

# PIONEER NEWS

Phone: 759-5491

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

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ALLAN McINNES

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## COUNTRY RE-UNION AND BARBECUE AT NEWCASTLE AND GRETA

Arrangements are now complete for the Country Reunion on Saturday 10th June and the Barbecue on Sunday, 11th June.

Because of a State wide Basketball Competition at Newcastle on the same dates, Motel accommodation is becoming scarce, but we are still able to arrange Hotel bookings.

This is the only occasion this type of venture will be attempted, so make sure you avail yourself of the opportunity to attend.

### RE-UNION DINNER

The Re-union will take the form of a sit down dinner at the RSL Club Hall, next door to Anzac House, Tudor Street, Hamilton. Pre-dinner drinks will be served at 6 p.m. and the dinner will commence at 6.30 p.m. The cost will be \$5 per head, including refreshments, payable at door.

### WREATH-LAYING, MARCH PAST AND BARBECUE

On Sunday, 11th June, buses will transport all people to Greta where wreaths will be laid at the Soldiers Memorial. All members are requested to wear medals.

The buses will then take the people to Silver City Camp and at the Guard House all male members will disembark. From here they will march to the saluting base where a uniformed Army Officer, Colonel R. S. Garland, M.C., Commanding Officer, 3rd Training Bn., Singleton, will take the salute. All members are requested to wear medals.

### BARBECUE ON ORIGINAL CAMPSITE

The Barbecue will then take place which will be provided at a cost of \$1, consisting of steak, coleslaw, buttered roll, coffee or tea. Plate, knife, fork and cup will be provided. Contrary to details published in April issue of Pioneer News, there is no need to bring cooking and mess gear as this would provide problems in carrying in the bus, so these will now be supplied—and even cooked for you by "volunteer" Army cooks.

Canned beer and canned soft drink will be sold at Barbecue at local prices.

Buses will then proceed to a vineyard where an inspection has been arranged.

After the vineyard inspection the buses will complete the round trip of 100 miles by passing through the famous Hunter Valley vineyard country.

This round trip will cost each person \$1.20 and tickets will be sold at the Re-union Dinner. Tickets for the Barbecue may also be purchased at the Re-union Dinner.

### ACCOMMODATION

You may arrange your own accommodation, or if having difficulty you can write direct to Jack Bertram, 90 National Park Road, Hamilton, N.S.W. 2303, and he will endeavour to give you every assistance.

### NOTIFICATION OF ATTENDANCE

The caterers of the Re-union Dinner and Barbecue have given the Committee strict instructions that a firm figure must be given to them by 9 a.m. on Monday, 5th June. Therefore it is essential that all members who are attending fill out the form on Page 6 & post to the Secretary before Friday, 3rd June. This does not apply to the following who have sent in their notification of attendance as at 8th May: Messrs. H. Montague, G. Walker, J. Lloyd, A. McInnes, S. Angus, T. Skoyles, E. Monckton, G. Rhind, A. Green, R. Callaghan, T. Jenson, J. Harvey, J. Fields, F. Wheaton, C. Scholes, B. Arthur, H. Baldwin, J. Bertram, W. Page, T. Davenport, M. Herron, D. Shearston, R. Lake, R. McGregor, P. Fisk, N. Trefoni, A. Brazier, B. Wright, R. Jardine, P. Seddon, M. Flynn, B. Juleff, I. Pepper, S. Jopson, J. Russell, D. Reed, J. Griffith, L. Robson, A. Crane, R. Burnside, P. Noonan and B. Chase.

Those people from the above list who have booked with L. Robson, are to report to him in the foyer of Hamilton RSL at 3.30 p.m. on Saturday, 10th June, regarding accommodation.

Turn to page 6 and fill in your notification of attendance. Cut it out and send to the Secretary — NOW.

Turn to page 8 and cut out Programme sheet and take it to the Greta week-end with you.

## BACK TO GRETA —with Frank Allan

Officially of course, the 2/1 Australian Pioneer Battalion was formed on 11th June, 1940, but prior to that date a few members had been rustling around seeking out likely personnel to wear the guernsey of the Battalion and many originals, even to this date, do not know they had been drafted to the Unit by special request. It certainly paid dividends.

However, one of the most exciting experiences in the formation of an Expeditionary Forces Unit, is the arrival of the first draft.

It so happened, I had been cooling my heels at the Moore Park Depot doing some of the pirating when suddenly, I was instructed to report to the Royal Agricultural Showground the following day to take the first draft of the 2/1 Australian Pioneer Bn. recruits to Greta. This I duly did and eventually was handed a nominal roll and then escorted to where my noble charges were lined up.

Looking at the sea of faces, I recall thinking to myself, "they must be, they

are, a bunch of bloody good blokes." There were serious faces, excited faces, faces reflecting the night before and faces indicating the wearers still had something on the hip.

Obviously, it was not a situation where one gave a dissertation on military conduct etc., so the welcome was "good morning and congratulations, this is the start of the Battalion, lets help each other get this draft to Greta."

### PLAGUE OF LOCUSTS HEAD FOR PUB

We moved to and entrained at Central Railway without a hitch and the ride progressed very smoothly even if rowdy, but with never a dull moment. Then it

happened—the train stopped at Wyong.. Carriage doors opened as one, bodies poured out and within seconds, the scene was like a plague of locusts heading for a green crop but the difference here was, this mass was heading for the local pub.

My morale dropped, I couldn't see more than 50 per cent of the draft getting to our destination and I visualised myself walking down Pitt Street in a bowler hat.

Eventually, the train rolled on until we reached Greta where we formed up for entry into the camp. The marching was terrific, some quick-marched, some slow and others either skipped, waltzed or performed some other form of gyration.

### GREETINGS FROM THE SIDE

An Advance Party consisting of all ranks had been in camp for a few weeks preparing to receive the troops and as the draft neared Bn. Headquarters, quite unrehearsed, they all appeared and gave the boys a loud, sustained hand-clap together with cheers and other vocals. (For-

(Continued foot of page 2)

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1971-72

2/1 and 2/2 Pioneers:

On behalf of your Committee I have much pleasure in presenting the Association's Annual Report and Balance Sheet for the year ending 31st March, 1972.

As always, our year commences with Anzac functions and I was very pleased to note the good roll up for the Wreath Laying ceremony, the Annual Meeting and a most successful Anzac Day function at Redfern was well attended by both 2/1 and 2/2 Pioneers. All voted it a most successful day after both Battalions had a good roll call at the march.

You will observe by this report that the Committee has had some troubles and I would ask that all Pioneers assist in the matters mentioned in this report.

**SECRETARY:** Max Herron has been a hard working, tireless and most efficient man in this position and if you only knew, as I do, the work that he does on our behalf you would be astonished that he is able to put so much of his time into this Association. He is the man who organises the whole functioning of the Association and on all our behalf I say "Thank you, Max."

