

PIONEER NEWS

Phone: 759-5491

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

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HISTORY OF THE CENOTAPH, SYDNEY

Following a request from one of our members in reference to the history of the Cenotaph in Martin Place, Sydney, interviews were arranged with the R.S.L., Sydney City Council, and the "Sydney Morning Herald" and every possible assistance was given by all concerned.

The word Cenotaph means an empty tomb or a monument erected in honour of a person who is buried elsewhere. The wording on the Memorial is therefore appropriate — "To Our Glorious Dead".

In the early days of 1920 the general public had settled down to days of peace after the 1914-18 War and with the return to normal civilian life of the country's fighting men, the public wanted an appropriate memorial in the heart of the city.

In the R.S.L. records, the first reference to the erection of a Hallowed Shrine at the present site appears in 1924 when mention was made of a sub committee, and a generous offer by Mr. Hugh Macintosh, managing director of "The Sunday Times" to give publicity to the project.

However it does seem that the inspiration and initiative for the memorial can be attributed to Mr. Fred Davison, a metropolitan Vice President of the R.S.L.

As this movement was making good progress and with the newspaper publicity assisting, a number of prominent citizens were invited by the State Secretary of the R.S.L. to form a committee to further the project. When formed this was known as the Sydney Cenotaph Committee.

The committee under the chairmanship of Mr. Justice Ferguson of the Supreme Court held their first meeting on 24th February 1925 and the following resolution was carried: "That steps be taken for the erection of a memorial in Martin Place in memory of N.S.W. Fallen Comrades".

On 13th May 1925 it was decided that a deputation wait on the Premier, Sir George Fuller asking for assurance from the Government that they would support the erection of the memorial.

The assurance was agreed to by the Government.

A few weeks after the deputation a general election took place with the result that Mr. J.F. Lang became Premier.

The subject of design was not on a competitive basis and the committee asked the Premier, Mr. Lang, to agree to the Government commissioning Sir Bertram Mackennall to undertake the designing and erection of the Memorial. For this purpose Mr. Lang indicated his Government would provide 10,000 pounds.

DORMAN LONG, CONTRACTORS

In May, 1927, the committee decided on the title of "The Martin Place Memorial Committee" and later that month met with Dr. Bradfield and Mr. Martin of Dorman Long & Co. who were contractors for the erection of the Memorial. This firm also contracted for the erection of the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

The masonry work for the Memorial was cut, hewn and dressed at the Moruya quarry of Dorman Long and consisted of Moruya grain. The overall size is 9ft 6½ inches and the base 22 ft long.

On 2nd August 1927 the ship arrived in Sydney from Moruya with the huge block of granite which weighed over seventeen tons. It was indeed a spectacle to witness the team of twenty horses hauling this terrific load from the dockside to Martin Place. The overall task of unloading, hauling and embedding onto mortar in position took only three hours.

The Dedication took place on 8th August, 1927, and was presided over by the Governor of N.S.W. Sir Dudley De Chair. Premier Lang delivered the speech of Dedication. Mr. F. Davison of the R.S.L. was appointed Custodian.

At a meeting of the committee on 19th December, 1928 it was resolved that the unveiling of the Cenotaph would take place on 21st February, 1929, which was the anniversary of the day the Australian Light Horse entered Jericho City during the Palestine campaign.

During the second and third weeks of February, 1929, work proceeded according to schedule in fitting the bronze statues of the Sailor and Soldier to their respective pedestals.

The model of the soldier selected was that of William P. Derby, Regimental number 6 of the 15th Infantry Battalion and the 4th Field Ambulance. He passed away in Queensland in January 1936 aged 66 years.

The model of the sailor selected was that of Leading Signalman John William Varcoe of the R.A.N. He was born at Baker's Swamp N.S.W. on 20th July, 1897, and educated at Dubbo Public School. He enlisted in the navy on the 3rd June, 1913 and served on H.M.A.S. Pioneer from December 1914 to November 1916 then transferred to H.M.A.S. Parramatta until November 1919. He was awarded the D.S.M. on 17th May 1918. He passed away in October 1948.

