sydney Morning Herald 15th March.

**NORMAN JOSEPH DALLA** 2/2 Pioneers, died on March 16, 1986 at R.G.H. Concord, after a long illness. Norm, a TPI, had suffered ill health in recent years.

He joined the Battalion at Kapooka and by a happy coincidence was there when his daughter Robyn was born in Wagga — his home town.

Norm was a quiet, strong character, a thorough gentleman, and was liked and respected by all in "C" Company, in which he served throughout the war.

These qualities endeared Norm to all with whom he came in contact, and a large group of his ex-work mates showed their regard by attending his funeral. This gesture was much appreciated by Norm's wife, Poppy.

The Association was represented by Bob Lee and Gavin Todd, who expressed condolences on behalf of all Norm's Pioneer mates.

— MAX LAW, Welfare Officer

## TOUR OF BROKEN HILL

by Marea McKay 2/2

Our trip to Broken Hill left Sydney Central Railway 1.40 p.m. Monday 28th April. Those travelling included president Bob Dixon and wife Jean, Hon. Sec. Max and Peg Herron, Treas. Vic Whiteley and wife Peg, George and Joyce Walker, Bob and Joan Lake, Jim and Ruth Rhodes, "Apples" and Marea McKay, and the girls Mary Lloyd and Jane Hope. Bob Lake helped enliven our train trip in his usual inimitable style, with a little help from Mary.

Broken Hill offered a fine welcome in the person of our genial and well informed Charter Bus driver Joe Arnold. A tour of the town followed, Joe was ably assisted by Ron Adams Reg. Manager N.S.W. Dept. of Industrial Development, whose help was invaluable in conjunction with Joe. We saw places not visited by the general tourist and both were unstinting in giving their time to ensure our enjoyment.

We visited the New Broken Hill Mine and had a preview of mine workings. Thursday, eight intrepid members of our party went down Delprats Mine to experience underground working. It became more exciting than expected as they were detained one and a half hours extra due to a faulty electric fuse. Mary helped to while away the time.

A trip to White Cliffs was a rewarding and interesting experience. We had a tour of an underground home, visited the Solar Energy Plant, and the Opalised Plesiosaur, plus a trip to Wilcannia.

Another highlight of our tour was a visit to the Menindee Lakes Area, with lunch at the Weir, prepared and cooked by Joe Arnold, who turned out to be a gourmet cook. A tour of Kinchega National Park, plus a visit to Tandou, an Irrigational Property of 45,000 acres was an eye opener and a fitting end to a very enjoyable day.

Next tour was to Silvertown, a Ghost Town with many historical buildings, which made camera bug Max very happy. Another place of interest in Broken Hill was the Palace Hotel both outside and the art work inside, especially the ceiling painting, a couple of our party enjoyed the horizontal view. Our last day took in more of the town, the Silver Tree and the Art at the Civic Centre plus the Art Gallery and the Arab Mosque, in all a wonderful tour. Thanks must go to Peg and Max Herron and Vic Whiteley for their hard work to make our trip so memorable.

## BUS CHARTER BROKEN HILL

The mini-bus chartered for the tour as reported by Marea McKay above was operated and driven by the owner, Joe Arnold.

Joe is an excellent operator and his commentary of the various places we visited was terrific and I would personally recommend him to anyone. He will do trips around Broken Hill or he will go to Mildura, Adelaide, Barossa Valley or anywhere and for the Pioneers, he would even come to Sydney.

For further enquiries contact Joe Arnold, phone (080) 88 3113 or write to P.O. Box 763, Broken Hill 2880.

MAX HERRON, Secretary

## WELFARE NOTES

**PETER CRAIG** down from Blue Mountains for a few days in Concord Hospital.

**HARRY MONTAGUE** has his ups and downs but can still tell a good story. Monty advised that Pat Laughren is in hospital at Nambour and visitors passing through would be welcome.

**CASEY BROWN** writes in to say he was saddened to hear of the passing of Curly O'Connor as he was a good pal of Casey's throughout the war years. Casey said he was a really good footballer and remembers the day they celebrated together Curly's twenty first birthday at a place called Rehovet — and a good time was had by all.

— MAX LAW, Welfare Officer

## STOP PRESS

Three very good reports of touring around have been sent to the Secretary by Eric Lindsay 2/2, Jack McGregor 2/2 and Allan McInnes 2/2 but unfortunately space was at a premium in this issue so will definitely print them in the next Pioneer News — thanks anyway, fellows.

## DUBBO REUNION

SATURDAY, SUNDAY 20th/21st SEPT., 1986  
SEE INSERT AND CUT OUT SLIP



# PIONEER NEWS

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President: **BOB DIXON**

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## LETTER FROM ABROAD

From **MARY and ALLAN McINNES**, England, 25th April, 1986

To the Editors:

Anzac morning, and even though separated from the Pioneers by some 13,000 miles I am with you in thought and hope it is another most successful day for you in Sydney. I could not let the day go without good wishes to all Association members.

Mary and I have seen and done a tremendous amount of things since leaving Aussie — the two weeks in France we covered 3,200 kms. then five days in London and have been here in Hornsea for a week and with the car it is easy to see England, as roads are good and distances small.

The following is a couple of highlights of the trip, which I thought might be interesting to you and others.

Firstly travelling in France with son, Adam, on a wet bleak day with even a little snow falling as we approached Arromanches on the Normandy coast and looking down from the cliffs onto the beaches we saw the remnants of Mulberry Harbour, the pre-fabricated concrete sections built in Britain and towed across the Channel to form this harbour, which made possible the D Day landing on June 6, 1944. It was amazing to see them still there after forty two years, withstanding the pounding seas. Then down on the beach we visited the museum where we viewed models and plans of the whole operation and the type of equipment used was revolutionary at the time, as a mobile harbour had to this date never been attempted.

### FRANCE & EUROPE LIBERATED

The whole planning of the operation and attack was portrayed in three-dimensional form on screen with beach positions and troop landings at the same time a sound and light effect of the enormous naval and aerial bombardment. This was accompanied by commentary in English and other sessions in French, which revealed a complete and accurate understanding of the operation and ended with a tribute to the participants and a hope that this action which liberated France and Europe would never be forgotten.

### VICTORIAN TRIP

by **Jack and Dot McGregor**

We have been on a longish caravan trip through Victoria via the Hume Highway, turning west to Kilmore — Ballarat; then up to Bendigo and south to Warrnambool. Then along the Great Ocean Road to Geelong and thence on the Princes Highway through Melbourne-Sydney and home.

We had not covered this area for many years and thought it was time to have another look, and then perhaps if all goes well we will go north next year.

Dot and I attended a very good Anzac Service at Kangaroo Flat War Memorial conducted by the Kangaroo Flat RSL Sub Branch. Kangaroo Flat is a suburb of Bendigo.

The whole trip was trouble free and we travelled about 4,500 kms although the Victorian weather could have been better.

We will be attending the Dubbo Reunion as brother Roy has made our booking through Peg for a van site for Roy and Marion, and Dot and myself. So we will see you there.

Regards to Peg, and all the other workers — Bob, Monty, Max, Vic and Lakey.

We felt very moved by the experience made valid by personal and regimental mementoes, colours and photographs in the museum. I was personally affected and reminded of our similar operations, on a much smaller scale, of course, at Tarakan and Balikpapan.

The French had not finished with us however, as we were taken to another theatre where we were actually shown the war film of the whole operation. Terrible casualties were suffered, especially on the American sector. This film showed Mulberry Harbour completed with wharf and road sections made to adjust to the huge rise and fall of the tide and towed into place, fully functional with the absolute necessary supplies going forward to Allied troops. This museum run by the French Government presents a genuine tribute to Britain and her allies — such tributes are rare between France and Britain, but this one was genuine and moving.

### CABINET WAR ROOMS VISITED

Secondly, in London we visited "The Cabinet War Rooms" which were opened to the public only two years ago. These rooms are situated near Whitehall and located ten feet underground. Three rooms were used firstly in 1938 and increased to sixty eight by the end of 1939. Here the 1939-45 war was planned and the rooms housed: The War Cabinet, Chiefs of Staff, Planning Staff, Joint Intelligence Committee and the BBC Broadcasting.

The rooms have all been restored to their wartime appearance and a very large map room still has maps, relevant to the day of the Japanese surrender, on the wall. All important personnel had sleeping accommodation in their rooms, including that used by Churchill.

Weather is lousy at the moment and spring is very late arriving — trees still in leaf, tulips not in flower, fields of daffodils everywhere in full bloom and the landscape green and very beautiful — the beach here is poor but just north there are some lovely beaches. Cheerio, and see you all at Dubbo in September.

### SICK LIST

**BOB DIXON**, President, had two short spells in hospital in July, and although he kept a low profile, he did receive a few visitors, just to keep him in good form.

Welcome home Bob, but hope you stay there as we find it difficult to keep up with you.

**BOB BURNSIDE** 2/1, was back in Concord Hospital and this time for a long awaited hernia operation. He is home now and looking good.

**REG WELLS** 2/1, was admitted to Concord Hospital and we were promptly informed by Mrs Wells, for which we are grateful.

On visiting Reg, I found him just two beds away from President Bob (2/2) so I was able to introduce them to each other.

Reg was a "Don R" (Despatch Rider) in those good old days, but now he is retired. Since my visit Reg has returned home, so hope we hear more from him.

**BILL JOLLIE** 2/1, and Association Senior Vice President spent some time in Westmead Hospital for an operation for a nerve problem in the neck. He reports that it was not too bad as he had plenty of visitors, including President Bob Dixon, Kath and Jim Field and a number of bank officer friends. There was a small story of hospital routine being disrupted because of Bill having too many visitors at the one time.

— **MAX LAW**, Welfare Chairman

## DUBBO REUNION 1986

At the time of writing in August two hundred applications have been received for the Country Reunion at Dubbo.

Upon arriving at your place of accommodation enquire at the reception desk for an envelope containing tour maps and literature on Dubbo if not already in your room.

We ask the co-operation of all members with cars to seek out and look after those members coming by train. At each place of accommodation a transport officer will be appointed who is responsible for co-ordinating transport available.

### PROGRAMME

**Saturday, 20th September, 1986**

9.30 a.m. Tour of Dubbo by car

5.00 p.m. Wreath Laying Ceremony — Form up at Soldiers Memorial Darling Street.

6.00 p.m. Refreshments at the RSL Club.

7.00 p.m. Reunion Dinner at the RSL Club.

**Sunday, 21st September, 1986**

9.30 a.m. Car Tour departs RSL car park, train people organised into cars. Bring own lunch. Members at the hotel will be supplied at cost with sandwiches and a cup of tea, if needed.

7.00 p.m. Farewell dinner at RSL Club after drinks at 6 p.m.

## REMEMBRANCE WALL FOR RATS OF TOBRUK

North Bondi RSL Sub-Branch club building will celebrate its 25th birthday on March 31, 1987.

Because of the fact that when the Sub-Branch was originally formed in 1944, many of the members were indeed "Tobruk Rats" the building became known as "Tobruk House".

The new building was opened by the then Governor of New South Wales, Sir Eric Woodward on March 31 1962.

To commemorate the opening, the Libyan Government presented the Sub-Branch with four stones taken from the ramparts of Tobruk.