We have had three Committee meetings and one Social Committee meeting this year and while attendances were down on past years, we were able to successfully run the business. Three Pioneer News were printed and posted and Max Herron was to the fore in this, as with Bob Lake he edits the papers. Then Peg Herron loaned her home and provided supper for the wrapping committee, of which I am not a member but understand is a fantastic group — very happy and even assisted by three members wives. The Committee: Gordon Finlay, Doug Shearston, Wal Page, Mick Dodson, Graham Witham, Bob Burnside, Bob McGregor and Max Herron, plus wives Olive Finlay, Roma Shearston, Lal Page and Peg Herron.

**PIONEER NEWS:** Secretary reports that letters and news over the past year have been the smallest since this Committee has been in office and makes one tend to think the Pioneer News is no longer holding the interest of our mem-

bers. Considering the cost of the four page issue, it is not worth our while to make it more attractive by using blocks, which are not only costly in themselves but also increase the size of the paper and thus double the cost to \$120 from \$65. To sum up, members, is it worth the time and expense to carry on with Pioneer News. If the answer is YES, then you will all have to come to the party with articles, (not just one letter in five years) and this includes suburban, country and committee members. The news we want, and I think you all want, is about Pioneers, i.e. yourself, your families and other Pioneers you see and talk to. Articles back to Army days and happenings — you can all do this, it only takes a bit of effort and time.

**TREASURER:** Doug Shearston has always been a wonderful treasurer and with him at the wheel every Pioneer can be assured that every cent is accounted for and used with care and discrimination. Our Annual Balance Sheet to be presented by our Treasurer shows his worth.

**SOCIAL SECRETARY:** Bob McGregor has been most active and has in close co-operation with Max organised and finalised all the Anzac Day arrangements and has co-operated with Newcastle Pioneers in organising a re-union last November and has the "Back to Greta" re-union well in hand.

**WELFARE:** Harry Montague deserves a great debt of gratitude for his untiring efforts in this particular field. During the year he has given his time unstintingly in advising and otherwise helping those with pension, legal aid, social service and medical treatment problems and has achieved almost 100 per cent success. He has visited all Pioneers in hospital and every Thursday night he has visited Repat. Hospital with a small parcel.

**PUBLICITY:** Wal Page, as Publicity Officer, has worked hard and been a tireless worker on every committee.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Committee for the support and work they have put in and pay a sincere tribute to our Auditor.

As a motto we could perhaps use:  
"Let the future excel the past."

ALLAN MCINNIS,  
President.

### IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE

Just as a matter of interest, a chap I work with at the Bank of New South Wales was asking me how I enjoyed my Anzac Day, and during the conversation he asked me who I was with during the Big Stoush. When I said 2/1 Pioneers, he commenced to go through his pockets, muttering, "that's an odd thing."

It appears he went to the Castlereagh Hotel for a drink two days after Anzac Day and found a blank 2/1 Pioneer name tag.

He immediately thought it was a good idea for his own unit, the 2/12 Battalion. He showed it to me, then asked would it be all right for his unit to copy it, with 2/12 plus colour patch. Permission granted. Have I done right?

WALLY (DESSO) PAGE.

## LETTER TO A PIONEER MEMBER

Dear Pioneer,

It is quite obvious to your 2/1-2/2 Pioneer Battalion Association Committee, that all members of our Association like to receive and read our Pioneer News.

But it is more obvious to your Committee that it is costing more and more each year to produce this paper. In fact, it is costing more and more each year to run the Association. We have a credit balance at the moment, but unless we receive more help from our members we may not be in credit.

We would like, at this point, to advise you as to the ways you may be able to help your Committee and your Association.

Most members may not be aware of the fact that we have three accounts. We are compelled to have them and they are, namely:

2/1-2/2 Pioneer Association General Account.

Welfare Account.

Pioneer News Account.

We will explain them one at a time.

### GENERAL ACCOUNT

This account, like the others, is more or less self-explanatory, but briefly it is for all general expenses incurred by the Association, such as all stationery, cheque books, wreaths for Anzac Day, your Anzac Day lunch, and afternoon snack on Anzac Day and cost of mailing all general correspondence, etc.

### WELFARE ACCOUNT

This again speaks for itself, but it is a very important one to say the least. This one is used by our two Welfare Officers in their work of visiting all our members who have the misfortune to be hospitalised, and this is very important to any of our members who are in a hospital, far from home and family and friends. To have our happy friendly Welfare man walk into their Ward with a little parcel of goodies, such as smokes, sweets and drinks, is really necessary, but even here the costs are rising.

### PIONEER ACCOUNT

To keep our Association alive we need this account. This has to cover the cost of printing your Pioneer News, cost of addressing wrappers and posting, also incidental costs, even the rubber bands that go around the bundles of papers before they go to the Post Office have to be paid for. Here again the costs are high.

By now, we expect you have a good idea of the message that this letter is trying to convey to you. So, to put it into Pioneer lingo, if you have not "Hit the Kick" lately, what about it now! Just send us your donation. You nominate which account you would like your donation to go to. Also while you are at it, what about sending us a little bit of news about your local doings, it's not much use having a paper and not having any news to put in it. So seeing you are going to write and enclose your cheque or money order, it would not be any trouble to write us a few lines for our Pioneer News. It does not matter what it is, we will print it, you depend on your Committee for your paper, now your Committee is depending on you.

H E L P

YOUR COMMITTEE.

## BACK TO GRETA - from page 1

tunately, the famous yell "you'll be sorry" was not born then). Psychologically, the warmth of that spontaneous reception was a good tonic.

I need never had feared about a bowler hat, we arrived with 100 per cent strength.

Purposely, I have refrained from mentioning names of individuals, they would all have to be mentioned. To me, the important outcome of this draft was how it controlled my destiny. Some days after arriving I was instructed to report to Victoria Barracks where I underwent a grilling from the Top Brass as to why, as a trained Signals Officer, I had violated Regulations by not enlisting in a Signals Unit. I was therefore transferred to 6 Division Signals.

For days, I battled with them to allow me to remain with 2/1 and eventually, I won out.

It was because of that first draft, I was determined to get back. Thanks first draft.

FRANK R. ALLAN.

# THE FORMATION OF 2/1ST - 2/2ND ASSOCIATION

"THE GREAT ARCHITECT OF THE UNIVERSE WORKS IN MANY STRANGE AND WONDERFUL WAYS"

It is just on thirty-two years ago in June, 1940, when I joined the 2/1 Pioneers at Silver City, Greta.

Silver City, 1940, and an exchange of second-in-command of both Battalions, was our first contact with the 2/2 Pioneer Battalion. The idea was to standardise training and to establish an esprit de corps between the 2/1 and 2/2 Pioneer Battalions.

The departure of the 2/1 for the Middle East ended the exchange system.

Perhaps it was at Greta where the 2/1 and 2/2 Pioneers Association was conceived. Who knows?

