

PIONEER NEWS

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VISIT TO CANADIAN LEGION CLUB

Recently while on a tour of the Maritime Provinces in Canada, Mary and I spent a couple of days in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and while there took an eight minute ferry trip across the harbour, which is the second largest in the world, to Dartmouth, the twin older city.

We did a walking tour of historic Dartmouth in 30° plus temperature and we were both very thirsty when Mary exclaimed, "There is a Legion Club, what about a drink?"

The barman welcomed us, and when I said we were two hot and thirsty Australians who badly needed a drink, he immediately summoned the President and the Vice-President who sat us down and ordered beers which kept coming — and would not consider any payment.

A Special Visitors Book was produced and we duly signed. The Club Branch is aptly called "A Whale of a Branch".

We were questioned about RSL clubs and the general procedures and running of them and they were most interested to hear of the "pokies", entertainment and dining rooms. We were told that the Canadian Legion HQ and RSL in Australia are in close liaison on matters pertaining to veterans.

Next we were taken on a tour of the club and its wonderful Costume Museum which fills the complete first floor, and includes much memorabilia from both World Wars. Original uniforms from all branches of the services are well displayed on life-sized models. There are many cases of regalia and

medals and they are fortunate that it includes a Victoria Cross, of which they are very proud.

The history of local Nova Scotian units is very complete and the many newspaper articles and original letters home from troops would take days to read. All the museum material was donated to the club, which had the showcases and lighting installed at a cost of \$40,000.

This club was formed in 1926 and has a current membership of 700 veterans and about 300 associate members, made up of children and widows of deceased veterans — some social members are admitted from time to time as the club sees fit.

President Allan Moore gave us a wonderful afternoon and on leaving bestowed on Mary a big kiss, with his Vice-President following suit, and of course Mary liked this friendliness.

Halifax Harbour is large and very historic, as this is where a great number of important convoys were assembled to take troops and necessary supplies and materials to the European war zones. It was also used by the USA after they came into the struggle to assemble troop convoys; the harbour was heavily bombed by the Germans and suffered a lot of damage.

This was a wonderful afternoon thanks to the marvellous friendly Canadians we met and were privileged to talk with and we hated to leave them. These brief encounters greatly add to the pleasures of travelling.

— ALLAN MCINNES

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

Twenty-one members attended the meeting held at Anzac House, Perth, on November 18, 1988, and the meeting agreed to change from reminder contacts for meetings to the sending out of a newsletter after meetings. The newsletter concept was adopted because, although there are 70 names on the list, there are many who cannot attend the meetings due to health, distance or other reasons, but would like to keep in touch and read about what is going on.

Finance for the newsletter was provided by donations from the members. The next meeting was scheduled for March 17, 1989. To each meeting members are asked to bring along old photos, poems or other items which may be of interest to other members. Notices of meetings will be published in the Unit Association column of the RSL "Listening Post".

JOAN and JACK MONGER 2/1 were early arrivals and immediately welcomed Albie Machen, Syd. Abercrombie and Jack Stewart — all 2/1 members.

BOB SEFTON 2/2 sent in an apology as he was doing a kind act in assisting a neighbour on his property at Gidgegannup.

GWEN and HARRY FITZGERALD 2/2 were another rural couple maintaining their usual good attendance.

JACK MURRAY 2/2 Signaller, from Mandurah, was checking on his old friend Jack Crispin 2/2 who has trouble with his mobility and is missed very much by the regular crowd.

NORM LeCORNU 2/2 gave a lively account of his travels, commencing at Moora to see Keith McPherson 2/2 Mortars, then on to Geraldton, where he endeavoured to locate Barry Hunt at Rifle Range Road, but the road is apparently one of those queer ones which do not run straight.

Norm extended his apology for next meeting as he will be in Busselton for two weeks. Norm asked for the address of Dorothy and Ted Lyons 2/2 and he will try and visit them. Maybe he could pop in to the TAB and see George McNess 2/2 while he is there.

ETHEL and JOHN McDUGALL 2/2 made new and renewed old friends at their first meeting.

IVY and FRED NEWTON, D Coy 2/2, were also attending for the first time and they came from Girawheen.

TED ROWE 2/2 was another happy new face and he seemed to be enjoying talking with the other ex-POWs.

DON LEE "I" Section 2/2, unfortunately cannot attend because of ill health, but his wife Beth came along and with her was Jean Lyford, whose late husband Harold was also in the "I" Section.

FREDA DUE was another newcomer and many of the 2/2 boys remember her late husband Laviston as a well known identity in the unit.

STEVE GOLDSWORTHY 2/2 cannot attend because of health reasons but an invitation is extended to his wife and she would be most welcome. In fact it is pleasing to see the ladies come along.

BARRY HUNT 2/2 and ex-POW is a fine member who moves around talking to all at the meetings and travels the 900 km from Geraldton to be at the meeting and does it often. Barry missed seeing Owen Heron and John Anderson at the meeting. Barry brings his attractive wife with him and although she spends a fair bit of time shopping and Barry's pocket must be very much lighter going home, we know he does not mind.

Regards to all Pioneers and many they all keep well. Many thanks to my wife Joy for her assistance.

— LEN PREEDY, WA Chairman

ANZAC FUNCTIONS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MONDAY, 24th APRIL — REDFERN RSL

The Annual General Meeting will be held at the Redfern RSL Club, on corner of Redfern and Gibbons Streets, Redfern, just east of Redfern Railway Station.

The meeting will commence at 3.30 pm and finish at 5 pm and members are invited by the President to partake of a few drinks at the meeting conclusion.

Then a snack at the club and proceed to Martin Plaza for the Wreath Laying.

WREATH LAYING CEREMONY

MONDAY, 24th APRIL — MARTIN PLAZA

Assembly will be on the corner of Martin Plaza and Pitt Street on GPO corner, being the same as last year.

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

ANZAC DAY MARCH

TUESDAY, 25th APRIL — PHILLIP STREET

Forming up points for both units are the same as last year — 2/1st in Phillip Street, head on to 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 notices in city newspapers for any changes in assembly points.

ANZAC DAY REUNION

TUESDAY, 25th APRIL — REDFERN HALL

Upon the completion of the March and Service at Hyde Park, members of both units will make their way to Museum Station to catch the train to Redfern for the Anzac Day lunch and reunion.

It is held at Redfern Town Hall, corner Pitt and Wells Streets, Redfern, and only five minutes walk from Redfern Station.

Even if you cannot march, you are most welcome at the Reunion and your mates of yesteryear will be most pleased to see you.

Doors will be open at 11.30 am and draught beer will be on tap, which each year is subsidised by the Association, as well as the lunch.

John Winters, our caterer, has been engaged again and dinner will be served at 12.30 pm.

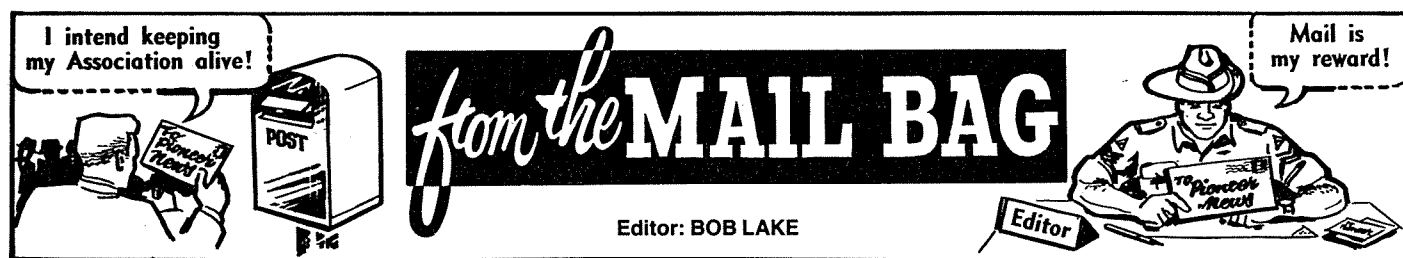
SICK PARADE

DICK HOOK, D Coy. 2/1, spent time in Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in November last with a heart problem. He was visited by Jack Harvey, who reported that Dick was glad of the visit and was progressing favourably.

KEITH (K. K.) LANE, B Coy. 2/1, has been suffering a lot of pain for many months and finally won a bed in St George Hospital, Kogarah, towards the end of last year. He was operated on to relieve pressure on his spine, is still in pain, and now uses a walking stick to enable him to move about.

RON COYTE 2/1 has been in Westmead Hospital with a bowel obstruction and having undergone surgery recently is faced with the possibility of another operation.

Ron's wife, Eileen, has advised that Ron received several Pioneer visitors — Dick Chalmers, Noel and Rita Trefoni, Bill Jollie and Ron Irwin. He is now recovering slowly and very grateful for the visits of his Pioneer mates.



The first issue for the New Year and may I add that I hope all Pioneers, their wives, and their families had a very happy and pleasant festive season and I hope it continues all the way for 1989.

LIONEL "SNOWY" ANDERSON 2/2, of Aspendale, Vic., with a thank you for the *Pioneer News* and for an enjoyable reunion and get-together at Wagga and looking forward to the next one.

CYRIL AND DORIS AMIES 2/1, of Thornleigh, with a long and interesting letter — a very full year with a trip to England via Singapore and Hong Kong. This plus an island cruise through the Pacific helped to fill in the year quite comfortably. For Cyril personally the trip to England was his most memorable experience where he was able to visit his own village, his old school and the old picture show where he saw his Saturday movies, is now a restaurant where they had a meal.

Coalville was the name of the village, population over 20,000, and his father's shop and studio were still standing. He went back to the school where the Principal arranged a reunion with an old school mate and a photo in the local paper.

The rest of the stay was spent with Cyril's cousin plus a 17 day tour of UK. The highlight of the tour was a visit to Lavenham where there is a vast array of crooked houses. The walls of the houses are on a slant but when you get to the roof they straighten up.

Singapore and Hong Kong were very hot but Singapore, with the shopping, was very good.

In August Cyril had a slight disagreement with a power saw which did not do his thumb much good but with two trips to hospital it has been adjusted and the therapy is plenty of Bowls.

Doris is still interested in teaching and has spent some time assisting their daughter Wendy, who is acting deputy principal at Parramatta, and Doris says she has not lost her touch in handling the problems of the school population.

Closes this long message with best wishes to all for a happy 1989.

KEITH BOYLE 2/1, of Moama and wife Marj, two letters written on consecutive days from the Boyles, with a thank you for a great reunion at Wagga and the pub at Uranquinty, but apparently Keith had a problem with Joe Kyffin and his method of transport. Not having heard the announcement on the bus at the camp they went back to their motel where they caught up with Joe who had gone back for his camera. He said "follow me" and took off. After numerous left and right turns plus U turns along miles of gravel road deep with pot holes they made it to the pub. After a really good day they prepared to go home to the motel, they found a made and tarred road all the way.

On his return from Wagga he received his copy of the book and it certainly brought back names he had long forgotten.

In Marj's letter she commented on the warmth of fellowship at Wagga and she appreciated the courtesy and assistance that all gave to her. She felt very welcome and not at all embarrassed by her wheel chair, which shows that life can be enjoyed to the full if we concentrate on what we can do rather than on limitations.

Two good letters and Keith also enclosed a cheque for Treasurer.

EUNICE BURSTON widow of Tom 2/2, with a letter telling of the demise of Tom on the 3rd November, 1988. Tom had developed a cancer of the legs and spine and suffered quite a lot in the last four months that it was diagnosed. He spent the last five weeks at home where he was looked after by Eunice.

RON CLARK 2/1, of Kingsford, with a sub for the Treasurer and heaps of praise for the book. Thank you for your kind words — it helps a lot to all those who participated in its production to feel that their efforts were appreciated.

RON COYTE 2/1, of Wentworthville, per pen of wife Eileen with a sub to the Treasurer and the word that Ron has had an operation at Westmead. You did not say what it was for Eileen, but thank you for your note and you are forgiven. Hope Ron is on the mend.

JACK CROSLAND 2/1, of Condell Park, with a very brief note with a sub for the Treasurer, quite healthy one too, and the following words, "Not one for writing but do enjoy reading *Pioneer News*. Keep up the good work and thanks". Short and to the point Jack, at least I won't get writers cramp answering.

RON CROSS 2/1, of Ballina, with a sub for the Treasurer and word that he attended the Rats Xmas Party where he met up with Jack Martin, Jack Shearman, Paddy Gray, Ted Felton and Bruce McNaughton. All appeared to be in good spirits and looked well. Ron is still busy with Legacy and Bowls which kept him around the district but he may attend the Association meeting next year.

ALBY DEAN 2/1, of Shepparton, with a sub for the Treasurer and *Pioneer News* and the word that he had received his copy of the book. Closed with good wishes and a happy New Year to all.

FRANK DYNON 2/1, of Mona Vale, with a note of thanks for back issue of *Pioneer News* sent to Frank by Max in November. George Nichols had visited Frank in November and requested same. Have not seen anything of Frank since he left the Anzac Club where he was Sec-Man. for so many years. Good to hear from you again Frank, and maybe we shall see a little of you in the future. Welcome aboard.

SAM GARDINER 2/1, of Oak Flats, with a sub for the Association and an apology for always being late, but he keeps putting off writing. He received the book and has read and re-read same. Claims also that there was a lot left out — that is possibly so, but when writers and subscribers for the book were asked to contribute, that was time to put pen to paper. Glad you enjoyed the visit of Max and Peg while you were in hospital and Max was pleased to catch up with another of the sigs. after so many years. Sam mentions George Bain of C Coy. and wishes to be remembered to all of C Coy. and the Sigs and anyone else who remembers Sam or "Torchy" as he was sometimes known.

BILL FARRER 2/2, of Burwood, Vic., with a sub to the Association and the news that Len Preedy, WA, must have worked overtime. Bill has had letters from far and wide and the November issue of *Pioneer News* arrived about the same time. Bill spends a lot of time mentioning names as memories go back and forth. He also joined the 2/2 in '43 and there were a great many of the blokes who did the same. Claims that his gadding about days are over although he may go over to WA next year. For all you blokes who live around Grafton, Bill has a request for a Harry Farrer who lived and died up there and if anyone can offer any information about same get in touch with Bill at 14 Laxdale Road, Burwood, Vic. 3125.

STUART HALDANE 2/2, of Prestons, Vic., with a letter of thanks for the *Pioneer News*. He has always found it interesting and says it has the happy knack of bringing the two units together. Stuart enclosed a cheque for the Treasurer to help with the publishing and postage of same and takes the opportunity to wish all and sundry a happy New Year in '89.