CENOTAPH CUSTODIAN APPOINTED

The Cenotaph was unveiled on 21st February, 1929, by the Governor of N.S.W. Sir Dudley De Chair who placed the one and only laurel wreath on the Cenotaph. Addresses were given by Premier Bavin and Sir John Monash.

Since 1928 a Custodian has been appointed annually by the R.S.L.

At least once a week the Custodian removes from the Cenotaph all dead and withered tributes and detaches the cards and ribbons. The cards are kept for another use and after being laundered the ribbons are distributed by the R.S.L. Women's Auxiliary to ex-service women in mental hospitals and to girls in orphanages — all for the use of hair ribbons. Thus from tokens of sorrow these ribbons bring joy to many others — young and old.

An arrangement also exists whereby Rover Scouts of the N.S.W. Scout Association voluntarily clean and scrub down the Cenotaph with soap and water at two monthly intervals. In consequence it continues to have the best appearance of any Monument in Sydney.

— *Compiled and researched by Harry Montague who expresses gratitude for the generous assistance given by the R.S.L. and all those who so kindly helped with information.*

COFFS REUNION

An advertisement appears on page four of this issue, outlining all details of the Country Reunion at Coffs Harbour on the 15th/16th September 1984.

It is requested that all members attending cut out the Programme and bring it to the Reunion with them so that they are up to date with all the proceedings.

It is also suggested that members seek out an envelope with their name on the front which should be placed in their room of the motel/hotel. Contact the reception desk if not in the room. This envelope contains maps/brochures for the Saturday morning tour also information for the Sunday tour.

We ask the co-operation of all members with cars to seek out and look after those members coming by train. In some cases it could be a good walk to the Ex-Services Club from their place of abode. In addition there is the Saturday morning tour and tour/picnic lunch on the Sunday.

At the time of going to press one hundred and sixty applications had been received.

JIM FIELD, Publicity Officer

PIONEER GATHERING

On Thursday, 28th June eighteen members of the Association gathered at the Earlwood Ex-Service Club for lunch and refreshments.

The occasion was to celebrate the retirement of Bill Tasker 2/1 from the Club where he has been Secretary Manager for the past twelve years. The lunch was in the way of farewell by his friends in the unit.

At the conclusion of the lunch Association President Jack Dodson wished Bill all the very best in his retirement from all Pioneers and in particular those who were present.

In reply Bill thanked the President for his kind remarks and also thanked all members who attended the lunch.

In attendance were the following members: Stan Jones, Bert Holmes, Bob Burnside, Bob Lake, Jim Grey, Jack Dodson, Mick Dwyer, Gordon Finlay, Max Law, Jack Clarke, Pat Noonan, George Walker, Laurie Kelly, Roy Jardine, Vic Whiteley, Frank Gillian, Jack Stone.

Apologies for not attending were extended by Max Herron who had a previous engagement.

— **GORDON FINLAY, Reporter**

SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE

With subscription send news of your family and happenings. Letter to contain surname, christian name, company, Battalion and present address, all in block letters please.

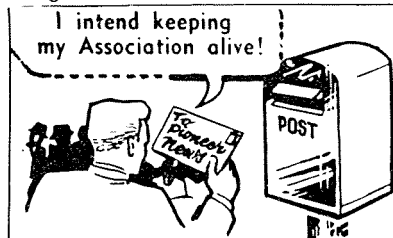
When forwarding new address, please state old address.

If you no longer want Pioneer News sent, mark wrapper, "Return to Sender", and return to Secretary.

All correspondence to Secretary as follows:—

M. HERRON, Hon. Sec.

2/1-2/2 PIONEER BTN. ASSOC.
3 Enoggera Road, Beverly Hills, NSW 2209.



from the MAIL BAG

Editor: BOB LAKE



September issue of the Mail and once again a good response from the members.

• **BILL LANYON** 2/1 now resident of Belfield sends a note of apology for his lack of writing, a cheque for the treasurer, and a promise of more regularity in the future. **Bill** doesn't go for a lot of news, but does appreciate the receipt of the paper keeping him in touch with his mates of yesteryear and closes with best wishes to all Pioneers for good fortune and good health.

