

NEWSLETTER

MAY, 1989

Here we go again, with most of our news this time devoted to Anzac Day, hoping that you are well equipped with staying power, reading glasses, a comfortable chair.

Wherever you live, you will have heard of our continuing RAIN in Sydney, and will understand our apprehension as Anzac Day approached. On Anzac Eve, a small CB group (Norman ALLEN, Bob BEVAN, Madeline CHIDGEY, Joyce GRACE, Norma KEELING, Dennis MOORE, Aub ROBERTS, Jim WILLIAMS, Stan and Marion WINN - with Ron Chidgey and Meg Osborne watching) paraded with Australian Intelligence and "Z" Force Associations to place our CB remembrance wreath on the Cenotaph in Martin Place. Some of our number were quite damp when they arrived and were glad to get home and dry out ready for the next day.

Weather-wise, next morning was (of course!) the same again. Our group was able to complete the March in a dry state, starting off in light rain which soon ceased, but some of the later marchers were drenched. The big crowd of onlookers responded warmly to the marchers. One little girl left her mother to hand a beautiful carnation to our 3 AWAS and 2 WAAAF in our front row - "for the ladies", the little girl said. A nice gesture.

We were led by our new President, Jim Williams, preceded by a fine drum band from the Air Training Corps, and also we had Allan OSBORNE to call the step and keep us in good marching order. As Allan wasn't a Drill Instructor in the RAAF, one of his many talents was wasted! We will gloss over the near disaster to our proudly held banner - again it was Allan to the rescue with 'running repairs' to keep it aloft!

Our marchers were Doug ALLEN, Norman ALLEN, Ivan AUPRINCE, Bruce BENTWITCH, Bob BEVAN, Ray BRADLEY, Keith CAROLAN, Mike CASEY, Madeline CHIDGEY, Dave GEYER, Gordon GIBSON, Joyce GRACE, Ailsa HALE, Norma KEELING, Jim KENNEDY, Stan KING, John LAIRD, Noel LANGBY, Brian LOVETT, Doug McNALLY, Doreen McPHERSON, Geoffrey MILNE, Dennis MOORE, Reg MURPHY, Roy PERRY, Allan OSBORNE, Bill ROGERS, John SHOEBRIDGE, Gordon SWINNEY, Athol WHYBURN, Jim WILLIAMS, Marion WINN.

A few of the marchers could not attend the Reunion, but many non-marchers came along, with family and friends who are always very welcome. The CB-ers were Jack BENNETT with Elma, Len CARRIGG with Margaret, Nobby CLARKE, Alf DAVIS with Flora, Frank HUGHES, Bill KALBFELL, Alan LANGDON, Bob LEONARD, Les McCLEAN, Noni McNAUGHT, Aub ROBERTS with Gwen, Diana SEYMOUR, John WALSH. Other family members and friends were Mrs. Ray BRADLEY, Joyce CASEY, Ron CHIDGEY, Joan BUCKLAND, Betty and Frances GEYER, Sue GIBSON, Sheila GREGORY, Heather LOVETT, Bruce LOVETT, Margaret McCAFFERTY, Molly MURPHY, Pam NORMAN, Meg OSBORNE, Mona OWEN, Norma KEELING'S family - Jacqueline, Claire & Ken STEGGA, and Diana SEYMOUR'S friends - Sally CLOUGH, V. JOHNSTON, Phyl PEDLINGHAM, Pat PHILLIPS, Nari WATKINS.

[It is now time to insert "E. & O.E.", meaning in this publication]
["Errors and Omissions Expected".]
[Apologies extended, but no prizes offered for detecting same!]

Our new venue, the HOTEL LAWSON, proved very popular and your Executive Committee has made a booking for next Anzac Day. The food was well presented, plentiful and tasty, and we were very well served by the solicitous hotel personnel. Our diligent Treasurer Norma had been concerned that we would not have the numbers to meet our financial commitment. Imagine her delight that our committed number was exceeded and we were allotted a larger room than we had booked.

It was great to have Bob BEVAN with us from faraway Rockhampton and looking very well, also John WALSH after two recent periods of hospital treatment - for his eyes and for removal of skin cancers. Bill ROGERS from Melbourne and Ray BRADLEY and his wife from Brisbane were very welcome. Quite a few others travelled long distances to meet in Sydney and help make our reunion a special day for all of us.