CLIVE HARRIS 2/1, of Aberdeen, and wife Betty, with thanks for a great time at Wagga — each one gets better than the last (we improve with age Clive). Also enclosed a sub for the Treasurer and best wishes for all for the future.

LEO HEALEY 2/1, of Elsternwick, Vic., with a letter that the world is full of surprises and that Max and Eric Causer must have a crystal ball. Leo has been missing from the *Pioneer* mailing list for many years and it was only recently that Eric found Leo's new address, enabling Max to send on copies of the *News*. Nice to hear from you Leo, and write again soon.

JACK HEMI 2/1, of Caloundra, with a cheque for the Treasurer and best wishes to all.

KERRIE ELLEM, daughter of the late Ray Hill 2/1, writes for a copy of the history. A cousin of Kerrie, Beryl Young, is researching family history and is hoping the book will throw some light on Ray's army service. Hope it works for you girls, and good luck with your research.

FRANK HEPBURN 2/2, of Bankstown, per pen of wife, Irene, with a request for a further four books for their family if possible. Irene reads quite a bit of it to Frank and he is very impressed. These books were delivered to the Hepburn family in time for Xmas presents and much appreciated. Thank you, Irene, for your kind letter.

LES JAMES 2/1, of Mackay, expressing the hope that Max Herron's heart can take the punishment of a letter from Les after so many years. He saw in the November issue where Bill Brennan of Altona had recently written and Les remembers him as a bren gunner that came to us from Canungra. Also mentions Jack Monger and Frank Gillian and their monster moustaches that impressed everyone no end, except perhaps Frank Dynon who was the platoon commander at that time. Les returned to Leeton after the war but the cold weather affected him so he took off for Mackay where he has been ever since. Closes with best wishes and good health to all Pioneers in 1989.

C. LEAPE 2/1, of Warilla, with the news that he should have written years ago but better later than never. Cecil is now 84 years young and had a cancerous growth taken from the bowel some four years ago. Many thanks for your generous donation and your regards passed on to A Coy. fellas.

JACK KEMPENICH 2/1, of Fingal Bay, per pen of wife, Maisie, with a really nice letter. The history committee presented a copy of the book to the Nelson Bay High School and the history teacher requested that perhaps Jack would talk about it to the classes. However, the old bloke declined, although I would imagine that he would make a good historian and he would have given them a few laughs with some of the spicy bits that didn't get into print. I can see the board at the school reading something like this, "The Pioneers with Professor Kempnich attending".

On their return from Wagga they settled down to a routine of jobs, gardening, fishing, home brewing, although the fish have been giving Jack a bit of a run around. Doug and Maureen Waters called on them prior to leaving on their trip around Australia and when they last wrote were en-route to Longreach. Have also had a visit from Gwen and Jack Collis, where he produced his photos of Wagga and Cowra.

Both Jack and Maisie were off to Wollongong to see their daughter. Were going by train instead of driving. The daughter, a Newcastle girl all her life, was professing to a little homesickness, so up comes Mum and Dad to give a little support. Maisie also reports that she is one of the group who run the Melbourne Cup day for the bowls and

recreation club which, with the support of this day, they hope to have running by Christmas. Just not too much grog Maisie, you know how you are, a few drinks and you're uncontrollable.

Maisie reckons that Jack is beginning to feel his age, *ain't we all*, but claims he can do a good day's work. I know. When we called on them just before Xmas he was out getting a load of soil for the garden. When he got back the trailer was full of this black soil, I thing each shovel full would have weighed at least 40 or 50 lbs, and I thought just for one horrible moment that he was going to unload it straight away, but he said, "I'll just park it and we'll have a drink", and under my breath I said Thank God. We had a few ales, then had dinner with them that night at the club. They also loaded us with tomatoes and fruit from the garden and we left next morning. I almost volunteered to help him shovel the load off but thought better of it.

Closes with best wishes to all Pioneers and a happy 1989.

GEOFF LLOYD 2/2, SA, with a quick note informing us that he has been in hospital after an Angioplasty to clear a blocked artery — feels much better now with a good result. Ronnie is better than last year but still not strong and the family are all well though son Stephen has had to survive a car smash.

HARRY MOWBRAY 2/1, Qld., with a letter informing us of a change of address and to say that he will be at the Anzac Day meeting in 1989. They are to go down to Toukley on April 20, and he will proceed from there on the day, will be the first time Harry has ever marched on Anzac Day. Good effort Harry, there is always a first for everything. He quotes that it was sad to see so few Pioneers at John and Mollie Hunt's reunion this year as they both work so hard for this and both Harry and Dot noticed the disappointment of Mollie. Next year we will try to do better for them. Closes with best wishes to all and passes on compliments to the book committee on a really good effort for which all should be very grateful.

REBECCA MCGAHEY widow of Jack 2/1, of Woollooware, writes that she feels guilty not having sent a subscription to the *News* since Jack passed away in 1987. Enclosed a cheque and asks that she be informed if it will put her in front. You are now in front Rebecca, you will be lucky to hear the band playing. She still likes to read our paper and as she said, although no faces to go with names, feels as if she knows all of them. Has not read the book as yet but knows that she is going to get one from her daughter as a present. Jack was an original of the battalion from Greta to Borneo and Rebecca sends her regards to all, with special mention for the *Pioneer News* team. Thank you very much on behalf of same.

JEAN MCINTYRE widow of John 2/2, with a sub for the Treasurer enclosed in a Xmas card wishing all Seasons Greetings and a Happy New Year.

NEV O'CONNOR 2/2, of Lennox Head, with a letter that they enjoyed the Wagga show and returned to a rather hectic programme. They went to a wedding at Coffs, then to Lake Cargellico, back home, then off to Canberra for a Legacy national conference, stayed off in Sydney, then home again, completely buggered, and then he writes now the Xmas parties are on them. What a crying shame, I feel sort of sorry for you Nev. If you could not get around you would be whingeing like hell. Writes that it is terribly dry at time of writing, bad hail storms but no water with them. Wishes all and sundry the best for New Year.

PETER PEILE 2/1, Caringbah, per pen of wife Erika, with a sub for the Treasurer and the news that Peter has been in hospital again, at St George this time and for 3½ weeks. Erika could not inform anyone as she did not know how long it would be from day to day. On the mend again and they were able to go to town later on where they met Ruth and Don Slater and Pat and Dardy Selwood and participated in a bit of lunch.

PETER PRIEST 2/1, Qld., per pen of wife Dot, with a sub for the Treasurer and the news that they have been kept busy with daughter Pam and husband Kevin leasing a very big road house 16 km from Gympie on the Bruce Highway and they go down often to help them. Tells me that Pete is an expert on chips. Knowing Pete, he probably cooks

them from the inside out with sea water as a softener. Also been down to Ballina but the fishing was not up to much. Closes with best wishes to all from Tin Can Bay. I hope it specialises in Four X.

JACK PURCELL 2/1, Inverell, with a thank you for the *Pioneer News* and also his copy of the book — brings back a lot of memories, both good and bad. Jack writes that they have a very good RSL at Inverell, but as yet have not met any other Pioneers. Closes with best wishes to all and enclosed a cheque for the Treasurer to keep things afloat.

JOAN RAINE widow of James 2/1, from Mac-Masters Beach, with a letter that her address will be in Sydney from December, moving back to the big smoke, and she still enjoys receiving and reading the *Pioneer News*.

BERN REINERS 2/1, Corryong, with a letter congratulating the members of the book committee on their efforts, and without a doubt, Bernie, Max has still got a lot of printers' ink in his system. Both the Reiners are well and Mona has a clearance for another two years from the Medics.

BRUCE RICH 2/1, Narrandera, with a cheque for the Treasurer and his congratulations on the publication of the book, and says that it must be of particular interest to those that served with the unit all the way through.

CHAS RYALL 2/2, Cowan, with a cheque for the Treasurer and though the names do not strike a cord much now, still enjoys reading the *News*. He is led to believe that Geoff Lloyd is recovering from his recent heart attack and a speedy, full recovery would be the hope of all Pioneers.

GEORGE SAUER 2/1, South Australia, a new member per Len Preedy of West Aussie, with a letter that has taken some 40 odd years to arrive. He would have written same much earlier had he known of the Association's existence. George moved to South Aussie in 1946, went into business on his own behalf, married an Adelaide girl and they have had two children (boy and girl) and claims that he is now an expatriate Sandgroper having lived in South Australia longer than the State of his birth.

He lost all contact with the Pioneers, although he did correspond with Ray Smith in Kyogle for a long time. Sad to say Ray Smith was killed in a car accident many years ago. Also pleased to see that Bill Jollie is the President of our Association and expresses his good wishes to both Bill and Steve Clarke. It may be that George will be in Sydney at some later date and if so, will contact us personally, but promises that now contact has been made he will keep in touch.

GORDON SHEEN 2/2, ACT, with a cheque for the Treasurer and the pleasure he gets from the *Pioneer News* necessitated writing this letter with his change of address for the future publications. Quotes that Ray Burroughs and he manage to do a bit of fishing together. Bill Lewis from Sydney, together with Burroughs, Brabin and Sheen had a mini reunion a while back with a few beers and a lot of fun. Wishes to convey his thanks to all for the *News* and best wishes for the New Year. Incidentally, Gordon, this letter was just too late for the November issue of *Pioneer News*.

KEN STUART 2/1, Turrumurra, with a congratulatory letter on the publication of the history, as he said so many good points that he hesitated to list them. Ken was also informed that Bob McGregor was at Lady Davidson and he was able to visit him on two occasions where McGregor was still full of good humour, but on the third visit he was informed that Bob had died the previous night. As Ken says, he will always remember Bob as a bright light, no matter what the problem, he could always laugh with a cheery remark to relieve the situation.

BILL WRIGHT 2/1, Wyoming, with a letter congratulating all and sundry for a wonderful reunion at Wagga, he thought it was the best yet and the gathering at Uranquinty put the icing on the cake. Also compliments the ladies on their efforts, plus a big thank you to Charlie Kerr for being such a wonderful room mate. Closes with best wishes to all for 1989 and will see us all on the 25-4-89.

CHARLIE WILBY 2/1, Moree, with a cheque for the Treasurer and still pleased to get the *News* and reading of the goings on. Charlie is the only Pioneer in Moree and he is getting to the stage

where he finds it hard to get around. Sounds like it too, he has gout in the feet, arthritis in the knees, sciatica in the hips, also has a problem with dermatitis and failing eyesight — sounds a bit like that old song Charlie, "It's time the old b.....d was dead. Bowls is now a forgotten hobby, but still Patron of the Services Bowls Club and also of the Moree Legacy Club. Kit still enjoys good health and looks after him pretty well, but it hurts a little bit when she has to mow the lawn and dig the garden.

We might do a little something towards breaking that monotony of yours Charlie and Kit, leaving Sydney on the 29th April, the Lakes, Finlays, Kerslakes and Whiteleys are doing a trip by car and we are to arrive Moree on Tuesday 9th May till morning of the 11th. Due to stay at the Jackaroo Motel two nights, and we thought that you and Kit would like to join with us for dinner one night. However, we will try to contact you when we arrive at Moree, don't know what time, but it will be afternoon. Doesn't that make your day. Finlay instructed me, Lakey, to write a letter but thought this method of communicating a better idea. With all your problems I hope that you will be able to enjoy a little of the Amber Fluid with us and a natter of old times.

HEATHER WIGGINS, neice of late Hugh Wiggins 2/1, who is travelling in Europe and England with her sister, sends along a welcome card and news of her travels. Using their Brit Rail pass and staying mostly at B and Bs, they are having a wonderful holiday. Nice to hear from you again, Heather.

STAN GAVAN 2/2, of Greystanes, with a short note thanking the Association for the *News* and enclosing a sub for the Treasurer. Thanks Stan — maybe we can hope for a longer letter next time.

DORA ANDERSON, wife of Don 2/1, of Merimbula, with a welcome note and says as Don doesn't seem to write letters these days, she has become his scribe. Dora gets plenty of practice as she is publicity officer for the local RSL Auxiliary. At a sub-branch meeting late last year, Don met an old 2/1 Pioneer, Fred Letts, who is a resident of Bimbimbi Retirement Village in Merimbula and thought there might be some of his old mates who might care to know of his whereabouts. Thank you for the information Dora, and we'll put Fred on our mailing list for future copies of the *News*. Many thanks also for your kind remarks on the History and we are pleased Don and your sons enjoyed reading it.

ALLAN MCINNIS 2/2, of Neutral Bay, paid a visit to Cooma over the Xmas/New Year period and spent an afternoon with Fred (Yorke) Scanes and is pleased to report that Fred looks really well — but like the rest of us, some aches and pains in the back. His pride and joy is his large vegetable garden and small orchard (like something out of "House and Garden") and the surplus produce is much appreciated by his neighbours.

HARRY SPREADBOROUGH 2/1, of Alexandra Hills, with the news that he has been in and out of hospital with prostate and angina trouble. Fortunately for Harry, Jean is well and a great help around the house. Harry is chief spud barber and kitchen hand so Jean can get off her feet more often.

Thanks, Harry, for your kind words regarding the history book and do hope your health improves.

JACK COLLINS 2/1, of Umina with Welfare report that Cliff Secombe has been in hospital with eye trouble. Jack Coates has also had his share of hospital trips. Jim Miller is getting over a bout of flu and Glad Hamer is to go into hospital for a knee replacement — Thank you, Jack.

ALBERT BARTON 2/1, of Yagoona, to say his life is still a busy one with visiting hospitals and nursing homes. He had visited Beckie Clogg recently and had quite a long chat with her. Beckie is still an active member with Rota. Thanks Albert, for the news and your kind remarks about our book.

That completes the Mailbag for this issue, the Lakes have done nothing startling over the festive season to report, still playing a little golf and hitting the ball far too often to satisfy my ego, but that's life. I guess the Lottery ticket is still on Jack Collis, and I suppose I had better say "Up the Tigers" for my mate Coates. Hope to see all and everyone on the 25th April.

That's all for now.

— LAKEY

LAST POST — by MAX LAW, Welfare Officer

ERNEST (SNOW) VICKERY 2/1 of Goulburn, passed away on 8th November, 1988, and the news of his death was mentioned briefly in the last issue.

Snow enlisted in the AIF at Cootamundra soon after the outbreak of hostilities and was posted to 2/1 Pioneer Btn., where he served in the Middle East for almost two years including the Siege of Tobruk. Snow was then posted to New Guinea with the Papuan Infantry Btn. until the end of the war, reaching the rank of Lieutenant.