## MIDDLE EAST — PALESTINE, 1941.

It was here that members of both 2/1 and 2/2 had the opportunity to really get together. The appointment of Brigadier (Red Robbie) Robertson to take charge of all training centres in the Middle East added a link in the chain of building a close relationship with both Battalions and the strong and active spirit of close co-operation that existed in the 2/1 and 2/2 Pioneer Battalions Association. "Red Robbie" demanded that experienced officers and NCO's from the forward units be appointed to the Training Battalion's staff. Both the 2/1 and 2/2 supplied experienced officers and NCO's from Tobruk and Syria respectively.

At that time, all personnel returning from hospital, schools, and courses had to report into the Training Battalion before returning to the parent Battalion. Fraternising in the officers NCO's and men's messes all played a part in welding the chain of co-operation.

Leave to Cairo, Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Haifa and many places too numerous to mention, the bistros, night clubs, dancing girls, tall tales, little white lies and romancing all added links to the chain of mateship in the 2/1 and 2/2.

## JOY AND TRAGEDY

1942—a year of joy and tragedy. Joy for the 2/1—they were destined to be returned to Australia, leave and loved ones. What a thrilling experience when rumour became fact.

Tragedy for the 2/2 — after a splendid record of courage and fighting ability in Syria were destined for the Dutch Indies. They were sacrificed to a lost and forlorn operation, human sacrifices to Japanese barbarity. Their suffering and courage on the Burma Road is in the history books and will never be forgotten.

The sad loss of the 2/2 in Java was a blow to us all. "The Great Architect surely moves in many strange ways." The 2/1's home, leave and loved ones! The 2/2's in Java, suffering hardships, torture, death and years of hell as Japanese prisoners.

## RE-FORMING OF THE 2/2

Australia, 1942, saw the 2/1 march into Sandy Creek, South Australia, and the Training Battalion staff were at Mount Barker in the same State. A period of uncertainty — the 2/1 members hoping to rejoin their parent battalion, the 2/2 members not having any idea of their postings.

At this period of time, unknown to any members of either Battalion, a dynamic

personality known as "Big Joe" Lang (the original second-in-command of the 2/2) arrived back in Australia. Joe was wounded in Syria and had been hospitalised in Palestine when the 2/2 sailed for Java. It was due to Joe, now Lt.-Col. Lang, that the 2/2 Pioneer Battalion was re-formed.

I believe when Joe approached Sir Thomas Blamey to re-form the 2/2, he was asked where he could get experienced officers, NCO's and men to form the battalion. Resourceful and enthusiastic, Joe had done his homework very thoroughly. He produced a list of experienced officers and NCO's. The list included all members of the Training Battalion, officers and NCO's who had been hospitalised, at schools and courses or on leave in Palestine when the 2/2 sailed for Java. Some experienced officers from Gull Force, 8 Div. officers from the Independent Pioneer Companies.

## 2/1 REINFORCEMENTS FORM 2/2

So far so good. "Where will you get the men, Lang?" The clincher. The white rabbit out of the hat this time. Joe investigated Watsonia Camp, Victoria, and to his joy located approximately 350 men officers and NCO's who were to be reinforcements for the 2/2. At Bathurst, N.S.W., Joe ascertained there were approximately 400 men, officers and NCO's waiting as reinforcements to the 2/1.

Joe had the Battalion on paper OK, all he required now was permission from the various CO's of the officers and NCO's he had presented to Sir Thomas. It was only the close co-operation of all CO's concerned that Joe got his complement of experienced officers and NCO's.

The first knowledge I and other members of the Training Battalion staff had of the new 2/2 was by way of a telegram received in Bathurst which read "Report with 400 men, officers and NCO's to Wagga"—Lang, Lt.-Col. 2/2 Pioneer Battalion. We were all disappointed at being bulldozed in to a new battalion. However, on reaching Wagga, and meeting the fine body of young men from Watsonia and Bathurst, and meeting so many old friends and officers from the original 2/2, we felt quite at home.

## VISIT BY MRS. O'MALLEY WOOD

At Wagga that charming and gracious lady, Mrs. O'Malley Wood visited the new 2/2 Pioneer Battalion. In 1940, Mrs. O'Malley Wood had banded together a wonderful association of women and formed the 2/1 Pioneer Battalion Comforts Fund. These dedicated ladies not only sent comforts to the troops but also cared for the loved ones left behind.

The wonderful work of the Comforts Fund is worthy of a more able pen than mine. When the Comforts Fund found that approximately 450 to 500 new 2/2 were originally to be reinforcements for the 2/1, they decided to take the new 2/2 into the Comforts Fund and formed the 2/1-2/2 Pioneer Battalion Comforts Fund. In my opinion, this was the birth of the 2/1-2/2 Pioneer Battalions Association.

It was only through the close co-operation of all concerned that the merging of the Battalions was accomplished.

Again the hand of "The Great Architect" guiding Mrs. O'Malley Wood to Wagga and the new 2/2. Taking the 2/2 into the Comforts Fund was a great tribute from this band of wonderful women who gave service to servicemen.

## NEW GUINEA, 1943

1943 saw both Battalions in action in New Guinea. Although serving in different areas, officers, NCO's and men were able to get together and associate again — sometimes in hospital, at rest camps and on the sporting field. Again more links were added to the chain of close co-operation.

## MOROTAI

During 1945 both Battalions again served together, working in close-co-operation in the tactical loading of the ships and boats for the invasion of Balikpapan. Both Battalions served throughout the campaign with great credit.

## CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES

Peace — the war is over, an unforgettable moment. No more danger, a longing to be home.

It was here in Balikpapan that the 2/2 Pioneers were declared redundant and the men elected to transfer to the 2/1 Pioneer Battalion. The CO of the 2/1 again proved the chain of close co-operation was gaining strength, he permitted the 2/2 to retain their original colour patch, a gesture that was greatly appreciated.

Australia, demobbed, it was natural after so many 2/1 and 2/2 had served in both Battalions and through the friendships made that a Battalion Association would be formed.

The Comforts Fund, in their wisdom, had acquired rooms in which they operated and carried on the good work of providing comforts. These rooms were made available to the Pioneers, so that they could meet and form what we now have as the 2/1-2/2 Pioneer Battalions Association.

## PIONEER NEWS LAUNCHED

To the best of my knowledge, the early committees were composed of 2/1 and 2/2 members and the Presidency alternated between the two Battalions. At first the Association concerned itself with organising Anzac Day and reunions. Some 20 years ago the Pioneer News was launched and it was hailed by one and all as a great medium of keeping in touch with mates spread all over Australia.

Through the co-operative efforts of the committee a Welfare Section was organised and is a great credit to the Association. A hospital visitation officer was appointed and what a wonderful job he is doing.

The 1971 Anzac Day reunion was the first occasion both Units had joined together for a joint reunion. 1972 saw them together again at the Castlereagh Hotel. These reunions are only possible through hard work and close co-operation of committee men, who devote themselves to giving service to their fellow mates.

In conclusion, I feel that the close co-operation that is so strong in the Asso-

(Continued at foot Col. 1, page 4)

## ANZAC DAY WITH THE 2/1st AND 2/2nd

### ANNUAL WREATH LAYING

Quite a good representation from both Battalions assembled at our rallying point on Anzac Eve for our march to the Cenotaph in Martin Place Plaza, to once again pay our respects to those who paid the supreme sacrifice.