These are set in a frame and are on permanent display in the Club.

To commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the building, a joint committee of the Sub-Branch and club decided to move these stones and place them as a centrepiece on a wall which will be known as "The Tobruk Wall".

Around the stones will be placed the plaques of Naval ships, Army and Air Force units who served there during the siege.

At this stage plaques have been collected from HMA ships — Stuart, Waterhen, Vendetta, Vampire, Napier, Nizam and Parramatta, who all served on the "Beef and Spud" run.

It is history that three RAF Squadrons and two South African Squadrons operating out of Sidi Barrani assisted in the cover of Tobruk and ships doing the "Spud" run.

The 2/1st Pioneer Btn will be placing a plaque on the wall and all members of the Association are invited to attend.

In these troubled times with Colonel Gaddafi supposedly making threats against the War Cemetery in Tobruk, the importance of establishing this wall grows daily.

— "Reveille" July 1986.

### BRISBANE REUNION

**SATURDAY, 25th October at 11.30 a.m.**

**at the residence of John Hunt**

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

**Telephone: (07) 358 4349 by Oct. 17th**



# from the MAIL BAG

Editor: BOB LAKE



Hello Members. Another issue of Mail Bag with quite a few letters, a lot confirming their bookings for Dubbo, while others are confirming their support for the battalion history which is being processed at this time.

- **BOB GINNANE** 2/2 Leumeah enclosed a cheque for Dubbo, with a request for accommodation close to the RSL, no doubt Peg Herron has looked into this already, Bob is a diabetic and has to watch his walking and travelling habits.
- **NOEL TREFONI** 2/1 Toongabbie with a deposit for the history in the process, closes with best wishes and will see us at Dubbo.
- **JOHN TOOKER** 2/1 Chatswood with his application for Dubbo, John has been in touch with Gordon Osborn and we all look forward to renewing acquaintance with John at Dubbo.
- **LARRY ROBSON** 2/1 Waratah with his deposits for Jack and Jean Bertram plus himself for Dubbo, Jack Bertram also states that things are moving in regard to the T.P.I. for Jock Russell, closes with best wishes and will see all at Dubbo.
- **TOM GAISFORD** 2/2 Balwyn Vic. with an interesting letter to the secretary, thanking him for inclusion on the mailing list. Tom was an ex Tank Attack before the 2/2, which was 50% VX and 50% NX and owing to illness in his family is disappointed at not being able to attend our get-togethers and renew his acquaintance with his old NSW mates. He thinks that he and Snowy Condon are about the only survivors of the VX mob, and as they are both on the 2/2 committee meet-up about six times a year. Tom quotes "To assist our association offset the cost of adding his name to the mailing list enclosed find cheque" and closes with best wishes to all members. Thanks for the letter Tom, and maybe we will have your company at some future time.
- **D.O. (MICK) SMITH** 2/2, now at Allambie Heights with an interesting letter to the Association, Mick was an original 2/22 Batt for 2 years, before becoming a 2/2 Pioneer at Kapooka in 1942. Mick goes to Melbourne most Anzac Days and marches with his first Batt 2/22 which explains his absence from Redfern. In reference to the article published in the last issue by Snowy Todd, and claims that the river mentioned, the Busu was in fact the Markham River, and the point where they crossed, Kirlands Dump. Mick sends regards to all Pioneers, particularly B. Coy with special enquiry regarding Perc Robinson, and informing Perc that he has had a visit from Ben Hughes. Your suggestion of the mailing list has been discussed previously, and (1) its too big a job as we have 1000 on the 2/1 Pioneer List, and 2/2 Pioneers have 800 names. (2) Also our mailing list is in Post Code order and not alphabetical. (3) Some members have in the past stated their name and address not be published. Many thanks for the letter Mick, and your cheque with the treasurer doing good.
- **CEC SLOGGETT** 2/2 Gunnedah with a short note on the death of Tom Skye ex 2/2 near Tamworth. Many thanks for the information Cec, however this chap was not on our mailing list, so have no knowledge of same. Cec and May have arranged their own booking at Dubbo and at time of writing were enjoying the cold weather at home, a log fire that has not gone out for weeks. Normally they go north at this time of year, but decided to try the home front for a change. Closes with best wishes and will see us at Dubbo.
- **ERN LUNN** 2/2 Dubbo, writes expressing his sorrow at the passing of Norm Dalla in the last issue. He shared a tent with Norm and Don Lawson when he joined the Battalion at Trinity Beach and as they were older than Ern, made him welcome as another Pioneer, as Ernie quotes they were "Bunyuk Bargoose".
- **TOM WALLACE** 2/1 Rankin Park, with a thank

you for the back issues of Pioneer News, he assumes that it was Jack Griffiths that forwarded his address as he spent Anzac Day with Griffo and Dick Seddon. Apparently Tom has a bit of a problem and by the time you read this, he will have had his operation (a rebore) and hopes to give Griffo and Coy a run for his money next Anzac Day.

- **MISS KAY SENTER** with a thank you for the assistance given her in her quest for information of her grandfather Tom Senter. Kay has received letters and photos from Mr Stannard and for these she is truly grateful. Kay has since started work at RSL Headquarters on the Reveille and offers us her assistance if we need it. She also requests that she be placed on our mailing list and this has been attended to. Many thanks for your letters Kay, and we wish you well.
- **DON LINTON** 2/2 Tuncurry, with a letter informing us of his new address, after 38 years at Chatswood has now gone north. Both he and Nancy were given a great send off at Epping RSL. In attendance were Bill Robertson, Bill Lewis, Russ Harrison, "Snowy" Gavin Todd, Carl Ball and their ladies. Very early in their residence at Tuncurry they ran into "Snowy" Dodd Don Coy who is one of the identities of Tuncurry and not on the mailing list, this has been attended to, and back issues have been sent. Closes with best wishes and that as usual he enjoyed the March and Reunion and is still so happy at the good attendance of troops on this day.
- **WAL BAIRD** 2/2 Collarenebri with a letter that they have booked their own housing at Dubbo, both Wal and Barbara are well known in Dubbo. At time of writing they are in the throes of drought, they had received 8 ml of rain which did them no good at all although the wheat belt further east had some wonderful falls. Wal encloses his usual sub to the Association and closes with best wishes to all.
- **LEN PREEDY** 2/2 Shenton Park, W.A. writes that at their last meeting over in Perth, Dubbo was discussed and Len was hopeful of some members however, it was not to be. Len thanks Norma and Eric Lindsay for their efforts to get him to Dubbo, but sorry he cannot make it. Their next meeting will be on the 29th August at Anzac House, Perth and a good roll up is expected. Ken Kidd missed last meeting having had a spell in hospital, Alby Machen missed the last meeting as did May Hobley from Bremer Bay. Closes with best wishes from he and wife Joy.
- **HARRY SPREDBOROUGH** 2/1 Queensland with a note that he and Jean have decided to motor down to Dubbo in preference to a coach, as he said, you really need a car when you get there. They will take their time and travel the Newell Highway, possibly taking a couple of days. Closes with best wishes to all and will see us all at Dubbo.
- **JOE KYFFIN** 2/1 Reservoir, with his deposit for Dubbo and also for Tom McNaughton. Joe inquires as to whether Wally and Marie Parsons are attending, the answer is yes, they will be present. Joe quotes that Maids is OK health wise, her eyes are not better but she doesn't complain and he helps as much as she will let him. He is also getting along OK, though he still gets the odd giddy turn and double vision.
- **BRICKY WALL** 2/1 Point Clare with a note that he has had a week up at Grafton to attend a wedding. He stayed at a motel for three nights at Grafton then stayed with the bride's parents for a few days. A nice wedding and plenty of sunshine. Bricky has been doing his usual walks and can collecting, he did have in chaff bags stamped down tins over seven feet high, and as he quotes, that's a lot of tin flattening down. As a result of the "old blokes" efforts a cheque to the value of \$61.16 was enclosed to help "money bags" keep his books out of the red. I think we should all show our appreciation to Bricky because I've lost actual count of the number of

times he has forwarded these cheques all by his walking and collecting of cans for recycling, and in his 80th year, "we salute you".

- **JACK GRIFFITHS** 2/1 Mayfield with a letter of regret at the passing of Ern Haydon, made known to him per a phone call from Max Law. However, in the conversation Max spoke of the Battalion History being compiled by Max Law and Gordon Osborn so with no further doubts, has enclosed \$15 as deposit on behalf of Dick Seddon, Jack Bertram and himself. They are the only blokes he has seen so far, and quotes, unfortunately the Pioneers up that way have thinned out somewhat. Griffo has also missed out on his annual trip to the Grafton Cup, his daughter has been transferred to Raymond Terrace High School, so consequently no Grafton Cup and no North Coast Pioneer get-together this year. Closes with best wishes and will see us at Dubbo.
- **CHRIS RYALL** 2/2 Cowan through the pen of Geoff Lloyd who passed on his address, writes a thank you to Max for the back issues. Charles fills in his story with the following. Being of somewhat retiring nature, who never did anything remarkable before, during or after the service, doubts whether many would remember him. Joined A Coy at Trinity Beach in 1944, went to Balikpapan and Tarakan where he was in the orderly room. Worked in a construction industry after the war and due to health was retired at the age of 57. Has been well cared for since by a devoted and capable wife Nola, whom he claims, is the only woman that would put up with him. They have a son and daughter. A daughter, born at the time of Tarakan Landing was unfortunately killed in a car accident on Christmas Day 1970. He occupies his time with interest in Genealogy and local history of several centres in NSW and Vic. Charles brings his letter to a close with soothing thoughts to his old VFL barracker mates who find it difficult to accept the Sydney Swans success and with best wishes for the continued success for the high quality Pioneer News and enclosed a cheque for the treasurer, and we thank you for a very informative and newsy letter and look forward to perhaps making your acquaintance sometime in the near future.
- **MICK PUNTON** 2/1 Padstow per pen of wife Margaret with a cheque for the treasurer and the news that Mick has finally retired from work. He has had two heart attacks, the last one just before Christmas, so he has finally seen the light and taken heed of Margaret's pleas. May we offer our congratulations to you both, but I doubt that you will lose your secretary's job, Margaret. I think you have had that just that little bit too long.
- **PAT MACFARLANE** widow of Ron 2/1 with a cheque and a request that the Pioneer News be continued to be posted and a special hello to Monty and she hopes that he is keeping well and continues to do so.
- **CLANCY SCHOLDS** 2/1 Rutherford with a short note, he also has been talking to Jack Griffiths and thinks that the History is a good idea. Clancy has sent his \$5 deposit for same, and tells that he will be in Casino for the first week in August, and will mention same to the Kyogle boys, he thinks that there are still ten or twelve of the boys up there. Wishing us much success and will see us all at Dubbo.
- **DORRIE LONG** 2/1 widow of the late Bob Long with a thank you for the news, she really enjoys reading same and seeing the old familiar names. Dorrie wishes us all success at Dubbo, this town brings back fond memories for her, as their marriage bans were placed on the Camp Notice Board 46 years ago in August 1940. Dorrie has found Legacy a great help in the years since Bob died, and recommends to all widows to join and participate, it helps so many of the ones who have problems.

