

LADIES' AUXILIARY

We are indebted to Sam Britten for ringing the Secretary and informing her of the Pioneer inmates at Yaralla recently.

Consequently, the Secretary, Mrs. P. Herron, and the Treasurer, Mrs. L. Westwood, visited the hospital with a parcel from the Welfare Section to the following members, Sam Britten and Jim Hadfield. The ladies intended visiting "Tiny" Fields and Joe Taylor, too, but both these members had been discharged.

The Executive and Committee of the Ladies' Auxiliary would like to take this opportunity of wishing the Association and its members . . .

A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

AN APOLOGY

The Editors would like to apologise to all members who were inconvenienced by the late arrival of the last issue of the "Pioneer News."

Although details of the picnic were published in the previous issue (June), we realise another early reminder is necessary. But in this instance the lateness was caused by pressure of work at our printers, and we know they made every endeavour to have it reach us prior to the Wednesday, but it was just not possible. Sorry, folks!

APPEAL TO MEMBERS

This article is only intended for members who have not paid their 1960 subscription of 5/- and those members who did not fill in the information form provided with their art union books.

We would like to take this opportunity of thanking all the members who have paid their subscription this year, and would like to state that this year's subscriptions have been the best on record

BUT

there are still some members who have not sent in their subscription

SO

how about indulging in the Christmas spirit of giving

AND

send along your subscription, a newsy letter and the information slip.

NEWS FROM . . .

"2/2 PIONEER DESPATCH"

HOSPITAL INMATES

H. Johnson, A. Ostram, G. English, G. Haldane, W. Linterman, J. Raven, P. Webb, Mrs. N. Aspinall (widow).

Recently Discharged

S. Baade, A. Neilson, E. Corrie, W. Summerfield, Sgt. F. White.

● After a long illness, George Smart passed away on 7th July, 1960, at R.G.H., Melbourne, where he had been for about four months.

● Bill Bayley died suddenly on his way to work on 18th August, 1960. Bill will be remembered by all of the battalion, and especially by his old company, where he was affectionately known as "Flipper." Bill was employed by the Victoria Railways.

SILVER CITY—GRETA

VIVID MEMORIES RETURN

By H. Montague (2/1)

Whilst passing through the village of Greta recently, I decided to visit our old camp site at Silver City, Greta.

The main thoroughfares, the huts and various administration blocks are still standing, although twenty years have passed, with much water flowing under the bridge. All this brought back vivid memories to me.

With a lump in my throat and a heavy heart, I closed my eyes and recalled events and identities; in fact, I re-lived the past, back to the day when it was a main centre of activity.

On alighting at Greta our large party was welcomed by the villagers, when we "marched" up the long trail to the Silver City. As I struggled along, it seemed to me as though I would end up back at Sydney.

Then we reached a spot where stood a heap of silver huts, and lined up were quite a few lads in uniform who, strangely enough, were saying, "You'll be sorry." At the time I did not understand their remark—but next day it hit me with a bang.

FAMOUS FIGHTING UNIT

Anyway, we were given a real reception and after formalities had been dispensed with, we found ourselves to be in the 2/1st Pioneer Battalion Training Camp. This was the foundation of a famous fighting/engineering unit, which was truly respected everywhere it went.

This was also the foundation of the comrades-in-arms atmosphere which banded together as such men who previously were complete strangers.

It did not take us long to settle down to army life and overcome all those teething problems—in fact, in the record time of three months we achieved outstanding recognition from the Governor when he inspected us on parade at Greta.

UNIT BAND BEST IN ARMY

Under the expert leadership of Jock Armour, the Unit Band won the praise of all as the best in the army. The changing of the guard, with the band in attendance, was a highlight of the day's activities, and not a day went by without it being witnessed by Col. Macgillcuddy, Capt. Tom Ledgerwood, and R.S.M. Bob Sellick.

On approaching the H.Q. Administration block, the orderly room door was open and faintly I visualised John Harnetty and Ces. White sitting there working out figures and making out leave passes. Next I passed on to the postal room and took off my hat in remembrance to the most popular and the whitest man of them all, the late Dick Hansen, who did a colossal job as postal corporal.

ATTENTION TO THE SICK

From here I passed on to the office which housed the R.A.P., and on closing my eyes for a brief moment I could see Capt. Stan Goulston, with Sgt. Ward,

going about their business of tending the sick. Then next visit was to the office of Frank Wakeling, our Pay Sergeant.

Next on my tour of inspection was the H.Q. Coy. lines, and immediately I thought of Charlie Main, "Pop-eye" Edwards, Bob Egan, and quite a few of the boys.

Then across to A Coy's lines and my mind flashed back to the day when Major Harold White was O.C., with Lt. Geoff. Hewson in the orderly room, and remembered names like Garry Pike, George Horder, Gordon Finlay, Frank Barrett, Frank Allen and many more good scouts.

SCHOOLBOY FROM DUBBO

Time was marching on, so moved on to B. Coy., when Major Nugget Neal was O.C., and remembered how the boys held him in such high esteem. My mind flashed back to the day when we marched through Dubbo, with Major Neal in the lead. (Col. Macgillcuddy stood down to allow Major Neal, who was a schoolboy from Dubbo, to take over). The Mayor of Dubbo said:

"We know you are tough men and are going to be tougher by the time Fritz meets you. As our guests, we welcome you, just as we welcome other guests. We know you have left many good friends behind at Greta. We know you talk of the Greta dust, but we can assure you that the dust is just as good at Dubbo."

On looking over C. Coy. lines it brought to mind pleasant memories of Major Geoff. Graham. Ray Lester, the Morahans, "Porky" Graham, Tom Loy and many others. From here I went on to D Coy. lines, and thought of Major Tunbridge and his terrific bunch of boys.

I deeply regretted having to leave this camp of memories, but darkness was falling. So, very reluctantly, I pushed on but determined to return once again—for I really treasured those memories of my training days with the 2/1 Aust. Pioneer Battalion.

MEMORIAL TO 2/1 PIONEER BTN.

I believe a satellite town is to be erected there, and when it is I really believe representations should be made to have a memorial dedicated to the 2/1st Aust. Pioneer Battalion.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: We are deeply indebted to "Monty" for this flashback of news—and we would like to thank him for the effort he went to. We would also like to thank Ivor Garnon for the news cutting supplied, from which some of our information was taken.

We would certainly welcome a similar article from a member of the 2/2nds, as we are very keen to avoid making this Association a one-sided affair.)