

# PIONEER NEWS

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

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## “WE WILL REMEMBER THEM”

Bill Lewis 2/2 has written to the Editors with the suggestion that our members write and send in articles to pay tribute to someone they were close to, and in doing so would refresh the minds of many others. He has talked to Russ Harrison, Gavin Todd and Frank Cheal and Don Linton and each think the suggestion a good one.

Quite frankly, they agreed, that although we say “We Will Remember Them” a lot, the words have become ritualistic and this suggestion is seen as a way to bring back some of the great mates into our minds and memories if only for a brief time. Quite obviously it would not be possible for these brief tributes to be official as to dates and details.

Bill has suggested that on the 2/2 side, some members could submit articles on say “Cappy” Christian, Jack Howie and Jack Laurie to keep the ball rolling.

The following was submitted by Bill Lewis:-

### LEST WE FORGET

TOJO GREGORY 2/2. Stretcher bearer and drummer in the band. Brown eyes with glasses, swarthy complexion, bristling moustache — he was a double for the real Tojo. A handy man with comb and clippers, Tojo was in great demand as camp barber. He had your typical barbers repertoire of stories and some funny tales of pre-war life as a taxi driver. When morale was low, Tojo could always be relied upon to raise a laugh. When Tojo died within a few years of discharge, it came as a great shock that one who enjoyed life so much should be called so early.

The Secretary was so taken up with the Bill Lewis suggestion that in December he requested Mrs Alice Johns (sister to “Bricky” Wall) to write an epitaph to “Bricky” who had been an ardent supporter of the Association over the years. In recent times “Bricky” has contributed hundreds of dollars to the Association in his sales of drink cans, collected while out walking.

We thank Alice Johns for the following contribution to the Bill Lewis series on “We Will Remember Them”.

### LEST WE FORGET

Thomas “Bricky” William Wall 2/1, born Lidcombe 1907, passed away 27th November 1986. Father was in Post Office, Sydney; 1912 moved to Inverell as Assistant Postmaster — 1914 father, mother, Tom and three sisters travelled by coach and horses to Grafton where Father had been appointed first Divisional Returning Officer for Cowper (until retirement about 1931). Schooldays started in Inverell then at Grafton Public School and one year at High School. The house and grounds were large with paddock next door, two storeyed sheds and stables — large trees, walk-in aviary and garden (Tom later in charge of the vegetables), lots of fruit trees.

All work done, off fishing for gar and perch, to wharves along the Clarence River, to Susan Island (walking, fishing, picnics, roller skating in hall). Up to Copmanhurst by cream boat — to Iluka and Yamba for fishing and surfing, sometimes home at 2 a.m. — the “Favourite” could become held on sand banks at low tide.

First job was with Commercial Travellers, then apprenticed to building trade (carpenter) for four years. 1932 no work in Grafton so to Sydney as carpenter on ships, carrying apples from Tasmania to UK. Living at Bondi — on beach during summer. Back to Grafton to retail trade — furniture — despatch clerk — seven years. Floods in stores during that time. Father had retired and built house — floods twice in home — once after being raised. Holidays at Woolgoolga cottage on hill — fishing, surfing on many beaches. Cricket and rugby league “my sport”, good games in Fisher Park and McKittrick Park. Sundays off to Yamba — fishing. Referee for Rugby League juniors.

1939 — War. Enlisted — got through Doctor — parents objected so 16th Brigade went without me.

Enlisted again on 33rd birthday — all OK — per train to Moore Park — then into 2/1 Pioneers — 4 p.m. train to Greta — arrived 9 p.m. — 2 miles walk — next day up at 6 a.m. — P.T. — frost on ground — June 12th — slept on straw bedding and hard floor. Then to Palestine and Tobruk.

Headed back to Australia 1942 — to Sandy Creek (S.A.) — to Grafton on leave — to Queensland — met Grafton and North Coast mates in Palestine and Haifa. Then on to New Guinea — back to Queensland, and then to Borneo. Discharged — back to Grafton — to furniture retail stores — to Sydney — same kind of work — races at Randwick, Rosehill, etc. Joined NSW Corps Commissionaires — some years at W. D. & H. O. Wills — then around factories and city. Had bought a house at Eastlakes and lived there.

Bricky writes in his diary — “1935 — met a young nurse at Grafton Base Hospital — again met at friend’s place (Bondi) in 1957; we married in 1958, lived at Bondi Junction. On 5th December, 1972 I retired, my wife had been very ill while private nursing. The Eastlakes cottage had been sold and we had a cottage at Point Clare so decided to live there.

“Had good times on overseas trips, to Europe, Japan, around Pacific Islands twice, interstate coach tours. About time of World Reunion ROTA my wife became ill — over a period was in hospital — she passed away 4th January, 1984. The funeral was at Palmdale on 6th January, I arranged a grave for myself alongside. In July we would have been married 25 years, myself to carry on at No. 3. . .” (11.1.1984).

Gardening was a continuous hobby — in 1986 Tom started a Memorial Garden for Doris — planted shrub No. 40 about 21st November. In his notes Tom wrote “Spent a week walking through Gosford tin hunting for 2/1 Pioneers Magazine — should surprise members of Committee”.

“24th November, 1986, collected tins, 4 bags full.”

### PIONEER GET-TOGETHER

Owing to private commitments of the Social Secretary and several of the Executive Committee it has been decided that the Annual Gathering at a country caravan park in 1987 will not be held.

However, we suggest that any Pioneers who wish to hold a gathering for a period of time, contact their friends and organise it among themselves.

— GORDON FINLAY, Social Secretary

### ORDER OF AUSTRALIA

It was most pleasing to see the name of Dr Stanley Goulston, AM, MC, in the 1987 Honours List as being awarded “Officer of the Order of Australia” for medicine, particularly gastroenterology. Stan was the medical officer with the 2/1st Pioneers in Tobruk in fact, in the history book being compiled now, is a story of Dr Goulston amputating the arm of an Arab woman who had been injured by an enemy grenade.

Congratulations to you Stan on your award and all Pioneers will join us in saying thank you for a job well done.

## ANZAC FUNCTIONS

Once again the Anzac ceremonies are upon us, and your Social Secretary and committee have been hard at work to see that all details have been arranged for the 24th and 25th April.

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FRIDAY, 24th APRIL — REDFERN RSL

The meeting place has been changed from the Sydney RSL to the Redfern RSL Club, on corner of Redfern Street and Gibbons Street, Redfern, just east of Redfern Railway Station. Please note change of venue. The meeting will commence at 3.30 p.m. and finish at 5.00 p.m. and members will be invited by President Bob to partake of a few drinks.

Then a snack, if required, and down to Martin Plaza for the Wreath Laying.

### WREATH LAYING CEREMONY FRIDAY, 24th APRIL — MARTIN PLAZA

The forming up place will be on the corner of Martin Plaza and Pitt Street on GPO corner the same as last year.

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

### ANZAC DAY MARCH

#### SATURDAY, 25th APRIL — PHILLIP STREET

Assembly points for both units are same as last year: 2/1st in Phillip Street near King Street and rear of 6th Division. 2/2nds in Phillip Street near Martin Plaza and rear of 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

#### SATURDAY, 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 the Anzac Day lunch and reunion. Same address as past years — Redfern Town Hall, corner Pitt and Wells Streets, Redfern and only five minutes from Redfern Station.

If for any reason you cannot march, we would like to see you at the Reunion — you will be pleased to see so many faces of your mates of yesteryear.

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

### WELFARE REQUEST

Both Welfare Officers request that the family of members notify them when 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 the appropriate 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:

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



Editor: BOB LAKE

First issue of our paper for 1987 so let's look forward to a good year with plenty of good things happening for us. Before going on to the Mail Bag, I wrote in the last issue about subscriptions for the Pioneer History and that it would be a one-only publication. The response from the last issue was another eighteen orders, very good, so don't fall down on the job now and get those orders in smartly.

• **JIM RYAN** 2/2 Richmond (Vic) with a subscription for the treasurer. Jim looks forward to each edition and he receives both Sydney and Melbourne publications. Life is much the same pattern for Jim now, enjoys Tourist Coach holidays, usually goes solo and always manages to pick up friendly people on the trips. Has been to W.A. both north and south, and to Queensland as far as Cooktown, has not planned 1987 as yet but Tasmania seems to be the best bet. Still manages to play a little tennis. Veteran Style, so is quite active and still able to enjoy the pleasures of life. Closes with best regards and congratulations to the committee for their efforts to the Association.

• **JACK KEMPNIH** 2/1 Fingal Bay per pen of wife Maisie with a good letter. She comments on Dubbo, and of course afterwards, they also went on to Lightning Ridge where they scavenged and shopped about, finally bought a couple of opals. That's the trouble with those opals Maisie, there is plenty of them there, but there is a bloody lot of clay between them. Sounds like you really had a picnic, no opals, van bogged, rain and wind, one thing, never a dull moment when the Pioneers set out to do something. You will have read of Jim Rhodes death elsewhere in the paper. He passed away on the morning of the 19th January. Many thanks for a friendly letter, Maisie, and thank you for your comments of the committee. We also know that when we have a success, it is all so very worthwhile.

• **TOBY HALE** 2/1 Kyogle with a donation to the treasurer and reports that the weather is getting very hot up there now. Toby sees Jack Shearman quite often and he may have to go back to hospital to get the pins tightened in his hip, also sees Bill Hoffman quite regularly. Toby and Vera go down to the Bingo every Tuesday, never seems to do any good, but have a lot of fun and enjoys the day out.

• **ALLAN STEFF** 2/2 Coleraine (Vic), with a cheque for the Treasurer and an apology for Dubbo, however, on the same date as Dubbo was Allan's 50th Wedding Anniversary and the family had planned a week's entertainment for them. Wishes to be remembered to Bob Dixon and hopes he has handled his troubles. He also went to Puccapunyal to a passing out parade where he met a Colonel Lee who, on seeing his badge, made himself known. It appears his father was also in the 2/2, had joined them when they were reformed at Wagga in 1942, but Allan could not remember him.

• **JIM McDONALD** 2/1 (Forster) with a cheque for the Treasurer and the news that he is playing a lot of Bowls. Trouble with that game Jim, it's too rugged. Jim finished up with a bad virus which put him down for about four weeks. Has bought a four wheel drive to go down to the beach, his legs are going on him so to get to his fishing, he bought the truck. Claims he does not get to Sydney much but he might ask Doug Shearston if he could make the trip with him next Anzac Day. Why not Jim, I'm sure that Doug would oblige if he was making the trip.

• **VINCE LONGMORE** 2/2 (Campbelltown) with a brief note to say thank you for a brilliant reunion at Dubbo. It was a first for Vince and he can thoroughly recommend it to anyone that has not attended one. Now another reminder to all 2/2 Sigs from Roy Levy, Reg Cains and himself, how about turning up next Anzac Day, meaning Ted Loveridge, Rod Stanton, Jack Clements, Russ Shoveller and Mick Costello, now come on fellows, you can't resist a personal invitation like that. Vince was off to W.A. for Christmas and New Year with his eldest daughter and her family so will be looking up a few West

Aussies in the period. Meeting Tom and Mary Morgan at Dubbo and its a small world, turned out that Mary's niece is married to a cousin of Vince.

• **ROY MCGEGOR** 2/1 Maitland with a complimentary letter to the committee on the result of Dubbo, the large turn up of Don Coy went a long way to making it an occasion and he hopes to see many more at the next country occasion. Intends to make the effort for Anzac Day, just made the distance last time so perhaps a little training would be in order before April.

• **WAL PAGE** 2/1 Cudgen with a short note, a deposit for four history books and a few snaps of the war years, the photos have been placed in the Unit Album and thank you for them. How are things on the Kingscliffe front Desso, are you still holding your own on the Bowling Green?

• **ELLEN NICHOLLS** 2/1, widow of the late Harry (Nicky) Nicholls with a change of address and a thank you for the News. Change of address noted and paper will be despatched as usual.

• **DON BARRACLOUGH** Matraville, with a photo of Reg and Max taken at Dubbo, for which they thank you very much, both Mona and Don enjoyed the whole effort and are now looking forward to further successes. I don't think they found too many opals, Don.

• **ERNE LUNN** 2/2 Dubbo with a reference letter of Len Manski for his son published in the December issue. Ern was one of the fishing crew going out with Len at Balikpapan. It was Len that made all the decisions on where to fish and most times he was spot on. The varieties of fish were many as you may well imagine from sharks, stingrays and tropical species. Many thanks for your letter, Ern, and same will be forwarded on to his son for his appraisal.

• **BRUCE "MONTY" McNAUGHTON** Casino with a short note of a change of address and that he had made a trip up north to Queensland. Looked up Jack Boyd at Warwick and Tommy Welch at Mackay. Also went back through the old camps on the Atherton Tablelands. The Herberton Shire has placed name plates of all divisions and battalions on the whole area, and Monty took two photos which he has sent to the secretary, and they read 2/1 Pioneer Batt. 6th Division, 2nd A.I.F. Thank you Bruce for your letter, and the photos will be placed in the Battalion Photo Album.

• **JOE KYFFIN** 2/1 Reservoir (Vic.) with a short note to say to Peg and Max Herron that if they go to Melbourne for the records of the Unit, both are welcome to stay with Joe and Maida, a great bed and will look after you both better than any motel. Many thanks for the offer Joe, and they will let you know what they will be doing and when.

• **CLANCY SCHOLES** 2/1 Rutherford with a very short note confirming four more Unit History Books. (Good boy Clancy.)

• **LINDA SAUNDERS** widow of late Ross, with a deposit for a copy of the History. Ross served in Don Coy in the Unit.

• **MARGARET RAYNER** widow of Bert, who passed away in May 1986 wishes to reserve two copies of the History, also promises to forward an article for inclusion in the book, at the moment she is having trouble with her eyes so talks of getting daughter on the job over the Christmas holidays.

• **BRUCE CHAMBERS** 2/1 Turramurra with a cheque for the treasurer, a request for History and the balance for subs and donation. Many thanks for the support Bruce, what about doing something about Anzac Day at Redfern.

• **JACK SPENCE** 2/1 Wingham per pen of Muriel with a sub for the treasurer and the news that they are both getting slower although still loves to get out in the garden. Muriel has had a cataract operation and is having problems with her eyes but can still get around and that is the main thing. Closes with good wishes to all for the New Year.

• **CYRIL AMIES** per pen of wife Doris, with a good letter telling of their doings in retirement. For

a start he has almost rebuilt the house, can't be much left of the original. Travel has been limited but most enjoyable. Here is what Doris calls limited: Visit to Whitsunday Passage, three trips to Brisbane with Cyril's cousin from UK, a trip to Nowra and Kangaroo Valley, and a sea cruise to New Zealand on the Island Princess. We should all be so limited. Bowls and golf have been neglected owing to these activities but hope to improve this in the forthcoming year, a year which according to plans expects to be very full. Both are very much enjoying retirement and for the first time in about five years will have their family home for Christmas so all in all a good year for them both. Many thanks for the letter Doris, and long may your good fortune continue.