• **SUE MALCOLM** 2/5 A.G.H. Coffs Harbour, with a cheque for the treasurer and the news that she and Vera Hamilton were coming to our reunion in Dubbo. Both nursing sisters sailed on the Johan de Witt with the 2/1 Pioneers and have been attending our reunions for many years. Looking forward to seeing you both in September.

• **MAREA MCKAY** wife of Chris, 2/2, wrote from Murwillumbah where she and "Apples" have been spending their winter trip. They arrived in June, and staying until end of August, before going on to Dubbo for the country reunion. Had a surprise visit from Renee and Tom Wood, 2/2, of Orient Point who were also holidaying in the district. They were all enjoying the bowling and the lovely weather.

• **RAY EYRE** 2/1 of Noraville and a new member to the Association. Ray was an original member of 2/1, but left the battalion through ill-health before they left for the Middle East. Later rejoined with another unit. He and his wife, Meg, are joining us at Dubbo and we welcome them to our ranks. Your name has gone on our mailing list, Ray, for future issues.

• **HARRY YOUENS** 2/2, from Essendon, Vic. with the news that he would like to attend the country reunion in Dubbo. Have placed your name on our mailing list, Harry, and glad to welcome you to our association. Trust you are enjoying your holiday up in the Sunshine Coast and looking forward to meeting you in September.

• **JIM MURNANE** 2/2, from Horsham, Vic. with an application for the reunion and he and his wife, Ev, will be joining us in September. We also welcome you to the association, Jim, and copies of "Pioneer News" will be sent regularly in future.

• **JACK NILON** 2/1 of Murrumburrah informing us of a trip to Canberra Hospital for an operation and all going well he and Joan will be in Dubbo for the reunion. Hope you are well on the road to good health, Jack, and trust to see you both in Dubbo.

• **VERA SIMPSON** widow of Bill 2/1, with a cheque for the treasurer for which we thank you. Vera sends her good wishes to all members of the Committee for the work they do for the Association and hopes all may enjoy good health for many years to come. Nice to hear from you, Vera, and your kind wishes are very much appreciated.

• **TED JENSON** 2/1 Doonside, writes a short note of thanks for the work being done for the Dubbo reunion and he and Marie will be attending. Sorry to see brother Allan isn't joining us this time.

• **CLARRIE PIKE** 2/1 son of the late member of the same name with a cheque and states that he still receives the News OK, this young man turned up at Redfern so many years ago, made himself known and has been receiving the paper ever since. Many thanks for the cheque and good wishes, keep smiling and keep sober.

• **MRS MAY OLLIFFE** replies on behalf of herself, Colleen, Greg and families with a thank you for the expressions of sympathy offered her at the demise of her husband and father, Joe, on the 19th May 1986.

• **MEL NAYLOR** 2/2 Beaufort Vic. with a cheque for the treasurer and he encloses his best wishes to all, thank you Mel, there is not much chance of you getting writers' cramp old mate.

• **HARRY HAMER** 2/1 Gosford writes in to say he will be at the Dubbo Reunion and wishes to thank the Secretary for sending the past two years of back numbers of Pioneer News. Harry states he sat up till 12 o'clock catching up on the news.

• **BILL RUSSELL** 2/2 Tamworth sent in the necessary application form for Dubbo and says unfortunately wife Nell will not be able to attend.

Work has been hectic lately as Bill is a floor sanding contractor, and states he is lucky to have so much work considering the problems some people are having in relation to employment.

Bill sees Ted Carter at times and when he heads out to Gunnedah he always calls on Cec and May Sloggett and this visit always seems to be around Reunion time.

Bill states he is looking forward to seeing all the fellows at Dubbo, as being isolated in the country does not have a chance to see too many Pioneers which is why he considers the Country Reunions are terrific.

# WESTERN AUSTRALIAN TRIP

By ERIC LINDSAY 2/2

The following is a brief report on our recent trip to Western Australia, which Max Herron asked me to send along.

The trip to Peterborough was the same as when we did it on the way up to the "Centre", but to Ceduna you pass through Iron Knob with its massive mountains of iron, then mallee scrub and wheat paddocks.

From Ceduna to Cocklebidy across the Nullabor with many scenic spots to view the Great Australian Bight. Then passing Madura and continuing on to cross the Nullabor reaching Norseman, which has the richest gold mining operation in Australia.

Then south to Esperance with its Pink Lake and pass on to Albany, Pemberton, via Renmark, which is the heart of the Karri timber country, where we saw the sixty one metre high Gloucester tree. We then visited Augusta, the most south west point of Australia. On to Margaret River in the wine growing areas where we saw the wine being produced and bottled.

Through to Bunbury, a beautiful seaside resort and then on to Fremantle, and at last we arrive in Perth, beautifully set with parks. Of course we went on a cruise on the Swan River and visited Royal Perth Yacht Club and to see the America Cup and

Australia III in Fremantle and to see all the yachts practising for 1987.

Len Preedy 2/2 came out to our motel to see us and we spent a few hours over a cup of coffee and in passing he stated he may be attending the Dubbo Reunion.

## WORLD LOBSTER CAPITAL

From here we went north to Geraldton, the lobster capital of the world, and what a pleasant place. You can guess what we had for dinner, and my big wish would be to live in a city where a lobster could be delivered to your door, as at Geraldton.

We visited the Point More Lighthouse and the Francis Xavier Church then travelled south to New Marcia and the Benedictine Monastery, which is quite a special sight as it consisted of such beautiful buildings.

Then across to see the earthquake ruins at Micking and to the ghost town of Coolgardie and Kalgoorlie, where we went down a mine which had been used for gold mining and found it most interesting, but not the life for me.

From here we commenced our trip back to Coonabarabran and would thoroughly recommend a trip to Western Australia to all Pioneers.

## VALE — BERT RAYNER

The following details were given to Bill Hoffman by Margaret Rayner.

Bert Rayner was born in Drake NSW and gained his education at Casino Public School. He later trained and rode horses in picnic races in Casino and Sydney areas. He was employed by the Cecil Russell stables and became friendly with the late Tommy Woodcock, trainer of Phar Lap.

Bert returned to Kyogle and worked in the timber industry until June 1940 when he enlisted and then trained at Randwick, Greta and Dubbo.

Eventually he joined the 2/1st Pioneer Btn in Palestine and after his return to Australia he transferred to the Royal Australian Engineers, seeing service in the Islands.

On discharge Bert joined the staff of the Kyogle Shire Council and became a bridge carpenter foreman.

Bert passed away on 25th May 1986 and the following Pioneers attended his funeral: Jack Shearman, Allan Black, Jim Hall, Jack Martin, Toby Hale, Cecil Blanch, Ted Felton, Harry Mowbray, Percy Murray and Bill Hoffman.

Apologies were received from Bruce McNaughton, John and Mollie Hunt, Phil Cramsie and Mavis and the late Joe Blanch.

The "Rats of Tobruk" Association was represented by Norman Cooper of Lismore.

Margaret Rayner has written to the Secretary and wishes to thank all Pioneers for their expressions of sympathy in the loss of her husband. She has tried to write and thank everyone, but if she has missed anyone she would like this to be accepted as her personal thanks.

• **JACK MORGAN** 2/2 Wagga with a short note to say he will be at the Dubbo Reunion as he is fortunate enough to have relatives living a few miles out of town. Jack sends regards to all Pioneers.

• **"SNOW" VICKERY** 2/1 of Goulburn, per pen of wife Gert, is dusting the cobwebs off the van ready for the trip to Dubbo for the Reunion. The van has not been used since Nelson Bay, so the "daddy long legs" have had a field day. Will be good to see you both again.

That concludes the Mail Bag for this issue, there is not a lot for me to say at this time, I've had another birthday and another wedding anniversary this month August, and it looks like the wheels have fallen off my bloody football team, but I've got broad shoulders, and I hope still a little confidence left, so till I see you all at Dubbo, I'll just say so long for now.

— LAKEY

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1985-86

My report for this year 1985-86 is one of deep feeling and concern. Firstly, let me say that our organisation, to my way of thinking, has lost none of its closeness. It is most important that we, as an ex-army Association, must, and I repeat, must be greatly concerned for our members in as many directions as possible. As our age bracket increases this becomes more evident and one has only to follow the trend of thought in letters to Pioneer News to see that the closeness of army days is not lost, but seems to be needed more as age moves on.

We must foster this as much as possible. We are concerned and saddened by loss — particularly through the passing on of members, natural as it is. We are concerned with sickness of members and we are mindful of the effort and thought being given to this aspect by our welfare officers.

The every day affairs of the Association have been attended to with conscientious concern. Our financial angle is sound in the hands of Vic Whiteley, secretarial duties in the capable hands of Max Herron, with George Walker assisting. The social side of the Association is being well attended to by Gordon Finlay and publicity in the hands of Jim Field. Max Law and Jack Collis are to be commended for the manner in which they are carrying on their positions as welfare officers. All of these officers are aided by those who constitute the Committee and are ably assisted by you, the members, who offer and assist when help is needed.

Added to the above is the over-riding magnitude of the Association voice "Pioneer News". To our joint Editors, Bob Lake and Max Herron, many thanks for a painstaking job well done.

Social wise the Association has been busy with our annual wreath laying ceremony, Anzac reunion, mini-reunion at Nelson Bay and other get-togethers to help strengthen our organisation.

## 2/1st PIONEER UNIT HISTORY

Great thought is being given to the compiling of the 2/1 Pioneer history. It is without a doubt an involved undertaking but I know that with those who are in charge, and those who are assisting, it will be accomplished.

With great pleasure, on behalf of all Pioneers, I would like to pass on to our womenfolk our thanks and indebtedness for their wonderful assistance throughout the years. We thank them all — in particular Peg Herron to whom we are more than indebted. Well done ladies.

As an Association I know we are second to none. Further, I know that with the same effort given to the coming year, success will be ours.

Finally, I wish to add my personal thanks to all who have assisted me during the year, and I sincerely thank you.

— BOB DIXON, PRESIDENT

# "THE PIONEERS"

Unit History of the 2/1st Aust. Pioneer Btn., 2nd A.I.F.

**At the Management Committee Meeting of March this year, the Unit history of the 2/1st Pioneer Btn. was discussed and it was resolved to seek the support of Lt-Colonel Gordon Osborn, Association Patron, in heading a team to write the history of the 2/1st Pioneers. On being contacted Gordon agreed to the request, for which members are most appreciative.**

As this year of 1986 is the 40th anniversary of the formation of the Association, it was considered a fitting tribute to commence the 2/1st Pioneer Btn. unit history as a commemorative gesture.

In May, the unit history committee was formed where the following accepted positions:-

Author and Editor ..... Gordon Osborn  
Sub-Editor ..... Max Law  
Publisher ..... Max Herron  
Finance ..... Vic Whiteley  
Distributing ..... George Walker

Author Gordon Osborn submitted to the Committee that the unit history consist of the following chapters:-

Chapter 1 — Raising and training in Australia — May to Sept. 1940.  
Chapter 2 — To the Middle East, Palestine and Egypt (Amiriya) — Sept to Dec. 1940.  
Chapter 3 — With the 6th Division — "Up the Desert".  
Chapter 4 — The Siege of Tobruk  
Chapter 5 — Palestine, Home and Preparing for New Guinea  
Chapter 6 — New Guinea, Aug. 1942-Sept. 1943 Btn. less D. Coy.  
Chapter 7 — Off again on its own — D. Coy to Milne Bay Aug 1942.  
Chapter 8 — Australia Oct. 1943-June 1945  
Chapter 9 — Balikpapan, June-Dec 1945  
Chapter 10 — The Medical Story and the Band  
Chapter 11 — Disbandment  
Epilogue — The Comforts Fund, Association and Pioneer News

At this stage the Committee are aiming at having the unit history on sale by the end of 1987.