• **THEO REID** 2/1 of Parramatta writes a thank you letter to the secretary for the information regarding the boys of the R.A.P. **Theo** has looked up quite a few of these blokes since, and recently spent a great day with **Jack Collis** and wife, plus **Bricky Wall** at Gosford and claims a new lease of life since that great day. **Theo** will not be attending Coffs Harbour but will definitely be a starter at the next one. Closes with a cheque for the treasurer and his thanks for the pleasure of the Pioneer News.

• **KEITH BOYLE** 2/1 of Moama sends a newsy letter and reports of finally catching up with **Noel Grant** of Altona after about 39 years. Spent a pleasant couple of days, the first day being a bit of a problem because with **Noel's** arrival, also arrived **Keith's** son and wife with plans to take them both to lunch for Mum's birthday, however it worked out O.K. and the Pioneer Party had a luncheon at the Golf Club the following day plus a great bit of ear bashing of past 40 years. **Noel** and wife left the next day for the return trip to Altona with promises that they would definitely meet again. **Keith's** wife is slowly recovering from her illness and he is pretty good, has to have a Repat check up once a year but has no worries on that score. Closes with best wishes to all and claims any Pioneer travelling that way would always be welcome.

• **BERNIE DALY** 2/2 Taree sends a cheque to the treasurer and the information that the **Dalys** have booked their accommodation at Coffs also that of **Don Murray** who will be travelling with them. **Bernie** had the Anzac Day March on video and claims he had the Pioneers with sore feet by the time he had them going back and forth on tape.

• **JACK GRIFFITHS (GLIDO)** Mayfield, writes a happy little note of thanks for another reunion organised, and is happy to report that he and **Esme** will be there, and they are also transporting **Dick Seddon** with them. Keep that Red Mill under the seat till you catch up with **Wheaton** and I, we will both be happy to help you with it. **Jack** is still President of the Newcastle Rats of Tobruk, also President of the Gallipoli Legion and found it impossible to get to Sydney for Anzac Day. Will be with us for only 2 days and nights at Coffs, and then proceeding on to Grafton for a visit to their daughter. **Jack** enclosed cheques for his bookings at Coffs, and also one to keep **Old Moneybags Whiteley** happy.

• **JACK COLLIS** 2/1 Umina, with a short note that **Harry Hutchison** is still fighting on, showing a ton of spirit, **Jack** also apologised for missing **Peg Herron** on Anzac Day but had to leave a little earlier owing to family commitments, however has enclosed his deposit for Coffs and will be able to make up for lost time up there.

• **BILL WRIGHT** 2/1 Wyoming, with a letter telling of his glorious six weeks in Queensland, good weather, you must have just got in before the storm **Bill**, however he missed out on seeing **Porky Graham** and **Bill Gamble**. Did contact **Bill Gamble** by telephone and had a lengthy chat with

him, also convinced him that he should be on the list and enclosed his address, **Max** has noted the address and back numbers of Pioneer News have been posted. **Bill** closes with best wishes and will see us all at Coffs.

• **JACK MURRAY** 2/2 West Australia, has sent a short note of thanks for the back numbers of Pioneer News forwarded to him and is very pleased to become a member of the Association. **Jack** was with the 2/2 in New Guinea and Borneo and enclosed a cheque for the treasurer to start the ball rolling. Many thanks **Jack**, and welcome to the club, you won't regret it.

• **TOM McGUINNESS** 2/1 Tanilba Bay with a thank you for the Pioneer News and a request for some information. **Max** has written to you personally on this matter and has requested me to do the same through the paper. **Tom** wants anybody who was in B.Coy 2/1 at roadwork between Ipswich and Esk in 1942, Company H.Q. at Fernvale to contact him personally at 18 Army Avenue, Tanilba Bay 2301, Phone 049-824 995, he would be so very grateful. **Tom** has a back problem and he quotes, it's not getting any better. We hope that gets you some response **Tom** and take note of what **Max** wrote to you, you may get some further results.

• **JIM RYAN** 2/2 Richmond, Vic., writes a thank you for the News, a sub for the treasurer and the news that at last he has retired. **Jim** has moved into some elderly people's flats and is settling in O.K. Still plays a bit of tennis and will possibly join a bowls club later on, but intends doing a few trips in his winding down period. Many thanks for the letter **Jim**, and hope you enjoy retirement as much as we are.