• **REBECCA CLOGG** widow of the late Bill, 2/1, writes for a copy of the History and she is a member of our Central Coast group, has good friends in Jack and Lex Coates and has attended the Rats gatherings, was at the last reunion in Surfers Paradise and also the more recent trip to the Snowy.

• **BOB MCGREGOR** 2/1 Kingsgrove per pen of Joyce saying that the history is a grand idea and wants two on completion. Joyce enclosed a copy of "Tobruk Truth" for perusal and hopes that the book will contain some humour, "How could it be any different with our mob?". Bob's letter to Joyce when he was hospitalised at Greta with German Measles saying he had broken out in Swastikas always sticks in her mind. Closes with best wishes to all and the same to you both.

• **CLIVE HARRIS** 2/1 Aberdeen with a short note to say they are both enjoying good health, had a lovely weekend at Dubbo but has not seen any of the crowd since his return. Pays his compliments to the committee for their efforts and enclosed a cheque for the treasurer.

• **BERT BEATON** 2/2 Casterton, Vic. per pen of wife Olive, with a thank you to Peg and Max for making their stay at Dubbo so wonderful. Both enjoyed themselves and had a good trip home. At time of writing were in the middle of shearing, but with the wet weather it looks as though shearing will go on into the New Year. Closes with best wishes and hopes that Peg Herron had a good rest after Dubbo.

• **BERT HUTTLEY** 2/2 Bloomsbury, Qld. with a sub for the Treasurer, and a mention of Jack Murray in the Pioneer News bought back some old memories. Bert was in the same tent as Jack at Trinity Beach and now Jack is in the South West of Western Australia, and Bert in the North East of Queensland, as he says, we sure are a long way apart on this continent of ours. Last Anzac Day Bert marched in Brisbane instead of Proserpine, had not marched in Brisbane since he was discharged in 1946, but never met a single person he knew as far as Army was concerned but on the sidelines he was watched by two sons, a daughter, and a son-in-law so he was not completely alone. Claims that he might go further south and take part in the big time in some future year. Want to make it soon old mate.

• **PETER PEILE** Caringbah, per pen of wife Erica with a sub for the Treasurer and the news that after his stay in Concord last year they have still not fixed his back problem, however they still manage to meet up with Ruth and Don Slater and Pat and Dandy Selwood for lunch in town occasionally and both enjoy that very much.

• **MYRTLE JOPSON** widow of Sid 2/1 of Port Macquarie with a cheque for the treasurer and hopes to continue to receive the Pioneer News (never in doubt Myrt). Will probably call and see you again later on in the year.

• **STAN NICHOLSON** new Secretary of 7th Div. Engineers Assoc. with a letter to Max Herron. Stan has been promoted to the job of Secretary owing to the previous member moving down the coast. It's a small world. I played football against Stan both before and after the war, we are both foundation members of the Leagues Club, and he only lives over the hill from me now. Stan was the first to let me

know that Bob Lofty Hannon had died only a couple of months ago. Long may the Association continue.

- **NEVILLE ANDREWS** 2/1 Kingscliff by word of mouth wishes to say thanks for the good wishes on his recent illness, by all that called or enquired. Neville has still got a way to go but he will always be trying. Nev and Phyl stayed with us (Lakes) in January for a few days (very few) and we tried hard to entertain them. There you are Crim, I've done my bit, but that doesn't mean you just sit on your ass and don't bother to keep in touch.

- **HARRY SPREADBOROUGH** 2/1 Alexandra Hills, Qld. with a sub for the treasurer and the news that they spent Christmas with son Robert. Spent the New Year with a group of friends and thinks he must be getting old, staying up late sure takes its toll. Suffering with a crook ankle at the moment, legacy of a game of cricket with his grandson and mates, too slow to get out of the way, so all he can do is sit about and give orders. Closes with best wishes and success to all in '87.

- **KEITH BOYLE** 2/1 Moama with a sub for the Treasurer and the news that he spent some time in the local hospital with a suspected failure of the left side of heart, but fortunately, it was a cardiac asthma which has left him with breathlessness and an order to slow down. Being at Moama at Christmas is like being in the big city instead of our little country town, quite a popular tourist spot and they have put a ban on the speedboats, eight knots within certain sections of the river where it approaches the town. Makes special mention of Max and Peg and Laurel and Tom Crossman for their help and attendance at Dubbo and closes with best wishes to all.

- **MAX LAW** encloses cheques from Jean Stafford for her subs and also a deposit for a History. Also another cheque for a history and subs for Bob Burnside, and also his own deposit for books. You couldn't confuse Vic, Max, he is unflappable.

- **CHARLIE KERR** 2/1 Maryborough, Qld. with a cheque for his subs and also a sub for the Association. Charles has been doing a bit of travelling and will write a bit more news later on.

- **ERIC LUXTON** 2/1 per pen of wife Esme, with a cheque for the treasurer and a deposit for a History. Eric has not been the very best of late, has spent some time in Liverpool Hospital but is home again now. He retired from work about five years ago and his main pride has been his garden and his tomatoes have been his pride and joy. They have six grandchildren ranging in age from 12 years to four and of course they have become the apples of their eyes. Closes with best wishes and thanks for the regular issues of the Pioneer News.

- **BERN REINERS** 2/1 of Corryong, writes in to say he and wife Mona are well and had a good Christmas with the family. Number two son Lex and his wife expect their first child in March. Mona played more golf than Bern in the year and are now both concentrating more on bowls — he says they never win but have a lot of fun.

They tried to attend the Dubbo Reunion but it clashed with a grandchild's first birthday. However, Bern has promised to come up to Sydney one day and stay with the Herrons — Max said he is going to keep you to your word. Thanks for all the news Bern.

- **BILL CONDON** 2/2 of Montmorency wrote in to say all is well with the 2/2nd Pioneer down in Victoria. Bill is a member of the Committee and organises the Caulfield Cup raffle. He was responsible for posting the newsletter on to our Secretary and we do thank you Bill for your kind regards and we do hope all is well with you and your family.

- **BILL MAYNE** 2/2 of Box Hill wrote in to the Victorian 2/2 newsletter with a glowing report of the Dubbo reunion. The report finishes with the following paragraph: "Reflecting back, a weekend to be remembered and we are glad we were able to go. I would be speaking for a lot of people when I say the weather was good, the food good, with company that was excellent. Well done President Bob and Committee." The Sydney based Committee thank you Bill for such a glowing report.

- **BOB McTAGGART** 2/2 called on the Secretary on New Years Day. Bob had travelled down from Rockhampton, where he now lives, and is doing it in style, with wife Joyce, in a campervan. While in Sydney he called on Bub Spruce and Mick Egan. Bob recalls the day he played cricket at Terrigal, 21st June, 1959 as a Pioneer grudge match with Sydney opposing the Northerners on their home

ground. The Sydney captain was Ted Jensen and Northern captain was Clive McLachlan. Attending were Doug Shearston, Austie Ronan, Bob Lake, Joe Westwood, Harry Hamer, Ken Roper (visitor), Bill Mace, Alf Carter, Nip Kearsley, Bob McTaggart, Mick Madden, Noel Schomberg, Vic Whiteley and Max Herron.

Bob and Max recalled that after the second keg on the day "the match was a draw".

After visiting Max, it was to the races at Randwick with his sister for Bob, so hope you won enough Bob to pay for your holidays.

- **LEN PREEDY** 2/2 of Shenton Park, W.A. with the news of two members having passed away. Also the address of a new member. Len mentions that Vince Longmore 2/2 of Sydney had called in to see him. Len and wife Joy send best wishes to all Pioneers. Thank you Len for your keen support. We do appreciate your fine effort.

- **GEOFF LLOYD** 2/2 of Highbury, S.A. sends a note to say thanks to Peg and Max for their effort on behalf of the Association and conveys best wishes to the Executive and members of the Association.

Geoff said he had many good reports after the Dubbo Reunion to say what a good show it was. He states someone with a sense of humour turned the camp into a zoo. It was a pretty cold "zoo" when he was there.

Geoff sends congratulations to Peg on her special presentation for thirty years of service to the Association.

He would also like to contact Doug Waters and invite him to join him at the Anzac Day Service.

- **JEAN McINTYRE** 2/2 of Lemon Tree Passage was thrilled to hear of Peg's presentation and also sends regards to all Pioneers.

- **BONNIE SNUDDEN** 2/2 wrote to say she has moved from Cobar to the Legacy Village at Dubbo — right into Mick Bye territory. Bonnie states she has a lovely unit and many thanks go to the Legacy organisation.

Whilst at Dubbo she had word from Allan and Connie Steff (2/2) from Coleraine, Vic. to say they had celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary last September and enclosed was a lovely photo showing them cutting the cake. Congratulations Allan and Connie from all Pioneers — and many thanks Bonnie for all the news.

- **BOB GALES** 2/1 of Toukley has sent along another table cloth for the Association to raffle, for which we thank you Bob. He sends best wishes to Peg and Max and all Pioneers. Many thanks to daughter Janet Foster for writing and arranging delivery — we are most grateful Janet.

- **PEG AND MAX HERRON** would like to thank all those Pioneers who sent them greeting cards at Christmas, both personally and on behalf of the Association. Many thanks and a prosperous and healthy New Year to all.

- **JEAN STAFFORD** 2/1 widow of George, with a donation to the Association funds and a deposit for a second copy of "The Pioneers". You will automatically receive all future issues of the Pioneer News, Jean.

Jean advises that while holidaying at Moss Vale Legacy House recently after a very serious operation, she met Linda Saunders, widow of Ross, formerly of D Company. Thank you for your letter Jean.

- **LEN PREEDY** 2/2 of Shenton Park, W.A. with a second letter with the news that Bob Sutton of Robin Vale was on a tour of W.A. and Len called at his hotel and had quite a few yarns to relate — some names mentioned were Ern Jones, Harry Locke, Charles Hocking and Frank Bradley.

Len was off on a coach trip to Mandurah and said he hoped to have a good time down south — he said there was a lot of activity with the America's Cup around his way. Len sends best wishes to all Pioneers from Western Australia.

- **ERIC LINDSAY** 2/2 of Coonabarabran sends in brochure and guide for his town should we find the area suitable at some future date for a country reunion. He said they do hold a few large conventions there.

Thank you Eric for the brochures and they will be passed on the Social Secretary for his perusal.

Also many thanks for your kind regards and we do hope you and Norma are enjoying good health.

- **REG WELLS** 2/1 rang the Secretary recently to say he and wife Peg have moved from Concord up to Woy Woy and are more than happy in their new environment. Reg stated he will call upon Jack

Collis at the earliest opportunity and will make every endeavour to attend the Anzac Day Reunion.

- **JIM PURSE** 2/1 of Bankstown rang the Secretary recently to say his wife has been in hospital recently with kidney trouble and therefore he would like to be excused from Committee meeting. Thank you Jim for your call and we do hope your wife has a speedy recovery.

- **BETTY CREASY** 2/1 of Portland writes to say she had heard from Bonnie Snudden with news of her move to Dubbo. Betty was at Wyoming with her daughter Joy, who was laid up with a broken leg. She states looking after three boys is not much of a picnic.

Glad and Harry Hamer had recently called and Betty was able to put Gladys in touch with another girl that worked at the Army Club, Railway Square.

Betty had been in touch with Bill Wright who had some health problems but was now all right. Thank you Betty for your newsy letter and we hope to see you on Anzac Day.

- **JACK COLLIS** 2/1 of Umina writes in about his welfare work on the Central Coast and states he had attended "Bricky" Wall's funeral with wife Gwen and also visited the home with "Bricky's" sister and had assisted her in the sale of cans to the value of \$22 for the Association. Thank you Jack for your letters and for your continued support.

- **NOEL SCHOMBERG** 2/1 of Parramatta with his subs and a deposit for Pioneer history. Also thanks to Committee for their work.

- **TED JENSON** 2/1 of Doonside with a short note as a deposit on Pioneer history.

- **BRUCE RICH** 2/1 of Narrenderra with subs and a short note as a deposit on 2/1 Pioneer history.

That completes the Mail Bag for this issue. Since the last issue, I've been in Concord with a slight stroke, nothing serious and okay now. We attended the funeral of Jim Rhodes and at time of writing Max Herron is in hospital for a nasal operation, seems its all happening to the Pioneers just now. Flash, Max has had his little trip to hospital, everything is okay, and he is home again. All we have left to go is Olive Finlay, wife of Gordon who has to have a bypass within the next couple of weeks. Football starting to roll again, although the weather last Sunday, 1st February, was hardly what you would call cool. That's about it for now so will finish off. Hoping to see lots of you at Redfern. — **LAKEY**

## WELFARE NOTES

- **MRS ELIZABETH DOUGLAS**, wife of John Douglas 2/1 of West Wyalong was killed in a tragic car accident in early December. Mrs Douglas was a well known marriage celebrant and was on her way to perform a wedding with the accident occurred.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to John and his family in their sad loss.

- **NOEL TREFONI** 2/1 spent six weeks in Auburn Hospital recovering from a serious operation to clear a blockage in his left leg. Noel is now home again and wife Rita advises he has picked up very well in recent weeks.

- **BOB LAKE** 2/1 our popular Pioneer News Co-editor was in hospital for a few weeks which did cause some concern because of his problem, but he is now back on his feet and doing quite well.

- **REG ARMSTRONG** 2/2 of Coonabarabran had a stint in Dubbo Hospital and our enquiries drew a card from Reg who assured us he is now recovering and looking forward to better health. Good luck to Reg and Coralie.

- **HARRY MONTAGUE** 2/1 in a nursing home at Strathfield at time of writing with leg problems and looks forward to visitors and really brightens up when old mates from the unit call on him.

- **MAX HERRON** 2/1 finally found time to see his doctor about a sinus problem and had a stay in hospital for an operation to clear the passages. Max had a few days of discomfort especially when Peg had to dress his nose each day with bandages. It will not hurt you to have a rest Max.

- **ANNE BURNS**, widow of Arthur "Scotty" Burns 2/1 who passed away in October 1986, has sent a card to Jack Collis thanking all Pioneers who attended the funeral. She also stated in the card what a wonderful job Jack had done in visiting "Scotty" in hospital and many times assisting him. Many thanks for your card Mrs Burns

— **MAX LAW, Welfare Chairman**

## 2/1ST PLAQUE PRESENTATION

On Friday 20th February 1987 the 2/1st Pioneer Battalion plaque was presented to the North Bondi RSL for affixing to their Tobruk Wall.

The proceedings commenced with the Sub Branch Secretary, Allan Marsden, giving a most informative talk on the layout of the Tobruk Wall and describing the method and procedure of the opening day on 14th April.

The Vice President Sub Branch, Clive (Casey) Brown then called upon the 2/1-2/2 Pioneer Btn Assoc. Secretary to say a few words and present their plaque.

In addressing the assembly our Secretary thanked Allan Marsden for his most interesting talk in explaining the Tobruk Wall and congratulated the Vice President and his team on the fine work they had carried out on behalf of all Tobruk Rats.

In presenting the plaque to the Vice President Secretary Max Herron said he did so with pride and in memory of all those good mates we had left behind. He stated that at one stage of the siege, the statistics showed the unit had the unusual casualty list of one hundred killed and one hundred wounded.