After working at Kenmore Hospital for 10 years, Snow was appointed to the Pastures Protection Board in Goulburn as its first ranger and he held this position until he retired in 1978.

Snow was a keen Rugby League player and was a member of the Goulburn Show Committee and the local Gem and Probus Club.

A funeral service was held at the Uniting Church in Goulburn on 10th November, with Rev Jim Hamilton officiating, and the interment took place at the local Lawn Cemetery.

A very moving part of the service was a Guard of Honour formed by the cadets from St Patrick's College, to whom Snow had donated his Sam Browne belts some time ago.

To his wife, Gert, daughters Jan and Lex and their families, and Snow's brother, Tom, and sisters, we extend our very sincere sympathy in their sad loss.

ERIC HAWKINS 2/1 of Woronora, passed away at Lady Davidson Hospital on 16th November, 1988, aged 82 years. His funeral service was conducted at the Woronora Crematorium and the Association was represented by Jack Harvey and members of Mortdale RSL.

Eric was a sergeant in the RAP and served in the Middle East, New Guinea and Balikpapan with the 2/1sts.

Jack Harvey conveyed the sympathies of our Association to members of Eric's family and the Welfare Chairman is grateful to Paul Wigen, Eric's son-in-law for notifying us of the details of Eric's funeral.

FREDERICK MAKIN 2/1 of Woy Woy, passed away on 16th December, 1988, aged 79 years. The funeral took place on 20th December at Palmdale Crematorium and was attended by Jack Collis, Jack Coates, Jack Stone, Pat Noonan, Roy Jardine and Tom Moore (2/2). The service was conducted by The Entrance-Long Jetty RSL.

Sincere sympathy was extended to Mrs Eve Makin on behalf of Association members.

HAROLD THOMAS FITCH 2/1 of Rydalmere, passed away on 31st December, 1988, in hospital and was cremated at Northern Suburbs Crematorium on 4th January, 1989.

Jack Pearce attended the service on behalf of the Association and expressed his condolences to Harold's wife, Norma, and family. A sympathy card was forwarded to Mrs Norma Fitch from the Welfare Chairman.

ALBERT (BERT) HOLMES 2/1 of Forestville, passed away (suddenly) on 15th January, 1989, after a period of ill-health.

His funeral service was conducted at the Northern Suburbs Crematorium on 18th January, and was attended by a large gathering of Pioneers and an equally large contingent from the Forestville RSL, of which Bert was a foundation member, and many relatives and friends who packed the Chapel. The combined Forestville RSL and the Pioneer Bns. service was carried out by our President, Bill Jollie.

Before the conclusion of the very moving service the Chaplain read a letter written by one of Bert's grand-daughters written after Bert's death, expressing the love of the family for their dear father and grandfather.

After the placing of the Poppies of Remembrance, a special moment was set aside for one of Bert's grandsons, wearing his grandfather's medals on his right breast, to be escorted to the casket where he placed a poppy for family members.

Bert served with the 2/1sts in the Middle East, the New Guinea campaign on the Kokoda Trail and at the landing at Balikpapan, where he was a Sgt. with A. Coy.

On discharge from the army he joined the Battalion Association where he took an active role. He became a member of the Committee in March, 1950, and was elected to the Executive in 1953. He served on the Social Committee from July, 1954, and was Social Secretary from 1955-59. Bert was always to the fore in assisting at our Anzac Day functions.

To his widow Marjorie and family the Association extend their sincere condolences and this was conveyed to them by Pioneer members led by President Bill Jollie. The Victorian Branch of the 2/2nd Pioneer Btn. Assn. phoned a message of sympathy to Mrs Holmes and her family, through Forestville RSL.

THOMAS MUTTON 2/1 of Harrington, passed away on 13th January, 1989, after being in ill-health for some years.

Particulars of the funeral service, which was held at Port Macquarie on 16th January, were conveyed to the Welfare Chairman by Jack Griffiths.

Our sincere condolences were extended to Mrs Pat Mutton and family by the Welfare Chairman.

CHARLES EDMUND DINSDALE 2/2 of Tacoma, passed away on 19th December, 1988. The funeral service was held at Palmdale Crematorium on 21st December and was attended by Association member Tom Moore.

A sympathy card was forwarded to Mrs Jo Dinsdale on behalf of members of the 2/1-2/2 Pioneer Bns. Association.

HERB HARRISON 2/1 of South Oakleigh, Vic., passed away in November, 1988, aged 63 years.

The news was passed on to us by Joe Kyffin, who was a friend of Herb's, both during and after the war.

KEN (NAT) GOULD B.Coy., 2/1, Gladesville, passed away on 7th February, 1989, and was cremated on 10th February at Northern Suburbs Crematorium. He was 70 years of age.

Ken was a quiet member of the Battalion and because of his happy nature will be well remembered.

He had been ill with cancer for some time but his wife, Doris, has advised that he died peacefully.

The sympathy of the Association members has been passed on to Doris and her family.

TREVOR BECKETT B.Coy., 2/1, of Caringbah, passed away after a long illness on 4th February, 1989, and was cremated at Woronora on 8th February. He was 71 years of age.

The service was conducted by members of Caringbah RSL, in conjunction with the Padre who read the Eulogy. This was written by Pioneer member Alan Stutchbury, who was also a family member.

Trevor had enlisted in the early 1940s by putting his age up, and served in the Siege of Tobruk, continued on through the Kokoda Trail in New Guinea and served in Balikpapan, Borneo, as a corporal in B Coy.

He is survived by his wife, Joyce, and two sons — a third son being deceased.

The sympathy of the 2/1-2/2 Pioneer Bns. Assn. was conveyed to Joyce by Alan and Frank Stutchbury, Bill Tasker and Max Law.

BOB BURNSIDE 2/1, of Como, passed away suddenly on 7th March, 1989, at his home.

Bob had been a staunch Committee member for some years and he will be sadly missed by all Pioneers.

At the time of going to press, no further details were to hand.

APOLOGY

In the last issue of *Pioneer News* it was published in the Wagga Reunion article that Russ Harrison carried the banner at the Wreath Laying Ceremony. This was incorrect as the banner was carried by Gordon Bell for the 2/2nds.

"THE PIONEERS"

Dear Mr Herron,

I am writing to thank you and your members for the gift of the 2/1 Pioneers book "The Pioneers". As well as expressing my deep appreciation of the gift, I would like to say what a beautifully produced book it is, very well written and absorbingly interesting. I only wish Stuart himself could have read it.

What amazes me is the number of theatres of war in which the battalion served. Because Stuart spoke only of his experiences in New Guinea I somehow connected the battalion only with that place and have been astonished and deeply impressed by the splendid achievements to its credit, in Palestine and Egypt. I have not completed reading the book but what I have read so far has been quite a revelation to me.

You won't require any commendation from me but I would like to congratulate all those people concerned on the excellence of the writing. It is a tremendous record of and tribute to all those who served on so many fronts. Also, I was touched by the affectionate reference to Stuart on page 133.

Thank you once again for your kind thoughtfulness in letting me have a copy of the book which I shall always treasure greatly.

With kindest regards to all Pioneers.

Yours sincerely

SADIE A. WATTS

EDITORS NOTE: The above letter from Mrs Watts, widow of Padre Stuart Watts, is typical of the many congratulatory letters received by the History Committee. Many thanks Mrs Watts.

1990 GOSFORD REUNION

The Social Secretary wishes to announce that the next Country Reunion will be held at the Gosford RSL Club on Saturday, 2nd June, and Sunday, 3rd June, 1990.

The date chosen is the most practical one closest to the 50th Anniversary of the two units.

Further details in next issue of *Pioneer News*.

MANY THANKS

Due to ill-health, Jim Field, who has for 30 years been custodian of the 2/2 banner, along with the job, over recent years, of arranging the two wreaths for Anzac Day, has reluctantly handed this task over to Ray Harris.

The Executive would like to express their sincere thanks to Jim for his long years of service and also to Ray for accepting this role.

NEWS ITEM

BOB McTAGGART, 2/2 of Rockhampton, called in to see the Secretary in January and said he was on holidays in Sydney doing the rounds of Pioneers.

He had just come from visiting Mick Egan and they had spent an enjoyable time relating the old days with the 2/2 Pioneer Btn. Bob sent his regards to all Pioneers.

"THE PIONEERS"

Any person having ordered a copy of the book and not received same please contact the Secretary. Books were posted out in September last but a few members have reported their copies have gone astray.

There are still some copies available and these may be obtained by contacting the Secretary.

BRISBANE REUNION

Saturday, 28th October, 1989,
at 10.30 am,

at residence of John and Mollie Hunt,
4/25 Mountford Road, New Farm, Brisbane
Telephone: (07) 358 4349
by 21st October.

PIONEER NEWS

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JULY, 1989

Welfare: MAX LAW, phone 528 6887

50th ANNIVERSARY REUNION, GOSFORD

To commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the formation of both the 2/1st and 2/2nd Pioneer Battalions, it has been decided by the Executive and Committee of the Association to hold a Country Reunion at Gosford on the Central Coast of NSW on the weekend of June 2 and 3, 1990.

According to war diaries the 2/1st Pioneer Battalion Headquarters was established at Ingleburn Military Camp on May 24, 1940, and moved to Greta Camp on May 28. The 2/2nd Pioneer Battalion Headquarters was established at 58th Battalion Drill Hall at Moonee Ponds on May 16, 1940, and moved to Puckapunyal Military Camp on May 18. For this reason it was decided to select a practical date closest to the formation dates of the two units.

The Singleton Infantry Centre will provide a Guard of Honour, including a Catalafque Party for the Wreath Laying Ceremony to be held on Saturday, June 2, 1990, at the Gosford Soldiers Memorial in Mann Street. There will be no march, but a very comprehensive and touching ceremony has been arranged which will be carried out with dignity by the various members taking part.

The Reunion Dinner will be held at the Gosford RSL Club on Saturday, June 2, at 6 pm and the guest speaker will be the Officer Commanding, Singleton Infantry Centre.

On Sunday, June 3, at 10 am, a picnic lunch will be held at the Mt Penang Detention Centre with full use of their recreation hall, large barbecue and picnic area. In the past this has proved to be a very relaxing day where members can mix freely and meet old comrades.

A Farewell Dinner will be held on Sunday, June 3, at 7 pm, at the Gosford RSL Club in the form of a smorgasbord followed by a most informal evening.

As this will probably be our last country reunion and get-together, let us make it a memorable one by having a good roll up. This way members will have a chance to be on parade all weekend, to pay homage to those so gallant members who gave their lives during the conflict, and those who have passed on since. Remember, fellow members, we are going in ever increasing numbers, so take this opportunity to join in with old comrades.

GORDON FINLAY, Social Secretary

SICK PARADE

DAVID WELLER 2/1 spent time in Lady Davidson Hospital after surgery on his leg. Dave was wounded in Tobruk and has suffered problems ever since, finally losing his leg. His wife, Jean, booked into a nearby guest house to be near her husband.

Fred Callaway responded to a request to call and see David and says he was in very good spirits and they enjoyed talking together about the old battalion and its many memories.

David is now back home in Bombaderry and is grateful to the Veterans Affairs Dept. who have arranged special ramps, as well as necessary fittings to be put in place, to make life a little easier.

STEVE MORGAN 2/1 recently spent time in the Masonic Hospital at Ashfield, following an operation for a knee replacement.

Steve will be remembered by some of the "Originals" as a sergeant in B Coy. in Tobruk and became a POW of the Germans while out on patrol on July 17, 1941. This action is recorded on page 58 of "The Pioneers".

Advice of Steve's hospital stay was not received in time to arrange for some visitors, although Peg and Max Herron undertook a trip on a very wet Saturday afternoon, only to arrive an hour after Steve was discharged.

Hope all is well now, Steve.

GEORGE NICHOLS 2/1 has been waiting for a bed in Sutherland Hospital for some time, and it is good to report that he has had his abdominal operation, and is now home again. Normally we would say he (or any other person discharged under the same conditions) was home and recuperating — but such a description is really not applicable to George.

He looks very fit, exercising by taking long walks and, in fact, when Max Law called on him just two or three days after the operation, George was pacing it out at the end of a long outside verandah with the intention of "walking out of sight".

Keep it up, George, and get well soon.

DON SLATER 2/1 was operated on in Concord Hospital recently and was visited by Russ Harrison and Max Law. He was in good spirits and sends best wishes to his mates.

Don is now living at the War Vets Home at Narabeen and keeps in touch with other Pioneers out there.

PETER CRAIG 2/1 was down from Leura for Anzac gatherings as normal, but this year was noticeably quiet. He was under stress from severe stomach problems and has since been in touch with the Welfare Chairman with details of his illness.

After an operation in Katoomba Hospital, Peter was moved to Concord for a further operation. He was then transferred to Lady Davidson for convalescence and has then to return to Concord for further treatment.

While at Concord and Lady Davidson Peter was visited by Bob Lee, Russ Harrison, Bill Tasker, Bill Jollie, Max Law, Ken Stuart and Fred Callaway. All the best to you, Peter, and we hope by now you are well on the road to recovery.

— MAX LAW, Welfare Chairman

2/1-2/2 PIONEERS — WA

On March 17 the 2/1-2/2 Pioneer Association of WA held their meeting in Perth and in attendance were: Barry Hunt, Arthur Dearden, Jack Murray, Jack McDougall, Harry, Gwen and daughter Mary Dixon, Owen Heron, Jack Stuart, Sid Abercrombie, Jack and Joan Monger, Beth and Don Lee.

Next meeting will be held on July 21 and in future on the third Friday in November and March as listed in the Listening Post.

— LEN PREEDY, Chairman

LIFE MEMBERS' LUNCHEON

Reported by MARY MCINNES

A luncheon for Life Members was held at the John Edmondson V.C. Memorial Club, Liverpool, on April 23, 1989. Twelve members attended this very successful function and all were accompanied by their wives, with the exception of John Hunt. We were sorry Mollie Jean could not attend as she was preparing for their first trip to Europe.

I was delighted to be appointed reporter for the day, but confined my news gathering to the activities of the ladies present. The rain did not put a damper on our good spirits and there was much chatter in the Club Lounge before Gordon Finlay led us into the private function room for the luncheon where we were seated.

The programme was chaired by President Bill Jollie whose first duty was to introduce Mr Reg Findley, President of the RSL, and present him with a copy of the book "The Pioneers" for the club library. In his response of thanks Mr Findley told of his father who was a member of the 1st Pioneer Battalion (1st AIF) in World War I and displayed his father's Discharge Certificate indicating his service with the 1st Pioneer Bn. which was of great interest to our members.

