

MAIL BAG Continued

address from Botany to Norville on the Central Coast. **George** looks forward to the News and I reckon it will even read better than ever from that new address.

• **CHARLIE WILBY** and wife **Kit** has forwarded a letter stating that he is long overdue with news. **Charlie's** health is a little on the up and down scale these days with arthritis in the knees and a kidney infection. Plays quite a bit of Social Bowls, swims with the Moree Diggers and gets quite a few ales down in between. Quite a popular bloke is **Charles** with visits from **Roy** and **Lorna Jardine**, **Jack 'Bluey' Kerslake** and **Marj, Jack Boyd** and **Noel Schomberg**. No doubt quite a few names were swapped around on this occasion and a bit of trouble was struck over some. **Noel** and **Charlie** met up with **Roy Kelly** at the Services Club and could not remember the name of Tunbridge, that statement should nearly warrant expulsion or 6 months on the wagon or even both. Many thanks for the letter and looking forward to seeing you Anzac Day.

• **GERRY COLLINS** writes a notice of new address, has retired from work, on the Pension and found the work on the upkeep of the house a little more than easy so have purchased a unit with less work while much closer to the shops and things. I presume it's not too far from the Club. The unit sounds really good, hope you enjoy it to the fullest.

• **PAT NOONAN** with the news of the expedition of a life time. Anniversary weekend on the Hawkesbury with a four berth boat, **Jack Stone Bob Burnside**, **Pat Noonan** and **Laurie "Three Course" Kelly**. **Three Course** was automatic choice as cook and immediately set at rest any thought that he had not improved his culinary art since he loaded D Coys porridge with salt at El Adem in 1941. Apparently the fish were absent from the river as their total catch was one catfish, a beer bottle, a fishing net frame and the boat's dinghy. That's a pretty good assorted catch with variety. They close their letter with the agenda of the Newcastle Reunion as their next sortie together. Good letter **Pat** and provides a bit of humour for all.

• **W.J. BACK** an old Pioneer who has not been in contact with the Association but has received information about same through **Ivor Garnor**. When he was sick last year he was visited by **Mick Dodson** but has had no further contact until now when he has written asking to be placed on the mailing list. This will be attended to, and we hope that you enjoy reading the News and the doings of your fellow Pioneers.

• **TOM MCGUINNESS** sends a cheque to the treasurer and a thank you to **Mick Dodson** for the plug in the December issue. **Tom** remarks on quite a few enquiries from the plug and has met some old and new acquaintances as a result. During the R.S.L. Bowls tournament **Tom** had the pleasure of meeting **Len Preedy** from the West and later on they met in the R.S.L. National Tours. **Tom** tells that **Len** has been elected President for the 1978 Carnival to be held at Perth. **Tom** also met **Fred Makin** at Woy Woy over the holiday period and he wishes to be remembered to all. Many thanks **Tom** for your letter and keep up the happy bowling.

• **GLADYS ALLEN** (Widow of **Jack Allen** 2/1) — Still residing at Kenmore (Brisbane) forwards Subs — Glad, we appreciate your donation, but must mention once again that we do not expect money from wives of our ex-members. This is a

rule we have applied generally, so don't have any qualms about receiving our "News".

Gladys is a keen gardener and in 1976 won 3rd Prize in the Brisbane Newspapers Home Garden Competition.

Glad lives with and keeps house for her elderly father **Ossie Jones**. **Oss**, recently had the misfortune to have an accident whilst crossing the street, but we believe he is getting around better now. **Ossie** has also forwarded money to the "Rats of Tobruk" and our "News" and is a keen reader of both publications.

Glad has two married daughters — one living well up north at Mackay and the other just as far south at Melbourne — not much chance of visiting one and calling in on the other on the way — a champion "mob" the **Allen** family.

• **ALLAN CRUTE** Sig Platoon 2/1 of Woolgoolga left his job at the Kumbaingeri animal farm at Coffs Harbour in 1977 and is now on the retired list. He is now a handyman for his wife **Beulah**, having put in new aluminium windows, painted the house inside and outside and laid down carpet.

Allen and **Beulah** recently visited their son **Denny** who is with Telecom at Parkes and doing quite well. They went to Lake Cargelligo and to the Dubbo Western Plains zoo which is really worth a visit according to **Beulah** who took 2 rolls of film of the animals.