The Secretary concluded by thanking Jim Field, Association Publicity Officer, for the fine work he had put into hand making the plaque.

Rats of Tobruk President, Joe Maddely, then presented their plaque to the Vice President and stated it was terrific to see a Club going to such a lot of work to perpetuate the memory of Tobruk.

Vice President Clive "Casey" Brown (2/1st Pioneer) and Sub Branch Secretary Allan Marsden finalised the proceedings by inviting the assembly to be their guests in a round of drinks.

Association members in attendance were: Jim Field, Jim Gray, Jack Spottiswood, Roy Jardine, Vic Whiteley, Max Herron, Clive Brown and Bill Tasker.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE

With subscription, send news of your family and happenings. Letter to contain surname, christian name, company, battalion and present address. If forwarding new address, state old address, all in block letters.

If Pioneer News no longer required, mark wrapper NOT REQUIRED and post to Secretary.

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

## "THE PIONEERS"

The unit history of the 2/1st Pioneer Battalion is still proceeding slowly, and the reason we say slowly is because the response from the rank and file has not been good. The Editors have carried out their part by doing a lot of research but it is the humorous tale from you that we want to break it up.

Because the response to our requests for assistance to send in stories which relate to people or events in the unit during the war years has been slow, we have in some instances written to individual members, who we know have a story to tell. We do thank all those members who have replied.

It is not too late. Your story, serious or humorous, could be of the type which we can use.

For your guidance and encouragement, the following are the names of some of those who have contributed and whose efforts are greatly appreciated. These have been sent to Max Law who has endeavoured to acknowledge them all.

Adrian Buckley (Lt. Col.) writes of joining the unit as C.O. during May 1944 until disbandment in 1945. (We thank Adrian's daughter Chris, for the typing and delivery of the notes to Steve Clarke). Steve Clarke writes of the unit being disbanded. Ken Stuart speaks for the Mortar Platoon. Jack Tooker speaks of recreation, sport and training in the Middle East. Ossie McCurtayne, writes a good group of stories. Bob Burnside on general topics, Jack Coates has sent in lots of stories and we hope he keeps it coming as they are excellent. Charles Kerr of Maryborough writes of his trip home on the West Point. Jack Collis writes of medical and sports records. Padre Albert Pitt Owen with some very interesting stories and photos.

Eric Causer who claims to be the last reinforcement taken on strength — 20th September

1945 in the Signals Platoon. George Brooks with a very good offer. Ivor Garnon on the famous unit band, Laurie (Three Course) Kelly with his stories onto a tape recording. (Some heavy censoring needed Laurie, which will cut down the length of the tape.)

Please note the above list is only a sample and is not complete as some of the earlier letters have been sent on to other members of the history committee for their perusal.

Please put pen to paper and assist the Editors in making "The Pioneer" history what you would want it to be.

Bill Jollie has returned from Canberra for a second time after having carried out further research into the war diaries. Gordon Osborn has just gone to Melbourne to ascertain ways and means of compiling the nominal roll. Max Law spends at least two days each week on writing up notes from the War diaries and articles from the members.

An order form is printed below for members to fill out and send to the Treasurer with a deposit of \$5. If a member considers cutting out the order form spoils his Pioneer News, he may elect to photocopy it or fill out the particulars on a separate piece of paper and send with deposit.

### Please note:

1. **ARTICLES for the unit history be sent to Sub Editor, Max Law, 37 Solveig Crescent, Kareela, N.S.W. 2232.**
2. **ORDER FORM with deposit to be sent to Treasurer, Vic Whiteley, 20 Cairns Street, Riverwood, N.S.W. 2210.**

## LAST POST

• **JIM RHODES** 2/1st passed away in Concord Hospital on 19th January 1987 and was interred at Canberra on 22nd January.

A large group of former 2/1st Pioneers and their wives attended the service at the Church and graveside, and they were: Peg and Max Herron, Joan and Bob Lake, Marj and Jack Kerslake, "Snow" Vickery and daughter Jan, Max Law, George Walker and Vic Whiteley.

The eulogy in the church was given by Max Law who also conducted the military service at the graveside.

A kind invitation was extended to all Pioneers to return to the family home to have refreshments which gave our members a chance to speak to Ruth Rhodes and her family.

The past few months had seen Jim in hospital on numerous occasions and it was gratifying to see so many of the Executive paying him a visit. Jim had been a keen committeeman for the past twelve months since moving to Sydney and also a regular attendee of the Country Reunions. He will be sadly missed.

The sympathies of President and Committee were extended to Ruth Rhodes and all her family.

• **BILL MURPHY** 2/1 passed away on 29th January 1987 at San Souci. We thank Jack Robinson for passing on the news.

• **BILL HATLEY** 2/2 passed away on 9th January 1987 in Western Australia. Bill was a P.O.W. and had been sick for a long time having been in hospital on numerous occasions. We are grateful to Arthur Robinson, of the P.O.W. Association W.A. for this information.

• **BOB HANNON** 2/1 passed away peacefully at home on 23rd December, 1986. Bob was a very well-known identity in the unit and was affectionately known as "Lofty". He resided at Manly for many years before moving to Victoria to be with his daughter. The Secretary has extended to Mrs Hannon and family the sympathy of all Pioneers.

• **FREDERICK ALBERT PRACY** 2/1 of Alexandria passed away on 12th December. He had joined the unit just prior to sailing for New Guinea.

The cremation took place at Eastern Suburbs Crematorium and the eulogy and military service was conducted by Max Law who passed on sympathies to the family.

• **THOMAS "BRICKY" WILLIAM WALL** 2/1 of Point Clare passed away on 28th November 1986 and was interred at Palmdale Cemetery, Ourimbah.

Pioneers in attendance were Jack and Gwen Collis, Ron Irwin, Theo Reed, Ivor Garnon, Jack Coates, Harry Hamer, Jack Bertram and also a contingent from Central Coast Rats of Tobruk Association.

Sympathies of the Association were extended to the family and the Secretary has received a note of sincere thanks from Mrs Alice Johns, sister of "Bricky" who also wrote the epitaph to "Bricky" on page one.

• **BERESFORD EDWARD FINCH** 2/2 of Rydalmere passed away and was cremated at Rookwood Crematorium on 13th November, 1986.

• **GEORGE MACFARLAN** 2/1 of Ryde passed away in hospital and was cremated at Northern Suburbs Crematorium on 12th November, 1986. In attendance were Roy Jardine, Jack Clarke, Jack Pearce and Harry Shields.

George was wounded in Tobruk and later served with the unit in New Guinea. He once represented Australia in Soccer. He enlisted in first World War at the age of 16 years and was 87 years when he died.

Association condolences were extended to his widow Jean (90 years) at the funeral.

• **HARRY BARTON** 2/1 of Tamworth passed away on 22nd May 1986, and to his widow we extend the sincere sympathy of the Association members. Harry was a very popular member of "A" Company, 2/1st Pioneers.

• **JACK MCGAHEY** 2/1 passed away at Woolawore on 30th January and was cremated at Woronora Crematorium. Jack enlisted on 6th June 1940 and served in Tobruk and New Guinea as a staff sergeant. Mrs McGahey relates the story that Jack was a runner in Tobruk spotting from the top of a pole and phoning through to Fred Hannon at base of pole.

In reply to Mrs McGahey's letter our Welfare Officer rang and conveyed sympathy from all Pioneers.

— **MAX LAW, Welfare Chairman**

## ORDER FORM — 2/1ST PIONEER BATTALION UNIT HISTORY

Fill in particulars, cut out, 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 (full cost \$20) when notified.

Surname ..... Known name .....

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

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

Post order with \$5 deposit for each book 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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## 2/1-2/2 ANZAC ACTIVITIES

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Association took place on Friday, 24th April in the Board Room of the Redfern RSL and was attended by thirty members.

The meeting was opened by President Bob Dixon who extended a warm welcome to all members, particularly to those who had travelled long distances from NSW country areas and interstate visitors, John Hunt of Brisbane, and Eric Causer and Joe Kyffin of Victoria.

The meeting proceeded with reports from the various officers and it was pleasing to see the Balance Sheet, presented by Vic Whiteley, Treasurer, and audited by Arthur Watson AASA, showed the Association's financial standing was in a good position. In return the Treasurer received grateful acknowledgement for his meticulous attention to detail.

For the election of office bearers the President called on Vice President, Bill Jollie, to act as Returning Officer. Following upon the election of office bearers the President presented John Hunt with his Life Membership Certificate, which is covered in a separate report.

Following upon the closure of the meeting the President invited members and ladies to join in refreshments, which had been arranged by our member, Wal Smith who is Vice President of Redfern RSL. Our President called on Wal to thank the Club President for allowing the committee the use of the Board Room and for the refreshments.

A pleasant conclusion to a very interesting and fruitful meeting.

### WREATH LAYING CEREMONY

After partaking of a light meal at Redfern RSL the members proceeded to Martin Plaza for the Wreath Laying Ceremony. At 7.30 p.m. the marshal, Max Law, formed up the members and marched the short distance to the Cenotaph.

The two banners were proudly carried by Eric Causer 2/1 and Gavin Todd 2/2, and at the Cenotaph the two wreaths were placed by Mrs Dorothy Causer, representing the Ladies Auxiliary and Max Herron for the Association.

The President recited the Ode to the Fallen followed by the playing of Last Post and Reveille by our bugler, Aub Brazier. The ceremony completed, the members were dismissed, thus ending another Remembrance Service.

### 2/1 ANZAC DAY MARCH

On such a sunny day, it was no wonder that one hundred 2/1 members arrived at the forming up place in Phillip Street well ahead of the start time. There was the usual roll up of regulars but as in past years there were a few new faces and they were made very welcome.

As the forming up place was outside a well known sporting club there was ample opportunity to renew acquaintances over a little refreshment and there were a few members who could offer medical assistance for those suffering snake bite in the form of medicine carried in rum bottles.

It was pleasing to see the Vietnam veterans had been granted the honour of leading the Anzac Day March for the first time and because of this our marshal Bill Jollie assembled the marchers later than last year.

The band of the Bankstown Police and Citizens Club led the 2/1 march and the banner was carried by Neil Reilly, Vietnam veteran and son of Mick Reilly. Leaders of the March were Patron Gordon Osborn and John Gilchrist.

The March itself was a great success with big crowds lining the total length of the route and the 2/1 came in for their fair share of cheers, especially when "our" band played their version, several times, of a swinging "Waltzing Matilda".

### 2/2 ANZAC DAY MARCH

To be a 2/2 Pioneer is without a doubt a privilege not to be denied and this was proven early Anzac morning at the form up place by the welcome of members by Bob Dixon and Jim Field.

Hands were shaken, backs were slapped, names were remembered and forgotten and it was great to see a roll up of thirty members.

The banner was carried by three young people in turn, from the Ashfield Regional Cadet unit and they were Andrew McClelland, Paula Bird and Greg Moore. To these people we say a hearty thank you for a terrific job and they were a credit to their unit.

The leaders of the March were Allan McInnes, Ray Harris and Bill Robertson, and two newcomers to our ranks were Snowy Dodd and Len Hope who had not been sighted at the reunion for twenty years.

### ANZAC REUNION DINNER

After completing the March all members hastily made their way by taxi, train or car to be the first arrivals at Redfern Town Hall. The first obstacle was to line up inside the door and front up at the table manned by Ray Harris and Bob Lake to pick up their name tag, then across to the next table manned by Bill Robertson and Max Law to hand over the lunch fee.

The second obstacle was Vic Whiteley upstairs who extracted Pioneer News subscriptions and deposits for the history book. By now the thirsty Pioneers needed sustenance and after selecting suitable tables, proceeded to yet another table where Jack McDonagh and Eric Causer sold beer tickets to be handed to Geoff Finlay (son of Gordon) who supplied the jugs of beer.

Jack Collis and Jack Pearce organised the serving of the meals while Bill Hodges and Mick Egan counted the number of heads receiving meals. In the kitchen John Winters and his merry men did a great job in catering for the dinner and the afternoon snacks and their efforts were much appreciated.

Many thanks to all those people who made the day a most successful one including Bill Lake (son of Bob) who delivered and supplied the Tempire cooler to keep the beer at the right temperature.

Among the one hundred and forty who sat down for the meal was a group of navy personnel from HMAS Tobruk who were invited as guests of the Association. In 1985 members of the Association were invited aboard the "Tobruk" and were presented the ship's plaque by the Senior Sailors Mess so our President this year returned the compliment by presenting our plaque to Petty Officer Laurie Emmerson who was spokesman for the "Tobruk" Senior Sailors Mess. Laurie in reply said the Association plaque would take pride of place in the mess. Bill Collis, son of Jack, had a great time meeting up with the sailors from the "Tobruk" as he had trained with one of the group when he was on the HMAS Hobart.

Patron Gordon Osborn in his opening address to the members made special reference to the increasing number of sons of members who are attending the Anzac Reunion and assisting on the day. He also commented on how happy he was in seeing such a good roll up.

Thanks must also be extended to the attendance of sixteen of our officers at the dinner, particularly newcomer Jack Tooker who enjoyed himself immensely. It was also great to see Dr Stan Goulston attend the march for the first time — he apologised for non attendance at the dinner as he had to report back to hospital. John Gilchrist was accompanied by his son, at the dinner.

Vice President, Allan McInnes, presented Secretary Max Herron with a book titled "Wild

Australia" in appreciation of his thirty years of outstanding service to the Association. This presentation received a very warm round of applause and compliments from those present which was a tribute of recognition of Max's dedication to his position and aims for the benefit of Association members.

The raffle, conducted by George Walker, resulted in a tapestry donated by George being won by Bill Robertson and a table cloth donated by Bob Gales being won by Max Law. Many thanks to George and Bob for their donations.

Around the tables, it was hard to break into a conversation, due to everyone wanting to have his say. There were quite a few with old photos which were eagerly perused.

On the other hand, at an appropriate hour when the Ladies Auxiliary must have thought "it was time", they joined in with the happy atmosphere and were made most welcome.

The gathering began to break up at about 1600 hours, at which time the beer kegs began to show signs of being empty. The usual volunteers began the task of clearing tables, collecting beer jugs, moving chairs and generally cleaning up the hall and in thirty minutes it was back to normal, resulting in another successful reunion coming to a close.

The President and Committee wish to thank all those who participated in the Anzac ceremonies and look forward to being with you again next year.

— MAX LAW, Reporter.

• **JOHN DOUGLAS** 2/1 of Wyalong writes in to say thanks to all those Pioneers who signed the sympathy card sent to him for the loss of his dearly beloved wife, Ogilvie. Please accept his heartfelt thanks, as he states, it is gestures like that which makes one proud to belong to such a fine unit.

In Memorium: "How Ogilvie laughs on the wind, Her warmth shines down from the sun, Her sparkle is seen in the twinkle of stars Her spirit at one with the ONE."

### JOHN HUNT — LIFE MEMBER

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

John has been a Vice President for many years and for the past eleven years has organised and conducted the Brisbane Reunion, banding together some twenty members of both units. He has also been carrying out welfare duties in the Brisbane area by visiting our members in hospital and attending the funerals of members. Congratulations to you John on a job well done.