## FILL OUT ORDER FORM

An order form is printed below for members to fill out and send to the Treasurer with a deposit of \$5. The number of orders received will determine the number ordered from the printer. This will constitute a limited edition as no further printing will be carried out.

Already orders have been placed by members of the Management Committee and some have even ordered extra copies for their grandchildren.

It is difficult to ascertain the exact cost of research and printing but the unit history committee are aiming to produce the book for \$20 plus postage.

If a member considers cutting out the order form spoils the Pioneer News he may elect to photocopy it or fill out the particulars on a separate piece of paper and send with deposit.

Members attending the Dubbo Reunion may obtain an order form from the Treasurer and pay his deposit of \$5 to him at the Reunion.

The unit history Committee would like to call on the assistance of all Pioneers in making this unit history a most interesting book which will appeal to all members as well as young people and future generations.

## ADD HUMOUR TO THE UNIT HISTORY

If any member can send in an article which would fit into any of the chapters listed or a story of any kind, humorous or serious, the Committee would be most grateful. This is a book for you — about you — therefore you should take this opportunity of being part of it. Most Unit Histories are rather dull, so here is your chance to make it a lively one.

Cast your mind back, dig up those letters, diaries, etc. Please treat this project as urgent. Needed are names, dates, platoons, company, ships, desert activity, places such as Tobruk, New Guinea, Milne Bay, Morotai, Balikpapan — activities at home — details no matter how small.

Secretary Max Herron, who carries out the dual role of co-editor and secretary of the association, has his hands full attending to these duties as well as mail for the Pioneer News so has requested that the unit history correspondence be directed as follows:

**1. ARTICLES for the unit history be sent to: Sub-Editor MAX LAW, 37 Solveig Crescent, Kareela, 2232.**

**2. ORDER FORM with deposit to be sent to Treasurer VIC WHITELEY, 20 Cairns Street, Riverwood, 2210.**

## NEWS ITEMS

**GWEN PETRICH**, wife of the late Vince was on my visiting list recently. Gwen had loaned me the extensive and very detailed diaries which Vince kept right through his war service.

Gwen is at the moment in Cairns with her son Bob and sent a card advising we can have a further loan of the diaries on her return. We are using them in our attempt to publish the 2/1st unit history.

**RITA TREFONI** 2/1 advises that husband Noel wishes to be remembered to all his friends. Although Noel has a hearing problem, he still gets out when he can and is a member of Wentworthville RSL. He is a committee member of the RSL and visits them frequently "just to keep them on their toes". He will be at the Dubbo Reunion with Rita.

**GEORGE "BLUEY" KELLY** 2/2, Mount Waverly was in contact with the Secretary and wished to be enrolled on to the Association. With wife Nell, he is also going to the Dubbo Reunion.

The Secretary has sent you back numbers of our unit newspaper so you will be able to catch up on all the happenings over the past two years. We welcome you and Nell to the fold George and hope you can make many new acquaintances at the Reunion.

— **MAX LAW, Welfare Chairman**

## LETTER TO SOCIAL SECRETARY

Dear Mr Finlay,

I can't tell you how pleased I was to see you at the Anzac Wreath Laying Service, and it was a great pleasure for me to speak to you about my Dad (Harry Allen) and learn a lot of things I never knew.

I was even more pleased to receive your letter with so much information in it. Thank you so much for your time and interest. I have read it all about ten times.

I never really had a chance to speak to Dad after the war as I was too young to really know what was going on, and Mum met him after the war and didn't know either. You are a vital link to my past and my history and I thank you again for that.

I will be very interested in the final result of the research you are doing on the 2/1st unit history, so please contact me if you need any help or for anything you think I may be able to do. In any case please let me know when the unit history is published.

Thank you again and I hope you and your family are well — best wishes to all.

— **Yours sincerely, LLOYD ALLEN**

## LAST POST

**ERN HAYDEN**, former corporal "B" Coy 2/1st and later W.O.II Royal Australian Regiment (S.A.) retired, passed away on 29th June 1986 in Adelaide and cremated on 3rd July at Centennial Park, Adelaide. No information to hand regarding Association members who may have attended the service, but it is known that members of the Royal Australian Regiment Association, Sth. Aust. Branch did attend.

The sympathies of our President and Association Committee were extended to Mrs Hayden and family.

**COLIN WILLIAM TONER** 2/1st passed away late July at Mermaid Beach (Gold Coast) Qld. and was cremated at Allambee Gardens. The Association is indebted to John Hunt, Brisbane in forwarding on the details and for representing the Association and conveying the sympathy of our members to Mrs Peg Toner.

Mrs Toner has since written a letter of thanks to John Hunt and appreciates the Secretary's offer to continue forwarding further issues of Pioneer News to her.

**HENRY RAYMOND (JOE) BLANCH**, transport driver, 2/1st, passed away at Beaudesert on 25th July and at the conclusion of Requiem Mass at St Thomas' Anglican Church, the cremation took place at Mt Thompson Crematorium on Monday 28th July.

We are grateful to John Hunt in forwarding the details. The Church service was attended by John and Mollie Hunt, Phil Cramsie and a good roll up from Kyogle Association members and surrounding areas. The church was filled to capacity, with a similar situation at the Crematorium. Pat and Nell Laughren came down from Nambour, Clancy Scholes from Noosa, where he was holidaying, and a good representation from Brisbane.

On behalf of all Pioneers, John Hunt extended to Mavis, the sincere sympathies of the Association and members.

**BRUCE MITCHELL** 2/1st, passed away on 17th May 1986 at Maitland Hospital.

Mrs Mitchell advised our Secretary that Bruce joined the 2/1st at Greta on 30th May 1940 and sailed with the unit to the Middle East where he was claimed by his brother and transferred to the 2/2 Machine Gun Battalion.

To Mrs Mitchell we extend our sincere sympathy in her sad loss.

**ALBERT RAYNER** 2/1st of Kyogle passed away at Greenslopes Hospital Brisbane on 28th May 1986 after a long illness.

**JAMES SMIDT** of Toowoomba Bay, Central Coast, passed away on 9th March and was cremated at Palmdale Crematorium. Our thanks to Ken Harrison of Long Jetty, who attended the service and assisted the family. Ken extended to the family the sympathy of the Association.

The news came too late for inclusion in the July issue of Pioneer News and we thank you Ken for informing us.

— **MAX LAW, Welfare Chairman**

## ORDER FORM — 2/1st PIONEER BTN. UNIT HISTORY

**Fill in particulars, cut out and enclose \$5 as deposit.**

Please reserve.....copy(ies) of "THE PIONEERS" and I enclose my cheque/money order (made out to 2/1-2/2 Pioneer Btn. Assoc.) as a holding deposit, agreeing to pay the balance when notified by the Pioneer News.

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

Address ..... Post Code .....

Signature ..... Phone ..... Date .....

Post Order with deposit to Treasurer

**VIC WHITELEY, 20 Cairns Street, Riverwood, N.S.W. 2210.**



# PIONEER

# NEWS

Phone: 759 5491

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

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## THE "RED EARTH" DUBBO REUNION, 1986

The troops began arriving Friday in preparation for the weekend to follow — some arrived earlier — they were the ones after promotion.

However, about 4 p.m. George Walker began the task of handing out honorary membership cards to the RSL for the weekend. These, I understand, were typed by the staff of the RSL. Thank you girls.

It's marvellous how many first stand off and survey the group, then murmur to themselves "I know that bloke". Five minutes later you'd think they had been seeing each other frequently instead of, in some cases, once in 40 years. Also many had turned up at a country reunion for the first time. In total, 208 happy people registered and attended the 2/1-2/2 Pioneer Reunion.

The first get-together was an unofficial bistro in the RSL. This was, for most, the first time some old friends had caught up with each other for some two years — apart from Anzac Day Reunions. The great atmosphere which started on that Friday evening was to continue throughout the whole of the weekend.

Saturday morning was at leisure and in the words of the Licensee of the Amaroo Hotel, Dubbo shopping centre was certainly crowded with the influx of Pioneers. Apart from the long purple and white ribbons supplied to the car drivers, some members and wives cut off short pieces and wore the ribbons on their clothing. This action caused a lot of interest from local people enquiring what the colours represented.

At 5 p.m. Saturday, Pioneers, their wives and friends assembled at the Soldiers Memorial in Darling Street for our wreath laying ceremony. The parade was called to attention for the playing of the National Anthem before President Bob Dixon opened proceedings with an address of welcome. He introduced Lieutenant Barry Nancarrow, Chaplain of the Dubbo Salvation Army. President Bob invited Lieut. Nancarrow to conduct the service, which was a most moving experience. Following upon the hymns and prayers, Lieut. Nancarrow's address was an inspiration to all, especially the younger people, with the message of the debt owed to those who fought and gave their lives in the cause of freedom. It was a message which could have been repeated in many other places.

With the parade at attention, wreaths were placed on the Memorial on behalf of both the 2/1 and 2/2 Pioneer Battalions by President Bob Dixon, Dubbo RSL by President M. Hatton and the nursing sisters by Vera Hamilton and Sue Malcolm.

President Bob Dixon recited the Ode, Last Post and Reveille were played (with the lowering and raising of Battalion banners) and with the parade at ease, the Chaplain was given a vote of thanks by Marshal for the ceremony Allan McInnes. The wreath laying ceremony concluded with the playing of the Australian National Anthem.

After the wreath laying, it was back to the RSL where name tags were issued by ladies of the Committee — "God bless 'em" — payment of fees for the weekend to Treasurer Vic Whiteley and then on into the auditorium to view a great variety of photos etc. accumulated since 1940 to the present day. These were arranged by our Publicity Officer Jim Field, and it certainly brought back many memories. Thanks once again, Jim. These little things all help to make the reunions such a success. Of course, there were others who had their own snaps and memorabilia and we also thank them for sharing them with us on this occasion.

After pre-dinner drinks had been partaken of, our MC for the evening Jack "Glido" Griffiths then called on the troops to be seated for the reunion dinner. Jim Field was then called on to say Grace, followed by the Loyal Toast by Dubbo resident Mick Bye. The toast to Our Guests was proposed by President Bob

and responded to by Mr Maurie Hatton, President of the Dubbo RSL Club.

Our Patron, Lieut. Col. Gordon Osborn, then gave thanks to our nursing sisters, Sue Malcolm and Vera Hamilton, for their continued support of our reunions over so many years, to our widows and other members of our Ladies Auxiliary for the work they carry out to ensure that everything goes smoothly on these reunion weekends and finally to the Reunion Organising Committee, whose dedication to duties make these reunions the success they invariably are.