• **ALLAN SHAW** 2/1 Narrabeen, sends a cheque to the treasurer and a thank you for the back issues of the paper. Has a bit of eye trouble and a spur on the heel and has an appointment for same on the 27.7.84. **Allan** speaks of old names and remarks that he and **Peter Bell** were side drummers in the original band. Sends regards to all with a special mention for the Newcastle mob, his original hometown.

• **JACK COATES** 2/1 Umina, better known as the Balmain Tiger, sends a letter with the information on **David Lucas** an ex Pioneer living on Macleay Island, Queensland with his daughter and son-in-law **Diane** and **Rod Lindner**. Talked quite a bit to **Jack** has not been in any contact with the mob since discharge. Has been very sick, stroke and coma for awhile but is slowly coming good. **Jack** also mentions that he and **Lex** on a cruise down the Brisbane River saw the HMAS Tobruk tied up and took a couple of photos of same. Also mentioned that **Jack Collis'** son **Bill** has been posted to HMAS Hobart and will be off soon on a 4 months tour of duty. Still falling for the baby sitting duties as he quotes, Dad on the paddock, Mum at work at the hospital, and Grandad on the sideline with the kids, a fitting duty for a tiger. **Max** has written you with regards the books, but I think the tiger's roar has sunk to a low growl now mate, not that my mob are doing it any easier. Thanks for the letter mate, and I hope to see you at Coffs. Thank heavens it won't be grand final time, I don't think I could take another one like last year with all those Pioneers around.

• **PAT LOVE** 2/2 Rivervale, West Aust., sends a cheque to the treasurer and a thank you for the News. **Pat** says he would not know **Max Herron** "naturally so as **Max** was 2/1 but still appreciates the work of **Herron** for his dedication to the

Pioneer Association. **Pat** was also a member of the 2/33, and receives the newsletter from them also, so keeps quite a check on his old mates of the years of conflict.

• **CLAUDE DENSMORE** 2/1 Wallsend, with a short note apologising for his late subscription, claims it's becoming a habit lately, no apologies are necessary old mate, I hate to think of the state I shall be in if ever I get to 82 years, it's still nice to receive a few lines and your good wishes to all are reciprocated likewise.

• **JACK McINTYRE** 2/2 per pen of wife **Jean** with the bad news that **Jack** has had a very bad stroke. He had taken himself off to Melbourne to visit old friends, and was actually at **Col Shea's** home visiting when he went down. They got him into hospital, rang **Jean** and she stayed with them, quotes, marvellous people words cannot describe **Frank Ball** visited **Jack** regularly in hospital, and drove them to the plane for their journey home. **Jack** is making a very good recovery and they are planning to be at Coffs in September. Thank you for your letter **Jean** we sincerely hope that the recovery continues to please and your cheque is in the safe hands of the treasurer.

• **FRANK CHEAL** 2/2 Port MacQuarie with a cheque for the treasurer and the advice of a change of address from Armidale as from the 7.7.84. How do you feel about that **Frank**, from the cold of the tablelands to the waters of the coast, a bit of a toss up this last few weeks.

• **TED (BLUEY) EATHER** 2/1 Kempsey, sends a cheque for the treasurer and the news that he is still getting along O.K. Always pleased to receive the News and to know how things are around the troops. **Bluey** sees a bit of **John Smith** at Smithtown but has still not made it to Macksville to look up **Bombo Reynolds** and **Ray Horne**. He claims t.at the old metal valve in his heart is still going strong and he can still go to a dance and dance all night. **Blue** misses **Larry Robson** doing his north coast run, **Larry** always kept them posted on the latest news, also collected their subs for them I'd say he spoilt you blokes more than your own wives do. Still does the three Services on Anzac Day. Dawn Service at Fredericktown, and then back to Kempsey. Has not had a drink or smoke for nearly 10 years now, but claims he had more than his share prior to that. Closes with best wishes to all and will confirm his plans about Coffs before he reads this paper.

• **MRS. MARJORIE HOOD** wife of the Late **Bill** 2/2 with a letter on **Bill's** demise, and the fact that we were possibly not notified, we know only so well how upset one gets at the loss of a loved one, and as was explained by the secretary we received the message per the Rats of Tobruk. Again we offer our sincere sympathy and hope that you attack the future as **Bill** would want you to, chin up, with your memories to provide you with the support and strength necessary in your darkest hours.