### COMBINED PIONEERS

The Wagga Committee of the Combined Pioneers have decided to forego the yearly get-together as the Riverina 9th Division Association are holding a Reunion Dinner at the Wagga RSL Club on Saturday, 31st October.

As all Pioneer Btms were at some time attached to the 9th Division an invitation has been extended to all Pioneers to attend their reunion, and the Wagga Committee have agreed to accept.

Please note the date and place: Saturday 31st October, 1987 at the Wagga RSL Club.

For further details please contact Jack Morgan, 282 Lake Albert Road, Wagga. Phone: (069) 22 6577 or Ken Knight, 11 Warrawong Street, Wagga. Phone: (069) 21 3529.

### BRISBANE REUNION

Saturday, 7th November at 11.30 a.m.

at the residence of John Hunt

4/25 Mountford Road, New Farm. Qld.

Telephone: (07) 358 4349 by 1st November

# MAIL BAG

Editor: BOB LAKE

Second issue of Mail Bag for this year and quite a lot of letters to reply to, some very short and others quite newsy but that's what we like so keep up the good work.

- **JACK COLLIS** 2/1 and our representative of the Central Coast reports that Jack Coates has been in and out of hospital again, Bill Wright was going down to Concord for vascular surgery, he had notified Max Law of this, Ivor Garnon is not very well but is still managing to carry on, he catches up with Ivor at the monthly meetings of the Rota. Blue Miller is still keeping well, and Jack and Gwen are off to Nelson Bay for a few days and wishes that we were all going along. It was good to see Stan Goulston and John Tooker at the Anzac Day March but reports that the television coverage was pretty awful. Also reports that they attended the Rats day at Newcastle and were very impressed with the gathering. They attended as guests of the Newcastle Sub Branch, where Jack Bertram was the MC and Jack Griffith as President, where both men did a good job. It's still a bit early for the final result as to the football Jack, but it will be a great pleasure to accept that lottery ticket.
- **FRANK BARTLEY** 2/1 now at Wangi writes that he is due to have a knee replacement and that he won't be available on Anzac Day so sends a sub to the treasurer for investment. He also requests the address of Eric Face who is unfortunately deceased, you have been notified of this by the secretary. Frank also attends the Rota at Newcastle once a month so keeps in touch with Pioneers at this show.
- **LEN SMITH** 2/1 Nelson Bay with a cheque for the treasurer for subs, a deposit for a History, and a change of address and says that it won't happen again, we hope you enjoy your new surrounds as it is a really good spot to live.
- **PAT TATTAM** Tamworth, widow of the late Jack, with a cheque to the treasurer for subs and a deposit for a Unit History.
- **DORRIE LONG** widow of the late Bob with a deposit for three copies of the History Book to be handed to her three sons and wishes continued success to the Association.
- **LLEW JONES** 2/1 Bexley with a sub for the treasurer and the news that his legs won't carry him anymore. Your photos that you gave to Bill Tasker will be taken care of by the Secretary.
- **GWEN PETRICH** widow of Vince with a further deposit for two more History Books and a sub for the Association.
- **FRANK CAULFIELD** 2/2 of Cairns sends a cheque to the treasurer, and a newsy letter. He and wife Betty went down to Melbourne for seven weeks over Christmas, ran into a lot of old mates, not too many of the old original 2/2 left but saw a few. Frank originally came from Victoria and he got quite a thrill when the Blues beat the Maroons last Tuesday night. He says they are very one eyed up in Queensland and he won a carton of Fosters on the result, will cherish every mouthful. Also quotes that Clem McDonald was enquiring about Snackers Snackenber. Well he changed his name by deed poll and he can't think of the name he adopted but says that any name must be an improvement. Frank also tells that a grandson Brett Caulfield has been picked to play for Victoria in the under fifteen basketball carnival, hopes to play for Victoria in years to come. Closes with best wishes to all.
- **MAVIS BLANCH** widow of Joe, writes that she was sorry to hear that Max Herron and I had been on the sick list, and hopes that we are fully recovered by now. Yes Mavis, both back to square one and getting on with it. She, herself is quite busy, doing lawns and gardens, and tripping around on bus trips, dinners etc, plus bowls and church charities. Attended the Dawn Service at Beaudesert on Anzac Day, and grandson Jason wore Joe's medals — he was so proud. Closes with best wishes to all and a little something for the treasurer.
- **HARRY "SNOWY" YOUENS** 2/2 Essendon, Vic. encloses a cheque for the treasurer and the news that he attended a 2/2 Reunion on Anzac Eve — a good night, but numbers are getting fewer.

Arrived home on Anzac Day to see Ted Hansen led the 2/2 and they all looked great. He is sorry there is no reunion this year but is hoping for a sighter the following year.

- **AUSTIE RONAN** 2/1 with a sub for the treasurer and reports that is going to Nambucca Heads for Easter and Anzac Day so will not be available for Redfern however, he does wish us well and hopes to be with us in spirit even if it is amber coloured.
- **KAY FLAVELL** Granddaughter of Tom William Senter, writes that she has made great steps in writing her grandfather's history, she has received papers and medical reports from Veteran Affairs and is now awaiting news from Army Records office. She thanks us sincerely for all our help and may we offer our congratulations on your recent marriage, we all wish you well and a long and happy married life in the future.
- **MABEL HANNON** widow of Bob with good wishes to all and another deposit for a third Battalion History per pen of her daughter Anne, it will be done, and Stan Nicholson's address has been posted on to you.
- **NITA FERRIS** widow of Leo with a deposit for a book and good wishes for the success of same.
- **FRED KILLEN** 2/1 Warners Bay with the shortest of notes enclosed find Fred's cheque for subs, and this written by his wife.
- **DAVID WELLER** 2/1 Bomederry, with dues, a deposit for book, and not a note of music with same. Dave was battalion bugler for some considerable time
- **JOHN WILLIAMS** Colonel of 2/2 with a sub and a deposit and an apology for not being able to make it to the functions, but if at any time he can, he will certainly be there.
- **JOHN TOOKER** 2/1 Chatswood with the news that he and Dr Stan Goulston will be in attendance at the March on Anzac Day, also that Jean and Kathleen will meet the ladies on the day.
- **PHIL CRAMSIE** 2/1 Queensland with a word of thanks to the association for the good job being done to keep the Association alive, especially for the interstates and enclosing a sub for the treasurer and a deposit for a book.
- **DOUG SHEARSTON** 2/1 Forster, with a note, and I say note, to the extent of subs, deposit and regards, must have been a bit pushed for time Doug.
- **GEORGE PATTERSON** 2/1 St Ives with much the same as above, although George was always brief and to the point, I trust that you have had no more accidents since last letter, and I hope that you are enjoying Fernbank.
- **JOHN FLOOD** 2/1 Lugarno wishing us all the best for Anzac Day and enclosing a sub and a deposit.
- **MEL NAYLOR** 2/2 Beaufort, Vic. with a sub for the treasurer and states that he hopes to be going to the 2/2 Reunion with his son-in-law on April 24, 1987 in Melbourne, is the son-in-law to get you home safely Rufe.
- **CEC HART** 2/1 Shoalhaven with a sub for the treasurer and the news that he is still getting good results with examinations for throat cancer but he will still be going back to Concord for a long time.
- **ALBY BARTON** 2/1 Yagoona, with a sub for the treasurer and telling that they are still very active with the welfare group. Like all of us, Alby doesn't know how he found time to go to work, they are so busy with their retirement, also offers his congratulations on the Pioneer News.
- **BILL WRIGHT** 2/1 Wyoming, with the news that he has had three weeks in Concord with a bypass operation on his leg. Home now and although there are some complications, there is improvement each day. Appreciated the visit by Max Law during his stay in hospital, and also in the next bed one Haywood Jones who apparently is a very good friend of Fred Wheaton, but was also a very special person to Bill during his time there.
- **HAROLD (MICK) PUNTON** 2/1 Padstow, per pen of wife Margaret with good wishes, good luck and a deposit for a history plus a little something for the treasurer.
- **GREG KNIGHT** historian, now at Kareela with a sub for the News and change of address, this has been noted and further correspondence will go to the new address.
- **ALICE JOHNS** sister to Bricky Wall, with a thank you for the news of Bricky's write up, and she says that she will remember us all on Anzac Day, at the same time she enclosed a story of Tom's writing which may be of some use for the Pioneer History Book. Many thanks for your letter and kind words, Bricky was a very special man.

• **DICK MARSHALL** Queenscliffe, Vic. with the bad news that he lost his brother on the way home from our Reunion in Dubbo. They were both in the same section in the 2/2 and Dick tried to get him to Dubbo, no luck, and asked Heather and Dick to call on the way back which they did, and on pulling up at the house, the neighbour was out the front and the conversation went like this:-

Neighbour: No good going in there, nobody home.

Dick: That's strange. He is expecting us.

Neighbour: He is dead. Buried last Friday.

As Dick says, it was quite a bombshell and it took a bit of time to get over it. Also reports that he has had a slight stroke, affected the use of his right hand, but it is getting a bit better now. He wrote this letter so keep the flag flying Dick and don't chase Heather around too many buses.

• **TOM GODDEN** Pennant Hills, with the information that he is home again after a spell in Concord Hospital where he has had a right leg amputation above the knee. He is now confined to a wheelchair, considered an artificial leg would affect his back too much at the ripe old age of 82. Sends his regards to all and he will watch for them on Anzac Day.

• **JOE ROBERTSON** 2/2 Findon, S.A. writes with a cheque for the treasurer and the news that he is looking forward to Anzac Day with a reunion of the small band of Pioneers that reside in that neck of the woods. He had a phone call from John Dowd and was able to catch up with most of the news. Quotes that he is still keeping miserably fit, playing bowls and a bit of gardening and one must be thankful that one is still vertical and mobile.

• **REG ARMSTRONG** 2/2 Coonabarabran, writes that he will not be attending the reunion this year, hoping to be in better condition next time. Has had a second trip to Dubbo Hospital (more surgery) and said that the RSL Women's Auxiliary were so nice to him that he joined the Dubbo RSL. Extends best wishes to Max Herron and Lakey on their illness, and closes with best wishes to all for the big day.

• **WAL PAGE (DESSO)** 2/1 Kingscliffe with the news of the death of Neville Andrews. He was cremated at Tweed Heads on May 11, 1987 where Doug Turner and wife plus Desso were in attendance. Others would have been in attendance only the floods were in full swing at the time. Whiteleys and the Lakes were with Neville and Phil at a picnic on the Wednesday, May 5, and we only remarked on how well he looked, however when we called back to their place two weeks later, Phil told us that he took to bed on the Wednesday night. Desso is still keeping well playing bowls and enjoying a very relaxing life and also encloses a cheque to keep Whiteley happy.

• **LEN PREEDY** 2/2 W.A. writes that they had another meeting on 20th March and it was well attended. Just to list the names sounds like a mini reunion, Vince Longmore, Barry Hunt, Owen Herron (ex-Vic), Dick and Sheila Hobley, Joy Butcher (widow), Arthur Dearden (1st time), and lots of these people travel long distances to attend, some up to 450 kilometres which makes the west a pretty solid place as far as Pioneers are concerned. Les has also sent Max an original list of West Australian reinforcements kept by the late George Hobley and this was very acceptable to Herron. Len would also like to hear from Frank O'Brien, Tommy Behan, Choom Brown, Poppa Martin and Billy Burke where are they? Closes with best wishes to all, and special mention to Eric Lindsay and Fred Bellingham.

• **HAL REILLY** 2/2 ACT, with a note apologising for his late attention to subs, however he has been ill for the past twelve months. Sends a cheque to the treasurer and wishes the very best to all.

• **ERN LUNN** 2/2 Dubbo, with the news that Wally Baird has passed away. We had been advised by Mrs Baird, Ern, but thanks for letting us know, and Ern also enclosed a sub for the treasurer.

• **JOE WHITE** 2/2 Armadale with a sub for the treasurer and the news that he will not be in Sydney for the reunion this year, however he passes on good wishes for a great day especially to his mates in the tank attack platoon.

• **CEC SLOGGETT** 2/2 Gunnedah per pen of wife May expressing their sorrow at the passing of Jim Rhodes. Claims they are both well with Cec doing his share of odd jobs around the house and still manages to get a game of bowls in. Bowling all over Easter and then they are off to Queensland for a month or so, chasing the sun, enclosed a cheque for the treasurer in case they go broke.

• **MRS MIN LEIS** Casino, widow of Joe, with a deposit for two copies of the History Book and your request has been answered personally by the Secretary. You have 4 years of copy of the Pioneer News to catch up on, see what happens when you do not change your address with us?

• **JACK KEMPENICH** 2/1 Fingal Bay, per pen of wife Maisie, with a cheque for the treasurer and the news that they may be a bit hard to find this year. Intend going up the Centre and over to Broome then return for the Camel Races at Todd River, reckons she is going to leg Jack up to be a jockey. Then in November, intend doing a bus trip from Fingal Bay to Tasmania and back, watch out for that bus crossing all that water Maisie. Claims they are doing all they can this year because March 1988 she has to go into hospital for another hip replacement. Not looking forward to it either. Had a visit from Jack and Gwen Collis, told them a bit of the news, sends her sincere condolences to Ruth Rhodes, and then rubbishes me, Lakey, over the football, which I will ignore, but I'll bet you a lottery ticket that Manly finishes in front of Newcastle when they play and how many times do I have to tell you "Packer has nothing to do with Manly". Thanks for your letter Maisie, your kind thoughts and good wishes to all Pioneers and their ladies.

• **FRED CALLAWAY** 2/1 Wahroonga writes a long letter to say he cannot be in attendance this year. I was in hospital same ward with Fred, and they gave him the treatment with his hip, has had 4 operations over 7 years with the same hip. However they have finally found the trouble and hopefully they have put it right this time. Had a card from Max Law while at Lady Davidson and a visit from Alan McInnes where they had a yarn and sipped at a bottle of Black Douglas. Fred's suggestion re a get-together with a few beers and a tape recorder would certainly give you a few of the humorous stories that were told on the Imita Ridge for copy for the History. Thanks for the letter Fred, and hope that the hip is getting along now.

• **STAN GAVAN** 2/2 Greystanes, with a sub for the treasurer and a thank you for the previous copies of Pioneer News, he has found them very interesting reading.

• **BILL LEWIS** 2/2 Carlton writes an interesting letter on the epitaphs and his suggestion of 200 words is noted, his constructive criticism is well received and as he said, we are governed by space, but on a different note, he looked up Frank Cheal in Melbourne, found him at the Alfred Hospital where he had major surgery, the good news is that Frank is looking good, can't wait to get home and wife Barbara says, "Hear Hear!" She won't miss those long trips to the hospital daily.

• **CHAS URWIN** 2/2 Wye River, Vic. writes that unaccustomed as he is to writing letters, thought he should put pen to paper and say how much he and Jean enjoyed Dubbo. He had another operation last month and is recovering quite well. He enclosed a cheque for the treasurer and wishes all and everyone good health.