Jack Lloyd took command of our parade and marched us to the Cenotaph, where we were joined by our Ladies Auxiliary, and where our traditional Service of Remembrance was held.

Wreaths were then placed on the Cenotaph. Allan McInnes for the 2/2, Mrs. Basil St. Vincent Welch for the Ladies Auxiliary, and Larry Robson from Newcastle for the 2/1. This was followed by the Ode, and our Bugler, Aub Brazier, sounded the Last Post and Reveille.

The whole ceremony was short, but certainly our honoured promise of "WE WILL REMEMBER THEM" was again most clearly demonstrated by those who gathered to pay homage to our departed, but never forgotten, coppers.

### ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

After our yearly pilgrimage to the Cenotaph for our Wreath-laying ceremony, we all assembled at the Castlereagh Hotel for our Annual Meeting and the election of office bearers for the ensuing year.

Our President for 1971-72, Allan McInnes opened the meeting as usual with the "Ode to the Fallen," then after apologies were taken, the minutes were read and the Treasurer's Report, and before the President vacated the Chair for Election of Officers, he spoke at length of the wonderful work being done by the Executive and Committee for the good of the Association, but requested members to help by sending a contribution by way of news for our paper, The Pioneer News.

Our President outlined the wonderful job that was being done by our Secretary, Max Herron, and our Treasurer, Doug Shearston who, as we are all aware, are the mainstays in our Association.

Allan McInnes vacated the Chair but his retirement was only brief, as was the rest of the Executive and Committee, so it was, the Election resulted as follows:

President, Allan McInnes; Editor and Secretary, Max Herron; Treasurer, Doug Shearston; Social Secretary, Bob Mcgregor; Welfare Officers, Harry Montague and Jack Collis; Asst. Editor & Master at Arms, Bob Lake and Jack Lloyd; Publicity Officer, Wal Page.

It was then down to General Business and it was here that Don Lawson of the

2/2 said how it was appreciated that the 2/2 were able to join the 2/1 for the Annual Reunion. He also handed over the sum of \$79.00 as the Social Committee of the 2/2 had ceased to function. Now it has really happened, we are as one, two units, but one Association.

Larry Robson from Newcastle was down to give us the details of the "Back to Greta" weekend that has been organised, also to invite to Newcastle the Committee to help finalise the Queen's Birthday weekend.

All in all, it was once again a very constructive meeting, with too much detail to publish here, but the results do, as always, favour the members of the 2/1-2/2 Pioneer Association.

### 2/1 ANZAC DAY MARCH

It was really a great feeling to once again meet so many old coppers from the 2/1 Battalion at the assembly point for our unit's annual participation in the Anzac Day March.

The roll-up was good, and although not as good as past years, the bond of friendship is still there and it's always a great feeling renewing old memories.

On being formed up our contingent moved off under the leadership of Gordon Osborne, headed by Fairfield Police and Citizens Youth Club Pipe Band, which won the praise of all. The March continued to Hyde Park without any members dropping out. On arrival at the Park, members went to their allotted area in preparation for the Service of Remembrance with their fellow service personnel.

After the Service was over, and before leaving the Park, I approached Sgt. Ron Condon, Superintendent of the Police and Citizens Youth Club, who assembled the Band which ably led us in the March and thanked them on behalf of the 2/1 Battalion.

It was pointed out that it was the first time our unit had marched without stopping, this was because of the good steady pace of the band, and the distance they kept from the preceding unit. Again, well done everyone.

HARRY MONTAGUE.

### 2/2 ANZAC DAY MARCH

March was attended by an average roll call. Banner was carried by Jim Field and Archie Stanton. March was led by Bill Robertson and Allan McInnes.

Television coverage of the 2/2, we are told, was excellent, both by coverage given by announcer and picture.

Reunion was voted, by a good roll call of 2/2, as a tremendous function — the two units merged in a most satisfactory manner and the close unity is illustrated on these occasions.

Padre Claughton made his annual Anzac Day appearance and the boys appreciated seeing him having dinner with us and joining in with their chatter.

Don Lawson was present and did an excellent job checking on number of meals served and acted as host to the 2/2. Gavin Todd assisted at the door in writing out name tags.

Bernie Daly was down from Taree and he hasn't changed much since New Guinea days — looks just as tough and fit as ever.

Bert Beasley came from Queensland to be with all his mates and was quite emphatic the trip was well worth while.

Dick Kennewell turned up a little late, and was impressed by the set-up at the Castlereagh Hotel. He was so inspired by the coverage on Television he immediately got dressed and decided to join those mates he had seen on the screen.

ALLAN MCINNES.

### THE CASTLEREAGH REUNION

One hundred and forty 2/1 and 2/2 Pioneers were served a meal at the Castlereagh Hotel Re-union Dinner on Anzac Day.

The gathering appeared to be the happiest bunch we have ever seen at a Re-union. Talking with Committee members we are of the opinion it came about because of the reunions of many 2/2 (particularly those who had at one time been a 2/1 member) with the 2/1 members.

A typical case of this was Bert Holmes, 2/1, who for many years had a wish to find time to spend with his brother—but just hadn't got around to it. Well this year it came about — and the two brothers certainly enjoyed their day.

Wal Page was in charge of serving the meals and with his helpers a terrific job was carried out.

Numerous apologies were received by the Secretary from those who could not attend. Bill Hoffman rang from Kyogle and also Ray Horne rang to say he was working. Tom Hugo's wife sent regards to all Tom's mates.

All attending voted it a good day, and so ended Anzac Day, 1972.

### 2/2 JOTTINGS

The 2/2 joined with the 2/1 again this year at the Castlereagh Hotel and a very enjoyable day was had by all. According to a few of my 2/1 acquaintances, our presence swelled their ranks and it was pleasing to see how they made us feel part of the show.

★ COL SHEA sent along a telegram of best wishes to all his mates in N.S.W. Col is still running a butcher shop in Footscray, Victoria.

★ CHARLIE GATEHOUSE was a casualty with a broken foot, although this did not worry Charlie, as he reckons you do not use your feet to drink.

★ BASIL ST. VINCENT WELCH was also a cripple on a stick as he had a cartilage removed in his leg. Basil's son, John belongs to the Haberfield Rowing Club and his crew are having a very successful season. Best wishes, Basil, and good luck, John.

★ DON LINTON, BILL LEWIS and DICK KENNEWELL attended after being absent for a couple of years — welcome back fellows — see you again next year.

★ TOM REYNOLDS sent word along to say he has left Sydney and is on a small property out from Bourke.

★ TED CROKE, son of our mate Jim, deceased, is bar manager at Homebush RSL and welcomes all Pioneers to call on him.

— DON LAWSON.