After the main course, and before sweets were served, Gordon Osborn again approached the rostrum and addressed the gathering on the main subject of the evening, the 40th Anniversary of the Formation of the Association.

There were three more highlights of the evening. Firstly, Gordon commented on the number of members who were attending for the first time, including several new members and numbers who had travelled long distances to be present. Doug Waters from South Australia was then called forward to be presented with the award of a "green serviette" for the most distant traveller. Congratulations, Doug.

Next highlight was the presentation of Honorary Life Membership of the Association to committeeman George Walker for his years of service to the Association, not only for his years on the Committee, but for his assistance in planning and carrying out duties at all reunions, whether in Sydney or in the country. Congratulations George, on a job well done.

The third highlight was a most unusual one — the special presentation of a Certificate of Appreciation to Peg Herron for 30 years of dedicated service to our Association, side by side with her husband (and our secretary) Max. The presentation by Gordon Osborn completely surprised Peg and she received a standing ovation from all present. As a matter of interest, the secret planning for the presentation was not even told to Max until a few days prior to the dinner. Well done, Peg and many thanks.

Our Patron, Gordon Osborn, also spoke during his address to our gathering that a Unit History of the 2/1 Pioneers was in the process of being written and published and, at this stage, the Committee are aiming at having the history on sale by the end of 1987.

At the conclusion of Gordon's address, members settled down to finish their dinner, all this over a glass of wine or the Doctor's favourite, and much talk and laughter.

There appeared under one of the plates at the dinner a note — Congratulations, you've won the Jackpot. Guess who was the lucky winner — none other than Jean Bertram. Thank you to Bob Gales of Toukley for the lovely handworked supper cloth and Jean was thrilled with her prize. Bob unfortunately cannot travel far these days, so sent it along. Many thanks, Bob, for your kind thought.

Each time it seems harder and harder to mix around and see everyone, as the only time they are seated together is for meals or toasts. However, it was great to see so many new additions from both Units. Of the 2/2 gang, Bob and Nell Ginnane, Bill and Phoebe Mayne, Jim and Ev Murnane, Chris and Marea McKay and George Pickens. George came from Queensland where he was holidaying. Saw it in a paper, turned up and really enjoyed himself.

Got tied up with that rowdy bloke Jack (Split the Wind) Pearce, Jim Purse, Harry Shiels and the travelling "croweater" Doug Waters. Anyone who couldn't enjoy themselves with that crew would be hard to please. Don't know what Meg Eyre thought,

she found herself landed at the same table as that crew. A finer lot would be hard to meet anywhere. Had to say that as Ray Eyre and self (Larry Robson) were seated with them.

Of the 2/1 who turned up Nev and Phyl Andrews, Jack and Norma Painter, Jack and Kath Tooker, Bill and Dolly Anderson with daughter Sonia, Keith and Marj Boyle. Keith started his army days with the 2/8 Btn., but finished with the elite in 7 Pltn. with the late "Bluey" Eather. Tom Wallace turned up for the first time, with a nudge from "Glido" who made sure he got there by giving him a lift.

Ivan Pepper reckons Don Crooks will need a needle to shift him. All he had to do was ring Ivan and a lift was available. Jack Collis must have stirred Harry Hamer, who came with wife Glad. Lahey said Collis gave Hamer a map reading lesson so the pair could needle Bob about Manly. Both Tom and Harry have assured us they will be there next time.

Percy Fisk must have been bragging about our shows and he was able to entice his brother-in-law along — ex 2/30th Btn. George Croft and wife, Vi. I know they enjoyed themselves, so come again. Our Presso also had a first-timer along, but didn't tell too many. Welcome, Margaret, at least you were company for Jean and helped her keep the old fellow from playing up. Thank goodness there weren't any winds to mention, although he does get doors mixed up. On entering a door to the Gents, he wasn't satisfied with entering the next door like everyone else — Oh No! he has to have his own. Straight into the broom cupboard, and on the way out, you guessed it, into the broom cupboard again. Didn't know they had such a fascination.

Then again our old friend "Bluey" Kerslake thinks he's 27 instead of the other way round and tried windsurfing, resulting in a slight strain to the back. Don't you blokes ever learn.

Another visitor who enjoyed the show was Ena Hardy of Glen Innes, a cousin of John Hunt. John and Mollie were on their way home from holidays — started in Brisbane and did the round trip via, I think John said, Alice Springs and Broken Hill.

It's always pleasing to see the widows of our members turning up — Mary Lloyd, Betty Creasy and Bonnie Snudden. Bonnie's daughter and grand-daughters visited her at the picnic on Sunday.

The Wooloolga-ites Allan and Beulah Crute are expecting No. 1 grandchild shortly and we hope all goes well. Young Wendy Scholes along once again keeping an eye on Clancy and Irene. The old bloke plays up if you're not with him, Wendy. Hope you managed to make your fortune on the "pokies".

The reunion dinner finally came to a close and most members seemed to be happy to return to their place of accommodation to get some rest and get ready for the Sunday's outing to the Zoo. It had been a really wonderful evening and well worth the time and planning that had gone into it.

Sunday dawned fine and warm and by 9.30 a.m. most had been allotted transport at the RSL car park and were off to the Western Plains Zoo. It was a pleasant sight to find our efficient Committee were already in position at the "Australia" picnic ground and had our banners well sighted to direct other people to find space elsewhere. It was a great day with many red faces by nightfall. Those who were at the Dubbo Reunion in 1980 noticed improvements which had taken place at the Zoo and many groups were noticed strolling around the area inspecting the animals.

What a job Joan Lake and Olive Finlay did cooking meals for those billeted at the hotels, thank you ladies, while George Walker and Bob Lake looked after Dr Tooth's surgery and did a good job.

What a pity we didn't have cooks like Joan and Olive in the army. Our cooks weren't game to turn up. There motto was "Help wipe the smile off the soldiers face".

Everyone seemed to be in the thick of things — getting to see those they missed on Saturday. Allen Black (Dora) advised us that Dot and Peter Priest are in the throes of building a new home at Tin Can Bay, Qld., so were unable to be present and sent apologies. If the mob up your way, Pete, are anything like here you'd want Wormalds security on the job. Also Frank Gillian and Beryl are on their way to Perth. Wonder if he'll see Jack Munger and that crowd.

There was plenty of time for picnicking, but by 3.30 p.m. most began wending their way back to get ready for the evening at the RSL in the form of a farewell smorgasbord. Most of the ladies travelled together to have a last look around the Zoo and the men heading back to the TV's (with a can in their hand) to watch the football — Sydney Grand Final day.

The smorgasbord meal on the Sunday evening was super and soon it was time for a few last drinks and many farewells. Once again another very successful reunion and our thanks must go again to the organising committee and all who make these functions such a happy gathering. To our Social Secretary, Gordon Finlay and his team, congratulations on a job well done.

So until next time from the "Red Heart Reunion" we sign off with all the best for the remainder of 1986 and success and good health and happiness in 1987.

Keep sober, keep smiling, keep fit.

By reporters **LARRY ROBSON** and **MAX LAW**

## THANKS FOR DUBBO

From **KATHLEEN TOOKER**

Dear Max and Peg,

Now that we have returned from our weekend at Dubbo, attending the Reunion, I felt I must write and tell you what an enjoyable time Jack and I had. We had a pleasant trip home and the Dubbo accommodation left nothing to be desired, and most of all, we enjoyed the friendly company.

We arrived in Dubbo on the Friday afternoon and after settling in at our motel, Jack thought it would be good to take a walk to the RSL and see if we could meet some of the boys and their wives. We were greeted by John Gibson, who introduced us to his wife Josie and also Ivor and Ena Garnon and Harry and Gladys Hamer. They were so friendly to us and helped Jack to get to know some of the men he had not seen for forty years.

The service on Saturday afternoon at the Soldiers Memorial was an inspiring prelude to the weekend's activities. We did get to know many of the Association members as well as the two nursing sisters at the Reunion. Dinner on Saturday night and on Sunday again, thanks to the beautiful weather, we were able to once more meet and enjoy everyone's company.

Then on Sunday night we put the icing on the cake as we got to know one another even better. We were sorry to have to go around after such a short time and say our goodbyes. We do regret that we have not attended previous Reunions, but, God willing, we will not miss them again.

Our grateful thanks to Peg and Max Herron and all other members of the Committee who put such a lot of time and effort into organising the weekend and I know how much it was appreciated by all.

## INFORMATION WANTED

Lieut. Bradbury Griggs joined the 2/1 Pioneers in Queensland in 1945 with several other reinforcement officers. He sailed with the Unit to Balikpapan and took part in the ensuing campaign.

Would anyone who knew "Brad", particularly former members of his platoon, please pass such information or any stories of his activities, to the undersigned at 37 Solveig Crescent, Kareela, N.S.W. 2232, or direct to his sons John and Paul Griggs, Amaro Hotel, Macquarie Street, Dubbo.

During our recent gathering in Dubbo, I had the pleasure of meeting Paul and John, who run the Amaro Hotel. Their mother, Mrs Griggs, is the licensee.

If anyone is travelling through Dubbo, perhaps you could call and meet the family.

Brad Griggs died suddenly some five years ago.

— **MAX LAW**, Welfare Chairman

## MONDAY'S MINI REUNION

What can one say about the Dubbo reunion that had everything? One word only seems appropriate — "THANKS" — to the organisers and the workers who made it all possible. "THANKS" to all the people who came to make up the reunion. "THANKS" to the Dubbo RSL and others who provided the facilities and made us so welcome. But others will write in this issue about the reunion — all I want to do is tell you about a wonderful night we had — a mini reunion within a reunion.

On the Monday night, when the majority were home or on their way home, a group of die-hards were still ensconced in the Dubbo Caravan Park licking their wounds and anxiously waiting for a start to a final get-together barbecue. The start time was set down by someone with the necessary authority as 1400 hours sharp but prior to that, if one cared to look, little groups could be found here and there talking earnestly and partaking of a little of the hair of the dog.

Start time arrived and Pioneers commenced to assemble in proper fashion and Dubbo Caravan Park came alive with the sound of laughter and good comradeship. The girls made sure there was enough food to feed a battalion and the fellows produced eskies, casks, flagons, bottles and tinnies of all types to ensure nobody became dehydrated during the course of the exercise. There were forty-one of us left there at this stage and after a count of heads somebody said there were more 2/2nd in the group than 2/1st and this was the first time he could remember such a thing happening, as usually 2/1st always outnumbered 2/2nd at these type of gatherings. However the big thing was we were all there as friends and we were all Pioneers and members of our Association.

From the 2/1st: Max/Peg Herron, Laurie/Daphne Kelly, Vic/Peg Whiteley, Bob/Joan Lake — all HQ Coy. Mary Lloyd, Gordon/Olive Finlay, A. Coy, Snow/Gert Vickery, B. Coy, Jim/Ruth Rhodes, Jack/Marj Kerslake of C. Coy, Jack/Maisie Kempnick, George/Joyce Walker of D. Coy.