• **CARL BALL** 2/2 Hurstville, writes that he won't be attending Anzac Day, has had a long stay at Prince Alfred Hospital, thinks that Bill Lewis idea of paying tribute a good idea, the tribute he wrote on Tojo Gregory was great and is pleased that Jean McIntyre is keeping in touch, her husband "Blue" was a great mate to all those that knew him. Enclosed a cheque for the treasurer and best wishes to all the Association.

• **JACK MCGREGOR** 2/2 Shortland, with a letter to the Association showing interest in the mention of Jack Laurie who was a teacher at Newcastle Tech College after the war. Clem McDonald's paragraph on Bill Robertson brought back a few memories. The Anzac March as shown on the ABC was a dud as usual. Saw on film the flash of the banners and that was it. They are planning a trip to the North in a couple of months, up as far as Cairns and the Tablelands and returning inland via the New England Highway. Wishes everyone good health and encloses a sub to keep the treasurer happy.

• **GEORGE PARICOS** 2/2 Eastwood enclosed a cheque for the treasurer and the news that he would not be in attendance this year, has been attacked by emphysema and bad swelling of the legs. Has had a phone call from Frank Locane and Pat Collins and they told him what a great day they had at Redfern. George claims he has read the paper at least three times, that's how much he enjoys same.

• **KEN STUART** 2/1 Turrumurra with a cheque for the treasurer and an amusing letter as to why he never attended on Anzac Day. Only the second time

he has missed but a broken ankle does have a tendency to stop people from walking. He fell off a ladder. We would prefer to have your version of what Jan said Ken but I'm sure she was very explicit. Well on the way to recovery now but will have five stainless steel pins in the ankle for the rest of his life to join up with the pacemaker inserted two years ago to complete the miscellaneous hardware needed to keep him going. Sorry to hear about the accident Ken and thank you for the good wishes to the Association.

• **NOEL GRANT** 2/1 Altona with a cheque and the news that since returning they have been doing a bit of travelling around Australia and was able to visit Keith Boyle on one trip. Next trip is planned for Normanton and the Gulf country, watch out for the crocs and don't let Jean go swimming.

• **BERNIE DALY** 2/2 Taree, with a sub, and the news that they had a visit from Tom and Mary Morgan first sighting since 1943 but had plenty to talk about. Also had a visit from Bob Ginnane and Nell. Claims that he and Stella are not as well as they used to be but are still with us. Wishes all a very happy Anzac Day.

• **ALLAN BAUER** 2/2 now at Loganholme, Qld. with a letter per pen of Dorothy that Allen has had three strokes since Christmas and is not up to scratch, so she is taking him north and advises us of the change of address, it is to be hoped that the warmer weather and climate will be of benefit to you both.

• **TOM CHEETHAM** 2/1 Adamstown with a cheque and not a lot of news. Family commitments local sub branch and club keep him occupied and he used to visit Alex Durie at Coffs and Tom Morrow at Woolgoolga but claims that advancing years have slowed him down and since Larry Robson ceased visiting, he seldom sees any Pioneers.

• **VINCE LONGMORE** 2/2 Campbelltown with a letter of request to all 2/2 that have not attended an Anzac Day, you don't know what you are missing and that applies to anyone that has not been to Perth, as Vince sings the praises of the job Len and Joy Preedy are doing over there in making visitors from the east welcome. Vince had an enjoyable day in Perth with Jack Murray and John Crispin both are in reasonable health. Harry Fitzgerald sends greetings to all, plus Monty Reids platoon, Harry moved over to the west, Kimberleys and cattle, and is now retired and living at Gosnells (Perth suburb) and would be pleased to see or hear from any old mates. Closes with the words, "If you are thinking of going to Perth, just get on the plane and go, you won't regret it."

• **GEORGE BROOKS** 2/1 Ipswich with a cheque and an apology for Anzac Day, George was in Sydney with every intention of attending but got caught up on a sick parade and watched the March on television. Dosed him up with antibiotics and has since arrived home clear faced and back to square one. Good for you George.

• **JACK PAINTER** 2/1 Narrandera, spent Anzac Day at home this year and had a good day, tells that Paddy Walsh is still in the nursing home but is doing okay. Also had a visit from Ivan Pepper who looks well, he and his wife were doing a trip around — it was good to see him again. Closes with best wishes and a cheque to keep things rolling.

• **TOM MORGAN** 2/2 Wyongah writes (his second letter in 40 years) to say congratulations for the Pioneer News and for the wonderful job of publishing same. Over the last two years Tom has attended the many functions that we have held and enjoyed them all. They attended the Pioneer get together at Wagga where they were looked after by Jack Morgan and Ken Knight also the hospitality of John Dowd, Bob Ginnane, Kev Ackhurst and their wives, it was a pleasure to be with some of the original members of the unit. The following week they attended the reunion at Dubbo, the service, the dinners and the trip to the zoo all were a wonderful experience. They did not get as much time as they would have liked to have a good yarn especially to the likes of Frank Cheal, Nev O'Connor, Bill Fallon but it was good to meet up with Roy and Marion McGregor who were best man and Matron of Honour at their wedding 41 years ago. Travelled back on the XPT with Bill Robertson and his wife with Bill making sure we caught our connecting train at Strathfield. Since then I have visited Bob Molyneux at Lightning Ridge where we found him as well as we. Then a trip north where we looked up Kev Raywood, enjoyed a few beers and a meal with Snowy Dodd also had a day with Bernie Daly and his wife Stella, both of whom are not enjoying the

best of health. Thence to Anzac Day what a day, despite Alex Mitchell mothering him all day still managed to miss the train home and when they did make it, the station at Warnervale was not wide enough for Snow Dodd, Roy McGregor and himself, but thanks to a phone call from Alex, the wives were waiting for them. To Jim Field, he would like to say thanks for the photos, they made his wife very happy. Up there on the Central Coast Tom only knows of three 2/2 Alec Mitchell, Len Hope, Ken Harrison, but he knows there are quite a lot of 2/1. In the last week he has visited Tom Reynolds at Swansea and they made him very welcome. Closes with best wishes and would be glad to see any Pioneer that may be passing through.

• **BRYAN SMALLHORN** 2/1 Armidale with a cheque for the treasurer and good wishes for a good reunion.

• **RAY BURROUGHS** 2/2 Canberra with a cheque for the treasurer and some bad news. Harry Reilly (Sgt) ex 2/2 passed away a couple of weeks ago. He had suffered for some time with emphysema and had been in and out of hospital, but the final blow was a stroke. On a recent trip to Bundaberg, Ray and Merle stopped over at Forster and looked up Don Linton and Nancy at Tuncurry, found them both looking fit and well, Nancy and Merle were neighbours at Artarmon as schoolchildren. Ray fills in his time with the usual chores around the house, with bowling and lake fishing. Googong, Burrienjuck and Eucumbene, good trout waters and hopes to get Gordon Sheen up for a few days to try his hand in a couple of weeks.

• **STAN CHANDLER** 2/2 Wangaratta with a sub, and the news that he and wife Alice have just returned from a trip to Perth, over by coach and returning by train, would recommend this trip to anyone that likes coach and train travel. Keeps in touch with Ron and Fay Waddell both well known in the 2/2 Association, Ron a TPI for quite a long time and has a lot of trouble getting around but likes to meet up with old mates for a yarn.

• **ERIC REYNOLDS** 2/1 Macksville with a letter to tell that watching the March on television was a flop as far as the Pioneers were concerned. Eric and Joyce enjoyed a few days at Jenolan Caves in March (one of his favourite spots) then up to Avalon for a couple of days with Joyce's sister. Had a day in Sydney, roast pork at Centrepont but has not been up in the tower as yet. Still doing the meals on wheels, and the Macksville show has been and gone by the time this goes to print. Closes with best wishes to all.

• **BONNIE SNUDDEN** wife of the late Smokey, writes that she had not got a copy of the News, the Secretary has posted this to you and Len Preedy's address, she has since been in touch with Len and a photo which she sent to the News is being held by Max, I don't know whether he is going to print same, or place it in the Album.

That completes the Mail Bag for this issue, the wife and I had a month up north after Anzac Day, called on a few Pioneers, Fred and Jean Wheaton, Doug and Gert Turner, missed the turn to Ray Horne so bad luck on that one, put in 4 days with Vic and Peg Whiteley, got lost at Canungra, all in all a good trip, and 12 inches of rain overnight at Maroochydore, boy that's rain. For the likes of Coatsey and Collis, Manly are now on top, let's hope that they stay that way for a while.

**LAKEY**

## NEWS ITEMS

**FRANK CHEAL** 2/2 of Burwood, Victoria, is back home after a long spell in hospital. Frank makes light of major surgery, intensive care and intravenous feeding. As if that isn't enough, Frank faces further surgery for cataracts as well as arthritic knees. Apart from this Frank reckons he is in good shape, which proves you can't keep a Pioneer down.

**GEORGE MURPHY**, Secretary of the 2/2nas Victoria writes to say they had a good Anzac Eve Reunion as there were one hundred and twelve members in attendance.

On Anzac Day they had sixty six marchers behind proud President Ted Hansen who led the march in perfect weather.

The annual general meeting of their Association was held on 30th April with one hundred per cent attendance and Ted Hansen was re-elected as President with the same Executive officers as last year.

Thank you George for the report and we in NSW extend our best wishes to your Executive and Committee.

V A L E

HARRY "MONTY" MONTAGUE

After a long illness Harry Montague passed away on 5th May 1987 at a Strathfield hospital at the age of eighty one years.

The funeral service, conducted at Rookwood Crematorium on 11th May by Padre David Hayes, resident chaplain at Concord Hospital, was attended by twenty five Association members and their ladies.

Prior to entering the Chapel, Association members joined Strathfield-Homebush RSL members to form a guard of honour at the entrance, as the casket was carried into the chapel. Members then lined the walls of the chapel and at the appropriate time as the Padre recited the Ode and Last Post and Reveille sounded, each member, came forward and placed a poppy on top of the casket and paid silent homage to "Monty".

Before a packed chapel, Padre Hayes, who had known "Monty" for many years, during his regular welfare visits to Concord Hospital, described him as "a man small in stature, big in heart and no greater man have I met".

The eulogy was read by President Bob Dixon as follows:-

"Harry Montague was an original member of the 2/1 Pioneer Btn. Affectionately known to all Pioneers as "Monty" he was a member of our great Association since 1946, which adds up to forty one years of dedicated service to our members.

Originally he was Publicity Officer of the Association, but for the past twenty years he had been Welfare Officer. In this role he had visited our members in hospital, attended the funerals of members and had organised pensions for members. He had travelled long distances to assist widows in their battle for War Widows Pensions and on one occasion had even travelled to Brisbane for that purpose. Each week letters would come into the Association singing the praises of Monty for his continued work as Welfare Officer — it was his life's work to look after our members. Harry was made a Life Member of the Association in 1970.

Monty was also reporter for our Newspaper "Pioneer News" and every copy over the years would contain an article by Harry "Monty" Montague. It could be on visiting hospitals, Last Post or pension work and then at times he would cover the history of the 2/1 Pioneers, giving minute details, such as he recalled only recently when visited, the formation of the unit in June, 1940, and many personalities in the Unit in those early days.

"Monty" was truly a great man and he will be sadly missed by all members. Our sympathy is extended to Jean and her family — may their sorrow be eased a little by the knowledge that so many others share their loss with them.

"THE PIONEERS" — HISTORY OF THE 2/1st AUST. PIONEER BTN.

The first four chapters of the 2/1st Unit History are now at the typist and the remaining chapters are also close to completion. It has been decided by the History Committee to produce a hard covered book 9"x6" with a coloured dust jacket.

Some members are ordering extra copies for grandchildren and some to donate to School Libraries and Council Libraries containing inscription in honour of a deceased member.

A nominal roll of all persons entering the unit has been compiled from thousands of numbers and names taken from records held by Central Army Records Office Melbourne, where two members recently spent five days. Deleting duplications has reduced this to a roll of two thousand five hundred names and numbers. This roll and the Honours and Awards as well as the Casualty Lists will be printed as the final chapter of the book.

The number of orders received from members will be the quantity ordered from the Printer and no

NEWS ITEMS

LLOYD "PORKY" GRAHAM 2/1 of Terrigal sends word that on the Monday after Anzac Day a group consisting of Beau Hannaford, Clem Cook and self, visited Jock Russell at his Stockton nursing home. The "Big Fella" is full of fun and according to the nurses at the hospital has them just about ready to be committed.

Charlie Rock and Bill Chisholm visit Jock regularly and he states it is untrue about the rumour Charlie puts about that the nurses demand that Jock has to wear boxing gloves during waking hours.

The "Row Boat" hotel is on the opposite corner to the nursing home in Stockton and judging by the greetings and ribald banter which occurred on Jock's entrance one would deduce he is well known there.

Thank you Porky for your report, and the incidents of humour you enclosed will be used at a later date when space permits.

**HUMPHREY JACKSON** 2/1 of Norfolk Island sends regards to all Pioneers and in particular to Gordon Osborn, Ken Stuart and the Morahans.

Humphrey and his charming wife Moya entertained Peg and Max Herron one afternoon while they were holidaying at Norfolk Island in March.

Moya and Humphrey are both very busy people. Moya recently organised a get-together of the ladies of four churches on the Island for the Women's World Day of Prayer Centenary Year. According to the report in the local paper, Moya did a grand job. For some time she was President of the local Quota Club.

Humphrey recently retired from an active role with the local RSL where he had been an active committee member.

Peg and Max Herron wish to thank Moya and Humphrey for their kind hospitality and for the nice farewell at the airport.

**OLIVE FINLAY** wife of Gordon, has been in hospital for a by-pass operation in May and is home recuperating. She has received many telephone calls and numerous get well cards from people to whom she would like to say thank you for their kind thoughts. Our best wishes, Olive, for a speedy recovery.

**CARL BALL** 2/2 of Hurstville missed out on the Anzac Day activities for the first time in years. Carl has had a rugged year having spent three months in hospital including nine weeks in intensive care.

But despite all this, the old New Guinea warrior, who earned the sobriquet of "Prothero" following one eventful patrol, is soldiering on and promises to front up next year. Carl, we look forward to seeing you.

further copies will be printed, so if you have not ordered, send in the order form below, as this may be your last opportunity.

Can any member who went into Ioribaiwa or Nauro villages after Imita Ridge send in a story of conditions found there or about the Japanese left behind.

Also a story is required from any member who was on Tempadoeng beach, Balikpapan when two Japanese barges landed on the beach flying large Japanese flags plus a white flag and handed over Indian "Punjab" soldiers who had been POW's for three years.

The barges were led in by three Pioneers in a collapsible engineer boat with CSM Ron Maher (A Coy) in one of the boats. Where is Ron Maher? Confirmation of details of this incident would be of assistance, e.g. the cocky Jap commander with the lace gloves and large sword. Replies to Max Law, 37 Solveig Crescent. Kareela 2232.

LAST POST

• **WALLY BAIRD** 2/2 passed away at Collarenebri on 15th March 1987 after suffering a heart attack. Wal's wife Barbara had rung the Secretary and asked that all his close mates be advised.