Beulah has been a Cub Leader and **Allan** a Scout Leader in the Scouting Movement but have now both retired so as to allow the young ones to take over — some of the Cubs they have trained have grown up — married and now have sons in the Cubs.

Allan and **Beulah** hope to be in Sydney for Anzac Day and would like to meet all his mates from the Sig platoon. They have had visits from **Cyril Amies** and his wife, **Larry Robson** and **Tom Morrow**. Thanks for your letter **Beulah** and **Allan**.

• **BERN REINERS** Sig Platoon 2/1 of Corryong, Vic. is now working for the Education Dept. at Corryong and is talking about going on to the retiring list in another four years. **Bern's** wife **Mona** says she has a list, like all wives have, as long as your arm for **Bern** to do around the house. Their daughter **Mandy** was recently married and the reception was held at the Khancoban Alpine Inn. That now leaves **Bern** and **Mona** at home on their own.

Bern and **Mona** did a trip to Western Australia last year and then the year before they went to New Zealand — sounds like a second honeymoon **Bern**.

Bern has taken up golf now and spends many pleasant hours on the course with **Mona** — then has a few beers — tries the poker machines and then says what a great way to spend an afternoon.

Nice to hear from you **Bern**.

• **MICK ROBERTS** 2/1 of Leeton writes a short note to let us know the Leeton boys are still going strong. They all send best wishes to their mates.

Mick and **Phil Mahey** sent along a donation to help with the working efforts of the Committee which are really appreciated by all.

He sent regards to all and in particular to **Max Law** and his wife **Joy** and family.

Mick sent along the names of two 2/1 Pioneers. **Alf Gelch** and **Harry O'Callaghan** who were not receiving the Pioneer News — and strange as it may seem he said they were both fullbacks for the Battalion on the Tablelands.

Had heard of the passing of **Jim McDuff** B Coy 2/1 from **June**.

Anyone passing through Leeton is invited to call at the Soldiers Club and ask for **Phil** who works there. Thank you **Mick** for the donation and the news.

*That just about covers this issue as I write this from Ward 510 Concord where I am in for a check-up. While here I have called on **Noel Peterson** from Wyong who is situated at Ward 28. **Noel** has great problems with his breathing, bit of back trouble and a little dash of old age thrown in. Claims that he has not even been able to retain his taste for a beer.*

Good luck to all, hoping to see many faces both on Anzac Day and at Newcastle in May.

LAKEY

HAPPY EASTER

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE 2/1 PIONEER BN.

*(To be presented in parts by
A. Montague)*

GRETA was the birthplace of the 2/1 Pioneer Bn and upon enquiries it has been found the name originated from the early settlers in that area.

They had arrived from hamlets around the small river called Greta in Yorkshire in England.

The Unit was formed at Greta on Tuesday 11th June, 1940 and Frank Sellick was the first R.S.M. while Jack Reynolds was the first R.Q.M.S.

PRE EMBARKATION LEAVE ended on Friday 27th September, 1940 and No.11 Platform at Sydney Central Station was densely packed with friends and relatives to farewell our members going to Dubbo.

Two trains were used, one to depart at 1850 and the other at 1930 hours.

On steaming out No.1 had about four stops before reaching Redfern through certain people pulling the communication cords. Eventually they got under way and reached Dubbo at 0830 the next day. Upon disembarkation the unit formed up and marched three miles along the Obley Road to the camp.

On arrival at camp, the rumours were current that the unit would be leaving for overseas the following day or on Monday.

This was confirmed by all personnel being ordered to pack up and the receipt of new equipment. Our neighbours, the Ammunition Unit, took over guard duties and immediately after breakfast on Sunday 29th Sept. a full Battalion Parade was held.

Reinforcements had arrived that day from Walgrove to bring the unit up to full fighting strength.

The unit departed Dubbo Camp at 2200 hrs and were farewelled at the station by many leading citizens who came to express their good wishes to the Battalion.

The train journey back to Sydney was a long one, but they finally arrived at Pyrmont Wharf at 1100 hrs on Monday 30th Sept.

After leaving the train the unit, with the exception of "D" Coy, were checked and then walked the gangway to board the S.S. "Johann De Witt".

"D" Coy were sent by train to Melbourne where they boarded the S.S. "New Zealand".

TO BE CONTINUED

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE 2/1 PIONEER BATTALION

To be presented in parts by H. Montague.

Part 1 (March 78 Pioneer News) dealt with Unit being formed at Greta, June 1940, the units final leave Sept. 1940, and embarkation Monday 30th Sept.