• **BERN REINERS** 2/1 Corryong, with a newsy letter and that they are all fit and well. Wife **Mona** had a 60th birthday in June, and as he says must be improving with age, hitting the golf ball very consistently while his game is going to the dogs. They have intentions of a holiday soon, going north to Brisbane, then a coach tour to Cairns, 15 days, before making a leisurely trip home down the coast. **Bern's** son and wife are doing a trip about the same time so it's possible that they may meet at Cairns. **Lex** number 2 son is on long

service leave and rang from Glasgow one Saturday night. He and another chap and a girl have an old Kombi which they are touring in. **Bern** claims they will be glad to get away from Corryong for awhile the weather has been terrible, very cold, and the worst still heavy fogs which hang around nearly all day, making every thing so damp and miserable. Closes with best wishes to all and with the chance of getting together in the near future.

• **TOM MANUEL** 2/1 Glen Innes, with quite a lot of news, some for the Last Post unfortunately, **Eric John O'Hara**. A little on the brighter side **Jack Rodgers** 2/1 still in some pain but being well attended by wife **Joyce** and family. As **Tom** says, still growling but they have become used to that. **Jack** and **Edna Marshall** 2/1 very well, **Jack** has unloaded some of his spare birds, has kept some with **Edna's** approval. Feathered ones of course. **Bob** and **Shirley Donald** both well, **Shirley** and another lovely voice teamed to entertain the R.S.L. Pensioners Dinner, they have 4 of these a year, and both sang beautifully, the old songs that are so much appreciated by the age group involved. Recently seen and in good health **Col Noon**, **Clive Meak**, **Kings Plains** and **Vic Donald** all doing O.K. **Tom** passes on his best wishes to **Alex Durie**, and also informs us that in reference to my comments last issue on **Geoff Dynon's** handwriting, that all doctors' write like that so that patients can't decipher what they have to take. **Tom**, speaking of **Geoff Dynon** also makes a comment, "does **Geoff** remember their short cut to the 'CRATER' and **Lt. Col. Buckley's** remark, 'that they were never again to be teamed for guidance', on the Atherton Tablelands." How about that **Geoff**, put pen to paper and give us all the full story but don't take all the blame yourself. Many thanks for a good letter **Tom** and best wishes from us all.

• **MRS. BONNIE SNUDDEN**, Cobar widow of the late **Cec** writes for some information which was dealt with by personal letter from the Sec. and a thank you for the regular Pioneer News. **Bonnie** received a card from wife **Connie** telling her of **Allan Stephs** recovery down at Coleraine, Vic. and was so pleased to hear the good news. **Bonnie** closes with best wishes and kindest regards to all members and families of the Association.

• **FRED WHEATON** 2/1, Sawtell wrote me a letter late June, sorry **Fred** that I did not answer it straight away, "I'll owe you a rum" but your offer of assistance re the Coffs Show greatly appreciated but the operation was fully organised. Of course we may find you a job or two over the period but nothing concrete as yet. From the note received, it appears **Fred** and **Jean** have been overseas but you did not say how long you were away and where you went. While in London, **Bluey Simmons** called at their hotel and took them to his home where they had a great day. Had a couple of beers, but **Blue** is not 100% has a heart problem and **Fred** claims **Blue** has never forgotten that hair cut they gave him back in 1941. While on the subject I hope you are both coming to Coffs, when speaking to **Max** last, they had not heard from you, naturally as you were away, but I hope you do come, I know it is only a short way away but would still like to see you both join us at the Caravan Park for a few days. Most of us are arriving there on the Wednesday 12.9.84 and staying a full week. Promise we won't put you on the wood heap or any hard manual labour, so keep your options open, speak nicely to the boss.

• **SID JOPSON** 2/1 of Port Macquarie has not been well of late but with complete rest is coming good. In a letter from **Myrt** she mentions their daughter **Ann** has presented them with another grand-daughter on the 28th June. They are also expecting their daughter-in-law to present them with another grandchild sometime in September. This will make ten grandchildren.