Members attending the 1986 Dubbo Reunion will remember, during the day at the Zoo, Wally pointing out the old army camp boundary as his family had owned the property prior to the Army taking it over in 1940. This was before it was established as the Western Plains Zoo.

The sympathies of all members was extended to Barbara and her family.

• **ROY CHEERS** 2/1 of Buladelah passed away on 28th May 1987 and sympathy was extended to the family by Jack Griffith who had passed on the news to the Secretary.

• **RON MCINTOSH** 2/1 of Chester Hill passed away on 6th June and the service was held on 9th June at the Sefton Catholic Church.

The service at the graveside was conducted by members of the Sefton RSL and particulars of Ron's service in Tobruk and the Owen Stanley Range was given to a large gathering of family and friends. This was followed by the reciting of the Ode to the Fallen and the sounding of the Last Post.

Our Association was represented by Gordon Finlay and Welfare Chairman Max Law.

Sympathies of the President and members were extended to family members.

WELFARE NOTES

• **BILL WRIGHT** 2/1 of Wyoming had been in Concord Hospital early this year for an operation on his legs to correct a blockage. On his return home Bill was kind enough to write and acknowledge visits by Welfare Chairman Max Law.

Thank you Bill and we hope all is well now.

• **LAURIE FITZHENRY** 2/1 of Paddington, was at one time a Committee member but has been lost to the Association for some years only to be found again. Laurie has had a lot of bad luck in that he is in South Sydney Hospital having lost one leg by amputation and has been close to losing the other leg.

Laurie has had numerous visits to hospital by Max Law, Bill Tasker and Ron Callaghan. Max Law had sent a get well card and has visited Ron at home.

• **FRED CALLAWAY** 2/1 of Wahroonga has been in and out of Lady Davidson Hospital after a hip replacement and was recently graduated to a walk cane, but happy with the result. Fred sends regards to all members.

• **BOB LEE** 2/2 of Strathfield who is one of our hospital representatives is having his own batch of troubles with heart trouble.

Bob is always willing to pay a visit to members in hospital. A recent phone call from him revealed he may have to go back into hospital — good luck Bob.

• **NOEL TREFONI** 2/1 of Toongabbie is another member who just cannot shake off his health problems, as Rita advises he may have to return to Auburn Hospital for further surgery.

• **NORM HUME** 2/1 is in ward 120 at Concord Hospital at the moment but for some time he has been in the Wentworth Nursing Home, Frenchmans Road Randwick, and would welcome visitors as he enjoyed the visit by Max Law.

• **BILL HUTCHINSON** 2/1 of Caringbah contacted the Secretary recently to say he is well and slowly recovering from a stroke he suffered several years ago. Bill was a member of the Sig Platoon and he and Max Herron recalled names of members of the Sig Platoon: Eric Causar, Jack Comerford, Bob Gash, Bern Reiners, Doug Shearston, Wai Parsons, Keith Reynolds, Ron Macfarlane, Norm Hume and others.

It appears Bill's wife Gloria, is a niece of Norm Hume, mentioned in above paragraph.

Bill sends regards to all Pioneers and particularly those of the Signals Platoon otherwise known as "The Performing Seals".

• **GWEN PETRICH** widow of the late Vince 2/1 was in bed when recently contacted by Max Law after being in hospital for an operation on her legs. She was very cheerful and looking forward to being up and about again.

Many thanks Gwen for your patience in allowing us to use the war diaries belonging to Vince. They were a great assistance in confirming details for the unit history book.

— MAX LAW, Welfare Chairman

ORDER FORM — 2/1st Pioneer Battalion Unit History (Fill in particulars)

Reserve copies of "The Pioneers" and I enclose my cheque as a holding deposit, agreeing to pay the balance of \$15 plus postage when notified.

SURNAME: ..... KNOWN NAME: .....

ADDRESS: .....

..... POST CODE ..... PHONE ..... DATE .....

Post Order with \$5 Deposit for each book to:— V. Whiteley, 20 Cairns Street, Riverwood, N.S.W. 2210.



# PIONEER NEWS

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## SAD PASSING OF OUR PATRON

The Executive and members were saddened at the sudden passing of Gordon Stanley Osborn, Association Patron for the past fourteen years.

Gordon died suddenly at his home on 25th August and, after a brief ceremony at the Caringbah Funeral Parlour when Bill Jollie spoke on behalf of the 2/1st Pioneer Battalion and John Gilchrist on behalf of his family and friends, a service was conducted at the Woronora Crematorium by the Caringbah R.S.L.

Gordon was born in Raymond Terrace on 13th January, 1918, attended Maitland High School and after matriculation joined the Rural Bank in Sydney where he had his first experience of army life joining the 30th Battalion, NSW Scottish Regiment, where he was commissioned in August, 1939.

During this period he met Belle and they were married on 15th June, 1940. They lived a full and happy life together till Belle's death on 2nd April, 1977. This union was blessed with four children to whom we extend our sincere sympathy in their loss.

Gordon joined the A.I.F. on 3rd June, 1940 and was commissioned into the 2/1st Australian Pioneer Battalion as a lieutenant. He remained with that unit throughout the Middle East and Tobruk and for his services in the latter was Mentioned in Despatches. He took his company to Milne Bay where they acquitted themselves very well, being attached to 6th Divisional Engineers. He left the unit in 1944 to command the 23rd Training Battalion first at Bathurst and later at Greta.

He had at this stage decided that his career was with the Army and he had a number of staff appointments, being involved in the reconstitution of the C.M.F. and the Interim Army.

After attendance at Staff College in 1949 he served Army H.Q. in Melbourne and H.Q. Eastern Command in Sydney until early in 1954 when he was appointed as Administrative Officer on the Staff of the Director General for Her Majesty's Royal Visit from February to April of that year. Arising out of this he was made a Member of the Royal Victorian Order receiving the decoration from Her Majesty immediately prior to her departure from Western Australia.

He served in Korea with the 3rd Bn. Royal Australian Regiment and on his return to Australia served in a variety of staff appointments eventually retiring from the Army with the rank of Lieut. Colonel in 1968.

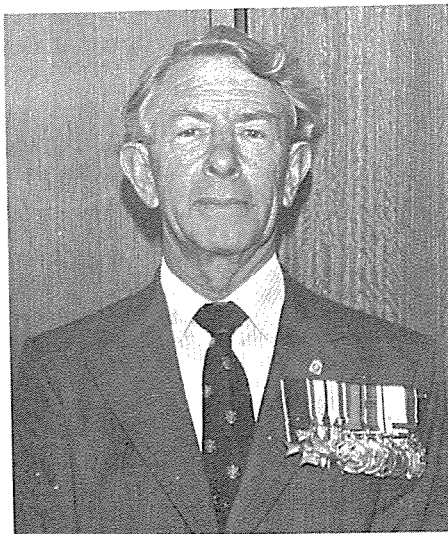
After his retirement he served for some seven years as Secretary of the Imperial Service Club from which position he resigned in 1975.

Although he had resigned from the army his interests were in all matters connected with the history and development of the service through the years. He was a member of the Army Museum Society and the Corps of Guides, Member of the NSW Historical Society, Member of the Society of Genealogists, Vice-President of the UNSW Monomeith Society, Member of the United Services Institute, the Rats of Tobruk Association and the Caringbah R.S.L. as well as being very active in and a past-president of the Imperial Service Club. He had experienced great satisfaction in that he had been able to trace his family tree back for several generations.

Gordon was an active sportsman having in his early days represented the Rural Bank in Rugby, still played tennis and was a keen gardener taking great pride and getting so much enjoyment from looking after his own property at Caringbah.

In spite of all the above he could always find time to help, advise or even just talk to those who asked for his help and there are very few who knew him who could not think of some service that he had been able to provide for them.

He always held the highest moral and ethical values and consequently was greatly respected and admired by all who came in contact with him.



*The late Lieut. Colonel Gordon Stanley Osborn, M.V.O., ED.*

Of all Gordon's interests none was closer to his heart than his affection for the 2/1 Pioneer Battalion. He had been a member of the Association since 1946 and attended most country reunions. He was elected Patron in 1974 and made a Life Member in 1984 and took great pride in heading the March on Anzac Day and his fraternisation afterwards at the Reunion Dinner.

A great part of his spare time over the past two years was spent working on the preparation of the 2/1 Pioneer Bn. History for which he had carried out a great deal of research and shown such great enthusiasm.

We are saddened by his loss — we have lost a sincere and genuine friend but I am sure that we are all better men for having been associated with him over the years. We owe it to Gordon to ensure that the history is completed so that the story of the Battalion of which he was so proud can be recorded for posterity.

We thank God for the life of Gordon Stanley Osborn. We will remember him.

Reported by JOHN GILCHRIST

## PRESIDENT RESIGNS

Dear Fellow Pioneers,

It is with deep concern, and distress, that I write these few lines in regard to my resignation as President of the Association.

Due to my illness with cancer, and not knowing if, and when, I can attend meetings etc., I regretfully decided to resign to allow a new Chairman to be elected to look after this most important job. I shall, God willing, remain on the Committee and do my "bit" towards the further success of this great Association.

Yours very sincerely, Bob Dixon

(At our July Committee Meeting, Bob's resignation was accepted with regret, and it was moved that he be thanked for his many years of devoted service. The meeting decided to call upon the Senior Vice-President, Bill Jollie, to act as Chairman until the election of officers at the next Annual Meeting).

## MY TRIP UP NORTH

Charlie Kerr, Sig. Platoon, 2/1, of Maryborough (Qld.) writes of a very interesting and enjoyable trip he has recently done to North Queensland and New Guinea and relives a lot of wartime memories. He writes as follows:

"Commencing with a week at Toowoomba for a Postal Institute Bowls Carnival, I then headed off north by train to Cairns where I spent a couple of weeks renewing acquaintance with the north once more. The growth in this area is phenomenal and the dimly remembered Cairns, with a pub on every corner, has really changed, with lots of multi-storey motels and units.

The canelands area around Stratford and Red Lynch are largely urbanised and home to about 50,000 people, as is Cairns itself. Making the most of the tours available, I went to the Tablelands on two trips, having a walk around Kairi and lunch at the Dam. They have signposted the area as 7th Div. H.Q. and I tried to follow the track to our old campsite but, although the track still exists, it is soon lost in the Dam area.

I also went to Port Douglas and Mossman. There was not much change at Mossman, except a few more houses, and the sugar mill is still the dominant feature. However, Port Douglas is a different story, with terrific development to the tune of some \$18,000,000 and more to come.

I had a few boat trips to Green, Musgrave and Fitzroy Islands. Green Island, which I visited on a wartime invasion training exercise as a three hour trip in a fishing boat, now is half an hour from Cairns in a fast catamaran. I also had a day trip up the Daintree River, which was very enjoyable.

From Cairns I flew to Port Moresby where I spent a week. I remembered Moresby as a few dusty villages, and it is now a city of 250,000 with a University, Houses of Parliament and motels up to thirteen stories. I had a look at the local War Cemetery, where Stan Budd and others are buried. I booked for trips to the Kokoda Trail, but somehow they did not eventuate. I did get to Rouna Falls, about half way to Owers Corner. All Pioneers who were "up the Track" would remember these places.

I flew on to Lae for a month's stay with Frazer, my son, and his wife Elaine, and two children. Was surprised at the lush vegetation and gardens after the dry area at Moresby. Lae is the manufacturing centre for the Highlands area and home for about 80,000 people. The Western Highlands is the real showplace of New Guinea and is connected to Lae by a really magnificent highway built over very difficult terrain. It rises from sea level at Lae to 13,000 ft at its summit over 500 kms away. This highway serves residents in a very rich and diverse area with the main towns Mt. Hagen and Goroka, as well as hundreds of smaller villages.

I also visited Wau and Bulolo, where they have just installed an \$18 million plant to deal with mountains of ore. The locals are still washing in the Bulolo River for alluvial gold.

The Highlands are red, volcanic soil and everything grows prolifically with a big accent on coffee as a cash crop. Lower in the Markham Valley there is a growing sugar cane industry, all powered by local hydro-power.

Nearly all the major engineering development of roads, hydro-electric, aerodromes and radio communications are of a high standard and due to Australian supervision and design planning.

I returned to Port Moresby after a very enjoyable and informative stay and flew back to Cairns. I spent two more weeks here and had a fly-coach trip to Cooktown, which like most of the north is booming. What a far cry from our wartime days. Cooktown has its own Besser brick plant and at least 30 motels and flats under construction. It was a very enjoyable visit.

I eventually made it home by train and would like to do it again some time."

# MAIL BAG

Editor: BOB LAKE

Another issue of the mail bag and still the letters continue to follow. Keep up the good work. Before I go any further, my team looks like being the goods this year, and I'll say no more, just that they are the goods.

**MRS. BARBARA WILLIAMS** of East St. Kilda (Vic.), with an order for the history for her family. Barbara was the former wife of the late Geoff Williams, 2/1, and herself a captain in the 2/7th A.G.H., serving in Syria and Egypt, and then at R.G.H. at Concord. Daughter Margaret lives in Canberra and son Ian has been 24 years in R.A.A.F. and stationed at Amberley. Barbara also mentions in her letter that she was the sister-in-law of the late Dr. Jim Goding, R.M.O. of 2/2 Pioneers and P.O.W. in Java for 3½ years. Jim passed away late 1973. Many thanks for your letter, Barbara, and the books will be forwarded when published.

• **ARTHUR NEUSS**, 2/1, of Belrose with an order for the history and once again back on the mailing list of members. No names are removed from our mailing list unless their copies of "Pioneer News" are returned by the postal authorities, so I guess you have had a move, Arthur, and forgotten to notify us. Welcome back and copies will be sent to you regularly.

• **R. G. MORLEY**, 2/1, Yarraville, Vic., also ordering a book and requesting membership of the Association. R. G. (no idea as to christian name) was with 2/1sts in 1944-45. Your name has been placed on the mailing list and copies will be forwarded in due course. You might let us know later what the R. G. stands for and your doings since 1945. Many thanks for your letter.

• **JOHN PITMAN**, 2/1, of Boomi, writes in for a history book and to enrol — nice to hear from you John, and Max was pleased to have a note from you.

• **DONALD MCKENZIE**, 2/2, of Portarlington, per medium of wife writes in for the history book and wishes to enrol as a member. Your wishes Don, have been carried out.

• **BOB DONALD**, 2/1, of Glen Innes, writes in to say all is well up that way, although Tom Manuel is not enjoying the best of health. Bob had recently made contact with John Taylor who holds the position of President of the Quirindi R.S.L.

Bob sends regards to all Pioneers and their families, hoping they are all enjoying good health.

• **BOB GALES**, Toukley, 2/1, per pen of Lill Gales with a short note to say that he is doing OK, but he cannot walk very much and he didn't know whether he had sent a deposit for our book. Well he has done that so that is OK. Max has written to him confirming this. Closes with best wishes to all Pioneers.