PART 2 — UNIT ARRIVAL AT DUBBO

On Monday 9th Sept 1940 the unit arrived at Dubbo Railway Station after a 14 hour journey from Greta in two special trains.

One train was late, but it was decided to keep to the arrangement of a march through the town with the first contingent as the streets were packed with the townspeople waiting to welcome the unit.

After forming up, the Troops moved off headed by our band and led by Major "Nugget" Neal and what a tremendous ovation and enthusiastic reception they were given as they passed down Darling, Talbragar and Macquarie Streets.

Passing the Town Hall, the Mayor of Dubbo took the salute from Major Neal and then continued on to Victoria Park where all gear was stacked.

The unit was then ushered into a large hall where Ladies and volunteers served a very enjoyable meal and light refreshments. During this meal the Major and the Band proceeded back to the station where they met the second contingent. They too were given a tumultuous welcome as they marched through the streets to the hall where the meal awaited them.

After the whole Battalion had been fed the Mayor officially welcomed the unit to the town of Dubbo on behalf of its citizens and congratulated Lt. Col. McGillicuddy on the unit's great military bearing they had displayed during their march through the town. He stated the unit would be honoured guests by all.

In replying, our Colonel thanked the Mayor and the citizens of Dubbo for their reception and hospitality so generously given.

After our Band had given an impromptu Concert to the crowd we marched off to our camp. It was a historic occasion which I feel still lives in the memory of both the citizens of Dubbo and members of the unit, for we were made very welcome.

PART 3 — BOARDING S.S. JOHANN DE WITT.

Monday 30th October, 1940.

After all embarkation formalities had been complied with, the unit finally proceeded up the gangway of the S.S. Johann De Witt.

Following the routine of being checked and numbered the members were conducted to the converted ships cargo holds where they were to sleep for the duration of the voyage.

At 1430 hours a full parade of all military personnel was held on the various decks and were addressed by Lord Gowrie, Governor of N.S.W.

The adjoining wharf was crowded with wives, relatives and friends who had come to farewell the ship. The Eastern Command Band were playing and it was a really wonderful carnival gathering until about 1630 hours when the mooring lines were cast off and the ship got under way, leaving the Pyrmont wharf with tremendous cheering from the multitude of well wishers.

However the ship did not immediately proceed on the voyage, but anchored at 1815 hours in the area of Shark Island to refill oil tanks. This was completed about 2300 hours and then she

was on her way and on clearing the heads, met up with HMAS Perth who was waiting to escort the Johann De Witt to the Middle East.

The list of officers with the unit as she sailed were as follows:- Lt. Col. McGillicuddy, Major A. Brown; Majors: Harold White, Norm Neal; Capts: Stan Goulston, Bob Egan, Harry Tope, Padre Dransfield, Dave Coleman, Jeff Graham, Herb Braddon, Vic Tunbridge, George Patterson, Tom Ledgerwood and Bill Proven; Lieuts: Rod Pegg, Harry Ellis, Chas Richardson, Bob Wilson, Gordon Osborn, Barry Watts, Harry Hughes, Bill Robertson, Frank Allan, Jock Gillespie, Robby Farlow, "Lofty" Barlow, Wally Copp, John Riley, Ted Carter, Jack McAdam, John Gilchrist, Johnny Wheeler, Henry Nicholls and John Tooker.

PART 4 — NURSING STAFF

When the troopship H.M.T. SS Johann De Witt sailed from Sydney in Oct. 1940 the ship was loaded with Military personnel including the 2/1 Pioneers, except 'D' Coy who had departed from Melbourne.

The Medical section on the ship who were also bound for the Middle East were indeed a most efficient branch of the Services and certainly worked hard to maintain the health standards on the ship.

There were four nurses in this group and they were Sisters Vera Hamilton, Sue Malcolm, Kitty Tidd and Gladys Sherman.

Over the last few months I have conducted a long search and many enquiries as to the whereabouts of the four sisters and have been successful in locating all except Gladys Sherman.

On introducing myself to each of the ladies with the best wishes of the Association they were really delighted to hear about our members and their doings, for they all had happy memories in meeting the 2/1 Pioneers on the ship. In particular they said what great enjoyment they had derived from the concerts our band performed while on the ship. They even remembered such items as Wind mills turning — nurseie, Col Bogey.