From the 2/2nds there were the McGregor brothers — Roy and Marion and Jack and Doris, D. Coy, Tom and Renee Wood, C. Coy, Dick and Heather Marshall, A and B Coy, Jim and Kath Field, HQ Coy, "Apples" and Marea McKay, C. Coy, Cec and May Sloggett, D. Coy, Brian Neiberding C. Coy, two friends from Victoria — Bill Mayne with Phoebe and Jim Murnane with Ev, original B. Coy men and eventual rice eaters, Reg Ward from the Artillery, and myself with Norma Daisy, D. Coy.

Well, what with Bobby Lake and his other mates and their home brew, the McGregor brothers slurping their way through a cask of rough red, Gordon Finlay with a flagon of something that tasted like muscat and tinnies and stubbies of just about every breed of beer ever brewed, the stage was set for us to win a few battles and win we did. To coin a phrase — the opposition didn't lay a glove on us all night.

Those of you who know "Apples" McKay know he likes to have a chat. Well it seems he recently painted the roof of his home with a protective coating of fibreglass and during the barbie he gave me a tile by tile description of how he did the job. With the aid of a bottle or two of red wine and a slurp or two of Gordon Finlay's plonk, I listened — perhaps not always intently, but by the end of the night the roof was finished. Well done, Apples!

Three-course Kelly had plenty of stories to tell and held the floor for hours. One thing I feel sure about — you fellows in HQ Coy, 2/1st must have had to fight hard to get a feed at times and I think your title of "three-course" for Kelly was no doubt well earned.

Our organiser, Max Herron and company, were obviously tired and was it any wonder when you think of all the work they had to do, both before and during the weekend. Still we all had a good night and it was a fitting finale to a great reunion. I was one of the last to bed and definitely the last to leave the Caravan Park the next day and with a headache to equal the gusto which which I partook of the whole weekend.

To sum up, I had a wonderful weekend and met a lot of people I haven't seen for a long time and I am looking forward to the next reunion whenever and wherever it may be held. Good luck and good health to all ex-pioneers and especially ex Don Company, 2/2nd.

— Reported by **CLEMM McDONALD**

## WHAT ABOUT...? DUBBO

Well, the Dubbo Reunion was a great show, and wonderful to see so many well remembered faces on parade.

It seems ironic — or does it, that the splendid Western Plains Zoo now replaces the old Dubbo Army Camp. It is difficult to visualise now the barren camp and training area. Where were the old campsites situated. Is the Zebra area evocative of one — or was it the elephant area?

I doubt that we were housed or fed as well as the animals are now. Covered in grass, gardens and trees makes one wonder where was the old dusty Pioneer area. Where were those wretched machine gunners located. Must have been where the Bengal Tigers are now. What about that little creek that ran through the camp. It must have been diverted into the splendid artificial lakes areas, now for ducks.

I wonder what the grand old first war diggers, who trained the new troops, would have thought of it all now. They probably saw us like inhabitants of the zoo.

What about leave in town? Beer and girls, and probably in that order. Beer was plentiful, but girls were in short supply, although some of us were lucky!

What about Friday and Saturday evenings of pay week? Really something in Dubbo town, as the sleepy little town suddenly assumed the appearance and tension of a wild west town. All troops who could get a leave pass brought their five bob a day pay packet to squander in pubs and cafes, hopefully with girls.

What about the settling of feuds with the machine gunners, and whatever were those feuds about? Why was there such enmity? I can't remember any reason, but they did flourish under the influence of that demon drink. I remember those brawls well, as frequently, probably because of my brawn and not because of my brains, I would be officer in charge of the town picket. Our job was to sort out these, by now, violent brawls and as some of them took place inside pubs, the picket had to risk furniture and falling bodies in clearing the fighters in order to get them outside and into buses headed for camp.

The noise from these brawls was deafening and the atmosphere electric as even quart bottles of bulk beer would be broken and all civilians would disappear but fortunately, to my knowledge, there were no serious casualties in those brawls.

What about those dreadful route marches around the Dubbo rural roads, which ended up with plenty of sore feet. The only march that everyone looked forward to and really enjoyed was the one that took the reinforcements to the railway station, thence to embarkation.

Lots of other memories, I am sure, and many of us met our fate in Dubbo — Bill Jollie, Harry Huggard, Fred Calloway, Eric Barber, Frank Locane and myself, were all married to girls met at Dubbo, so WE will never forget Dubbo — what about it?

— Reported by **ALLAN MCINNIS**

## WELFARE NOTES

• **JIM RHODES** 2/1 of Windsor was admitted to hospital on arriving home from Dubbo, for a long awaited operation. He has recovered from the operation and is home with Ruth. Kath and Jim Field and Peg and Max Herron visited Jim in hospital.

• **RON MCINTOSH** 2/1 of Chester Hill has been in Concord Hospital and appeared to be having a rough time from all reports. Bob Lee had called on Ron at Concord and kept in touch. Ron, who was at one time batman to Rod Pegg, was then transferred to Lady Davidson hospital at Turrumurra, and when Fred Calloway visited the hospital Ron had gone home that morning.

• **PADDY WALSH** B Coy 2/1 "the Grong Grong Kid" was in the Narrandera Nursing Home, according to Jack Painter, who passed on the information to me at Dubbo. Good luck Paddy and keep your pecker up.

• **HARRY MONTAGUE** 2/1 of Homebush had been in Concord Hospital in October for a few days, and was visited by Vic Whiteley, Peg and Max Herron.

• **ARTHUR "SCOTTY" BURNS** B Coy 2/1 passed away 21st October and funeral at Palmdale Cemetery, Ourimbah was attended by Gwen and Jack Collis, Jack Griffiths and Dick Seddon. Jack Griffiths read the RSL Service and after the service we expressed our sympathy to Mrs Burns.

— **MAX LAW**, Welfare Chairman

"THE PIONEERS" -- The Unit History of the 2/1st Pioneer Battalion

Following upon the article in July issue of "Pioneer News", outlining all details of the 2/1st Pioneer Unit History book, one hundred and sixty orders have been received. As orders for five hundred copies are required before placing an order with the printer the order form is printed below.

The Unit History Committee are grateful to those members who responded to the request for articles to be published in the book, but there is still room for more. This is a book for you - about you - therefore you should take this opportunity of being part of it. Most unit histories are dull so here is your chance to make it a lively one.

Gordon Osborn, Author and Editor, with Vice-President Bill Jollie spent a week at the War Memorial in Canberra during August taking notes from the 2/1st Pioneer war diaries, but even in that time they were unable to complete all chapters, so will have to return in the New Year. Max Law, Sub-Editor, has been working on notes supplied by Gordon and Bill as well as covering the diaries loaned by Gwen Petrich.

At this stage the Committee are aiming at having the Unit History on sale by the end of 1987, at an approximate cost of \$20 plus postage.

It is an Executive decision not to post receipts for deposits received for the Unit History. To enclose them with the "Pioneer News" edition is not practicable because the wrappers are not in post code order, but split into mail exchanges for distribution. Members who have paid deposits personally have been given receipts, while others forwarded by other means.

Orders will be acknowledged in future issues of Pioneer News and receipts for the following are held by the treasurer: Ron Clark, Gwen Petrich (2), Bert Herne, Bill Wright, Ron Hamilton, Thelma Croker, Ken Stuart, George Brooks (2), Fred Callaway, Daisy Roberts, Betty Creasy (3), Wesley Creswell, R. "Snow" Cobble, Allan Crute, Sydney Moore, Claude Campbell, Joan Osborne, Ken Collier (3), Dr. Roger Freeman (2), Mavis Blanch, Elizabeth Douglas, Eileen Hill, Thomas Blainey, Peter Peile (2), Thomas Hensley, Clive Harris, Greg Knight, Vera Hamilton, Doreen Williams (2), June Birrell, Keith Frost, Steve Clarke, Jack Richards, Rita Pritchard, Amy Roberts, Margaret Bell, Percy Fisk, Heather Wiggins, Jack Coates (4), John Hunt, Bob McGregor (2), Jack Claypole, Bill Wade.

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GEORGE WALKER - LIFE MEMBERSHIP

At the Dubbo Reunion dinner, George Walker was presented with his Life Membership Certificate by Patron Gordon Osborn, for fourteen years of honorary service of an outstanding nature to the Association.

George has held numerous positions on the Executive in those years such as 7th Div. Delegate, Social Secretary and Assistant Secretary. He has greatly assisted the secretary in conducting the Anzac Reunion and all Country Reunions, as well as assisting in the production of the Pioneer News. He has also raised many hundreds of dollars for the Association by single-handedly selling raffle tickets on Anzac Day.

Congratulations to you George on a job well done.

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VALE - WILLIAM OSWALD KELLY - 2/1 PIONEER.

It is with regret that we report the passing of William Kelly at Wagga on Monday, 13th October, 1986, at the age of 66 years.

The funeral was held at Wagga on Thursday, 16th Oct., and the casket was carried by Messrs. Bill Squires, Geoff Smith, Jack Morgan 2/2 and Ken Knight 2/1. The R.S.L. Service was read by Colin Knott, 2/3 Pioneers. A guard of honour was formed at the church and graveside by members of the Rats of Tobruk Association, R.S.L. and the 2/1 and 2/2 Pioneers.

Sympathy was extended to Mrs. Kelly, her two daughters and two sons.

Reported by Jack Morgan, 2/2 Wagga.

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MAIL BAG - The following letters were received late for Printer.

FLO SHEARMAN 2/1 of Kyogle writes to say Jack has had another operation on his leg since Dubbo and will be on crutches for six weeks. He is doing well and Flo hopes this will be the last operation. Thanks for the news Flo and make sure Jack takes it easy.

JACK MORGAN 2/2 of Wagga writes to give a report on the Combined Pioneer get-together at Wagga on 14/15th September. Seventy Pioneers were in attendance at the dinner and fifty at the barbeque on the Sunday. Largest support was from the 2/3rds.

Jack attended the 9th Div. Reunion at West Wyalong in October and as they will be holding it next year in October at Wagga, the combined Pioneer convenors have decided to forego their September date and join in with the 9th Div. Reunion on 29th October, 1987.

GORDON KITCHING 2/1 of Concord West writes to say he appreciates greatly receiving the Pioneer News and reading of the activities of all the members. He says whilst it is good to know of the happy events and associations that are able to survive for so many years there are those sad occasions to reflect on, when an increasing number of our members are "called for a well earned rest in our Reserve Unit".

He sends regards to Gordon Osborn with sincere wishes for top success in regard to the 2/1st Pioneer Unit History.

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STOP PRESS. The following late letters received will be replied to in the March, 1987, issue: Betty Creasy, Roy McGregor, Vince Longmore, Jim McDonald, Wal Page, Len Preedy and Bruce McNaughton.



## VALE — TOM CONNOLLY

Tom passed away suddenly at Royal Newcastle hospital on 12th October 1986 at the age of 82. He was born at Narrabri in 1904 and spent most of his life in north west NSW working on several properties and he became an expert sheep and wheat man. Time consuming, as farm work was in those days, Tom always found time for sport, particularly Rugby League and in that sphere he represented NSW country on several occasions. It was during those years he met and married his life long companion, Linda.

He joined the AIF in 1940 and became a member of B Coy, 2/1st Pioneers. He saw active service with the unit, until after the Tobruk seige when he was repatriated back to Australia. Upon discharge from the AIF, he resumed his life with Linda and also took up his former rural occupation becoming a manager of several properties whereby spending a great many of those years at Wallabadah.