President Bill then called for a moment's silence in memory of departed Life Members and we remembered Alf Carter, Jack Westwood, Harry Montague, Bob McGregor, Mick Dodson, Gordon Osborn and Bob Dixon.

Allan McInnes was then called upon to say Grace and Doug Shearston proposed the Loyal Toast to Her Majesty, the Queen.

After enjoying the entree, fish or prawns, no one was concerned with pollution that day.

While indulging in the main meal, Max Law, looking very chipper, proposed a special toast to the Association.

President Bill then delivered his address with his usual good humour and aplomb. He read out the complete Life Member list noting with appreciation the services rendered to the Association by each member. He also expressed appreciation of the ladies, especially Peg Herron. We were all amused by the piece of prose he quoted on what constitutes a Senior Citizen, which was very appropriate as we have all reached that status. This was a very humorous reflection on the changed values of our society.

Following dessert and coffee the gathering became more informal as we mingled around the tables. It was now that I heard some gentlemen reliving old battles and also reflected on the battles we women have had with Pioneers over the years — usually beginning in the kitchen and ending in the bedroom — oh, well, so much for memories.

It was great seeing all the ladies so well and attractive. Olive Finlay looks better than ever after a rough spin in recent years. The Finlays, Lakes, Kerslakes and Whiteleys were all preparing to set off on a touring holiday to Longreach, Queensland.

Being at Liverpool recalled army memories for Joan Lake as at one stage she was stationed there. In those days she was known as "Lakey" too. It was interesting to hear of Peg Whiteley's long association with a group of friends she made as a child when they all lived in War Service homes in the same street in Bexley. Now they still all meet in one of the houses where a friend still lives.

Phyl Jollie has known many homes in different areas as the wife of a banker and these days is very happy to be settled near her family in their own home in the Hills district. Kath Field and Joyce Walker keep very busy looking after their families as does Gwen Collis who enjoys her life on the Central Coast.

Joyce Law is fortunate in still having a 27 year old son who is a musician, at home with her and Max. This good company must be the reason she looks so youthful. Roma Shearston is still enjoying life at Forster and is busy with golf and spinning. She is so modest, she will only tell you about her clever son, Trevor, who has become a well known writer, if you ask.

Peg and Max Herron have a new interest in genealogy and now that Max has slowed up on Scouting they have a little more time to indulge in this interesting pursuit. To date they have discovered ancestors on each side with similar names. Sounds a bit incestuous to me.

Well after all that talk it was time to go home. The rain had stopped and everyone went home happy. I was going to say dry and happy but that is not strictly correct as Pioneers are not known as total abstainers and the club did suggest after coffee, that drinks were on the house.

I am sure I can speak for everyone in thanking the Committee for a wonderful day.

2/1-2/2 ANZAC ACTIVITIES

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Association was held on Monday, April 24, at the Redfern RSL Club.

Thirty members met in the Sportsman Bar at 3.30 pm and were welcomed by President Bill Jollie, who opened the meeting with the Ode.

A welcome was extended to all present and especially to those who had travelled long distances, including: "Mac" McKibbin, John Hunt, Jack Bertram, Bill Hoffman and Doug Shearston.

In correspondence a letter was read from the South Sydney Council advising of the free use of the Redfern Town Hall on Anzac Day for our reunion. This was greatly appreciated and was greeted with acclamation.

Reports from the various officers were read and in his report President Bill specifically highlighted the progress made by the Association and congratulated the 2/1st Pioneer Battalion History Committee on their fine production of their unit history book "The Pioneers".

The election of officers was then conducted and upon standing down from the chair, the President appointed Vice President Doug Shearston as Returning Officer. The Senior appointments resulted in Bill Jollie being elected as President, with John Gilchrist (2/1) and John Williams (2/2) being nominated as joint Patrons.

Prior to the close of the meeting, a vote of thanks was passed to the President and Board members of the Redfern RSL Club for their continued support given to our Association by making available the facilities of the Club for our meetings. It was requested that Wal Smith, Vice-President of the club, and an Association member, pass on these thanks to the club, which he readily agreed to do.

At the close of the meeting, the President invited members to join him in refreshments and cordially invited our ladies to join the meeting for drinks.

WREATH LAYING CEREMONY

Following the Annual Meeting, members had a meal at the club and then proceeded to Martin Plaza to place wreaths on the Cenotaph. The members formed up and prepared for the short march from Pitt Street being marshalled by Max Law and assisted by Bob Lake.

The Battalion banners were proudly carried by "Mac" McKibbin 2/1 and Ray Harris 2/2. Wreaths were then placed on the Cenotaph by John Hunt for the Association and Letitia McKibbin for the Ladies Auxiliary, while Jean Dixon placed a wreath in memory of our late President Bob Dixon. Grandchildren of the late Ken Gould also placed a wreath.

Peter Dixon, grandson of Bob Dixon, marched with the main body proudly wearing his grandfather's medals.

Allan McInnes recited the Ode to the Fallen and Aub Brazier played the Last Post and Reveille. Once again, many thanks Aub.

2/1 ANZAC DAY MARCH

The day was rather ominous with dark clouds threatening the march, but at Phillip Street, outside the Leagues Club, a total of 85 members formed up and marched off at 10 am. Once again the unit was led by the Bankstown Police Citizens Youth Club and, as always, they made a valuable contribution to the morale of the marchers.

The banner was in the capable hands of Tim Lloyd and the two leaders of the march were Patron John Gilchrist and President Bill Jollie. Fortunately, the weather held off and big crowds were very receptive right through the march. In the front row of the marchers was Wendy Hall, daughter of the recently deceased Bert Holmes, whose medals she was very proudly wearing.

At the conclusion of the march the unit broke ranks and raced for trains and taxis to arrive at the Reunion before the rain came down.

2/2 ANZAC DAY MARCH

On arrival at the forming up place there was a heavy downpour of rain but fortunately, this cleared by the time the march commenced at 10.45 am.

Russ Harrison did a great job collecting subs

for *Pioneer News* and at the same time handed out "Front Line" medals to those who had ordered them.

The march leaders were Bill Robertson and Allan McInnes, supported by Padre Jock Steele and Ray Harris. The banner was very capably carried by Mick Bye, son of Tom Bye.

Judging by the amount of applause received along the route, our unit had more than a good share of support. Next year will be the 50th anniversary of the formation of the two units, so let us see a good roll up at our march and reunion.

ANZAC REUNION DINNER

More members are attending our Reunion as the years roll on and this year was no exception, despite the fact that so many have passed away in the last few years and others finding it difficult to get about. A near record of 135 meals were served.

The first group arrived just on midday, most of them wet, and the reunion was under way. At the ground floor entrance were duty members to collect cost of lunch, hand out name tags, then upstairs to pay subscriptions, purchase beer tickets and then reserve tables for particular company groups, before getting down to the serious business of lunch. Of course, this was washed down with a generous amount of the amber fluid.

There was also a lot of catching up on stories of old mates who did not arrive this year — especially those who had passed on since last Anzac Day.

Noticed among the crowd were quite a few interstate visitors — Phil Cramsie, Bob McGregor, John Hunt, Harry Mowbray, Bert Beasley and "Mac" McKibbin — nice to see them make such a long trip to be with us.

Our country members were down in force too this year, including Alex George, Clancy Scholes, Doug Shearston, brothers Roy and Jack McGregor, Albert Brown, Bill Hoffman, Fred Wheaton, Henry Burke, Jack Griffiths, Peter Craig, Larry Robson, Ivor Garnon, Jack Collis, Bill Wright, "Porky" Graham, Les Patterson, Clemm McDonald, and from the South Coast, Tom Wood, Lance Gayden, Ted Wilcox, "Bluey" Locane, George Walker and Jim Gray.

Also noticed among the groups were a few who have not been seen for many years — Mick Puntton, Ted Wilcox, Bill Chisholm and Col. Cameron. Hope you enjoyed your day fellas, and will come again.

A raffle was organised by George Walker and won by Rob Standen and the second prize, a bottle of Scotch kindly donated by Gordon and John Collins, was won by Mrs Mary Lloyd. The first prize was a painting of the old Silverton Hotel and was donated by the artist, Allan Reynolds, son-in-law of Gordon Finlay. Many thanks to you, Allan, for your generous gift.

The organising committee would like to thank the members who for many years now have volunteered their time in making the day a success. A special thanks is also due to sons of members who gave their time and efforts to ensure a good time was had by all. These included Tim Lloyd, Geoff Finlay, Terry Bird, David Herron, Peter Gilchrist, Lloyd Allan and Bill Lake.

See you all next year.

— Reported by RAY HARRIS and MAX LAW

FRONT LINE MEDAL

Apologies are extended to those members who have ordered the Front Line Medal and not received it. The delay has been caused by the manufacturer not being able to keep up with the demand and is beyond our control.

The organisers assure members their orders will be fulfilled as medals come to hand.

BRISBANE REUNION

Saturday, October 28, 1989, at 10.30 am
at residence of John and Mollie Hunt
4/25 Mountford Road, New Farm, Brisbane
Telephone: (07) 358 4349 by October 21

LAST POST — by MAX LAW, Welfare

BOB BURNSIDE 2/1 of Como, passed away suddenly on March 7, 1989, at his home.

A member of the Committee for many years, he was a dedicated Pioneer, and will be sadly missed.

Bob suffered for many years, surviving operations and illness, mostly caused by wounds received in Tobruk in 1941. He returned to Australia and spent many months in military hospitals.

Prior to his pending discharge as "B" Class, Bob was offered a chance of joining an Intelligence Unit — Central Bureau — and his transfer was arranged. He studied Japanese in Melbourne for nine months and then spent time in the Philippines carrying out code breaking and other deciphering works.

At the time of his passing, Bob was a devoted father of two sons, Neil and Rob, and had three grandchildren. He was 69.

ERIC BARBER 2/1 of Trangie, passed away peacefully at home after a long illness.

After a service at Trangie, Eric was buried in the Dubbo Cemetery and given a military funeral by the local army contingent. The burial service was attended by Pioneers Mick Bye and Ernie Lunn. We are grateful to Ernie Lunn for the details of the funeral service.

Eric was a member of B Coy, 2/1, and served in Palestine, Papua New Guinea (on the Kokoda Trail) and finally in Balikpapan, Borneo.

During his long illness, Eric spent periods in Coulter House at Randwick Hospital and was accompanied at all times by his devoted wife Leila.

Bill Tasker and Max Law visited Eric and Leila during Eric's bouts in hospital and were joined on occasions by Win Tasker and Joyce Law, who joined the group for visits to the local RSL for dinner. Eric enjoyed these outings, despite his pain.

A sympathy card was forwarded to Leila Barber on behalf of the Association.

MARK WINTERS 8th Div. HQ, passed away on March 19, 1989, aged 69 years, and we are indebted to Colonel John Williams of 2/2nd Pioneers for the information.

Mark was not known to most NSW Pioneers, but well-known to many of the 2/2nd Pioneer Bn. who were in Java. He was captured in Singapore and was sent to work on the Burma Road with "Anderson Force".

EDWARD (TED) SKOYLES C Coy., 2/1, of Mittagong, and former Committeeman, passed away on April 1, 1989. He was cremated at Pine Grove Crematorium at Eastern Creek on April 3.

The service was attended by Pioneers Gordon Finlay, George Walker, Ted Jensen, Bob Lake, Jack Kerslake, Jack Pearce and Harry Shiels and conducted by the President of Mittagong RSL, assisted by Ken McBurnie of the Rats of Tobruk Association.

An Association card has been sent to Mrs Nell Skoyles, his son, Ted, and daughter Shirley Corcoran, expressing our condolences.

CECIL WALTER HART, NX2888, an original from 2/3rd Inf. Bn., and then transferred to 2/1st Pioneers. Cec passed away on April 16 at Bombaderry and was cremated at Forest Lodge Cemetery at Leppington on April 18.

VIC TUNBRIDGE, 2/1, of Victoria, passed to higher service on January 4, 1989.

Major Tunbridge was a well-known officer in the battalion, serving as a Lieutenant and Captain in Tobruk, and later Administering Command when the unit returned from New Guinea.

After the war he became a legend at Geelong Grammar School and was the "Mr Chips" of the school until his retirement a few years ago.

STAN BOSWORTH, 2/1, of Adelaide, passed away on March 12, 1989. He was 81 years of age.

Stan joined the unit at Hill 69 in Palestine, after their return from Tobruk, as a member of the band. Prior he had been a member of the Salvation Army Band.

We are indebted to Ron Webster for the news of Stan's passing.

TOM REYNOLDS, D Coy 2/2, of Swansea, passed away on June 3, 1989, at Belmont Hospital. He was cremated at Palmdale Crematorium, Ourimbah, on June 6.

Bill Robertson represented the Welfare Committee and extended our condolences to Mrs Sis Reynolds.

MAIL BAG

Editor: BOB LAKE

No. 2 issue of *Mail Bag* for this year — Anzac Day is over, a good day and many mates re-united once again, if only for a short time. Everything went off well, I heard no complaints and although the Association lost a few dollars it was all well spent. The volunteers, food waiters and barmen all did a good job and I, for one, appreciate what you do. With those bloody stairs the kegs and tempirre are a real problem, so to Terry, Geoff and Lloyd Allan once again, on behalf of the troops, we say thank you.

ANDY ANDERSON 2/1, Qld., with a sub for the treasurer and the added news that he has moved from Rochedale to Thornlands. While at Greenslopes, as an out-patient, met up with Bill Huxley where they swapped a few tales. Closes with best wishes to all, especially 13 Platoon.

DON ANDERSON 2/1, Merimbula, per pen of wife Dora, with the news that in her last letter she had a wrong name in the information — the correct name should be Fred Ness. Thank you for your trouble, Dora, and a copy of the news was forwarded to Fred. She felt sure that she and Don would see Fred on Anzac Day.

GEORGE BAIN 2/1, Guildford, with a short note, his first in fact, as George has not been in touch before. He served with the Pioneers in the Middle East and New Guinea, with 15 Pl. C Coy. Enclosed a cheque for the treasurer and Max has also been in touch personally. Welcome to the clan, George, you won't regret it.

PHIL BARNETT 2/2, Lismore, with a cheque for the treasurer and congratulations to all those who keep the Association alive. We do the work, Phil, but without your letters and donations, we would be in a sorry mess. Passes his best wishes to all.