Sid and **Myrt** celebrated thirty seven years of marriage on the 19th July and it was a very quiet occasion.

Sid was pleased to have a call from **Vince Petrich** in June and was happy to chat with him about old times.

Thank you for your letter and subscriptions **Myrt** and keep up the good work of looking after **Sid**.

• **JACK COLLIS** 2/1 of Umina sends along a second report to say **Harry Hutchinson** is now out of hospital and at home being looked after by his wife **Hazel**.

The family have placed **Jack's** citation for life membership in a place of honour on the wall so that all visitors can see it. **Jack** said the family get as big a thrill as he does to see it.

He states he will get down one day to Strathfield and call on **Doctor Dynan**.

• **COLIN CAMERON** of Campbelltown, writes to say all is well up his way and wishes to be remembered to all Pioneers.

• **JACK HOCKING** 2/2 of Chadstone, Victoria writes to say **Col. Shea** was taken to Royal Melbourne Hospital in June with heart trouble. **Ted Hansen** had visited **Col** and said he could be in hospital for some time. We do hope by now **Col** is fully recovered and all in Sydney send their regards and best wishes to you **Col**.

• **WYN HAYDEN**, wife of **John**, 2/1, Orange, writes a long letter with many thanks for the Pioneer News and apologies for not writing sooner.

Was pleased to see that **Bill Jollie** was marshal for the 2/1sts on Anzac Day and mentions that **John** is unable to make the Sydney march on account of him being the permanent marshal in Orange and enclosed a cutting from the local paper with **John's** photo in it.

John's knees are not the best and in time will have to have a knee replacement.

Their son, **John**, has two daughters, aged ten and seven, and they have also become grandparents again with the arrival of their first grandson, to daughter **Helen**. There were a few worrying weeks after the baby was born and eventually he was taken by air ambulance to Sydney for specialist treatment. However, he is now progressing well and keeps **Wyn** and **John** on the go – we all know that feeling!!

Wyn says the weather in Orange has them almost bogged to the knees and says if fine weather doesn't soon put in an appearance they will be sprouting webbed feet.

Thanks for your newsy letter, **Wyn**, also for the donation to Association Funds. Your good wishes are passed on to all Pioneers and we hope you and **John** keep well and make another of our country reunions in the future.

That concludes the Mail Bag for this issue this is one of our quieter magazines, and I can't say much about the football, I'll save it all for Coffs, golf sticks are a must for this week, so don't forget to pack them in, to the home brewers, unlimited supplies are allowed, and keep your elbows in working order. That's it for now see you all at Coffs.

—LAKEY

NEWS ITEMS

MAVIS HALL, daughter of the late Mrs. O'Malley Wood, called on Peg and Max Herron recently and was pleased to hear of the progress of the Association. **Mavis** still lives in Dubbo and since the death of her husband has been kept busy managing the home.

Mavis was interested in the albums of both Pioneer Units and also the photos and newspaper cuttings which have been displayed at our Country Reunions.

Nice to keep in touch with you, **Mavis**, and best wishes from all in the Association.

BOB DIXON, our popular Social Secretary, is at the moment in Concord recovering from a lung operation. His wife, **Jean**, expects **Bob** to be in hospital for several weeks and unfortunately they will be unable to attend the Reunion at Coffs.

Our very best wishes to you, **Bob**, for a speedy recovery and we shall certainly miss you at the Reunion functions.

SECRETARY'S REQUEST

Please address mail to Secretary as follows:-

M. Herron, Hon. Sec.,
2/1-2/2 Pioneer Btn. Assoc.,
3 Enoggera Road, Beverly Hills, N.S.W. 2209.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1984

At the Annual Meeting one stopped to think back over the years since the end of World War Two nearly thirty nine years ago.

Many members have passed on over those years, but still this, 2/1-2/2 Pioneer Battalion Association remains as strong as ever. All members may not now be in good health, but lack of good health is made up by enthusiasm and support for the Association.

Very seldom nowadays do we refer to the 2/1 Pioneer Battalion or 2/2 Pioneer Battalion for over the past twenty years we have been united as one body 2/1-2/2 Pioneer Battalion Association.