• **RITA PRITCHARD**, widow of Darcy, sends a letter that all is well down at Currarong, the only thing missing is she is out of touch with the ladies, claims the bones are too weary to travel up to Sydney but she keeps in touch by the Pioneer News. Rita has ordered two more books making three for the sons altogether.

• **DICK BLAKENEY**, 2/1, Marsfield, with a donation for the treasurer and his application for a copy of the book, has been in contact with Bill Tasker. Frank Gillian and Ron Callaghan of late and reports all well. Closes with best wishes to all with a special mention to the committee for 1987/88.

• **MARK BERNHARDT**, 2/1, Woollahra, with a cheque for the treasurer and an apology for his non attendance at the Anzac March. However, his old pins are not up to it anymore but thanks to the Pioneer News he still keeps abreast of what's happening. Has been in contact with AUB RIDGELY and both of them send their regards.

• **IVY JOHNSON**, widow of Charlie, 2/1, with a letter including a deposit for the History, and her thanks for the continued posting of the News, it's good to keep up with the doings of the news although it saddens her to see so many passing on. Ivy relates that Charlie has been dead 19½ years and she has been finally awarded a war widows pension, it was thanks to Legacy that this finally arrived. That's service Ivy!

• **RAY TOWNSEND**, 2/1, now at Ryde with a subscription for the News which he thoroughly enjoys and congratulates the committee on their fine efforts.

• **LEN PREEDY**, our representative from West. Aust., with a letter to tell of Pioneers, both Units, getting together and Alby Machin produced a photo of the ship he came home on. This has been put on film and the photo returned. Max has also sent a photo of D Day to George Murphy and has also sent name tags, sympathy cards to yourself so all in all he has been quite busy. Best regards to all.

• **MABEL HANNON**, widow of Bob, 2/1, with an alteration to her address and says she is looking forward to reading the history of the Pioneers.

• **JACK COLLIS**, 2/1, Umina, with a letter commenting on the death of Gordon Osborn and the attendance at the funeral. Jack reports that Bluey Miller has been in hospital, seems he had a couple of ulcers that wanted to play up. Jack Coates is going along all right but is waiting a further call to Concord. Ivor Garnon and his wife Ena have both been on the sick list, picked up that virus and it really laid Ena low. Jack's wife, Gwen is now off her crutches, has to use a walking stick, looks like a fractured ankle takes a bit of fixing. Gladys, wife of Harry Hamer has to make a visit to hospital with a knee operation so Jack says. These girls are lucky to have us men there to look after them. They never had it so good.

Well Jack, you have delayed writing so far but you have got to mention it now, Sea Eagles to win, and that lottery ticket will look so good especially when it wins the big one.

• **BERT BEATON**, 2/2, Casterton, Vic., with a letter from he and wife to say they are both well and enclosed a sub for the treasurer. Also send good wishes to Olive Finlay with her operation and a speedy recovery and cheers to Gordon also. They have just returned from a trip to Cairns. Bert has always wanted to do this trip, to go back to where we spent a lot of time in the war years, it has changed a great deal but nevertheless it was a great trip. They both admitted to age, left the car at Mount Gambier and went by Ansett Airlines, certainly saves a lot of driving. Closes with best wishes from Olive and himself and hopes to see us all next year.

• **PAT MACFARLANE**, widow of Ron, 2/1, with a short note wishing each and everyone good health and enclosing a sub for the continuance of the Pioneer News.

• **BILL HUTCHINSON**, 2/1, Caringbah, per pen of Gloria, wishing us to express thanks to Max Law for his attention to old Norm Hume in his last few days. Gloria has also sent a cheque to the treasurer for sales and the History, as she intends to pass same on to her grandson as he gets older. They had a phone call from Doug and Roma Shearston while they were down and hope to call on Doug and Roma when they go on a coach trip to Forster in October. Bill's health permitting same. Closes with best wishes to all.

• **GEOFF LLOYD**, 2/2, South Australia, with a cheque for the treasurer including a deposit for the History and the news that they had a good "remember when" session with John Dowd when he was over in Adelaide. He also had some photos of the Wagga reunion which rekindled a lot of memories, and he was more than pleased at the attendance at same. The Adelaide Pioneers are encouraging the same thing although their numbers are getting fewer, their last 1st Pioneer from W.W.I. died this year. His wife's health is improving and she appreciates what Frank Cheal has gone through.

• **FRANK HEPBURN** 2/2 per pen of wife Irene with a letter enclosing her payment for a History and would we convey her sympathies to Mrs Montague, rest assured it will be done.

• **RAY TOWNSEND** 2/1 Ryde with a cheque for history and the information of a photo published in book "Stand Easy" containing four Pioneers on day of landing at Balikpapan, Max has checked and found the photo and thanks you for the information.

• **JACK GRIFFITHS** 2/1 Mayfield with a letter enclosing 12 Platoon roll of the 2/1 in the Middle East. The widow of the late Scotty Burns sent the list and Jack remembers them all as originally he was in 12 Platoon. Jack with many others received a hell of a shock with the sudden death of Gordon Osborn. He was the first officer he met when he marched into Greta in 1940. As you say Jack, future functions will not seem the same without him but there's not much we can do about the passing of time. Local news, and he sees quite a lot of Jack Bertram and Dick Seddon. Both were quite well, Jack with his charity work which keeps him going nearly full time, while Dick has passed the 80 mark and still lives alone. Jack Russell is still resident at Westcott Nursing Home and was thrilled to get a visit from some of C. Coy mates including Porky Graham and Beau Hannaford. Jock has two

artificial legs but they are a bit awkward for him to handle, he has disposed of his car and has elected to go for an electric wheel chair. He gets to the Hotel which is just opposite but thinks that he would like to cover a bit more territory. Slim Wilson also lives at Stockton and can be found at the RSL. Ivan Pepper is still at Beresfield and Don Crooks at Woodberry but they have not been sighted, nor has Larry Robson but Jack rang him re Gordon Osborn and he seemed okay. Tom Wallace still around, lives at Wallsend, will probably see him at the Newcastle Cup. Tom rode the winner Tapestry in the Newcastle Cup 51 years ago. Good letter Glido and closes with best wishes.

• **STELLA GRANGER** widow of Bill 2/1 with a short note, a cheque for the treasurer, hoping that it will cover some of the costs of Pioneer News which she still enjoys receiving and reading and keeping up with the goings on.

• **ROY ROACH** 2/1 Kirrawee with a cheque for the treasurer and a deposit for a history, he sends congratulations to the committee for a job well done and would like to be remembered to Max Law, Bill Tasker, Jim McDonald and all the boys at D. Coy.

• **MICK SMITH** 2/2 Seaforth with a letter of a change of address and saying how much he enjoyed the reunion at Redfern this year. Mick marched with Lark Force 2/22 Btn, the whole four of them as the 22 Btn is a Melbourne group, but he thought the boys at Redfern looked in pretty good shape, the beer was good and the service was terrific, his thanks to the workers as well who go to making it such a great day.

• **JOHN DOWD** 2/2 Wagga, with a donation to the treasurer and the news of the death of Kev Achurch. He died of a massive heart attack. Thank you, John, for the information, which is reported in Last Post.

• **DICK HOBLEY** 2/1 now at Bremer Bay, W.A. with a cheque for the treasurer for a history and the balance to make up for subs, as he quotes "in arrears as usual". Dick would like to say a cheerio to Max Law, Don Crookes, Ross Thompson, Ted Jensen, Tom Gorman and to any other B. Coy boys that would remember him. Dick was one of the two Unit Snipers, the other being Fred Pitt from up around Orange, wonders what ever happened to Fred? Dick has retired from farming now and he and wife Sheila have built a home on a 50 acre block just out of Bremer Bay about 100 miles east of Albany. Couldn't see themselves settling down on a few square yards of dirt after a lifetime on the land. He is still kept occupied with the season's work, as he has three sons farming, two daughters married to farmers so he just helps them all out on different occasions. Has been for a trip to Queensland a few years ago and stayed a few days on the way back with John Osborne and wife Joan, John has since passed on but he sends his kind regards to Joan. Wishes all a good year in the future and the best of luck with the book.

• **HARRY SPREADBOROUGH** 2/1 Alexandra Hills, Qld. with a newsy letter, first, how very sorry to read of Monty's death. His help and support to all was well known. Claims times have been a bit tough since they returned from Dubbo, he finally shook off the attack of shingles, but both he and Jean have had series of illnesses, nothing major, but still very trying. First one wog and then another. They got to Sydney for Anzac Day, but again struck some problems. Late arrival on Anzac Eve, then trains delayed Anzac Day, almost too late for the March so he wasn't able to get in touch with the boys at Redfern. They did get a couple of photos of our Pioneer wreaths at the cenotaph which they will show the mob in Brisbane at the October get-together. As I think I wrote in earlier editions, Harry writes his letters to us in the early hours of morning and as he now quotes, "the sun is now just starting to peep in the window so he will be able to go out into the garden," unquote. You want to be a bit careful at that time of the morning, the bloody earth worms will bite you. Closes with best wishes to all from both he and Jean.

• **JACK SPOTTISWOODE** 2/1 Allambie Heights with a short note that he had received the Pioneer News which gave him a nudge that dues were due. Jack still has a Pioneer Color Patch which he carries around in his wallet, she would be getting a bit faded by now mate. Encloses a cheque for the treasurer and best wishes to all.

• **MICK CLIFFORD** 2/1 Yagoona with a cheque for the treasurer and the news that he is still able to get around a bit and manages a few beers. However most of his time is spent at the hospital where their daughter is a patient, she was in a car accident 2

years ago and is still in a coma. However the grandchildren keep them on their toes, though he finds playing cricket with them a bit hairy at times.

• **TOM MCGUINNESS** 2/1 Tanilba Bay with a donation and thank you for the Pioneer News so regularly. Claims it is good to read about the boys and the current news. He met quite a few on Anzac Day and he says the only one who seems to have altered is him, can assure you Tom, we have all aged considerably but I will admit that they all look well, those that were present anyway.

• **LEN O'CONNOR** 2/1 Tumbulgum, at long last a letter from Len. I may be wrong but I think it is the first, however so be it, it's here now. Len sends a cheque for the treasurer and his regrets about Monty. He says it is quite a few years since he has been to Sydney for a march. Have you ever been down "Spino"? The little village where Len is, used to have an RSL but lack of numbers forced it to close. Still have a Dawn Service which is well supported by the public and the young ones. Although they do not live far from one another, he seldom sees Doug Turner or Loyal Butcher. Loyal does a bit of bowling and Doug has his beloved fishing. Len is secretary of the Kingscliffe fishing club, has been for fifteen years, can't get anyone else to do the job so they made him a Life Member. That's one way of ensuring a secretary mate. I have been asked by Max Law to thank you for this letter in reply to our request for information on certain New Guinea and Balikpapan episodes which will be used, in fact, in the Unit History Book. There you are, Len, so good luck, and don't wait another 40 years to put pen to paper again.

• **ANDY COLLINS** 2/1 A.C.T. with a letter on the history book, like you say, it's a hell of a task, but with willing workers we shall succeed, and when we finish we will also enjoy a spell, or do something else. Glad you are enjoying your retirement, and when you come to Sydney by all means look us up. As a matter of fact, why not next year in April, you have no excuses you know you get a travel pass, the government runs an XPT train and anyway, most travel on Anzac Day is free so be in it, we look forward to seeing you. In closing we thank you for your letter regarding your injuries in the landing at Balikpapan and this will be used in the history.

• **NEV O'CONNOR** 2/2 Tintenbar writes that they have returned from their trip, they had been on the Federal Conference of Legacy to Darwin, accompanied by Betty they then toured Kakadu, Ord River and down the Centre to Port Augusta, Broken Hill, Sydney. Twenty Legatees and their wives did the trip and a fantastic crowd they were. Bet and Neville along with five others climbed the Rock, only one other woman besides Betty and they were the only man and wife team. On his return from this trip, he had a pleasant surprise, a 2/2 guy called on Bet. He was not at home, so made himself known, told her not to say who it was and he would call back. He did so and it was an old mate "Robbie" out of H.Q. Coy, Driver, Don R, and Stretcher bearer in New Guinea. His full name is Ray Robbins and you can add his name to the mailing list. He had been coming up to Ballina for years and he persisted until he found me. Naturally they talked a bit and Bet was amazed at his memory. They had not seen one another since the landing at Balikpapan. The same Robbie would like to send a cheerio to all guys and especially the transport platoon and H.Q. Coy. Nev closes with best wishes to all, poor Bob is pretty good this year, the year of the Eagles, and their prayer wasn't even needed.

• **ALLAN JAKINS** Blacktown son of deceased Alf Jakins with a letter to say that they had heard of publication of the history and both he and his brother would both like a copy of same. His father was an original of the 2/1. Allan was Air Force at Balikpapan, and his mother who has since passed away was a member of the Old Comforts Fund years ago. Both you and your brother have been added to our Mailing List and in future you will receive copies of Pioneer News.

• **JOE KYFFIN** 2/1 Reservoir, Vic. with a cheque for a copy of the History. Joe, Max has asked me to enquire if you want a second book, as you have already sent the money for the first one, pleased to know that your team are Premiers in Victoria, we have something in common, the Sea Eagles made it up here.

• **S. J. HOLMES** 2/1 Sussex Inlet, with a subscription for the Pioneer News, your name has been added to our list, but it would be nice to know your christian name next time you write.

• **JIM GRAY** 2/1 with a letter to Vic with the cost of

a Pioneer History to be sent to Master M. Kelly at Wollongong, noted Jim and it will be done. Manly to win.

• **D. WICKENS** widow of Sid Wickens with notice to reserve four copies of Pioneer History for a daughter and three sons.

• **JACK HUMPHREY** 2/1 Vincentia. New member with a deposit for book and a subscription for the Pioneer News.

• **MRS GWEN STRODE** Yagoona with a cheque for a deposit on the book. Gwen is the sister of Stretcher Bearer K. H. Jones and we have also enrolled you to receive copies of Pioneer News.

• **FRED ANWAY** 2/1 Beaumaris, Vic. writes that he was pleased to read in "Mufti" that our history was being compiled. Fred, who served with the Battalion in Balikpapan, encloses a deposit for a copy. You have also been enrolled on the mailing list.

• **ALBERT DEAN** 2/1 Shepparton with a deposit for a book. Albert also saw the article in "Mufti" so we are indebted to "Mufti" for the acquiring of quite a few new members. Max has written to you and your name is on the mailing list.

• **WILLIAM DICK WILSON** 2/1 Panania, a new member with a deposit for a history and a sub for the treasurer, you have also been added to the mailing list and will receive regular copies of the Pioneer News.

• **OWEN MILLS** Springwood with a deposit for a History and the explanation of his reasons. He was a family friend of the late Ted Day, killed in action at Tobruk and still retains his relationship with the family. Ted's eldest daughter "Eva" Mrs Vince Cullen lives at Peakhurst and his brother a retired police officer is living at Lake Cathie. Owen is an ex 7 Div. Sig. now TPI and their official photographer, and 7 Division Association of which he has the honour of Life Membership. Your name has been placed on the mailing list and you will receive regular copies of Pioneer News.