### FORMATION OF 2/1 - 2/2 ASSN.

(from page 3)

Association today is largely due to President Allan McInnes, Secretary Max Herron, Treasurer Doug Shearston, Editor Bob Lake and correspondents Don Lawson and Wal Page. These gentlemen have been in office as a team for approximately ten years. Together with a band of hard working committee men they have demonstrated to us all the benefits and pleasures that can be gained by men working in close co-operation for their fellow men.

To each and every one, our eternal thanks.

BILL (Robbie) ROBERTSON.

## ANZAC DAY JOTTINGS

★ To head the list comes "Charlie Kerr" from Maryborough, Queensland, one of the performing seals. Charlie had quite a session with all former Sigs in attendance, and issues a warm invitation to any Pioneers passing through his home town. He was pleased to see a roll-up of Sigs in the form of Arthur White, Max Herron, Ron Macfarlane, Pat Noonan, Bluey Chase, Bob Burnside, Doug Shearston, and Cecil Saloway.

★ Headquarters drivers had themselves a table also, Norm McEvoy, previously of Woodburn and Lismore, is now living at Blacktown and he didn't stop talking. With him were Wagga Grice, Snowy Jardine, Vic Whitely, Dora Black, Bob Lake and John Dundas. John is the son of Bill Dundas (Bill is in Queensland at the moment) and John is in the Navy. Nice to see you John. Come again.

★ I was taken in hand and introduced to some of Don Coy. boys this year. Some I did not know, I didn't know Don Coy. had so many. Jack Lloyd called his parade, Bert Moore, Ken Oliver, Ray Hill, Dick Chalmers, Bill Hodges, Blue Jones (I've seen him before) Jack Glover, Doug Watson (a special message to Mrs. Watson, Doug does go to the re-union), Bobby Gale, Peter Craig, Max Herron (I thought he was a Sig.), Jimmy Gray, sporting a big bushy beard, Eric Monckton, Bimbo Bell, George Tolmie, Pat Collins. Now Pat was reported being the best Sgt. in the 2/2. How come, he was counted in Don Coy. 2/1, also there was Kev. O'Connell and Bombo Reynolds, Boy, did they have themselves a party.

★ Bernie Daley 18 Platoon 2/2 and Alby Klaus Don Company 2/2. Now here were two very disappointed boys at our Anzac Day Reunion, but they were only disappointed about one thing, the non-appearance of the rest of Don Coy. 2/2 Pioneers. So fellows, make Bernie and Alby happy, turn up next time, if you like, write Bernie and Alby through the Pioneer News. Send it to us, we'll print it, and Bernie and Alby read it, how about that!

★ Tom Hugo, did you know you had a great admirer? Well you have, it's none other than George Brooks. George told me that you were the greatest guy that ever chopped wood for the cookhouse fire, and what's more, I believe him. George also told me that no matter what great things I said about you in this paper, it would never be good enough to do you justice. He thinks you're a great guy. Don't we all? George comes down from Queensland each year. Nice work George.

★ Some others there were Bill Doney, Ned Jennings, Leo Morris, Sammy Lewis, Bill Wright. Thanks for the beer Bill. Jack Clayton from C Coy. wished to be remembered to all his mates. Jack was there but very quiet. Bert Holmes A Coy. 2/1 and his brother Bill from 2/2 spent their first Anzac Day together. I think Bert is sporting a couple of grandchildren.

★ Percy Penrose, Bluto Brisbane along with George Bates spent most of their time eating Eric Monckton's chicken, to give Eric more time to drink, so he reckons.

★ Len Weymark, Frank Gillian, Brian Kybert, Bill Tasker and Casey Brown had

one corner of the bar monopolised. Casey bought me a beer!

★ Ray Lester was a late arrival, but he soon collected a few B Coy. boys together for a drink, like Harry Robey, Cecil Peak, Bob McGregor, Charlie O'Neil, Jack Lloyd. I thought he was in Don Coy. a while ago. Alfie Neal, Ray Callaghan, Bruce Smith and his brother Bill. He kept Bruce quiet too.

★ Another late arrival was Don Slater of A Coy. Don hasn't been well of late, but OK now.

★ Eric Guthrie had a message from Jack Copeland. Jack has been in Scotland for seven years. Hopes to be with us Anzac Day 1973.

★ Also there was Arthur Luddington, Bill Steward, Shaky Bill Arthur, Jack Clark (lost a lot of weight), Bobby Long, Sgt. Murphy, Henry Allan, Kevin Buckley, down from St. Mary's, not with one bottle of rum, but two this time, but someone drank it for them, thank goodness.

★ Ian Kirkwood and Ted Skoyles up from the South Coast again. Albert Brown got a leave pass from his three hundred dairy cattle to be with us. Nice work Albert, our regards to Eileen. Earl Jones was there and says I can't spell his name. So gave me one of his cards. Nice to see Major Bill Robertson with us again.

★ Punchy Bannister was late again, but said he's one of the poor unfortunates who have to work for a living. Pat Noonan and Bluey Chase came along after their P.I.B. reunion. Last saw them drinking with Bob Burnside. I shook hands with John Collins, but couldn't find him later to get some news.

★ A big vote of thanks to the girls behind the bar, Louise, Jo Jo and Jackie, you did a wonderful job serving our attendance of one hundred and thirty three, give or take twenty.

★ Charlie Kerr of Queensland was the winner of the raffle for a dozen beer but most graciously handed it over to the wrapping committee — thank you very much Charlie — we will drink your health when we wrap the paper on 26th May.

GORDON FINLAY.

## ANZAC DAY —

### "The day we celebrate"

You hear it said "just a lot of old blokes living in the past."

Anzac Day is **not** a celebration, it is a day of commemoration for the purpose of paying honour and a way of tribute to those who fought, suffered, died and were maimed, to preserve a way of life they knew to be best — and for the renewal of the bonds of comradeship forged during service.

"A lot of old men living in the past" — well, to reflect on that, without the past there is no future.

For it is the past that teaches us the things that bind us together as a worthwhile people — tolerance, courage, high endeavour, sacrifice and the will to serve.

And the need for this is no less in peace than in war.

A. McINNES.

## THOUGHTS ON ANZAC DAY

They say that great events only happen once; well I guess that with this article it's happened. I must admit that this is the first time that I have put pen to paper on behalf of the Pioneer News in any shape or form.

Perhaps after reading this effort, there will be many who will say that it's a pity that I did this time.

If you feel that way chaps, just blame Allan McInnes, he whacked this task onto me — sorry about that Allan.

Some years ago, I was asked by Stan Claughton, what did Anzac Day mean to me? Last Tuesday, April 25th, as I drove citywards, I asked myself that very same question. I had my son, a returned soldier of Vietnam, beside me. He was off to see his mates for the first time; "if there's any there," he said to me. True, this was a great and proud start to this day of days for me.

Without question, this day means — I give my homage and respects to all who gave their lives for this country.

Yet to me it means more than that. It means once again I have that grand moment of meeting those mates with whom I spent so much of my life in years past. Being waylaid by the Nicholls brothers, Bill and George, and being whisked off for a couple of quickies before the march, in a club I didn't even know existed.