It was nice chatting to these ladies and as they were most interested in the Association I have contacted the Secretary and arranged to have their names put on the mailing list. I explained about all our functions and with the Committees permission have invited them to our Reunions.

It was well worth the effort in locating these ladies and I was thrilled with the way they welcomed me on behalf of the Association.

HOSPITAL AND FUNERAL COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN:

JACK (MICK) DODSON, 194 Hamilton St., Fairfield. Ph. 72-4091

NORTHERN SUBURBS

ALLAN McINNES, 11/47 Milson Rd., Cremorne Pt. Ph. 90-2069

JACK PEARCE, 22 Surfers Pde., Harbord. Ph. 939-1974

EASTERN SUBURBS

HARRY ELLIS, 3/6 Notts Ave., Bondi.

BILL ROBERTSON, 5 Barry St., Randwick. Ph. 665-2586

JIM GRAY, 63 Fletcher St., Bondi

ILLAWARRA SUBURBS

GEORGE WOOD, 97 Russell Ave., Dolls Pt. Ph. 529-6441

BOB BURNSIDE, 29 Woronora Cres., Como West. Ph. 528-7134

WESTERN SUBURBS

BOB DIXON, 26 Holdsworth St., Merrylands. Ph. 637-4619

REG ARMSTRONG, 97 Hanbury St., Wentworthville

Ph. 631-5403

GORDON FINLAY, 5 Nth Liverpool Rd., Mt. Pritchard.

Ph. 602-8483

BOB LEE, 103 Links Ave., Concord. Ph. 73-1965

PAT WALSH, 136 Rawson Rd., Greenacre.

Note: Would next of kin please contact above member nearest to persons domicile — otherwise contact the Chairman.

WELFARE OFFICER:

HARRY MONTAGUE, 46 Pomeroy St., Homebush. Ph. 76-6657

OVERSEAS TRIP BY MARY & ALLAN McINNES

Left Australia on April 15th and had 4½ months overseas, and we would have liked more

Started in Greece — 7 days boat trip through the Greek Islands and to Istanbul, which I must say was the highlight of the trip — 2 weeks in Greece and we then went up The Adriatic coast through Yugoslavia and over through Italy to Monte Carlo. Here we were fortunate enough to see Princess Grace at close quarters and she is still absolutely beautiful. We then went through France to Paris and eventually to London and after a few days we went back to Europe where we did a 30 day Eurail Pass holiday and we certainly got value for money on Eurail as we travelled from Norway, Sweden and as far as Italy and East-West as well. We had a month in England — 2 weeks in Wales — 3 weeks in Scotland, so saw a lot of Great Britain.

Scotland was great and we attended a Highland Games at Lochinvar on N.W. Coast and Sheep Dog trials at Peebles. We didn't see The Monster in Loch Ness.

Also went to The Trooping of the Colour in London and it was a marvellous military display.

GALLIPOLI — ANZAC DAY 1978

On my recent overseas trip one of the most moving and emotional experiences that has ever happened to me occurred whilst on a cruise of The Greek Islands and Istanbul.

Leaving Istanbul at noon on April 24th we cruised into The Dardanelles and with dusk closing in we passed the town of Gallipoli, a surprise to me was the much larger town than I had imagined. The Dardanelles narrowed here and at the narrowest section we arrived opposite the landing beaches of April 25th, 1915 with the cliffs behind. A large marble memorial has been placed on the cliff top, brilliantly floodlit with figures of servicemen around the sides. Here the ship's Purser came on the loudspeakers telling the passengers the history of the landing in four languages commencing with English. The ship was Greek but the Purser gave the Australians top priority for their bravery and tenacity under impossible conditions and like me the Australians on board all felt very proud of our nationality. Even though Gallipoli was a defeat with enormous loss of Allied lives we all know that our A.I.F. wrote history and we came of age in this battle. Of course the Purser mentioned The British, French and New Zealand forces who fought here.

The fading light in which I saw this area would have been similar to that which our gallant A.I.F. would have seen as they stormed ashore on Anzac Day 1915.

I consider this trip to be one of the most wonderful experiences in my life being 63 years to the day since our forces were also on boats in these waters awaiting landing.

Anyone looking for a travel consultant see....

ALLAN McINNES

LAST POST

It is with regret that we announce the passing away of **William Fergie Jeffries**, 7th Platoon A Coy. 2/1.

"Speed" as he was respectfully known passed away at the Princess Alexandra Hospital, Brisbane, in early September.