• **DANNY SPROUSTER** 2/1 Dundas, new member, with a deposit for history and a sub for the treasurer, correct me if I am wrong, but the Danny Sprouster that I think I remember was a redheaded bloke, about 5'8" tall if I am right, where have you been all these years. Added to the mailing list.

• **NOEL SMITH** 2/1 Bathurst, another new member, with a request for a history and membership, a little more information about yourself would not go amiss Noel, so put pen to paper for us.

• **JOHN VODICKA** 2/1 Villawood, new member with a request for a history and membership. John served with the 2/1 in New Guinea and your name will be added to the mailing list.

• **R. C. TARR** 2/1 Kempsey, new member with an application for membership and history, served with D. Coy of the 2/1, but it would be far better if we could address you by your christian name, not just R. C.

• **BILL JOHNSON** 2/1 Bentleigh, Vic. New member with a request for a history. Bill was at Balikpapan with the 2/1 and was one of the guards at the surrender, you have been added to the mailing list and will receive copies of Pioneer News.

• **DON ANDERSON** 2/1 Merimbula per pen of wife Dora with a request for membership of the Association. Don served with the 2/1 and his address on enlistment was Victoria but as Dora quotes, "they left Victoria 2½ years ago for the good life at Merimbula". You will receive your copies of Pioneer News from now on.

That concludes the Mail Bag for this issue. Quite a good response and the new members list was most impressive and gratifying, surprising when you think of it, we as an Association have been so very active over the years and yet some still don't know of us, however we are not complaining and long may it continue. The death of Gordon Osborn was a blow to us all, he was a good backstop and always willing, he will be missed but we shall carry on regardless.

The football season is finally over, Mary Lloyd was to streak down Martin Place if Manly won, but I relented, besides she had just come back from Ireland and she would have had to put in too many nips and tucks. The lottery ticket from Jack Collis is so nice to receive, seems like I was buying them for years. That's all for now.

— LAKEY

## BRISBANE REUNION

Saturday, 7th November 1987 at 10.30 a.m.

at the residence of JOHN HUNT

4/25 Mountford Road, New Farm, Qld.

Telephone: (07) 358 4349 by 1st November

## NEWS ITEMS

**ADRIAN BUCKLEY**, 2/1, sends regards to all Pioneers and hopes they are keeping fit and well. Max and Peg Herron called on Adrian and charming wife Barbara in September on their way home from Murwillumbah. Adrian, who was the final C.O. of the 2/1, has a very nice property outside Tamworth and over the years has been a very busy man, but he found time to have morning tea and lunch with Max and Peg, reliving the last two years with the unit.

**JOE KYFFIN**, 2/1, of Reservoir sends best wishes to mate Jack Clarke per medium of Max and Peg Herron who called in to see him on their way home from Melbourne in September. Wife Maida was holidaying with her sister at a Melbourne beach resort.

**BERN REINERS**, 2/1, of Corryong was another Pioneer Max and Peg called on when passing through from Melbourne. Staying with Bern and Mona at the time was son Lex with charming wife, Tiziana and new baby, Claudia. It was quite a happy gathering as it is nine years since the Herrons had seen the Reiners, so there was quite a lot of gossip to catch up on.

## MARCH OUT PARADES

The Newcastle Sub-Branch of R.O.T.A. maintain a strong liaison with the Infantry Centre at Singleton Army camp, where all permanent army recruits are sent, after initial training at Wagga, for their infantry training. There are three courses conducted each year and all platoons are named after engagements in which the A.I.F. took part.

With each intake there is always a Tobruk platoon and to each march out parade Newcastle Sub-Branch are invited and President Jack Griffiths is requested to be the reviewing officer.

Another march out parade is for the Gallipoli platoon and as President of the Gallipoli Legion Club Jack Griffiths is called upon to assist. There are only five Gallipoli veterans left in Newcastle and the army send down a mini-bus, complete with a medical orderly to look after the "old boys."

If anyone is interested in attending these march out parades please contact Jack Griffiths on telephone (049) 68 1358.

## GET-TOGETHER AT NOWRA

In June a Pioneer Get-Together was organised by Joyce and George Walker in the Nowra area, and in attendance were Frank and Jean Locane, Tom and Renee Wood, Bob and Joan Lake, Vic and Peg Whiteley, Joyce and George Walker and Peg and Max Herron.

Members firstly had morning tea at the Whiteleys Nowra home, then proceeded to the Locane's property at Wandandian. From here they travelled in convoy to Green Patch, in the Jervis Bay area for lunch. This was a delightful spot, right on the waters edge and the members made the most of the sunny day by walking along the beach.

The next visit was to the Jervis Bay National Botanic Gardens for a most pleasant walk among the gardens which included wet gullies, sandstone outcrops, old sand dunes and a natural lake which is the source of water for the gardens.

That night a barbecue was held at the Walker residence where much home brew was consumed by the boys while the girls were catching up on Pioneer doings and family talk.

Next morning some of the group paid a visit to Point Perpendicular Lighthouse where they were given a most informative talk by the lighthouse keeper, John Hampton. After an excellent run-down on his duties and the workings of the light, John spoke of his days with the army in Vietnam, ending a very enjoyable morning.

The afternooon programme was a tour of H.M.A.S. Albatross and attractions included the Naval Aviation Museum at the Base. The sight of so many old planes on display certainly brought back many memories to those present.

Dinner that night was at the Whiteley's home and this proved to be another enjoyable evening, with good food and excellent company.

However, all good things must come to an end, so after dinner farewells were made and sincere thanks extended to Joyce and George Walker for organising a most enjoyable get-together and really appreciated by all who attended.

## COUNTRY REUNION 1988

The Executive have arranged for a Country Reunion to be held at Wagga Wagga on the weekend of 17th and 18th September, 1988.

Full details of costing and programme will be published in later editions of Pioneer News.

— **GORDON FINLAY, Social Secretary**

## HOSPITAL VISITING

It's requested all members inform their family that when they are hospitalised and wish to be visited by the Association that the Welfare Chairman be contacted direct. Also to inform him when the member is sent home so that visits are not made unnecessarily.

— **MAX LAW, Welfare Chairman**  
37 Solveig Crescent, Kareela  
Phone: (02) 528 6887

## "WE WILL REMEMBER THEM"

### LEST WE FORGET

Jack Howie, 2/2, was a friend and confidant to all, especially to the younger brigade in 14 Pl. C Coy, to whom his sound common sense made him a steadying influence. He was a keen sportsman and participated in swimming competition — training which was to benefit those who later took part in the Watut River operation.

After demob, Jack was one of the mainstays in the team which organised the Anzac Day reunions at St Peters. Here he was in his element dispensing hospitality, and offering a sympathetic ear to those in need of it.

Jack combined an active club interest (he was a City Tatts Life Member) with a full and loving commitment to his family.

He died in his late fifties more than twenty years ago, but his warm personality and concern for others are still fresh in the minds of his many friends.

## S.A. PIONEERS CLUB

A Pioneer's Battalion Club has been formed in South Australia, representing members from all Pioneer Battalions and their purpose is to swell the ranks, and increase attendance on Anzac Day.

They are contacting all Pioneer Associations interstate to enquire as to whether they can supply names and addresses of members in South Australia on their mailing list.

An invitation is extended to any interstate visitor who would care to be with them on any Anzac Day in Adelaide to contact the below mentioned.

— **LEN NORMAN, Hon. Secretary**  
90 Riverside Drive, Fulham, S.A. 5024

## BONDI GET-TOGETHER

On June 18th a get-together of 2/1st Pioneers was held at the Bondi Junction-Waverley R.S.L. Club and the party consisted of Frank Gillian (mine host), Bert Holmes, Bill Tasker, George Bates, Ron Callaghan, Dick Blakeney, Mick Dwyer and brothers Ray and Danny Sprouster.

Conversation covered a lot of ground, going from the war years to the present day and of course many humorous incidents were related, over many glasses of the amber liquid.

Lunch consisted of hamburgers all round, as it was considered that they would cause the least interruption to drinking and talking.

Time passed very quickly and at 5 p.m. George Bates decided it was time to depart while the remainder battled on till 6 p.m. when it was agreed it was time to go their various ways.

Bill Tasker and Ron Callaghan found their way by bus to the Gallipoli Legion Club and after a few more ales they went home, with Bill checking up later to make sure Ron reached home — by ferry or if he swam. However, all was well and ended an excellent day with the "boys". Danny Sprouster even promised he would leave Dural to the locals next year and attend the reunion on Anzac Day.

## LAST POST

**NEVILLE ANDREWS** Passed away in May this year, a good member and a good mate, he joined the Battalion on our return from the Middle East, and was soon ensconced in the Transport Platoon. Nicknamed "Crim" he spent his last 8 years at Kingscliffe on the North Coast where he and his wife Phyll always made one welcome. To Phyll and her family we offer our sincere sympathies.

• **NORMAN HUME** 2/1 passed away on 4th July at the Wentworth Nursing Home Randwick after a long illness. We are grateful to Gloria Hutchinson, wife of Bill for passing on the sad news.

• **KEVIN ROY (TOBY) ACHURCH** 2/2 passed away on 20th July and was cremated at Rookwood on 23rd July. Kevin was a former member of the N.S.W. Fire Brigade, and is survived by wife Joyce and family, Debbie, Philip and Leonie.

A church service was conducted at the Leslie Andrews Chapel at Ashfield with a further service at Rookwood Crematorium.

The Association was represented by Ray Harris, Bill Robertson, Nell and Bill Ginnane, Tom and Mary Morgan, Bruce and Rita Metcalfe, Thad and Daphne Dowd, Alf Ballard and wife and Max Law.

The R.S.L. service was carried out by Sam Sleeman, President of Five Dock R.S.L. The sympathy of Association members was passed on to the family.

• **FRANK EDWARD BARTLEY** 2/1 passed away on 20th August and the funeral service was conducted at the Lutheran Church at Broadmeadow. The Association was represented by Jack Bertram, Dick Seddon, Jack Griffiths and Jim Anderson. Jim and Frank had joined the army together from Gilgandra and were great mates.

The ex-service part of the funeral service and the Eulogy was given by Jack Griffiths on behalf of the Association, Rats of Tobruk and Belmont R.S.L.

Frank and Mavis had retired to a unit at Wangi, on Lake Macquarie and right up to the day of his passing they had played bowls.

The sympathy of the Association was extended to his widow, Mavis and three daughters and son and families.

• **ARTHUR HAROLD STAFFORD** 2/2 passed away on 20th August and the funeral was conducted at the Northern Suburbs Crematorium. The Association was represented by Allan McInnes, Bill Robertson and Max Law. The R.S.L. Service was carried out by Bill Robertson.

Sympathy was extended by Max Law to Mrs Elaine Stafford, Antoinette, Christina and John.

• **MERVYN KENNETH (SAILOR) HALL** 2/1 passed away at Concord Hospital on 20th October, 1986, and was cremated at Woronora Cemetery. We have only just been notified of his death by his widow, Merle, to whom we extend our sincere sympathy.

• **LLEW JONES** 2/1 passed away on 13th August at Concord Hospital and the funeral service was conducted by the Bardwell Park R.S.L. Our sympathy is extended to Margaret, his widow.

• **GEORGE (PARICOS) PERRY** 2/2 passed away on 7th September and was cremated at Northern Suburbs Crematorium. The Association was represented by Bill Robertson who conducted the R.S.L. service, Pat and Edna Collins and Max Law.

George was a popular member of both the 2/1st and 2/2nd Pioneers and will be another comrade who will be sadly missed.

Condolences were extended by Max Law to Mrs Una Perry and families of Susan and Ray, Ross and Maree and Brian.

• **SIDNEY ALBION HOPPING** 2/1 passed away on 15th September after being hospitalised at Concord and Lady Davidson Home.

Sid served in Tobruk and Palestine and since leaving the army had kept himself fit with boxing. He had lost his wife seven years ago and is survived by two sons, Sid and Ron.

The service was conducted at Rookwood by members of Lidcombe R.S.L. and sympathy was extended to the family from the Association. We are grateful to Sid Jnr. for advising us of the details.

• **CYRIL WILLIAM BIRD** 2/1 passed away on 24th September after a long illness and was buried at Woronora Lawn Cemetery. He had spent a lot of time in and out of hospital.

The funeral was attended by Bill Tasker and Max Law who had the opportunity of meeting Thelma, his widow and family. Sympathy from the Association was extended to the family.

The R.S.L. service was conducted by the President of the Caringbah R.S.L.

## UNIT HISTORY, 2/1 PIONEER BTN.

"The Pioneers", a book on the history of the 2/1st Pioneer Battalion is soon to be published and is in the form of a hard covered book with dust cover printed in purple, grey and white. The size is 9" x 6" and contains two hundred and twenty four pages.

The book contains twelve chapters covering the exploits of the unit in Tobruk, New Guinea and Balikpapan as well as the training days in Australia. In addition there are twenty pages of photos, also Honour Awards, Casualty Lists and the nominal role of two thousand five hundred regimental numbers and names of members who passed through the unit.

Approximate cost is \$20 plus postage and can be ordered by sending the cut-out slip below with a deposit of \$5 per book.

Upon the above article appearing in the RSL newspapers of NSW and Victoria, thirty orders for the history book were received and fifteen new members enrolled. These members need not fill out the form below as the Secretary completed forms for them.

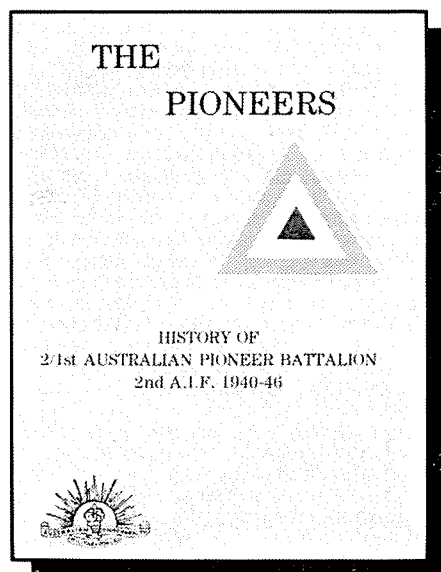
As the manuscript is shortly to be handed to the printer no further copy or photos may be accepted. The editors hereby thank all those people who contributed articles and have endeavoured to use as much of the contributions supplied as possible. That which is not used in the book is going into Pioneer News as it all makes good reading.

### FINAL ORDER AND BALANCE

This could be your final chance to order as the number of orders received will be the quantity ordered from the printer and no further copies will

ever be printed.

The Treasurer will, in due course, send out to each person who has placed orders, a form outlining the balance of payment required.



A facsimile of the front cover of the 2/1 Pioneer Battalion Unit History Book

### ORDERFORM — 2/1st PIONEER BTN. UNIT HISTORY (Fill in particulars)

Please reserve ..... copy(ies) of "The Pioneers" and I enclose my \$5 cheque as a holding deposit for each copy, and I agree to pay the balance when notified.

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_ Known Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_ REGIMENTAL NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Post order with deposit to: VIC WHITELEY, 20 Cairns Street, Riverwood, N.S.W. 2210.