Throughout the years the numerous Reunions in the different country towns are looked forward to and are well attended. Never has there been any trouble at these Reunions and the name of the 2/1-2/2 Pioneer Battalion Association has been held to the fore, with invitations to return to those towns visited.

We come to the Anzac Day March which is the day we remember the ANZACS who fought and died so that we, today could live in a free and democratic country.

We remember all sailors, soldiers, airmen and women from all conflicts since 1914, who gave their lives and those who have passed on since. The 2/1-2/2 Pioneer Association has always indicated that to survive "we must Remember

Them" and keep alive the name of Anzac.

Our Association alone in the past twelve months lost seventy members – "Lest We Forget".

At the Annual Meeting of 26th April 1957 a comparatively young man took over the reins of the Secretaryship of the 2/1-2/2 Pioneer Battalions Association. His dedication in an unpaid position (many times costing money by his wife and self) has bonded together this Association. As a committee man and President over the years I have an insight knowledge of the work this man has performed. Let me as President, on behalf of all members of the 2/1-2/2 Pioneer Battalion Association express thanks to that man – Max Herron.

Let us not forget the work by Max's wife Peg carried out for the Association – this is greatly appreciated by all members.

The Committee over the past year has worked hard and endeavoured to keep the standard of the Reunions to such a high one that all members look forward to the next one.

Owing to leg problem this will be the first Anzac March I have missed since 1946, but my thoughts will be with you all.

I thank all members for their confidence in electing me as your President over the years and I sincerely thank you all for making my position an easy one. —PRESIDENT JACK (MICK) DODSON

BRISBANE REUNION

SATURDAY, 27th OCTOBER, 1984

at 4 p.m. at the residence of

JOHN and MOLLIE HUNT

4/25 Mountford Road, New Farm, Qld. 4005.

Telephone 358 4349

Acceptance requested by 19th October.

PIONEER GET-TOGETHER

Calling ex-members of any of the Pioneer Battalions. A get-together dinner is being held at the RSL Club, Wagga on Saturday, September 8th, 1984.

For further details contact: J. Morgan, 282 Lake Albert Road, Wagga, Ph. (069) 22-6577, C. Knott, 17 Wallendry Avenue, Wagga, Ph. (069) 21-3091 or K. Knight, 11 Warrawong Street, Wagga, Ph. (069) 21-3529.

2/1-2/2 PIONEER BATTALIONS ASSOCIATION

PROGRAMME — COFFS REUNION

Saturday, 15th September and Sunday 16th September 1984

TOUR OF COFFS HARBOUR — 10 a.m. Saturday 15th. Booklets and map showing places of interest will be issued to members by motel/hotel owner. These will show places of interest around district so as to arrange own private tour in car. Members are asked to co-operate by arranging people without transport into their car for tour.

WREATH LAYING CEREMONY — Saturday, 15th September, 4.30 p.m.: Members to form up at Soldiers Memorial at junction of Grafton Street and Mooney Road. No march. Medals and decorations to be worn.

REUNION DINNER — Saturday 15th September. 6 p.m.: Pre Dinner drinks in the Auditorium Bar, first Floor of Coffs Harbour Ex-Services Club, Vernon Street.

7 p.m.: Three course dinner Auditorium. Cost: Pre-dinner drinks, wine or squash for two toasts, plus the meal, per person \$13.00.

TOUR and PICNIC LUNCH — Sunday, 16th September, 10 a.m.: Assemble car park opposite Civic Centre, corner of Castle and Vernon Streets.

10.30 a.m.: Depart from car park after organising people into as few cars as possible. Map and directions given to drivers for 11 km, 25 minute trip to Bruxner Park and Lookout. Bring own lunch. Barbecue facilities available. Bring fold up chairs or rugs, if available to sit on grass. Seating available for sixty people. Bruxner Park brochures will be included in envelope left in members room by motel/hotel. Refreshments at cost.

FAREWELL GET-TOGETHER — Sunday 16th, September. Coffs RSL 6 p.m.: Drinks purchased by members in the Auditorium Bar, first Floor of Coffs Harbour Ex-Services Club, Vernon Street.

7 p.m.: Smorgasbord dinner in the Auditorium and sole use of bar. Informal evening after meal. Cost per person \$9.00.