Marching side by side with the Padre of my old Battalion, Stan Claughton. Marching behind Jimmy Germ who remarked that "if those cameras are on me I'll give 'em some footwork Arthur Murray would be proud of." Marching behind my Battalion banner.

What does this day mean to me? It means a good meal shared with my mates in the Castlereagh, a few drinks, experiences of the past brought out and retold, and even re-laughed at.

When I saw the two banners, 2/1 and 2/2 side by side, I felt a great pride, combined with the fact that our two units had come back to where they had started, in a truer sense, and in a much closer association; but still retaining their separate identities.

I saw the Germ back to Bankstown, and after taking my leave of him, I drove home. As I drove, I asked myself the question I started with, and came to the conclusion it meant all of the things I have stated. It meant, too, countless things I have not, and could not state. It had been a great day.

By the way, the Vietnam warrior found his mates, and he reckoned it was the greatest day he had ever had. All I can say is, may they, and we, have many more of them.

I make no excuses for any mistakes of any kind, as I said at the beginning, great events only happen once.

Yours,  
BOB DIXON, 2/2.

## THE GRETA REUNION

For happy days Come to  
10th - 11th JUNE, 1972  
(Queens Birthday holiday weekend)  
Bring Medals - Money and Wife





Another issue of Mail Bag, this time an early edition, due to our big week-end coming up in June. A few more letters to hand and this does help to swell the news.

**NORM CURLEY**, ex 2/1 & 2/2 Pioneer Battalions, and now residing at Mosman, N.S.W., sends along a thank you note for visitations at Concord over his recent spell there, both from Monty & myself and Norm also sent a hefty cheque to the Association, thank you very much Norm, cheque already doing good work. Norm was the 2/1st original Transport Sgt. and on Anzac Day, the following drivers wished to be remembered to him - Snow Jardine, "Dora" Black, Bert Herne, Vic Whiteley, Noel Schomberg and many others. While Norm is a widower of some time now, his daughter and her children attend to his more regular wants and help to keep him on his toes. Keep sober old timer, I will call over again soon.

**JACK COLLIS**, 2/1 and now residing at Umina, sends along more news from the Central Coast, to quote - the old "Balmmain Tiger" Jack Coates is out of hospital and fully recovered from his operation, so fully recovered that he already is able to participate in a few ales. Jack reports that LES ROSE is also back in business after his broken ribs. The most upsetting part of the broken ribs was the fact that he was cold sober when he took the tumble. Thank you for the news, Jack, and looking forward to more from the Coast at a later date.

**BILL STEERS**, 2/1st, another one of our old Sgts., and now resident at Marks Point, not far from Newcastle, writes of spell in Belmont Hospital for a month. Bill does not say what was wrong with him, but claims that he is OK again now. Bill sends his regards to all the Battalion chaps and knows that their

Anzac Day could only be successful with such a great team of blokes. Bill also enclosed a cheque and that of course, is in the treasurer's hot little hand, thanks Bill and Good Luck.

**FRED DAVENPORT**, 2/1st and now at Brisbane, a very short note - Best regards, Fred. Cheque per medium of Monty, can't make much news out of those two lines, Fred, however cheque is to hand and doing good work.

**NOBBY COOPER**, 2/1st, now at Balgownie. I think that is down the South Coast, Wollongong way, sends a letter, or I should say, Dorothy Cooper sends the letter, nothing wrong with Nobby, just can't write. However Dorothy wrote the letter, enclosed the donation and wishes everyone of the unit a successful Anzac Day. Thank you very much Dorothy and Nobby and lets hear from you again soon.

**JACK CROSLAND**, of Condell Park, or once again, Mrs. Crosland, sends a note apologising, for Jack is always going to write and send a sub, so she has taken the offensive and completed the job herself. Many thanks Mrs. Jack and to all the wives that have to stir us up occasionally, your sub is with the treasurer and I hope you continue to enjoy our little paper.

**MR. T. JARVIS** writes a letter informing the Association of the death of E. H. Jarvis, who passed away on 11th February, 1972. Ned Jarvis was a member of H.Q. Coy and respected by all who knew him.

**STEVE SNOW**, 2/2nd and now at Arncliffe, N.S.W. sends a short note with very little news and a cheque to the Association. Thank you Steve, remember, if you write a few lines, so you will encourage more of your mates to do the same and the News will grow. It beats writing letters - Just think, 1200 letters

for the price of one, not such a bad idea is it?

**TED STAFFORD**, our old stalwart from Lismore on the North Coast, sends along a newsy letter of the doings up in the Northern regions. Ted attended the service for the late HAROLD LEESE, as a personal friend, but was recognised by Harold's brother as a battalion member, and he expressed the appreciation that the unit was represented. Ted has passed his conv of the News onto Lloyd Butcher, whom he sees quite a bit during those suggested games of Bowls. Well, Mr. Butcher if you can manage to keep on rolling down a bowl, you can write a few lines to the paper and possibly include your address, as we have not got it on the books, that's not a request, that's an order. Back to Ted, I wonder who that Army bloke was Ted, sounds as though he must have meant what he said. We believe it anyway. However, it should have been good for a few jugs through the day! That's about all Ted's news, he wishes all the boys the very best for Anzac Day and enclosed a sub to keep that paper rolling.

**BERT HUTTLEY**, 2/2nd and now living in Bloomsbury, Queensland, thanks the Committee for his copy of the 'News' and was saddened at the death of "Cappy" Christian. Bert has two children married, a son and a daughter. Daughter has two children, so Bert and wife are grandparents. There are five children altogether, Bert works on a cane farm, tractor driving, etc. The season starts in about a month's time and then he will be flat out for about six months, with one son working with him and the other son in his final years as a Compositor, at the "Guardian" Office, in Proserpine. We shall have to watch our layout and spelling now, that's for sure. Only one other Pioneer in Proserpine, and that is Vic Norman, of Anne Street, who works at the sugar mill. Vic was a machine gunner in the Battalion and they will probably get together on the 25th, over a few noggins. In closing Bert wants to be remembered to all and a special mention to the members of 1 Platoon, who served at Tarakan and Balikpapan, also enclosed a cheque to the treasurer and finished off with a really good saying - "It's good to keep in touch." Thank you for a very newsy letter, I am sure that all the blokes will be pleased to read it and we look forward to further mentions.

**JIM "TICH" YOUNG**, 2/1st and now at Botany Road, Waterloo, sends an apology for his non attendance on Anzac Day. He really wanted to see the Boys, "Nuggett" Neal and Loftly Hannon. However, it was not to be, as he collapsed in Market Street, and finished up in Sydney Hospital for over three weeks. Bad luck Tich, however, you would not have found Loftly, as I had a letter from him also

## 2/1 - 2/2 PIONEER BATTALIONS ASSOCIATION COUNTRY REUNION & BARBECUE

Newcastle - 10th June

Greta, 11th June, 1972

Christian Name ..... Army Nickname .....  
Surname ..... Unit (2/1 or 2/2) .....  
Company ..... Platoon .....  
Address .....