MYRTLE BEHAN, widow of Tom 2/2, and living at Bellingen, writes that she has been receiving the *Pioneer News* for the last 16 years since Tom passed away, and thought with Anzac Day approaching some of his old mates might like to hear of him. He was awarded Life Membership of Bellingen RSL on the day he died and was a staunch RSL man all his life. Thank you for the letter, Myrtle, and unless you decide otherwise you will continue to receive the *Pioneer News*.

MAVIS BLANCH, widow of Joe 2/1, Beaudesert, with a sub for the *News* as she likes to keep up with the activities. It's very wet where Mavis lives, and she is thankful that she is not in a flood area.

April saw her on a bowls tour to Byron Bay. She rang Paddy and Gloria Gray and Jack and Olive Richards and played bowls with Gloria at Brunswick Heads — Paddy came along after the game. Jack and Olive met her at Ballina and they had morning tea together.

Mavis enjoys these trips — says the week's break away just enough for the chores not to get out of hand. Expresses best wishes to all for Anzac Day and hopes we had a good one.

BILL BRENNAN 2/1, Victoria, with a cheque for the treasurer and that the *News* brought back a few memories. Remembers Les James quite well and he was sorry to hear of the passing of Harold Fitch. He was Bill's No. 2 on the bren at Balikpapan, and he offers his condolences to his wife and family.

Also relates to Danny Sprouster — remembers him at Balikpapan with half a dozen kids where he had them reciting "Three cheers for Ned Kelly, King of Australia", which brought a few laughs.

Closes with best wishes for all for 1989.

RAY BURROUGHS 2/2, ACT, with a change of address, still in Canberra but different suburb, and quotes that it must be time he hit the "can" again. Whatever you send will be appreciated, Ray, as every little, or big, helps to keep the Association going.

ERIC CAUSER 2/1, Victoria, with a note that since he last saw us, he and wife Doff have been

to the 7th Div. Reunion in Adelaide. It was most successful, about 500 attending the dinner on Saturday and 400 marching on the Sunday. He spent time with two blokes from the 2/31st whom he met in Rabaul, also Leo Healey and Doug Waters, both 2/1sts.

Eric has been returned for a second term as President of the local RSL, so will not make it to Anzac Day this year.

JACK COATES 2/1, Umina, with a sub for the treasurer and the news that he received his copy of *Pioneer News* on his return from Rats Reunion in Tassie. It was a good show — only four Pioneers on deck — Roy Jardine, Pat Noonan, Ted Carter and Jack and Lex. They had some good photos of the Wagga show and sent copies to different ones, including Esme and Griffio. Reckons that Lex excelled herself with the camera.

Jack spent a week in Concord having his usual check-ups, but they are not going on with any more operations. Having plenty of physio and doing some good — much better than the theatre — he has been there too often.

Coatsey also sends extra kind wishes to Lakey. (I think I need much more than that, Jack. My team need aspros or a gun to shoot the lot of them.) Closes with best wishes and looks forward to the big 50 coming up.

SNOW COBBLE 2/1, Loftus, with a letter to Max. After reading that Max was a member of D Coy. at Milne Bay, says he must have known him in those days. Snow left the unit at Milne Bay and finished up in the 35th Bn, where he saw out the war.

You ask of Rupert Wade — sorry Snow he is not on our mailing list, so we can't help there, but we have the address of Tom Bye, C/- Post Office, Irvinebank, Qld. 4872. However, if you get that far he should not be hard to trace.

Thanks for the letter, Snow, and the treasurer has your worthy donation.

VINCE CULLEN 2/1, Peakhurst, per pen of wife Eve, with a cheque for the treasurer and word that Vince is still doing OK. They had a triplast year down the Great Ocean Road in Victoria and on to South Australia. Wonderful scenery with the highlights of the trip the Blue Lake at Mt Gambier and a cruise to Kangaroo Island — saw no kangaroos, but plenty of seals. Both send their best wishes to all Pioneers.

JACK CLAYPOLE 2/1, Matraville, with a sub for the treasurer and an apology for non-attendance on Anzac Day. Jack is having foot trouble and has to go into Prince of Wales Hospital in August.

He watched the march on TV but it was not a good coverage. He had a phone call from Sam Lewis who told him they a good roll-up but could not understand why Jack wasn't there. Hope you have good results with your foot trouble, Jack, and looking forward to seeing your smiling face next year.

JOHN DOUGLAS 2/1, West Wyalong, with a generous donation to funds and a couple of enquiries. He requested the address of Trevor Beckett's wife and enquired about the Front Line Medal. Max has already sent you this information, John, and I trust the medal has arrived safely.

Nice to hear from you again.

JOHN DOWD 2/2, Wagga, with sub for the treasurer and the following report on Anzac Day in Wagga. The day was perfect — Wagga is blessed that it has the Air Force (Forest Hill) on one side and the Army (Kapooka) on the other, so was not short of uniformed personnel and bands in abundance. Big crowds marched and the largest crowd ever watched and cheered. The service was held in the Memorial Gardens as usual and all retired to the Pacific Lounge at the RSL for lunch and fluids.

Jack Morgan carried a banner while Dud Staniforth, Gordon Bell of Tumbaramba and John constituted 2/2nds. Some 2/1sts were in attendance, including Bob Baker. Dudley had a hip replacement in December and marched down Baylis Street — said the Gardens were as far as he wanted to go.

Many thanks for the good report, John, makes us realise that there is more than Sydney to write about on this big day.

NORMA FITCH, widow of Harold 2/1, writes a thank you for copy of *News* which included the Last Post of Harold and offers thanks to the

members of the Battalion for their kindness on that sad day for herself and family. The bank note of Japanese money that you gave to me (Lakey) was sent to Victoria Barracks Museum, as donated by Harold.

BILL GAMBLE 2/1, Qld., with a donation to funds and the price of a copy of the history. Reports that they also had bad weather on Anzac Day, it just rained — and rained — and for good measure they received another five inches between 9 and 12 that night.

Bill still looks forward to the arrival of *Pioneer News*, but is sad to hear of the passing of so many wartime friends. He closes with congratulations to all those who keep the Association going and says G'day to any of his old mates.

ESMA GRAHAM, friend of the late William Horton 2/1, of Young, with a donation to the treasurer and a correction for the addressing of *Pioneer News*. This will be attended to Esma and hope you continue to enjoy the paper.

STELLA GRANGER, widow of Bill 2/1, with a healthy donation to our funds, a congratulatory message on our history, and a thank you for the continued supply of the *News*.

Thank you, Stella, for your kind remarks and we send you our best wishes.

JOHN HAYDEN 2/1, Orange, per pen of wife Wyn, with an apology for the long time between letters — but better late than never.

Wyn writes how delighted they both were with the copy of "The Pioneers" and how pleased their son John Jnr. was with his copy. They send their congratulations to all who gave up their valuable time to complete such a history.

John will be out of action for some time as he goes in for a knee replacement in March, will be in hospital for two to three weeks, then progressing to crutches and eventually a stick. Will be a bit hard for him to take.

What hurts most is that for the first time in many years he will not be the marshal of the Anzac March in Orange.

Recently John was presented with a National Medal for services to the State Emergency Services, after 28 years with the rescue groups, and naturally very proud of same. Our congratulations to you, John, on your award.

Both send their best wishes for Anzac Day and hope to be able to watch the whole show on TV.

LEO HEALEY 2/1, Victoria, with a letter of thanks for copies of the *News* and some reminiscences of the past says — "My arrival at 2/1 Sigs. will never be forgotten. There I stood, a rookie, to be confronted by a tent full of seasoned veterans of Middle East and New Guinea, and a bloody Victorian as well! Anyway, I soon learnt what a great bunch of blokes they were".

Leo joined up at Royal Park and says "On the first night of enlistment a gale force wind blew up. People talk about Cyclone Tracy — all of our tents were blown down, we got drenched in the downpour, and climbed back to take what cold comfort we could till morning. Next day the weather improved, and a kindly man came along, offered a few mild suggestions, and then proceeded to instruct us on the erection of a tent MK 1.

That day we were also introduced to the QM — another kindly man, rather like Clancy! You could hardly say you had seen 'Wardrop, my tailor'. Anyway, loving mothers managed to sew and chop a bit off here and there and we at last started to look the part — boots and all.

To the distress of some mothers we were to be railroaded out next day, no leave, no money, but luckily a phone box that had withstood the previous day's gale. We were marched in some sort of order to Spencer Street where we boarded a rattler bound for who knows where".

At this stage Leo said the cook was screaming so he would have to finish off — "I'll say this, Leo, you had better come up with the finish to this story by next issue. Closes with best wishes to all.

FRANK HEPBURN 2/2, Bankstown, per pen of wife Irene, with a cheque for the treasurer and good wishes to all for a great reunion. Glad to hear, Irene, that you were able to borrow a 2/2nd History from Jack Hocking about the wartime experience of 2/2 Pioneers.

RICHARD HOOK 2/1, Lambton, with a note to say that he is recovering very well after surgery. He did not stay in hospital very long. A cheque was enclosed for the treasurer and he congratulated the History Committee on a great book.

JOHN HUNT 2/1, Qld., with a letter telling of his distribution of the history books — one copy to the Greenslopes library and the other to the Convalescent Home at Kenmore.

John was down for the Life Membership dinner on April 23 and stayed for Anzac Day. He and Mollie Jean left for overseas on June 8 — we hope you both have a wonderful trip.

BERT HUTTLEY 2/1, Qld., with a letter telling of the cyclone that struck about 150 miles north of Bloomsbury where Bert lives. In his area there was not much damage, but they had something like 27 inches of rain in 3½ days.

Bert's wife doesn't like to travel so last August Bert and a couple of mates did a trip by car to the Stockmans Hall of Fame at Longreach and then down to Birdsville. It was raining heavily here and, not wanting to get marooned, only stayed a few hours and pushed on to Bouderie, Boulia and Winton. Had a great trip and hopes to do another one like it later on.

Would like to send a cheerio to a couple of Sandgropers mentioned in the news previously — Jack Murray and Jack Crispin, both members of Sig. Pln. 2/2nd, and good mates of Bert. Closes with best wishes to all.

JACK KEMPNIH 2/1, Fingal Bay, per pen of wife Maisie, with a cheque for the treasurer and the news that they had just returned from South Australia, where Mais had helped her sister sell up and go into a care situation. While in Adelaide they met up with Doug Waters 2/1 who was in town to have a day out with some mates.

They rang Gert Vickery on the way home, but it was too wet to go visiting.

Maisie says they have had a run of visitors lately with a call from Joyce and George Walker, then Jack and Gwen Collis. Hopes Max and Peg Herron really enjoy their trip to the far north when they go early in August.

JOE KYFFIN 2/1, Vic., with a short note saying he would not be up for Anzac Day. He has had a spell in hospital and quotes "I never knew that anybody could be so uncomfortable in bed". Wished to be remembered to all, with a special mention for Jack Clarke and Wally Parsons.

Joe says he has lost a lot of weight and can hardly hold a pen with the arthritis in his hands. Closes with best wishes and a cheque for the treasurer.

JIM LAW 2/1, Tahmoor, with a note to the secretary requesting a copy of "The Pioneers" and thanking him for back copies of the *News*. Jim's son, Ray, marched in his father's place on Anzac Day where he was made very welcome.

Jim also enclosed a photo and newspaper cutting of the late Ted Skoyles which was published in an issue of *The Trader*, a local paper down that way, and for this we thank you very much.

BOB LEE 2/2, North Strathfield, with a letter registering his thanks for a wonderful day on Anzac Day. As always these functions are most enjoyable, especially when one sees old mates. Bob's wife, Joan, is a cousin of Jack Collis and Bob says it is good to see him, if only once a year. Also caught up with Jack Dolaghan, he and Bob went to Tech together immediately after the war.

Bob and Joan left on a coach trip to Bright and northern Victoria the day after Anzac Day and really enjoyed it. They had also been down to Culburra and went to see Butch Phillips at Greenwell Point — he is not enjoying the best of health but can still have a good laugh. Bob also hears from Vic Norman from Proserpine, Qld., and is still trying to get him down one year for Anzac Day.

He would also like to pass a vote of thanks to Russ Harrison for his efforts in the handling of the Front Line Medal for the 2/2nds — no easy task and time consuming.

BOBLEHMAN 2/1, Miami, with a cheque for the treasurer and the news that he is a member of the TPI Association. Bob has been helping out fellows of the Association who are too sick to help themselves doing odd jobs, cleaning up gardens, mowing lawns, etc., and wants to know if we have

any members in his area of the coast who may need a hand. He knows of Harry Sedger, but there must be others. (By the way, can you supply us with Harry's address, as his *Pioneer News* was returned.)

Bob's phone number is (075) 52 8269 and he states there is NO CHARGE for the work — says he is fit from the neck down so physical work OK. Thanks for the letter, Bob, and for your kind offer.

VIV LEMESURIER 2/1, Cowra, with the news that he has sold his home at Katoomba and moved into a retirement village at Cowra. Enclosed a cheque for a copy of the history and the balance to Association funds. A second letter acknowledges receipt of the book and says what a lot of memories — good and bad — were brought back.

Viv sends his regards to all for Anzac Day — says old age has finally caught up with a few of us. Would be glad to see any of the boys if any down Cowra way — the retirement village right opposite the Japanese Gardens.

PAT LAUGHREN 2/1, Qld., with a cheque for the treasurer and best wishes to all for Anzac Day. His eyes are not the best, but his thoughts will be with you on the 25th.

DORRIE LONG, widow of Bob 2/1, with a letter informing us of her change of address. Dorrie has sold her house and bought a villa. Will mean a lot less work and so much smaller to look after.

Offers congratulations on the History and mentions that Bob helped in the making of the Tobruk Rat medals — she is especially proud of the one in her possession with Bob's name where the date 1941 is inscribed.

Thanks for your good wishes, Dorrie, and we wish you well in your new home.

TOM MANUEL 2/1, Glen Innes, with cheques from himself, Bob Donald and Col Noon and the news that Bob is on a fishing trip at time of writing. Vic Donald is still having trouble with 'flu and Col has not put on weight in spite of regular doses of Tooheys. Tom is getting a bit more use in his hands — goes to Concord for check ups every six months.

The widows in Glen Innes — Edna Marshall and Joyce Rodgers — are still in good health and carrying on with the close support of their respective families.

Tom closes with best wishes and many thanks for all news from your part of the country.

M. D. MATHESON 2/2, Nerang, with a change of address and the news that he has been ill. Trust by now you are on the mend. Your donation to the Association is what you can afford, or what you care to send, but the subscription is \$2 per year.

JACK MONGER 2/1, WA, with a very brief note of thanks for the *Pioneer News* and a money order to keep it going. One thing, Jack, you must be satisfied — with no complaints.