Tom continued working until he was seventy two and on retirement he and Linda spent the last ten years in Newcastle. He was always good company and it was a highlight for me to meet him and have a yarn.

Over the latter years he did not enjoy the best of health and he was only admitted to hospital a few hours before he passed away. The funeral was conducted at the Newcastle Crematorium, Beresfield, where several Pioneers including Dick Seddon, Don Crooks and Jack Griffiths as well as members of the Rats of Tobruk Association and Adamstown RSL were present.

The ex-service portion of the funeral service was conducted by Jack Griffiths, who also delivered the eulogy. Tom is survived by his wife Linda and to her, we extend our deep and sincere sympathy and trust she may find some solace in the knowledge that we too share her loss.

— Reported by JACK GRIFFITHS

## VALE — SID JOPSON

Sid passed away peacefully on 30th September at the age of 68. He was born and educated at Armidale NSW and joined the Bank of NSW (now Westpac) and his first posting was to Dorrigo. He joined the AIF together with his mate, Fred Wheaton and after a few weeks at Newcastle Showground he became a member of B Coy, 2/1st Pioneers at Greta.

Sid remained with the unit throughout the war and saw active service in the Middle East, New Guinea and Borneo. After the war he returned to the bank and married Myrtle in 1946 at South Grafton.

He had several postings with the bank, including Newcastle and Port Macquarie, where he has to eventually settle. Illness due to active service caught up with Sid and he was forced to retire from the bank in his mid-fifties when he was classified as TPI. He was a serious and silent sufferer and although I was in his presence on many occasions I never heard him complain.

Sid received great strength and comfort from his wife, Myrtle, their family and grandchildren of whom he was very proud. Eventually he was confined to Lourdes Nursing Home at Port Macquarie, where he was visited by Clemm McDonald.

The funeral service took place in the chapel of St. Thomas Anglican Church, Port Macquarie, and later he was buried at the War Veterans Lawn Cemetery at Wauchope. The ex-service part of the funeral service was conducted by the President of Port Macquarie RSL and the eulogy on his life was delivered by Jack Griffiths on behalf of the 2/1-2/2 Pioneer Btn Assoc. and the Rats of Tobruk Assoc. Pall bearers were Fred Wheaton, Jim Hall, Jack Griffiths (2/1st Pioneers) and Ken Radley (2/3 Anti Tank).

Sid is survived by his wife Myrtle, sons Brian and Gregory, daughter Anne and ten lovely grandchildren. To the family we extend our sincere, deep sympathy and understanding in their sad bereavement and may it be some comfort to them to know that we too have lost a good friend.

— Reported by JACK GRIFFITHS

## ASSISTANCE REQUIRED

JIM EDIS 2/1st passed away last year and his widow is endeavouring to obtain the war widow pension and would like to hear from anyone who knew Jim and could substantiate her statement that he had a drink problem. Please contact Peter Danby, 29 Parkside Avenue, Box Hill.

# MAIL BAG

Final issue for 1986 with the usual response from members and quite a few with their applications for copies of the Batt. History. That I do not repeat myself with these letters I will nominate the names of those that have applied with the address, just suburb, or town, in one complete register for your own perusal, and for those who have not applied, well just get your finger out, as has been explained, there will be only one production of this book, and if you miss out, there will not be a second chance, so keep the facts in mind.

Subscribers to Unit History: Mrs Gwen Petrich, Wentworthville (2), Mrs Belle Roberts Mudgee, Greg Knight Neutral Bay, John Taylor Quirindi, Mrs Rita Pritchard Currarong, Jack Stewart W. Aust., W. "Mac" McKibbin Currumbin, Mrs Doreen Williams Kylie Bay (2), Sister Vera Hamilton Blakehurst, Mrs Betty Creasy Portland, Mrs Vera Roberts Bankstown, Mrs Ilene Hill Padstow, Peter Priest Tin Can Bay, Bill Miller Manly Vale, Tom O'Scott Brisbane and Ron Cross Ballina. To all sixteen of you people we say thank you for your support. The treasurer informs me that we have applications for about 160 publications to hand so far, now come on chaps, we need your support on this venture, with over a thousand copies of the News posted each issue, there must be a lot more of you that would like a copy of your own Battalion story, so don't be slack, send us those deposits with your application for same.

• **RON CROSS** 2/1 Ballina, with a sub for the Treasurer and an apology for his absence at Dubbo. Ron is kept busy in the district being President of Legacy Lismore branch and Chairman of the Ballina division. Congratulations on your devotion to duty Ron, isn't it strange, some blokes just cannot stop working, and such a lot of them are ex Pioneers.

• **TOM O'SCOTT** Brisbane who is not a Pioneer, but has written us quite a lot of late, Tom is a collector of 2nd World War memorabilia and has requested a book from us, he has just received a history of the 2/10 Field Ambulance, a paperback production, and he hopes that we will have a nominal roll in ours. We are endeavouring to include a nominal roll, which is going to be a huge task as it will entail handwriting approximately 3500 names and

## NEWS ITEMS

Reported by ALLAN MCINNES

• Recently I attended the funeral of my brother in law in Cooma, and also present was Fred "Yorky" Scanes, who I am pleased to report was looking very well.

"Yorky" sends regards to all Pioneers and hopes to attend the Anzac Day Reunion in Sydney next year, but doubts his ability to do the march.

Also in attendance at the funeral was Ron Wenley from Canberra, son of the late Merv Wenley of Queanbeyan. Ron is a most likeable fellow and was surprised to find two Pioneers in Fred and myself. Ron's wife was the niece of my brother in law. Ron has been placed on the mailing list for the Pioneer News.

• From the July issue of Pioneer News I was interested in the letter from D. Manski son of the late Len Manski, asking for news of his father. I was able to write and supply details as follows:

Len joined the 2/2 Pioneers at Cairns and was a professional fisherman from Mackay and because rations at this stage were fairly boring and meagre, Len's talents were put to good use. On Len's advice, suitable fishing nets were purchased from Battalion funds and a team organised under Len's supervision to camp at Port Douglas and supplement our rations with fresh fish.

This proved to be a most successful project and yielded about 1,000 lb of tropical fish in the form of barramundi, barracoota etc. per week.

One notable catch, which I personally went to pick up was a 350 lb groper which the fishing team had tied up to the wharf at Mossman with a 3½" rope and when Col Shea cut this groper up into steaks it was enough to feed the whole battalion.

I have been speaking to Mick Smith and he also wrote a reply to the Manski request as he had quite a fishing connection with Len while at Balikpapan.

numbers, apparently you are not allowed to photocopy these particular army records, it will be done however, and thank you Tom for your interest.

• **BILL MILLER** 2/1 Manly Vale, with a sub for the treasurer and book, and expressing his sorrow at the passing of Ern Hayden, he was Bill's corporal when he joined B. Coy in New Guinea. I often see Bill down at Warringah Mall on shopping days, and have tried to interest him in attending some of the functions, can only say at this time, "you missed a great show at Dubbo, Bill". Maybe you will give Redfern a try next April?

• **PETER PRIEST** 2/1 Queensland per pen of wife Dot, with the news they are now residing at "Tin Can Bay". You certainly get some good names for places up there in Joh's country, they had not been able to attend Dubbo owing to previous engagements but had a good report on same from Val and Alwyn "Dora" Black. Peter and Dot were at Ballina while the reunion took place and by the time you read this, they will have taken up their residence at the old "Tin Can". Closes with best wishes to all and we hope the boy's back has come good by now.

• **VERA HAMILTON "SISTER"** Blakehurst, has had an interesting affiliation with the "Pioneers". Sailed with the 2/1 on the "Johann De Wit" to the Middle East, and from the Middle East to Java with the 2/2, and having nursed them here, there and just about everywhere, has joined us in numerous reunions over the past 12 years or so, so has decided that a history would not be out of place on her book stand. Many thanks Vera, and we hope you enjoyed yourself at Dubbo.

• **JACK STEWART** 2/1 W.A. with a short note that he has attended the Pioneer get together at Anzac House in Perth, and he hopes to renew old acquaintances at the Anzac March in Sydney in 1987. Good on you Jack, the welcome mat will be on the step. Enclosed a cheque for the treasurer and closes with best wishes.

• **GREG KNIGHT** Neutral Bay, with a letter requesting a history book, and the offer of help. Greg has made two trips to New Guinea, and has taken colour photos of Moresby, Kokoda and the trail, Milne Bay, Madang, Rabaul and Buna and offers that should any of these modern day photos be of some use to our history, he will gladly supply copies. He is also trying to compile a list of Unit Colour Patches. Max has written you re the colours of the patches at top of Paper, and Greg is also on the trail of postal envelopes used by troops in World War II. So here is the plug, if any of our members have any old letters, or perhaps wives would be a better chance, all he would like is the envelopes with the censor marks and post markings, not the contents, and possibly a colour patch. I would not hold my breath on that one, post them to Greg Knight 2/32 Barry Street, Neutral Bay 2083. He would be extremely grateful. Best I can do Greg, hope you will be lucky.

• **JACK SPOTTISWOODE** 2/1 Allambie Heights, with words of appreciation for the News. Jack and wife Hazel have not enjoyed the best of health in 1986 and were not able to attend Dubbo. They do hope to be in attendance at the Bondi R.S.L. for the opening of the "Remembrance Wall" as both he and Casey Brown are long standing members of Tobruk House. Many thanks for the letter Jack, and treasurer has your subs.

• **JACK MURRAY** 2/2 W.A. with a cheque for the treasurer, an appreciation for the News, but claims that he would not know too many now. You would be surprised Jack, if you were able to make contact. Jack attended the gathering held at Anzac Club Perth, also attended by Jack Stewart, which was conducted and arranged by Len Preedy, there were both 2/1 and 2/2 blokes present, and an enjoyable evening was had by all. Closes with best wishes for future success.

• **ALLEN STONE** 2/2 Raymond Terrace, with the briefest of brief notes, with best wishes and enclosed find cheque for the treasurer.

• **TED CARTER** 2/1 Tarnworth, with a thank you letter for a great trip to Dubbo. Both he and wife Mary enjoyed themselves and found it very relaxing (couldn't have been at the Caravan Park). Ted took lots of photos while at Dubbo, both of the animals and Pioneers then found when he got home that the film had not been winding on. I could make a sarcastic comment on that, but I'll leave it for your wife. Also enclosed a couple of forms re a local 9th Dec reunion for which we say thank you. They both had a good trip home with the country looking a picture, the grazier quite happy with his stock

situation but the farmer still a bit worried about his harvest. Closes with best wishes and kindest regards to all.

• **BONNIE SNUDDEN** widow of "Smokey" 2/2 Cobar, writes and I quote word for word, "A few short words of appreciation to you and your committee for your time and thoughtfulness during the Dubbo Reunion. Through people like you the world is a better place as you have linked together those who otherwise would not have the opportunity to meet again. It was a pleasure to attend the well organised reunion and a lovely weekend." I could not help printing this letter as written as it expresses, I think, just what so many of us would like to say to one another who have the pleasure of attending any of these functions, and she closes with regards to all Pioneers and ladies till we meet again.