Number in Party Attending Reunion and Barbecue .....  
Attending ..... Attending .....  
Reunion only ..... Barbecue only .....  
Place in envelope and post NOW to:

**M. HERRON, 3 Enoggera Road, Beverly Hills, N.S.W., 2209**

and he has moved down to Victoria. I hope you take a little care and get back onto those two legs quick and lively, all my family are tip top, and a fourth grandchild arrived last Saturday, 22/4/72, so that makes me feel a bit older! Thank you for the note, Tich, and lots of luck, Keep Sober!

**BOB "LOFTY" HANNON**, 2/1st, ex resident of Manly-Warringah and now down at Shepparton, Victoria, sends a note with a donation for subs. and the news that he has not had a paper for some time. This can be fixed Bob, all we need was an address. Bob speaks of his son and wife being in England for possibly two years, while his daughter and her husband are in Canada. One thing old mate, you can't accuse them of living in your hip pocket. Bob has not been too good, has had a few trips to Melbourne to Repat. and is hoping for an increase in his pension. You do not mention why you went to Victoria, we would all like to know? Bob sends his best regards to all the boys.

**ANZAC DAY** at the Castlereagh - and "Dora" Black has done it again. You may remember a few issues ago, when we had a bit of a crack at the Shermans and Blackie about Grandchildren, well Blackie has been married again, honest, and when he went back to Kyogle with his wife, Val, Flo Sherman said, "I knew her before you did Dora." Looks like the Blacks and the Shermans are bound to clash. Also on the grapevine at the Castlereagh - that great big hunk of man, "Hollywood" Fred Wheaton, has a broken leg, fell down returning from fishing, I hear. Casey Brown was heard to remark - "I wonder what would have been broken if he had tangled with me."

**BERN REINERS** (Sig. Platoon 2/1) of "Reiners Hall" Corryong, Victoria had two weeks holiday at Austinmer, N.S.W. in May. With his wife Mona and daughter Mandy, they came up to Sydney and spent an enjoyable evening with Roma and Doug Shearston (another performing Seal), Joyce and Bob McGregor and Peg and Max Herron.

Bern invited the Herrons down for a weekend and Peg and Max (another performing Seal) readily took him up on his offer. According to Peg, the weekend was "a Ball."

**BILL WRIGHT**, 2/1 of Wyoming wrote in to say he derived great pleasure from spending Anzac Day with his mates. He sends a big thank you to each and every one on the Committee who, he considers, did an excellent job. After witnessing the mighty job they do he is very grateful for the giant task they perform.

Two days before Anzac Day Bill was at Nelson's Bay and saw C. "Ando" Anderson of C Coy. and spent a couple of hours with him over a few ales. "Ando" is in the building trade and has been working at Nelson's Bay for the past eight years and really looks a picture of health. He joined Bill in sending regards to all their mates.

Bill and his wife had a pleasant tour of Tasmania early this year with Pioneer Tours. and they thoroughly enjoyed the most interesting trip.

Bill's eldest son took a position this year with "Hemsley Iron" at Dampier in Western Australia and are living in a brand new home, air condition, furnished, etc. for \$6 per week, so are very happy.

## LETTER TO THE EDITORS

Beaumont, S.A.

Dear Max and Bob,

I have been reminded by Bobbie Lake's opening paragraph on page four of the April issue of the Pioneer News that I had not written for quite a while. Now, let's get together and correct this.

Everyone has an excuse of course for not writing, but to make sure that my good intentions do not go too far astray, I am writing this letter from my Office.

All is going well in sunny South Australia and Ernie Hayden, who is **STILL** in the Army and myself had our own little Pioneer reunion on Tuesday last. I marched with Legacy and Ern with the Royal Australian Regiment Association. At the end of the Service we joined at a nearby hostelry and managed to spend a fairly quiet afternoon until early evening. We both commented on how sad it is to see some of the boys passing on, particularly names who are known so well to us. It is not difficult to remember however that we are all growing older. Ern looks very well and at the present time is in camp not far out of Adelaide with the recruiting training unit. He had the day off on Tuesday. Although he is now a grandfather he looks very fit although his wife is not as well as she could be.

As far as I am concerned things are still much the same and I am able to report that having passed the 12½ year mark of residence in Adelaide, I am still enjoying South Australia. With the family we drove up to Sydney in January in time to catch up with your "wettest wet" since 1911. I was there for the full three weeks of it and my holiday was literally a "wash-out." In this instance we were glad to turn round and come back home.

In March I headed North again for my first of three planned visits to the Northern Territory. This time however I went beyond Darwin and spent a week in Timor landing at Baccau and travelling on to Dili. While in Dili I was fortunate enough in meeting an old friend formerly of Darwin, now living high in the mountains at a place called Moubissie, which was well known as being over-run by the Japs during the war. My friend now runs the Army Rest House in the Mountains and the fifty mile journey took three and three-quarter hours in a Land Rover, so you can imagine the sort of road which leads over three mountain ranges averaging from 8,000 to 10,000 feet. The country was absolutely magnificent although there is very little to do on the island. It was a good experience and I was there to look for business opportunities but needless to say I did not come back with a briefcase full of orders. There may be possible future business but only time will tell. On my return I spent another week in Darwin prior to departure for Adelaide.

It is good to see the Pioneer News still coming out regularly and it is great to

Bill sends his regards to all his mates and concludes by saying "see you all at Greta." Thanks for a very newsy letter Bill.

That's about it for now, see you at Newcastle or Greta in June - Let's make it a honey.

**LAKY.**

read the various doings of people whom we have not seen for quite some time. Monty does a great job as do all of you and Ern and I appreciate receiving our copies of the News. We also had a nostalgic feeling when we talked of the Newcastle reunion and one of these days we may even get up there together.

We send our regards to my old mate Wally Page, all the fellows in Newcastle and particularly to you fellows who keep the Association going. To help you I am enclosing a small cheque which may help to cover postage.

That's all for now, with kind regards to all.

Yours sincerely,

**MAX LAW**, B Coy. 2/1.

### NOTICE TO ALL PIONEERS

The Annual Remembrance Church Service will be conducted this year at the Leichhardt Methodist Church.

This will be the last time it will be conducted by Rev. Stan Claughton as Stan is retiring from his ministry in December 1972.

He is particularly looking forward to the attendance of all Pioneers at this service.

Try and make it this year fellows, for I know you will not regret it.

### NEWS JOTTINGS BY "MONTY"

**TOM HUGO** of C Coy. 2/1 is home again after another spell at Concord Hospital and would like to have any Pioneers call on him at 58 Sherwood Road, Revesby, phone 771-2136.

**FRED DAVENPORT** of A Coy. 2/1 and his wife Nell were at Lightning Ridge on Anzac Day and sent regards to all Pioneers. Thank you for the generous cheque Fred and Nell - this was passed on to the Treasurer for the Welfare Account. Fred mentions having called on Jack Tatham of A Coy. "Sliprail" has a property at Currububula near Tamworth. Jack also writes to say how pleased he and his wife were to have the company of Fred and Nell. Jack extends an invitation to all Pioneers to call on him any time.