RON MORLEY 2/1, Vic., with a short note to say Hello and to ask if he owes any money, as he doesn't get the *News* very often. Well, Ron, the paper is published in April, July and November, the subscription is \$2 per year and you are paid up until the end of 1989. Hope this puts you in the picture.

HARRY MOWBRAY 2/1, Qld., with a thank you to Max for the address of Kathleen Simmonds, widow of "Bluey", that he asked for on Anzac Day. Harry and Dorothy are off to the UK in August and intend to give Kath a call while there. They will be away about nine weeks, and should be back in Aussie about a week before the Brisbane reunion.

Harry sincerely hopes to see some of the boys at this reunion, as with no support both John and Mollie may not think it worth while.

CHARLES RICHARDSON 2/2, Qld., with a cheque for the treasurer. He had hoped to get to Sydney for the reunion this year, but the time was taken up visiting a son in Adelaide and a daughter in Townsville.

Charles asked that his condolences be passed on to Mrs Bert Holmes and family. Bert was an original of 7 Pln. A Coy, and Charlie was the first platoon commander.

ROY ROACH 2/1, Kirrawee, with a donation to funds and kind words of appreciation of the *News*. He was sorry to hear of the passing of Bert Holmes

and Bob Burnside, was on the Committee with them both back in the 50s.

Would like to say Hello to Jim McDonald and Max Law and hopes they are both well. Max has been in a bit of trouble healthwise of late, Roy, but pleased to say starting to sparkle again now.

DOUG SHEARSTON 2/1, Forster, writes firstly on behalf of Roma and himself to thank the Committee for the excellent luncheon provided for the Life Members. It was something not to be missed and probably the first and only one of its kind.

ANNE SMITH, daughter of Mabel and the late "Lofty" Hannon, sends along a sub for the *Pioneer News*. She took her mother down to the local march at Shepparton this year — it was a beautiful day with a great roll up of marchers and onlookers. There were a lot of younger Diggers as Shepparton has finally put a plaque to honour Vietnam veterans.

Thank you, Anne, for the letter — Max has written with information re the medal.

BONNIE SNUDDEN, widow of Cec 2/2, writes from Dubbo with a sub for the *Pioneer News* and passes on good wishes to all. Do hope you are enjoying life in the Legacy Village, Bonnie, and keeping well.

BILL WILSON 2/1, Panania, per pen of his good wife, a short note with a sub to *Pioneer News*. She feels that Bill may have not paid his dues, so sends along subs for 1988-89. Many thanks and best wishes to you both.

BILL WRIGHT 2/1, Wyoming, with a letter full of praise of the reunion — says he would have liked to stay longer but the years are catching up and wanted to get home before it got too late. Thank you Bill for the kind remarks regarding the troops and Committee — I agree with you for "oldies" they are pretty well preserved.

ARTHUR STEAN 2/1, Forster, with a thank you for the back issues of *Pioneer News*, as he quotes, "My own fault as I left Sydney 11 years ago and did not let you know". He met up with Roy Jardine and Phyllis late April — went visiting for an hour and stayed five — and the wives got the blame. Hopes that everyone is well, as he puts it "in the pink".

BILL AND HAZEL SUTTON 2/1, WA, with a sub for the treasurer for the two years of back numbers forwarded by Max and the news that both of them are keeping well.

They hope that next year they will be able to go to Perth to enable Bill to march with the Pioneers and Hazel with the WAAAFs.

They have been in touch with Tom Maxwell, whom Bill had not seen for 36 years, and with the daughter of "Dasher" Dean, who passed away last year. The daughter is very interested in knowing more of her father's life in the Army, as apparently he did not talk about it very much.

Nice to hear from you both, write again some time.

JACK COLLIS 2/1, Umina, with news of members in his area. "Bluey" Miller is waiting on advice to see if he has to have his gall bladder removed and Jack Coates is still having skin cancers removed. Cliff Secombe of Thirlmere was visited recently by Jack and Gwen, on the occasion of the 47th anniversary of their double wedding.

On Anzac Eve, Jack presented Umina Public School with a copy of "The Pioneers", by courtesy of the 2/1 History Committee. The school had a very impressive Anzac Day service and they were pleased to receive the book and a Tobruk map from Jack.

Thanks for your report, Jack, and best wishes.

JACK BRYANT 2/1, Coraki, with a request for Jack Lamerton's address, which was promptly sent by the secretary. Jack keeps busy with his garden and bowls — says it helps to keep his joints moving.

Nice to hear from you again, Jack.

This completes the Mail Bag for this issue, a good response from the troops. I enjoyed Anzac Day, where for the first time I met Gordon Wheaton. He was with Fred, and believe me he is BIG. I did not hear any complaints of the day, so must presume everyone had a good time. A good rollup and that's what we look forward to most of all.

— LAKEY

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Welfare: MAX LAW, phone 528 6887

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1988-89

It is that time of the year again, when the President is expected to give a resume of the Association's activities during the preceding 12 months.

During the year, three Committee meetings, with an average attendance of 23 members, were held at Redfern RSL Club, when many matters, including a few contentious ones, were dealt with in furthering the interests of the Association. In this regard I must thank all members of the Executive and Committee for their unflinching support given during the year.

In addition to the 1988 Anzac Day Dinner, with an attendance of 156, a Country Reunion was held at Wagga Wagga during the weekend of September 17 and 18, 1988, which was attended by 130 members and their wives. The success of these functions is due in no small measure to our social secretaries Gordon Finlay and George Walker, whilst not forgetting to mention our chief booking clerk, Peg Herron, who did a wonderful job in arranging the necessary accommodation.

Whilst on the subject of the reunion, I personally would like to thank the Association for the great honour bestowed upon me in the granting of Life Membership. It was very much appreciated. While on the matter of Life Membership, the Committee in its wisdom, decided to honour all the Association's Life Members and their wives with a luncheon at John Edmondson VC Memorial Club, Liverpool, on Sunday, April 23. This gesture was greatly appreciated by the 12 members concerned and their ladies.

Once again, John and Mollie Hunt hosted the Brisbane reunion on October 29 last. Many thanks to both of you.

The 2/1st History Committee completed its task during the period with the publication of "The Pioneers" and from the numerous letters to hand, and the reviews, it was well received.

Financially, the Association is in a good position, while the funds have been carefully handled by "Money Bags" Vic Whiteley. Thanks Vic for a job well done and now it is up to members to keep those subs and donations coming along.

Our Welfare Officers, Max Law and Jack Collis, have been particularly busy during the year attending to, or arranging, visits to members in hospital and representing the Association at far too many funerals. The Association has lost many members who have passed on and their demise is a sad blow to the Association. Past members of the Executive who have passed on recently are Bob Dixon, President 1985-88; Bob McGregor, Social Secretary 1966-76; and Bert Holmes, Social Secretary 1955-59.

To the families and loved ones of the bereaved, we extend our deepest sympathy. I must at this stage pay a special tribute to Max Law who has continued to operate during the year despite a severe illness which resulted in open heart surgery.

The lifeline of the Association — *Pioneer News* — has continued to flourish, thanks to the untiring efforts of Max Herron and Bob Lake as co-editors. What a magnificent job they do, ably assisted by their major-domo Peg Herron. The wrapping committee is also to be commended on getting the News out on time, when you remember that over 1000 copies have to be wrapped and posted.

Looking to the future, your committee is arranging for the 50th anniversary of the formation of both battalions to be celebrated by way of a reunion function to be held at Gosford during June 2 and 3, 1990. You will be kept advised of this function through *Pioneer News*.

On behalf of the Association I would like to convey its appreciation, firstly, to all the ladies who have so generously assisted during the year. We cannot do without you, and secondly, to the President and Board of the Redfern RSL Club for the free use of the Club's facilities during the year for our Committee and Annual meetings.

Finally, a special tribute is due to both Max and Peg Herron for their untiring efforts in furthering the interests of the Association throughout the year and on behalf of all members I extend to both of you our most grateful thanks.

BILL JOLLIE, President

50th ANNIVERSARY CROCK POT

The enclosed Brochure probably tells it all. . . .

As in line with other ex-service organisations, the Committee decided on a fund raising venture to offset expenses of our 50th Anniversary Reunion at Gosford in June, 1990 — we will be hosting the Catalaue Party from Singleton Army Camp and other expenses incurred (apart from our personal expenses). The Association receives a percentage of all crocks sold.

Our Pioneer Crock is \$26 (plus postage) and shows both Battalion Badges with formation dates and spheres of action.

Instead of purple colouring of the colour patches on the crock, it will be royal blue — to have the purple specially made the cost would have been prohibitive, and to have the special colouring made up we would have to guarantee a sales figure, and so the stock colour of royal blue was decided upon as it is the nearest shade available.

And what about the personal side! This is a once only venture marking the 50th anniversary formation of both battalions — a reminder on the side-board forever — OK drink the port and refill the crock! A suitable gift for birthdays, anniversaries or other gift times or just a memento to hand down through the family.

SICK PARADE

JIM FIELD 2/2 of Greystanes recently spent three weeks in Blacktown Hospital where he had a hernia operation. President Bill Jollie visited Jim in hospital and advised that he is now home receiving plenty of care and attention from wife, Kathleen.

KEN STUART 2/1 of Turramurra was also on the sick list recently and spent four days in hospital for an operation. Trust all went well, Ken, and many thanks for helping with the hospital visitations.

JACK TOOKER 2/1 of Chatswood had some time in Royal North Shore Hospital undergoing tests for a possible heart turn. Jack is now home and was well enough to attend our last Committee meeting.

BOB McCLOSKEY 2/1 of Parramatta has spent a number of years in Parramatta Nursing Home, at 43a Thomas Street, and would appreciate a visit from any Pioneers. President Bill Jollie has already paid Bob a visit. Bob was in A Coy, 2/1, and one of the battalion football representatives.

PETER CRAIG 2/1 of Leura had another stay in Concord Hospital for a further operation and then transferred to Lady Davidson Home at Turramurra to convalesce. In a letter received from Peter he thanked all the kind people who visited him while in hospital — they were a welcome sight.

MAX LAW, Welfare Chairman

SAFARI TO LONGREACH

Four couples Vic and Peg Whiteley, Jack and Marj. Kerslake, Bob and Joan Lake under their fearless leader Gordon Finlay and Olive, rendezvoused at Dubbo for the start of the tour. Plans were discussed and though we would not travel in convoy, we would meet at certain places for morning tea and lunch. This was no problem, as with the miles of straight roads, we were always in sight of the other cars. I would say that mainly the roads were good, top class accommodation wherever we were and the trip highly successful.

After leaving Dubbo we proceeded to Bourke then across the border where the publican opened the bar at 9.30 am for a beer and use of the toilet. Next town Cunnamulla where we discovered it was a public holiday in Queensland — May Day — so everything was closed. We moved on to Charleville where we stopped the night. It was very hot and we had a swim in the motel pool.

Gordon celebrated his 75th birthday here so we had a scratch meal, again nothing open, a few tinnies, Baileys, sherry and a fruit cake with matches for candles. That will be one birthday Gordon won't forget!

Next morning on to Tanbo where we had lunch, visited museums, and on to Blackall. In town and Gordon had trouble with his solenoid — a couple of hours and lots of dollars later we were away to Barcalidine, photographed the railway station and the Tree of Knowledge, then on to Longreach. The Hall of Fame well worth the trip, very interesting, and we spent over five hours there.

From Longreach we headed east to Emerald, crossed a section of the Great Divide where Whiteley was heard to remark "I nearly had to change gear". Visited the Fairbairn Dam a bigger area than Sydney Harbour, covering some 170 kilometres. On to Rockhampton where we struck rain, which restricted sightseeing, but we did get out to Yeppoon (totally owned by the Japanese). Back in Rocky by noon and we said goodbye to Peg and Vic. They were going by the coast to visit relatives and the rest going south-west to Biloela, through Mt Morgan and on to Goondiwindi, home of Gunsynd, then across the border back into NSW. We made Moree about 3 pm, rang Charlie Wilby and arranged to visit a cotton gin next day. However, the cotton gin broke down, so still have not seen one in action. Met Wilby that night and had a few ales, also celebrated Olive and Gordon's 47th wedding anniversary — and did no good on the pokies.

Left next day towards home, Narrabri, Gunnedah and investigated the Burning Mountain at Wingen, but it was a two hour walk up and back, so we jacked up. At Muswellbrook we dined at the Workers' Club where Kerslakes won two meat raffles.

Home next day, a good trip, good meals at Queensland Shell garages and in NSW we used the clubs. Space does not permit to tell all, but this is a rough draft of our safari. — JOAN LAKE

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

The new address of President Bill Jollie is 57/350 Old Northern Road, Castle Hill 2154. Phone: 899 5665.

FRONT LINE MEDAL

Due to delay in delivery by the manufacturer there are still 50 medals not supplied. We do apologise to those people who have not received their medal. They are assured their medals will be delivered as soon as we receive a supply from the manufacturer.

MAIL BAG

Editor: BOB LAKE

This is the third and final issue for 1989 and I must say that the response from all members has been satisfactory. Letters have been well up in numbers and provide the necessary interest to all members. Keep it up in 1990.

MRS ROSEMARY AARONS, the wife of a retired Army Major (British Army), retired to Australia a few years ago, was sifting through the local library and he discovered some old returned services journals. He read and enjoyed them so much that he has requested copies of our journal, which Max provided and has placed the Major on our mailing list for future issues. Like Max we hope you enjoy your new life in Australia and we hope that you enjoy the future issues of our *News*.

LEILA BARBER, widow of Eric 2/1, of Trangie, with a thank you for the sympathies extended at the demise of Eric. Also pleased that he received the Front Line Medal only a few hours before he passed away, and his grandson wore the medals at the funeral. Leila wishes to continue receiving the *News* and passes on her good wishes to Max Law, Bill Tasker and Peg and Max, and comments that she may see us all at the Gosford reunion in 1990.

JUNE BIRRELL widow of Robert 2/1, of Mudgee, with an enquiry regarding the Front Line Medal. Due to delay in delivery by the manufacturer, it may be still one or two months before these are available. The medal will be posted to you, June, as soon as they come to hand.

GEORGE BROOKS, 2/1, has severed his ties with Ipswich and moved down the coast to Nowra where he has relatives. George has been in and out of the local hospital several times for treatment and is being visited on a regular weekly basis by George Walker. He wishes to be remembered to all Pioneers and presented a healthy donation to the treasurer.