TRAINS — will be met by a welcoming committee consisting of Jim Field Director and assisted by Bob Lake, George Walker, Vince Petrich, Gordon Finlay and Vic. Whiteley.

On alighting from train, walk to exit and watch for large sign "Pioneers report here". Cars will then transport members to place of accommodation.

TRANSPORT OFFICERS have been appointed at each place of accommodation and their role will be to organise transport for the members who have travelled to the Reunion by train.

In addition to organising the transport at their own place of abode it is anticipated that the Transport Officers will liaise with one another with a view to assisting each other.

Places of accommodation with phone numbers and Transport Officers are listed below:—

Sapphire Gardens Caravan Park, Pacific Highway, 53 6282 — **JACK COLLIS**

Premier Motor Inn, Pacific Highway, 52 2044 — **VINCE PETRICH**

Bananatown, 15 Grafton Street, 52 4411 — **JOHN HUNT**

Golden Glow, 19 Grafton Street, 52 2742 — **FRED BELLINGHAM**

Chelsea Motor Inn, 106 Grafton Street, 52 2977 — **BERN DALY**

Hotel Coffs Harbour, High Street, 52 3817 — **PHIL CRAMSIE**

PLEASE BRING THIS PROGRAMME WITH YOU TO THE REUNION

LAST POST

BILL HOOD 2/2 of Wamboral passed away suddenly in March from heart trouble. He had not been enjoying good health for a long time.

Upon his request the funeral was a private one and his remains were taken back to St. Paul's Church at Chatswood where he was married.

Bill was a well liked and respected man in the 2/2nd Pioneers and to his wife, Marjorie and family we extend our sincere sympathy in their sad loss.

ERIC J. O'HARA 2/1 of Glen Innes passed away in June and the funeral was attended by our Glen Innes representative, Tom Manuel. The President of the RSL at Glen Innes conducted the service and the gathering was a very large one.

Eric trained and cared for racehorses as well as making available his veterinary knowledge to all people with animals free of charge.

He trained some famous New Zealand horses in his time and was widely respected for his efficiency and kindness to animals.

He was a quiet man with more friends than he came to realize.

Tom Manuel extended to Eric's widow and family the sincere sympathy of all Pioneers. He also arranged for her enrolment into Legacy.

JIM MUIR 2/2 of Bankstown passed away on 14th July after a long illness, and the funeral was attended by Jack McDonagh. The President and members of Bankstown RSL were also in attendance.

Bob Dixon and Jim Field had on numerous occasions visited Jim while he was in hospital.

Jack McDonagh extended to Jim's family the sincere sympathy of all Pioneers.

BLUEY CARTER 2/2 of Geelong passed away on the 14th June at his home. This news was related by Bob Dixon who had Bluey staying with him over the Anzac period. Bob states Anzac Day was a great time, but for him it was a special time because of the visit of his platoon mate Bluey Carter of Geelong.

Bluey had a fantastic time with all concerned and went home vowing to stir things up, Pioneer wise in Geelong. But this was not to be. He was a great mate and is sadly missed by his wife and family and all his friends. The four days he spent with Bob and Jean will never be forgotten.

CONCORD HOSPITAL

The Repatriation General Medical Centre at Concord is now equipped with a unique night landing system for helicopters, thus giving it greater urgent capabilities.

This new system was officially opened by the Minister for Veteran Affairs, Senator Arthur Gietzelt on 26th January, 1984 who performed the opening ceremony of what is known as the Australian designed, "Rotorstrobe Navaid System".

The new modern arrangement is a portable system which could guide up to six helicopters into the Medical Centres ground should a disaster strike.

The equipment gives approach and landing positions on the helipad. Incidentally it won a major prize in 1981 on the ABC Programme "The Inventors".

R.G.H. Concord, although Federal funded through the Department of Veteran Affairs, plays a major role in the N.S.W. medical system, and is also part of the Armed Services Medical Programme.

In the past, night time helicopter landings have been assisted by ambulance headlights trained across the sports ground.

Under the present system, pilots will be able to see the main beacon at the Medical Centre from up to thirty kilometres away and then approach, under guidance, to their assigned positions on the landing pad.

—HARRY MONTAGUE, Reporter