• **JOHN McDONAGH** 2/2 Condell Park, but writing from Ballina on the north coast, enjoying a holiday. John and Win left Sydney on a Thursday, had a couple of days at Woolgoolga with his brother and wife, then on to Ballina. The weather has been great, even the fish have been on John's side, caught two bream on his first attempt so he hopes that continues on side. Apologises for not being available for the committee meeting while on holidays.

• **JACK RICHARDS** 2/1 Lennox Head, per pen of Olive with the offer of Chester Wilmo's book 'Tobruk', we thank you Olive for your offer but we have already acquired this publication and taken the 2/1 extracts, best wishes and keep that husband sober.

• **JACK COATES** 2/1 Umina, with a letter for 4 history books, one for each of the family. Jack and wife have just completed a local Rats Tour of the Snowy last week. Went off very well, and he read of Scotty Burns death in the Herald at Cooma but no chance to make the funeral. He rang Jack Collis on return and found that Jack Griffiths, Dick Seddon and Collis had attended the funeral at Palmdale. Since his return has spent another week in Gosford Hospital, waterworks again, quotes, "Painful bloody week for little result". Keep the chin up Coatesy, and take heart with the tigers.

• **RAY EYRE** 2/1 Noraville, with a note saying how both he and Meg enjoyed themselves at Dubbo. Their motel was right next door to the Catholic school which Meg attended many years ago. Both had a good trip home on the train but did manage to lose her camera somewhere. Kodak 155X if anybody may have found same.

• **FRANK CAULFIELD** 2/2 Cairns, with a newsy letter. Frank being an ex-Victorian follows South Melbourne, now the Sydney Swans, but claims they need a few more big men and to give them a show next year. Frank has enclosed a cutting from the local paper, in honour of the Japanese and Australians that died at Balikpapan. This cutting is inserted every year over the last 20, and the same bloke Duke Neilson 2/9th Batt. has organised a Balikpapan reunion for the last 3 years. It is held on the nearest Sunday to the 1st July, and is held at HMAS Cairns the Naval Shore base for North Queensland. Apparently there are no shortages of starters as it is well advertised by local paper and RSL noticeboard and there are always plenty of holidayers there at that time of year.

Frank has attended a few of the turnouts and has enjoyed himself each time. They are off to Melbourne at Christmas to see their family and signs off with best regards, Frank Caulfield L.D.S. The L.D.S. was awarded to Frank for his marathon trip by train to Wagga in 1982 by the Committee, stands for Long Distance Star.

• **JIM MURNANE** 2/2 Horsham, with wife Ev made their first contact with a reunion at Dubbo and we hope they enjoyed themselves. Jim asks about a James (Rocky) French, who originally came from Dubbo, well we have a John French who was in 3 Platoon H.Q. Coy 2/2 whose address is 7 Marlyn Port, Highton, Vic. but whether he is the same chap only a letter from you would discover. Max Herron and Peg said they enjoyed their talk with you at the Caravan Park and also their discussions with Bill Mayne.

• **KEITH BOYLE** 2/1 Moama per pen of wife Mary writes a thank you letter for the wonderful time they experienced at Dubbo (possibly their first reunion I think). Both arrived home feeling that not only had they made new friends but that they also well and truly belonged and are now looking forward to the next time. They offer congratulations to Max and Peg, and to the committee that try so hard to make

everything go right. Also offer to Herrons, or indeed any Pioneers that should be passing through Moama to call on them, and would more than welcome any visitors. Many thanks for your letter May, and so pleased that the trip was worthwhile.

• **ALBY "SANTA" KLAUS** 2/2 Grafton with a cheque for the treasurer for subs, has not been down to Anzac Day for a few years as he has had a couple of strokes and heart attacks and has been both in Concord and Grafton Base Hospitals, but with luck, hopes to see us all in April 1987. Met old Bricky Wall at the races last August, Bricky was ex Grafton.

• **JACK COLLIS** 2/1 Umina with a report on the Central Coast contingent. Scotty Burns in hospital, since deceased, Jack Coates in and out again, as quoted, Nev Wran had Teflon injected in a much more private place. Jack also comments on the Dubbo reunion, one word covers it all, fantastic, and they had a pleasant trip home. They left Dubbo to go to Cowra, then on to Cootamundra, Junee, Wagga, and finally Albury. Had a few days looking around then headed home via the Coast, stayed at Nowra for a couple of days, with son Bill at the Naval Base, also squeezed in a barbecue with Whiteleys and Walkers I'm told, after a great trip, it was good to get home to the weeds and the lawns and closes with best wishes, and when's the next reunion.

• **MRS MAVIS BLANCH** widow of Joe 2/1, from Beaudesert, Qld, with a thank you for the condolences offered at the death of Joe. Mavis has enclosed a list of Pioneers that attended the funeral and wishes to thank them through the News on behalf of herself and family, and if she has missed anybody offers her apologies. Unfortunately as Mavis had to go to the Crematorium she could not spend the time with them at home for a cuppa, but the attendance was much appreciated by her and the family. Present were Cec Blanch (brother), Alwynne Black, Phil Cramsie, Alec George, Paddy Gray, Toby Hale, Jim Hall, John Hunt, Wal McKibbin, Bruce McNaughton, Clancy Scholes, George Scholes, Jack Shearman, Pat Laughren, Harry Spreadborough, Bert Beasley, with an apology from Bill Hoffman and Jack Martin. Many thanks for your letter Mavis, once again, our sympathies and keep your chin up lovey.

• **CLAUDE CAMPBELL** 2/1 Inverell per pen of Dorothy, with a request for a history and wishing us well at Dubbo. Claude is still paying fortnightly visits to the doctor, he has improved a little with medication, and no need for a pacemaker as yet, and he has got back to bowling again after a six months lay off. Good news Dorothy, more bowls and no wild women and he will go on for another 100 years.

• **JACK SUMMERVILLE** 2/1 Carlingford with a note enclosing a cheque for the treasurer and good wishes to all, always glad to receive the News to keep up with the doings, as he does not get around too well.

• **ARTHUR STAFFORD** 2/2 Fairlight, with a cheque for the treasurer for subs. Arthur has not been to Anzac Day for the past three years, quotes, strangely enough he seems to wind up in Concord about that time of the year, this year January and March, pleased to report that he is well at present, probably a birthday present for an old 70 year "digger", closes with best wishes to all members of the Association.

• **FRANK CHEAL** 2/2 Burwood (Vic.) with a cheque for the treasurer, information re his Dubbo arrangements, and a change of address, in the throes of changing abodes, and with this, plus awaiting a call up before the Appeals Tribunal finds things a little hectic at the moment. We wish you every success with your appeal and hope you enjoyed Dubbo.

• **ERIC "BOMBO" REYNOLDS** 2/1 Macksville with a letter telling of their safe arrival home from Dubbo. They went home inland then down the Dorrigo and back to Macksville. Plenty of work to be done at home getting the homestead back into shape. Also passes on the news that Roy Robinson passed away a couple of weeks ago, a good mate of Eric's, used to cut in the Company, and always told him that he had a head like an old sheep. They both enjoyed the Reunion and Eric claims that the Sunday Night was as good if not better than the Saturday. That sometimes happens Eric, not quite so official on Sunday, but still we have to do the right thing on one night, and after all, its best to get out of the way quick and lively. Closes with best wishes, and a personal invitation to Peg & Max to stay

overnight at their home on their way north later this year.

• **BILL ROBERTSON** 2/1 and 2/2 Randwick with a roll of Don Coy 2/2 who were in attendance at Dubbo, Ray Harris, Allan McInnes, Rus Harrison, Neville O'Conner, Clem McDonald, Roy McGregor, Jack McGregor, Fred Bellingham, Eric Lindsay, John Knight, Mick Bye, Frank Cheal, Bill Fallon, Vince Longmore. A good roll up by your troops Bill, reminds me of a little sideline, on Monday night at the Caravan Park we had a barbecue and for the first time at one of these shows, that night, the 2/2 outnumbered the 2/1 blokes.

• **NEVILLE O'CONNOR** 2/2 Tintenbar (formerly of Empire Vale, Ballina), with a cheque and a long letter expressing his thanks for the fantastic time he and Betty had at Dubbo and was so pleased to see so many 2/2nd there this time. On an overseas trip last year he and Betty were married at Athenry in County Galway, just in from Galway on Galway Bay. Athenry was the birthplace of Neville's grandfather, who selected the property near Ballina in the 1800's and called it "Athenry". After three generations it remains in Neville's family by way of his youngest son, Tony. During their time overseas, Neville and Betty toured England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales, the Continent, stopping off at Singapore and Hong Kong. Thanks for your cheque, Nev, and our very best wishes to you both in your new life together.

• **JOE KYFFIN** 2/2 Reservoir sends a note of commendation to the Dubbo organisers as it was a great show, but he did miss Jack and Jean Clarke not being present. Joe was able to have a great time at Dubbo with Wal and Marie Parsons and said it was great to see Jack and Kath Tooker, as Jack talked of incidents Joe had forgotten. Joe and Maida send regards to all Pioneers.

• **HARRY SPREADBOROUGH** 2/1 of Qld states he had a good trip home from Dubbo and reached Warwick the first day and then took things quietly the next day. Harry broke out in shingles on arriving home and has not been able to do much around the place. Because of this he was not able to attend John Hunt's reunion — but hopes they had a good day.

• **JOHN HUNT** 2/1 New Farm writes to say the Brisbane Reunion saw an attendance of only sixteen members. He received apologies from Harry Spreadborough and Mick Anselm. It was good to see Nell Davenport and Mavis Blanch and Doug Waters, all the way from Adelaide. John enclosed an article on Leo Cornelius in the Brisbane paper, on the occasion of the Sixth Australian ex P.O.W. National Reunion held at Gold Coast's Broadbeach Hotel. It states Leo not only survived as a P.O.W but recently took a six way heart bypass operation in his stride.

That completes the Mail Bag for 1986, I would just like to add a few little points of interest, firstly to all those chaps I met at Kingscliffe last year, Neville Andrews is not in the best of health, and would appreciate a visit from some of you, Neville and Phil were with us at Dubbo, but because he was not good they left on the Sunday to return home, since then phone calls have kept me informed, its a bit far for me to call in regularly but you blokes would help. Dubbo will be reported elsewhere in the paper, but Joan and I had a great time (don't we always?). I consider myself very fortunate that I made so many good mates in the Pioneers, and now we see those mates' wives have done exactly the same thing, very rarely you hear a crossed word. Never bitchy, and put together means that we have a group of people that could be classed as the Perfect Community. To add to this I would like to say congratulations to Peg and Max Herron, to Gordon and Olive Finlay for the official side of the functions so ably performed, to our President, Peg and Vic (we were robbed) Whiteley, to my mates Walker and Herron for their share of home brew, to all those lucky people that helped us drink it, to the ladies that handled the door tags, to Kathy Fields for her efforts with the Flag, to Joan and Olive for Sunday lunch and finally to all who participated in a really wonderful experience. Mrs Mary Lloyd has also requested that I thank Max and Peg on her behalf for her transport and all her brothers and sisters for their great company. All that's left for me to say now is, on behalf of the Committee and members we wish each and every one a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year, and may good health be with us all in 1987 and many years to come, and looking forward to a good roll up next April.

— LAKEY