LAWRIE BUCKMAN 2/1, Bribie Island, with a donation for the treasurer and the news that he had a few beers with Tom Welch recently when they had a discussion over the book, old mates and old times. Lawrie is now living a lazy, relaxing life at Bribie within walking distance of the RSL Bowls Club and fishing. With regard to the medal, Max has placed an order for one with Bill Tasker using the money you sent with your letter. Will leave it to Max as to whether we can fit in your copy about the Two-up in this issue owing to space, but it's a good rub at the politicians.

MICK BYE 2/2, of Dubbo, with a healthy donation for the treasurer, reckons it's about time he'd better kick the tin. Since leaving the land, Mick has kept himself busy with driving buses in Dubbo, then joined the St John Ambulance and became Superintendent in 1988. However, there was too much red tape, so he gave that away and is now a Staff Instructor/Examiner for St John and does a lot of travelling — as far west as Bourke, Walgett and Wellington. All done on a voluntary basis, he says, so will always be broke. Has every intention of attending Gosford in 1990 and can only say thanks to the organisers of the many reunions over the years.

FRANK CAULFIELD 2/2, now of Benalla, has decided that he had better "pay up" for this year and explains his move to Benalla from Cairns. Sun was the greatest problem — didn't worry Frank much, but wife Betty was getting a lot of bad skin cancers so they decided to head south. Besides there were getting too many Nips for his liking, practically running the place.

Has met up with Joe Kyffin since going south and had a few drinks with him at Reservoir RSL. Frank has joined the local RSL, but not much chance of getting into trouble there, they only meet once a month, have a meeting, then have a few bottles afterwards. Reckons that Benalla's main claim to fame is that it is the heart of Kelly country — says a few of his relatives are still about disguised as shopkeepers and publicans. It is also the birthplace of "Weary" Dunlop and his photo holds

pride of place at the RSL. All being well, Frank, Joe Kyffin and Tom McNaughton will be motoring up from the south next year for the Gosford show.

REBECCA CLOGG, Chittaway Point, with a donation for the treasurer and thanks for the *News* which she thoroughly enjoys. Claims that Ivor Garnon keeps a good check on her and she sees Jack Coates, Jack Collis and others quite often at the Central Coast "Rats" meeting, where she has made many good friends. Sends kindest regards to all and hopes we have a great reunion in 1990.

JACK COLLIS 2/1, of Umina, with a letter saying that it pains him to take a lottery ticket off Lakey this year. My heart really bleeds, Jack, but I don't know that we (Manly) need a raffle — after all we still do have some money you know. Jim Miller had several weeks in hospital having his gall bladder removed. Had a hard time, but is now recovering. The same day they had to put his wife into Gosford Hospital with pneumonia. Jack Coates has had a couple of visits to the doctor with his usual complaints. Cliff Secombe still having trouble with his eyes and has to go back to Liverpool Hospital to have the stitches removed. Ivor Garnon looks well, but does not enjoy the best of health these days. Jack himself in hospital for his regular checkup and once again a good report, which is the main thing. He and Gwen had a few days at Nelson Bay. They called round to see Jack and Maisie Kempnich but they were not home. Will catch them next time. Seems to me that the Collis family spend a lot of time at Nelson Bay. What's the big attraction — the beer is no better, no worse, than anywhere else.

JACK COATES 2/1, Umina, with a note that he had a visit recently from Jim Hall and George Scholes on their way back from Denman, Snowy River and Victoria. Jack enclosed a photo of "Nobby" Felton's wedding, which Jim had originally sent to the Coates, with a request for publication. However, now that we are down to three issues per year, space is at a premium, but if Max has room any time will put it in. Max also expresses his thanks for the Charlie Smidt funeral notice. Jack and Charlie spent a lot of time together in 12 Platoon, B Coy. Closes with kindest regards from he and Lex to all.

DAVE DENNY 2/1, of Lismore, with a letter for the *News* and a sub for the treasurer. He enclosed a photo of the grenade range at Dubbo, with which we are so familiar. Dave is well again and enjoying a little amber fluid — at one stage he was almost teetotal, but survived that fate.

Dave spent last Anzac Day at Stockton with Merv Ogden and Allan Wilson, where a good day and night was enjoyed by all. They then travelled west, south and east of NSW and what should have been three weeks turned into six owing to the floods. They were held up at Burren Junction, Narrabri, Walgett, Narrandera, Wagga, Coffs Harbour and Woodburn, then when they arrived home had five feet of water under the house. Just enough to let you paddle your feet, and cool down a little after the trip.

"PORKY" GRAHAM 2/1, Port Macquarie, with a letter and a photo to be forwarded to Clem Cook. It was a photo of Jock Russell and his transport — a wheel chair and a Honda, with ramp. Jock has done quite a bit of travelling since he got the machine — down to Swansea and Raymond Terrace, and gets the utmost courtesy from the motoring public. Porky is talking about going back to Queensland and has started on a new home in that area. Expects it to be ready in July or August next year. Closes with congratulations to Max and the committee for the job of keeping the old crowd together and wishes everyone the best of health and happiness in the future.

IRENE HEPBURN wife of Frank 2/2, Bankstown, writes that she had the pleasure of reading the 2/2 history loaned to her by Jack Hocking, and glad you found it interesting. As you say, Irene, the 2/1 History gave an idea of how Pioneer Battalions were formed and was a good lead up to the 2/2 book. You would always be welcome at any of our functions, Irene, all you need to do is a phone call to the Herrons and they will put you in the picture.

CHARLIE KERR 2/1, Maryborough, with a donation to funds and compliments to all who produced the book. After Wagga, Charlie returned home for a few days then set off on a bus tour of Western Australia that lasted six weeks. It was a

local bus company, so started and finished at Maryborough. Travelled via the inland going down and a full week in Perth. Plenty to see and really beautiful city. Then up the west coast to Geraldton and Kalbarri and the wildflowers something to write home about, especially in the full flush of Spring. They returned via Albany, Esperance, Adelaide, then Mildura, the Murray Valley and finally home by the Newell Highway. In February set off again, this time bowls — via Tamworth, on to Wollongong where he spent eight days circulating the bowling clubs in the area, including Oak Flats, and he didn't realise until he got home that this was Sam Gardiner country. He apologises for this, Sam, and hopes to do better next time.

Son Frazer and family have shifted from Lae to Honiara in the Solomons where he has been made general manager of Boral. Daughter Kathe was badly injured in an accident and after ten weeks is slowly on the mend. However, has been a bit of a drama for Charlie as he has spent quite a bit of time baby-sitting her two boys at Gatton. I have only one comment to make, Charlie — what do you do when you want something to occupy your mind, take a rest?

CLIFF HILL 2/1, Murwillumbah, with a cheque for the treasurer and says how he enjoyed reading "The Pioneers" and receiving the *News*. Closes with best wishes to all and hopes to be able to attend a function when his next visit to Sydney comes round.

ERN JANSEN 2/2, Croydon Park, with best wishes to the Association and a cheque to help with cost of *Pioneer News*.

STAN JONES 2/1, Collaroy, with an apology for not being present at the last reunion, but promises to make the next one. Enclosed a cheque for treasurer and sends regards to all Pioneers.

DAVID KING 2/1, of Davidson, with a cheque for the treasurer and said he wasn't sure how he stood financially. Re the Tom Manual report, Joyce Rodgers is the widow of Harry (Jock) Rodgers, late of Glen Innes, so per medium of *Pioneer News* your sympathies are passed on to his good lady. Jock passed away in August, 1985, and he and David were good mates.

BRIAN KYBERT 2/1, Bateau Bay, with a letter and a cheque for the treasurer. Brian and Betty have just returned from a trip to India and as he claims "it is different to anywhere else, and all Australians should visit a country like India just to realise how well off they are". Wishing everyone all the best for the future and looking forward to Gosford.

FRANK (BLUEY) LOCANE 2/2, Wandandian, with a newsy letter, and not long returned from the July racing carnival at Grafton. While there, went for a run to Lismore where he met Ken (Tubby) Wilson and Dick Walker, and had a few beers. Spent the night with Ken and wife Ida. Ken has not been to a reunion for years and has not had a *Pioneer News* since 1982. Well, that's understandable Blue — his card on our files shows his address as 63 Canaba Street, Lismore, and the *News* has always been sent to that address. However, his address will be changed with this issue. Both Ken and Dick want it known that anybody passing through Lismore should look them up and they would be made very welcome. Who did purloin the Padres plonk in WA anyhow?

ERN LUNN 2/2, Dubbo, with a short note informing us of the death of Vince Diggs of C. Coy, 2/2, of Coonamble, and the funeral service was held on July 4, 1989. Many thanks, Ern, and the information passed on to Max Law.

PAT MACFARLANE widow of Ron 2/1, with a letter and subscription to *Pioneer News*. Apologises for being late, but has not been in the best of health lately. Sorry to hear that Pat, and I hope that you have improved by the time you read this.

JOE MOORE 2/1, Warwick Farm, with a sub for the treasurer, and short note saying that he had received his copy of the history. There was no date on your letter, Joe, but apparently it was written early in July as he remarked to his wife that it was 44 years ago that he landed at Balikpapan and he was only 19 years of age. Joe remembers with pride serving with the Battalion and says how he was made very welcome when he joined the unit on the Tablelands. Although not enjoying the best of health, he hopes to attend a reunion and meet some of his old A Coy mates. Just turn up Joe.

TOM MORGAN 2/2, Forster, with news that they are settling into their new home and enjoying the different lifestyle. He enjoyed the Anzac Day reunion after travelling down for the day from Cessnock after staying with Roy McGregor. Also contacted Mick and Hilda Bye at Laurieton and both are well.

Tom also passed on the sad news of the death of Tom Reynolds, 2/2, who had been ill for a number of years, but had never lost his sense of humour. The funeral was held at Palmdale Crematorium with the President of Swansea RSL conducting the ceremony.

The following 2/2nds were in attendance — Allen Cohen, Ken Harrison and his wife, Tom Morgan and his wife, Alec Mitchell and wife, and Gwen Hope, widow of the late Len Hope. Emily ("Sis") Reynolds expressed her appreciation to all Pioneers.

Thank you for the information on the funeral, Tom. Your letter was too late for July issue and all we could publish was the information passed on by Jack Griffiths by phone.

STEVE MORGAN 2/1 of Ashfield, with a thank you note for the visit to hospital, only to find he had been discharged. However, he is up and about again now though doubts that he will ever march again. Congratulates the editors of the *Pioneer News* and all concerned and quotes that the Mail Bag invokes many memories and names that he had forgotten. Enclosed a cheque for the treasurer and hopes to see us all at Gosford for the reunion in 1990.

PAT NOONAN 2/1, Darling Point, together with Jack Stone and Roy Jardine called to see Dave (Bluey) Weller who had his right leg amputated at Nowra Hospital. Wife Jean was doing a good job looking after him. Pat said they just missed seeing George Brooks — he had been discharged earlier in the day. Also called out to Culburra to see George and Joyce Walker.

WALLY PAGE 2/1, Cudgen, the old "Desso", with a note from the far north of NSW with a cheque for the treasurer and his appreciation for the job of producing the *News*. Wally has slowed down a lot, but still finds time to have a bowl with the Kingscliff Club about four times a week. Having reached the ripe old age of 77, he claims that he is going to be arrested and found guilty of rape at 90 — so look out for these headlines in 13 years time. Sounds like a threat "Desso".

UNA PERRY widow of George 2/2 of Eastwood, with kindest regards to all and enclosed a cheque for the treasurer.

JOHN PITMAN 2/1, Boomi, with a long overdue note and a cheque for the treasurer. He enjoyed the book very much, especially the Balikpapan chapters. Also makes reference to Jack Comerford and Bernie Reiners, they were good mates, and he would like to see them again. Try and make one of the reunions, John, you're sure to meet up with some of the old sigs.

JOE ROBERTSON 2/2 of Finden, SA, with a short note and an apology for not having written before, but with the loss of his wife in February some of the regular chores simply slipped his mind. Sorry to hear of your loss, Joe, and keep your chin up. Many thanks for your cheque, which has been passed on to the treasurer.

ELSIE RUBIE, widow of Phil 2/1, with a cheque for the treasurer and the news that she still enjoys reading the paper. It is now 13 years since Phil passed away. Elsie keeps very well even though she is 89 years young, and we send you our best wishes for future good health.

CLANCY SCHOLES 2/1, of Rutherford, with a letter telling of a trip to the north with Irene and Wendy. They went to Cairns, the Tablelands and Longreach, and sent Max some good photos of the area, which were handy to the Herrons when they did the same trip in August. The old camp site at Wondecla only recognisable by the sign at the side of the road, as a lot more trees about there now.

BOB SEFTON 2/2 of WA, with a cheque for the treasurer and a change of address to Safety Bay. Ill health has forced Bob's move to the coast and closes with best wishes to all Pioneers. Hope your health will be better with your change of habitat, Bob.

FRANCES SHEA, widow of Col 2/2, with a letter congratulating us on such a good roll up on Anzac Day and to the behind the scenes workers who make it all possible. It's just on 12 months since Col passed away, so Frances thought she should continue to support the Association with a cheque for the treasurer. Nice to hear from you Frances, and keep well.

NOEL SMITH 2/1, of Bathurst, with a donation to the treasurer, and as he quotes, "a bit late but his forgetting is working great".

HARRY SULLIVAN 2/2, Bourke, with a cheque for treasurer, and always glad to hear the goings on of old friends through the *News*. He had a surprise visit from Bill Lewis recently and had a good chat over a few "tinnies". Bill was on a trek with about 200 vehicles on a Bourke to Longreach rally. Also saw Mick Bye and had a session with him at the local, also sees Joe Barry down in Narromine. Harry passes on good wishes to all. He can't write for very long periods as he has glaucoma, but otherwise he keeps reasonably well.

CHARLES URWIN 2/2 of Wye River, Vic., with a cheque for the treasurer — says no excuse for the lateness, only old age. Enjoys reading the *News* and looking for the names of old mates. Closes with best wishes to all from Jean and himself.

TOM WOOD 2/2, Orient Point, with a note re the passing of Bob ("Butch") Phillips. He has been down to visit Mrs Phillips who is now residing at Culburra Retirement Village. Thanks Tom for the information regarding "Butch", and for your good wishes. All the best to you and Renee.

HARRY MOWBRAY 2/1 of Thorndale, Qld., together with Dot, were in Edinburgh when Harry sent a card of greeting to all Pioneers. They were all set for a trip to Ireland, Europe and the United States, before arriving home in October to attend the reunion at John and Mollie Hunts. They were having a wonderful time, although said the price of food, clothes and "booze" were unbelievable. Nice to hear from you both and safe travelling.