**OWEN BURNS** was at the Homebush RSL recently and was pleased to have a chat with me.

**ALTHEA ALLEN**, widow of Hughie Allen A Coy., attended the Wreath Laying Ceremony with her son and although for years they had departed after the ceremony this year they were introduced to Peg Herron who took them to supper.

**GEORGE BAINS**, C Coy. 2/1, was at Concord Hospital on Anzac Day and said it was quite a thrill to watch the 2/1 march on television. He said it cheered him considerably to see his old mates on the screen.

**JOCK "SCOTTY" ARMOUR** called on me and passed on the sad news that his wife had died, and then the following week his son-in-law had died. Please accept our deepest sympathy Jock.

Jock has returned from a rest in the country and will be resuming his duties as Bandmaster, staging recitals in the Botanical Gardens, Hyde Park and Randwick Racecourse.

Jock sends his regards to all Pioneers

# PROTECT YOUR FAMILY BITTER PILL — DAD, A DILL — LEFT NO WILL

Don't let that triplet be your epitaph. No matter what your age, there are some matters we should all put in order before it's too late.

So ask yourself these questions (which are taken from the December issue of "Reveille") and see if you can answer them in the affirmative. If not, you should take steps to tidy things up.

Q. 1. Does my wife know where my Discharge is?

Q. 2. Does my wife know where my war medals are?

Q. 3. Have I any entitlement to a war pension?

These three questions must be considered as a group. They may not worry you but they could make the difference between your wife becoming a War Widow and treated by the Repatriation Department as such, or being an ordinary widow with no such claim to Repatriation benefits.

Q. 4. Have I made a will?

Q. 5. Has it been revised to meet current circumstances?

Q. 6. Does my wife know where it is and who the executor is?

Thirty per cent of those who die in Australia leave no will and this often causes extensive litigation, heartache and hardship, as Sub-Branch Officers can so sadly testify. Then the legal people gain most and your wife and family least!

Moreover, the Court could then appoint an executor who would not be as competent or desirable as the person you had in mind.

Anyhow what is the good of a will if no one knows where it is?

Q. 7. Has my wife made a will?

Q. 8. Do you know where it is and who is the executor?

These questions are really the previous ones in reverse and just as important because the same remarks apply.

Q. 9. Does my will take into account the simultaneous death of myself and my wife?

If this occurs the law assumes that you died first and your children could be called upon to pay death duties etc. on your estate and then your wife's, which would include all you left her.

This can be obviated by a provision in your will leaving the estate to your wife if she survives you for some stated period e.g. 30 days.

Q. 10. Have I any life assurance?

Q. 11. Have I any superannuation?

Q. 12. Do I belong to any mortality fund?

Q. 13. Does my wife know where my policies are, and whom she should contact regarding my superannuation or to obtain benefit from the mortality fund?

This last question may be an exercise for you: anyhow see if you can readily answer Q. 13 by asking "do I know where etc." You may not.

There are still more questions to ask yourself and your wife but before we go further, in this era, where the wife often works, get her to answer this question.

Q. 14. Do questions 10 to 13 apply to me so that my husband would know whom to contact if I died?

Now to continue.

Q. 15. Have we a joint bank account?

Q. 16. If either of us die can the other operate on the account?

This is no catch question. Upon the

death of either party the bank must freeze the account unless it is a "Joint and Continuing" account.

Q. 17. Is my house mortgaged? If so with whom and where are the deeds and mortgage agreement, etc.?

Q. 18. What is the extent of the mortgage and its terms of repayment?

Q. 19. Is the house (a) in my name, (b) in my wife's name, (c) in both as joint tenants?

Q. 20. If we are joint tenants can my wife prove her joint equity?

The final question appears redundant but it is not because the Stamp Duty Office will assume that the value of the house and land goes into your estate unless your widow has an equity.

That is, unless she contributed in some way towards its purchase using her own capital and/or earnings or received gifts or had other means of gaining such equity.

This is a tough one, is it not? This is the law.

Well how did you fare in your answers? If you want help in these matters and in arranging your will, the R.S.L. can help.

Perhaps you have your own legal advisor. If so, see him; if not, you may contact the State Branch and see one of the members of the legal panel there.

Whatever you do, in the interest of your family, please both husband and wife, make your will.

## VALE

It is with regret that we report the passing away of the following members:

"HOOT" GIBSON — who was in Carlingbah Hospital.

RAY SCHUMAKER — "The Red Baron" of Murrumbidgee.

BILL THOMAS — who passed away in May.

GEORGE LEVY — who passed away in May.

LEST WE FORGET.

## WAR SERVICE HOMES ACT

With the resumption of land and houses by the Main Roads Board for new roadways, there is still an Act operating for those who want to purchase a new place and a grant of \$9,000 is available.

The person to contact in this matter is Ken Hawkes and his number is BO349 Extension 3006, and he will be only too glad to interview those who want advice on this subject.

## SHOULD I BE HONOURABLE?

Dear Dorothy Dix,

I am 35 years of age and have two brothers, one is in the Liberal Party and one serving six years for rape and arson.

My sister is on the street and my father lives on her earnings. My mother is pregnant by the boarder and because of this my father won't marry her.

I have recently become engaged to an ex-prostitute and I wish to be fair to her. Should I tell her about my brother in the Liberal Party????

## 2/1 - 2/2 PIONEER COUNTRY REUNION AND BARBECUE

# PROGRAMME

Cut out this advert and bring with you

Saturday, 10th June - Newcastle — Sunday, 11th June - Greta

MONDAY, 5th JUNE, 9 a.m. — LATEST ACCEPTANCE FOR CATERING

SATURDAY, 10th JUNE:

3.30 p.m. Accommodation Bookings allocated in Foyer of Hamilton R.S.L. Club, Tudor Street.

5.30 p.m. R.S.L. HALL, next door to Hamilton R.S.L. Club, Doors open. Cost for Dinner \$5 each including — Refreshments — payable at door.

6.00 p.m. Pre Dinner drinks served.

6.30 p.m. Dinner served.

SUNDAY, 11th JUNE:

9.00 a.m. Buses depart from Hamilton R.S.L. Cost \$1.20 each, payable at Bus or tickets obtainable at Reunion previous night.

10.00 a.m. Buses arrive Wyndum Street, Greta.

10.20 a.m. Wreath Laying Ceremony - Medals to be worn - Greta Soldiers Memorial.

10.45 a.m. Buses depart for Silver City Camp.

11.10 a.m. March Past - Salute taken by Colonel R. S. Garland, M.C. - Medals to be worn.

12.30 p.m. Barbecue Lunch - Cost \$1 per person - payable on ground or by ticket obtainable at Reunion previous night. All eating utensils provided. Canned beer on sale at 25 cents. Soft drink on sale.

2.30 p.m. Buses depart for Vineyard inspection and tour.

MEDALS ARE TO BE WORN AT WREATH LAYING AND MARCH PAST.