The Associations deepest sympathy and condolences were forwarded to his widow & family.

— HARRY MONTAGUE

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE 2/1 PIONEER BATTALION

To be presented in parts by H. Montague

Part 1 March 1978 dealt with the unit being formed at Greta, June 1940, final leave 1940 and embarkation Sept. 1940.

Part 2 dealt with arrival at Dubbo 1940.

Part 3 dealt with Boarding the Johann De Witt Oct. 1940 and Part 4 dealt with the Nursing staff on board the Johann De Witt.

PART 5 — DEPARTURE FROM AUSTRALIA

On leaving Sydney on Monday 30th September, 1940 we had the cruiser HMAS Perth as escort and as the Johann De Witt ran, into rough seas many of us who had not been afloat before certainly felt its effects.

At midday on Wednesday 2nd October we met up with the H.M.T. "New Zealand" which had sailed from Melbourne with a full complement of troops including our "D" Company. Greetings were sent across from our lines to the "New Zealand". After a more smoother voyage across the Great Australian Bight land was heralded on Monday 7th October which turned out to be Fremantle.

With our sister ship we tied up at the main wharf alongside the "Mauretania". Leave was granted for a few hours for those who could be spared and it was really nice to get ones feet on ground again. A great welcome was extended to all troops by the townspeople.

Next day a full parade of the whole ships complement of military personnel was held and after this, with the New Zealand we continued our voyage to the Middle East. We were again

escorted by the Perth until relieved by the H.M.A.S. "Canberra".

On leaving us the Perth's band played "Roll out the Barrel" whilst our troops manned the ships side and cheered the navy fellows for the wonderful job they had done in escorting us across that vast ocean. In reply the Pioneers Band played "Advance Australia Fair" and the traditional "Hearts of Oak" as a tribute to them.

Our convoy after a very smooth voyage entered Colombo harbour early on Wednesday 18th October and once the usual formalities were dispensed with and we were paid in rupees, leave personnel were taken ashore.

Here we were formed up and marched through the city to the British Army Headquarters at Grail Barracks where we were greatly welcomed. On arrival here we were lectured by an officer on the conditions of the town and the recreation facilities that had been arranged for us, such as tours and sightseeing of the city.

On Thursday 21st October our convoy departed from this famous port and after farewelling the H.M.A.S. Canberra with all troops lining the decks, we were joined by the H.M.S. Caledon.

Later on our two ships joined up with about eight other vessels and five escort vessels including the H.M.A.S. Parramatta. As we were in the extreme danger area all hands were ordered to remain on deck fully fitted out with lifebelts and water bottles full.

Every available watch was kept for the hostile aircraft which was expected, but thankfully did not eventuate.

To be continued.

RATS OF TOBRUK BRANCH FORMED AT LISMORE

Recently, the Executive of the N.S.W. State Branch of the Rats of Tobruk Association including myself, travelled to Lismore R.S.L. Club to meet servicemen who served in Tobruk with the view to open the Northern Rivers Sub-Branch of the Rats of Tobruk Association.

Forty three members turned up for the inaugural meeting among them eleven 2/1 Pioneer Battalion members. This is the main reason of writing to inform you of the names of those members;

Bill Hood 2/1-2/2, Lismore, became the foundation Secretary; Ron (Bluey) Cross, Ballina, Committee; Joe Leis, Casino; Jim Hall, Kyogle; Viv (Curly) Hooper, Tenterfield; Joe F. Blanch, Beaudesert, Qld.; L.F. (Toby) Hale, Kyogle; A.J. (Jack) Richards, Lennox Heads; Fred Blanch, Kyogle; Peter (Dick) Seddon, Newcastle Sub-Branch Treasurer; Jack (Mick) Dodson, Sydney.

Bill Hood sent a brief report on 2/1-2/2 members;

Phil Barnett 2/2 — now retired, on deck again after a hip operation.

Terry McGuire 2/1 — not seen very often, for as a champion bowler spends a lot of time on the bowling green.

Ken Wilson 2/2 — President of the Workers Club Bowling Group, sends his regards.

Peter Bell 2/1 — not a well man these days, but is always available to yarn with over old times.

"Butcher" Butcher — playing bowls and looking forward to retiring in the very near future.