LEN O'CONNOR 2/1, of Tumbulgum, writes in to give the address of Mrs Daphne Rowley widow of the late Dick Rowley.

Reports that Doug Turner and his wife are visiting their daughter at Canberra and that Loyal Butcher still plays bowls at Kingscliff.

Len is the Secretary of the Kingscliff Amateur Fishing Club and also conducts the Dawn Service on Anzac Day at Tumbulgum.

Thank you for your letter Len and for your best wishes to all Pioneers.

CHRIS ("APPLES") MACKAY 2/2, of Canada Bay, and wife Marea have been in Western Australia visiting their family and have spent a lot of time touring around. Had hoped to be in touch with some 2/2nds over there, but were running out of time. Nice to hear from you, Marea, and thanks for the card and good wishes.

REG ARMSTRONG 2/2, of Coonabarabran, pen of wife Coralie, with the news that Reg was not able to be in Sydney for Anzac Day, but marched and had lunch in Coonabarabran. Do hope you are on the mend, Coralie, and our best wishes to you both.

DORIS AMIES wife of Cyril 2/1, writes to say she has at last found time to read "The Pioneers", and would like to congratulate all the people who were responsible for the production of such an easy to read book.

Doris states their household has reverted to its former distribution of duties — Cyril has returned to his role of domesticity while Doris has returned to the classroom as a Mathematics teacher.

In October Cyril and Doris left for a 53 day cruise on the Fairstar calling in at Guam, Japan, Taipei, Phuket, Penang, and Kakadu.

Thank you for your newsy letter and hope you and Cyril enjoyed your cruise.

GEORGE MURPHY, Secretary of 2/2 in Victoria, with a thank you for the updating of addresses sent by Max and passed on to Jack Hocking. The donation given by Bob McGregor will be acknowledged in next 2/2 Newsletter.

George mentions missing the march in Melbourne this year due to an operation on his knee and, although in hospital for only a couple of days, was on crutches for 10 days as it was very painful. Do hope you are on the mend, George, and our best wishes to you for a speedy recovery.

ERIC REYNOLDS 2/1, Macksville, with a newsy letter of goings on in their part of the country. Like everywhere else it was raining and Eric said they could not get down their yard for days.

He and Joyce have given up their golf and are only social members. Still, you probably find lots of other jobs to occupy your time.

Eric mentions there was a walk from Macksville to the "Pub with No Beer" some weeks ago and he was thinking of going — 16 kilometres — but didn't put his name down. Says he could have walked the distance and finished well up — even for an old Pioneer of 74 years. Perhaps next time, Eric. All the best to you both.

LEN PREEDY 2/2 of Shenton Park, WA, and wife Joy had a trip to Singapore in July and really enjoyed their stay. Then on return went to Busselton and Bencubbin for two weeks to see their family.

In October Len did a trip up to Geraldton and called on Tom Cream and at Dongara called on Arnold Cousins.

Len and Joy are the 2/1-2/2 Pioneer Bn Assoc West Australian organisers and we in Sydney are most grateful to them for holding together our members in WA. Their reward is a good attendance at meetings, so how about it chaps — especially the 2/1 members who are down in numbers over there. Thank you Len and Joy for your support.

SAM GARDINER, 2/1, of Oak Flats, with a sub for the *News* and a request for the address of George Bain — 136 Hawkesview Street, Guildford 2161.

Glad to hear the painting is going well, Sam, and that your "new eyes" have made such a difference. All the best and Max will send on the last issue of *Pioneer News*.

VAL BLACK, widow of Allen ("Dora") Black, 2/1, of Evans Head, with a donation to funds and to say how she is always happy to receive the *News*.

Val keeps herself busy with the local RSL Auxiliary and has just returned from a bus trip with Senior Citizens. She was off to a family wedding in Casino and intended to stay with Jack and Joyce Martin for a couple of nights.

Thank you for your Seasons Greetings, Val, and nice to hear from you again.

Well, that completes the Mail Bag for November and the last issue of *Pioneer News* for 1989. Joan and I tootled up the coast as far as Maclean last month, saw Alec Cameron on the Saturday at the RSL. He looks well enough, but the old enemy, age, is catching up. Sorry Fred and Jean Wheaton for not calling in, but time was the worry. The same goes for Ray Horne, but Max and Peg had a welcome "cuppa" with Ray on their trip north. Not a lot for me to write — I don't want to mention football or anything that goes with it, but I owe Collis a lottery ticket, which I will pay, Jack. On behalf of the Committee and the editors we wish each and every one the very best of everything for Xmas and the New Year and hope that 1990 provides good health and happiness. See you in April and at Gosford in June.

Good luck — LAKEY

LAST POST

CECIL LEAPE, 2/1, of Warilla, passed away on September 6. Cec was treasurer of the South Coast and Highlands Branch of ROTA and a life member of North Sydney Rugby League Club.

On the night prior to his death, Cec had been presented with a ROTA Certificate of Appreciation for the long hours of dedicated work he had given to the Sub-Branch. The news of his death next morning was a shock to his many friends.

Our deepest sympathies are extended to his family.

AUSTIN RONAN, 2/1, of Kings Cross, passed away on October 19, after being unconscious for two weeks in St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney. Austie had been savagely assaulted by some thugs outside his residence early in October and died of his injuries.

The funeral was held at Botany Crematorium on October 26 and the Association was represented by Bill Tasker, who read the Eulogy, and Vic Whiteley. The Poppy Service was conducted by the Bondi RSL.

Our sincere sympathy was extended to the family.

LAST POST — "We will Remember Them" — by MAX LAW, Welfare Chairman

JOE PHILLIPS, 2/2, of Forster, passed away in May and we are grateful to Bill Lewis for passing on the news. He had called in to see Joe when in Forster on holidays in August and was saddened to hear the sad news from Joe's daughter.

ALBERT E. A. BELFITT, 2/1, of Hornsby, passed away on June 7 and the funeral service was held at the St Peter's Anglican Church, Hornsby. The interment took place at the Field of Mars Lawn Cemetery.

Albert served in the Middle East and New Guinea. He is survived by wife Nancy to whom condolences were extended by the Welfare Chairman.

NEVILLE PHILLIPS, 2/2, of Greenwell Point, passed away on June 13 and a sympathy card was sent to his wife Anne, who is residing in the Culburra Retirement Village.

To the Pioneers he was always known as "Butch" but to the locals he was "Tige" or "Tiger". Twenty years ago Neville took his fishing trawler "Defiant" to sea in very rough conditions, over a sand bar to rescue two fishermen who were swamped and clinging to their overturned boat. This rescue resulted in his being presented with a framed certificate.

"Butch" was in the Machine Gun Platoon and served in New Guinea and Borneo.

We are grateful to Bob Lee for supplying the information; who states that "Butch" will be sadly missed by all those with whom he served.

CHARLES J. SMIDT, 2/1, of Belmore, passed away on June 26 and the funeral service was held at Rookwood Crematorium with a good attendance from Rats of Tobruk Association, and the Welfare Officer, President and members of Campsie

RSL. The Pioneers were represented by Bill Tasker and Max Law.

The service was conducted by Padre Bob Milne from Concord Hospital and Bill Tasker read the Eulogy and conducted the Poppy Service.

Charlie was an original "B" Coy member and enlisted with a group from the Maclean district early 1940 and was joined by his cousin Arthur on the same day, who was then allocated a consecutive number to Charlie.

A sympathy card was sent to wife Dorothy and family on behalf of the Association.

VINCE DIGGS 2/2 of Coonamble passed away on July 7 and we are grateful to Ern Lunn for passing on this information.

MICK (E.H.) DWYER, 2/1, of Waverley, passed away on July 24 and the funeral service was conducted at the Eastern Suburbs Crematorium.

Representing the Association at the service were Frank Gillian, Brian and Betty Kybert, Noel and Rita Trefoni, Danny Sprouster, Ron Callaghan, Bill Tasker, Max Law and Marjorie Holmes (widow of Bert). Also in attendance were representatives of Bondi RSL.

Mick joined the unit on its return from Tobruk and was posted to B Coy, where he stayed until discharged.

He is survived by wife Win and two sons. Our sincere condolences were forwarded to the family.

NORM MITCHELL, 2/1, of West Guildford, passed away peacefully on August 23 at Westmead Hospital and we are grateful to Mrs Hilda Mitchell for passing on this information.

Our sympathy was conveyed to Mrs Mitchell and her sons in their sad loss.

FRANCIS (FRANK) DYNON, 2/1, of Mona Vale, passed away peacefully on October 12.

Following the receipt of his commission, Frank was posted as a reinforcement officer to 2/1 Pioneer Bn. and ultimately joined the unit in Tobruk as a Platoon Commander.

Upon his return to Australia in March, 1942, and prior to going to New Guinea in August, '42, he was appointed Regimental Quartermaster and promoted to the rank of Captain. He was discharged in 1944 because of ill-health.

After the war Frank became the licensee of the Goulburn Hotel and was host to the Pioneers at several Anzac Day reunions. Later he held the position of Secretary-Manager of the Anzac Memorial Club at North Sydney for some 22 years, until his retirement.

A Requiem Mass was held at Sacred Heart Church, Mona Vale, on October 16, and was well attended. Representing the Association was President Bill Jollie, who read the Eulogy, Steve Clarke, Ken Stuart and wife Jan, Bob Lake, Jack Green, Jack Kerslake, Cec Peake, George Nichols, Rita and Noel Trefoni, Harry Shiels, Sam Lewis and Max Law. Also present was Mrs E. Macgillicuddy, wife of 2/1st first commanding officer, Lieut-Colonel P. E. Macgillicuddy.

Frank's younger brother, Geoff, who was one of the 2/1st's Regimental Medical Officers, was in the family group, and the Anzac Memorial Club was represented by President David Dine and several members.

Frank is survived by his wife Billie, and family, Anne, Tony and Heather.

The Association's sincere condolences have been passed on to the family.

50th ANNIVERSARY REUNION AT GOSFORD

To commemorate the 50th Anniversary of both the 2/1st and 2/2nd Pioneer Battalions the Committee have organised a Country Reunion at Gosford on the Central Coast of NSW on the weekend of June 2 and 3, 1990.

The programme outlined below is a tentative one and may be changed slightly later on as firm details, such as prices to be charged, come to hand.

WREATH LAYING CEREMONY — Saturday, June 2, at 4 pm, at the Gosford Soldiers Memorial in Mann Street. No march, but medals and decorations to be worn.

REUNION DINNER — Saturday, June 2, at Gosford RSL Club, 26 Pacific Highway, West Gosford. Refreshments at 5.30 pm and three-course dinner in Auditorium at 6.30 pm. Cost: Wine or squash for two toasts, plus meal, per person — \$17.

PICNIC LUNCH — Sunday, June 3, at 10 am at the Mount Penang Detention Centre with full use of recreation hall, large barbecue and picnic area. Each person to bring own lunch.

FAREWELL DINNER — Sunday, June 3, at 6 pm, Gosford RSL for refreshments and dinner to be served at 7 pm in the Auditorium. Cost per person: \$15 approx.

ACCOMMODATION. Bookings have been made at the following motels with number of rooms indicated and cost as listed. Galaxy Motel (42) \$58 double. Gosford Motor Inn (25) \$58 double. The Palms Motor Inn (16) \$59 double. The Galaxy Motel is owned by the RSL and in the grounds of the RSL. Early bookings will be given preference for these rooms. All motel rooms have a toaster, tea-making facilities and refrigerator. Two men could share twin rooms at motel as bulk bookings at hotels in Gosford were not available due to permanent bookings for construction workers. The closest caravan park is at Wyoming. Persons requiring caravan bookings are requested to make their own arrangements.

DEPOSIT of \$30 is required with each application form and it is important that all persons attending the reunion fill out and send in the application form below.

CHEQUES to be made out to P. HERRON — not the Association — and with application form posted to Booking Clerk, Peg Herron, 3 Enoggera Road, Beverly Hills, NSW 2209 — Phone (02) 759 5491.

TRAINS will not be met, as at previous reunions, because of frequent arrivals. Buses run from station to motels and RSL.

CUT OUT — Fill in particulars — GOSFORD REUNION

Surname Known name
Ladies Name Phone Unit
Address

ACCOMMODATION — If required to be booked by Association, fill in name of motel and number of persons under each night required.

OWN BOOKINGS: If arranging own accommodation fill in place of staying and number of persons under each night.

ATTENDANCE: Insert number of persons attending the following:

REUNION DINNER: **PICNIC LUNCH:** **FAREWELL DINNER:**

MOTEL NAME

OWN BOOKING

FRI	SAT	SUN	MON

2/1-2/2 PIONEERS — WA

Seventeen hardy Pioneers braved a cold wintry day to attend the meeting at Anzac House on July 21 and apologies were received from Harry and Gwen Fitzgerald, who had heavy rain problems at their Gosnells home, Fred Newton who was in Hollywood Hospital and Freda Dhu who was a victim of the bad virus.

JOAN AND JACK MONGER were early arrivals and with Jack Stewart were the only representatives of the 2/1st. They send an SOS to other 2/1st's.

JOY BUTCHER who has not been in the best of health, brought along souvenirs belonging to Ron, her late husband, and we found them very interesting. Also enjoyed Jack Stewart's pamphlet on the Bren Gun.

NORMA AND BOB SEFTON came from Safety Bay, where they recently moved to, and they were very close to the tornado that went through their area.

BARRY HUNT came down from Geraldton again and reported that he and his wife will be touring Australia for eight months, so will miss the next meeting. We hope you both have a good trip.

JACK MURRAY, Norm Le Cornu, Owen Heron, Arthur Dearden, John McDougall and his good lady, Beth Lee, and Jean Lyford were all regular attenders.

DICK HOBLEY of Bremer Bay sends regards to all and hopes to make the next meeting and catch up with some of the 2/1st's. He has moved house.

JACK MORGAN and Don McInnes both ex D Coy were passing through on coach tours from NSW and rang to have a chat and catch up on old friends.

BILL FARRER was a WA boy but is now in Victoria and he sent along a letter with regards to all. George Sauer now in SA sent regards to Syd Abercrombie and Jack Monger. George was in both units.

Donations were received from Bert Gowers, who had been in Hollywood Hospital, and Jean Lyford, George McNess, Bob Sefton, John McDougall, Joan Butcher, Joan Monger, Fred Newton, John Anderson, Ted Lyon and Arthur Dearden.

Hope to see you at the next meeting on Friday, November 17.

LEN PREEDY, WA Chairman