After the meeting all adjourned to the dining room — many had not met for a great number of years — names were easily known but appearances had changed with the times. This did not deter all from chatting over the early days and when some names and places were

mentioned, one had to stop and think as memories are not as good as in the early days. At one stage of the yarning and stories, the R.S.L. executive were worried that damage might be done to the Club. The bullets and shells that passed over head were the least of their worry, but the dud shells and bombs were the trouble, as the club bomb disposal crew were away. However it was indeed a pleasure to see so many old faces again.

Alec George came in later to join in a yarn over a few beers. He had been attending a district R.S.L. meeting as the representative from his own club, South Lismore R.S.L. Naturally Anzac Day came up and Alec informed me he will be in Sydney next Anzac Day.

Gentlemen, no doubt most of you know from the Pioneer News of the Kyogle Reunion 22nd September, 1979. Over discussions with the 2/1-2/2 members at Lismore all have indicated they will be attending the Reunion. This will be an opportunity for you to meet those members mentioned, plus others so start now to arrange parties to journey to Kyogle on 22nd September, 1979.

— JACK (MICK) DODSON, President.

NEWS ITEMS

DON LINTON 2/2 is on the staff at the Lady Davidson Home at Turrumurra and we do thank him for his assistance to Tom Hugo who is a patient. As I have no private transport it is quite a long journey by bus, and Don certainly does a great job in attending to the needs of Tom and saving me the trip.

BOB BALDWIN 2/1 HQ orderly room is a patient at Concord Hospital and received a shock when I called on him during my rounds. Having not seen him for years we did have a good old chin wag.

NEWS ITEMS

NURSING SISTERS of the Medical Section who sailed with the Johann De Witt have now been located and are receiving the Pioneer News.

Invitations will be forwarded to them seeking the pleasure of their company at the Wreath Laying Ceremony, the Annual Reunion and the Kyogle Reunion.

These ladies have sent their best wishes to all members of the Association.

MRS JEAN CLAUGHTON, widow of Padre Stan of the 2/2 nd was forwarded a Xmas card from the Association and in return she expressed her thanks for such a kind gesture. She stated how pleased she was to continue receiving the Pioneer News as it was as interesting as ever.

Jean wishes all members the best for 1979 and sends her regards to all Stan's friends.

GORDON FINLAY our popular publicity officer has had two trips to Concord Hospital recently and we do hope he is fully recovered by now. While there he met up with Bob Lee 2/2 so you can imagine the chatter that went on between two Pioneers.

REGULAR VISITS are still being made to Bill MacArthur who is a patient at the Gladesville Psychiatric Hospital, Ward 13 and to Tom Hugo, 58 Sherwood Rd., Revesby, phone 771-2136 and both have sent best wishes to all members.

If anyone happens to be in the vicinity of the above address a call would be much appreciated.

JACK FERGUSON M.L.A. Minister of Works and Deputy Premier NSW son of Jock Ferguson, late RSM 2/1, was at a function I attended recently and on making myself known to him we had a great chat about Jock.

During the discussion I mentioned our Anzac Reunion and stated he would be made very welcome. Jack informed me that as a returned man he attended his unit's Reunion but if possible he would come along to our Reunion.

HECTOR PAGE 2/2 is in a Ryde Nursing Home and would appreciate visits from his mates. He was a great mate of Max Law so I feel sure Max will be a visitor when he learns Hec is in hospital.

WAL ASHTON C Coy 2/1 passed away recently and his funeral was attended by Alma and Len O'Conner and Doug Turner and his wife. We do express our sincere sympathy to Mrs Ashton and her family in their bereavement. Many thanks to Len for notifying us and in representing the Association at the funeral.

REPATRIATION SERVICES PENSION ACT

This particular Parliamentary Law was introduced and became effective during 1935 by the then Prime Minister Mr Joe Lyons, UAP Government and was, "that a service pension is an income tested social welfare type payment, the same as to the Department of Social Security Age and Invalid Pensions".

It is payable to an eligible veteran who is permanently unemployable, or who has attained 60 years of age if a male or 55 years if a female, to cover the indefinite and intangible effects of war service which could cause premature aging and the loss of capacity to earn a living. The eligibility conditions under which a female veteran may be granted a service pension are more lenient than those which apply to a male veteran.

To emphasize this, a male veteran must have served in a theatre of War before eligibility for the grant of a service pension may be conceded, whereas a female veteran may be entitled if she served abroad, and not necessarily in a theatre of War, or embarked for service abroad.

— HARRY MONTAGUE, Welfare Officer.