We had a jovial group from 4 Wireless Unit with us for the first time as a group - Doug McNALLY, with newcomers Roy PERRY, Geoff MILNE, Gordon SWINNEY, Jim KENNEDY. Before our Association was formed, the RSL did not know where they belonged, so placed them to march with a Radar unit! But now they have found CBICA and we are glad to welcome them into membership.

President Jim WILLIAMS and Secretary Gordon GIBSON each 'said a few words' and gave us notice of the visit to Melbourne during the weekend of November 11th and 12th next, with a wreath laying at the Shrine of Remembrance on the 11th and a Barbecue Reunion on the 12th. (See later).

Bob BEVAN spoke to us for a few minutes about Bob BURNSIDE, whose death was reported as we went to press with our last Newsletter. Lest we should forget or not know, Bob took us back to the beginning of the C.B.I.C.A. and the work which Bob Burnside and the late Frank TYLER had done in tracing CB fellows in the days of the Steering Committee, mentioning also Bob FROST, Brian BOMBELL, the late Stan SWAIN, the late Roy BOOTH, and others.

Bob Burnside was our first President and later was Publicity Officer. During the last few years, since his wife Jean died, he had not been fit enough to attend our social functions and was missed, especially by our long-time members. Bob Bevan stressed that we would not be at the Lawson enjoying our fellowship if it had not been for the time and effort exerted by Bob Burnside at the beginning. We stood for a period of silence to remember him with thankfulness.

Alan LANGDON then added his memory and appreciation of the care which Bob Burnside had shown him in 1978/79 when Alan was very ill in hospital.

Several of our members attended Bob's funeral at Woronora, in company with a large contingent from his old unit, the 2/1 Pioneer Battalion. Our sadness and sympathy have been extended to his sons and their families.

A "Profile" of Bob appeared in an earlier Newsletter.

Towards the end of our reunion, Geoff BALLARD and Stan WINN joined us, after marching with A.S.W.G. and attending their Reunion. Geoff was especially pleased to see Bill KALBFELL and Nobby CLARKE, a first meeting since WW2. Phil DYNES came along from the "Z" Force Reunion, also Lachie McNAUGHT (Noni's husband) from his Reunion.

I have just found out that May GERBER, who was a popular Associate Member in CBICA for some time, was at the WAAAF Reunion in the Lawson, and we didn't know she was there and she didn't know we were there! Next year she plans to call in to say hello.

People who wished to come to the reunion but could not for reasons of distance, health, other commitments - Arthur SIMS, Al JENKIN, Ray EDDOLLS, Peter & Molly COLLESS, Vic LEDERER, Clarrie HERMES, Les DOWNER, Lester TRUEX, Frances CURETON, Mac MARONEY, Ellie BENNETTS, Irene CHESSHIRE, Joy LINNANE, Charles STEPHENS, Syd CAREY, Cliff McINTOSH, Jean CAROLAN, Helen KENNY.

Thanks for your greetings, sorry you could not be with us, and our best wishes to those who have been hospitalised or have been feeling poorly.

So ended another Anzac Day and a lengthy report. We can now enjoy the memory until we meet again -

HOPEFULLY, in MELBOURNE, in NOVEMBER

Arrangements are under way for this and we ask for your response to the attachment, as soon as possible.

We expect the wreath laying at the Shrine of Remembrance to be around 3 p.m. on Saturday, 11th November, and our Barbecue Reunion in the garden at Parliament House on Sunday, 12th November, from 12.30 p.m. We understand the cost will be about \$15 each, but we are awaiting more information from Roy Ward and Harold Jones, Secretary of the W.U. Association in Victoria.

You will realise the importance of catering arrangements and hence the need for an indication of CBICA members, family and friends who plan to attend the Barbecue. So PLEASE don't file this Newsletter until you have advised Gordon of your intentions.

THANK YOU IN ADVANCE.

Alf DAVIS wants to hear from anyone in the small team who accompanied him in the forward unit of No. 1 W.U. to the landing in Leyte, and the Lingayen Gulf. His address is 1 Holly Street, Castle Cove, 2069, telephone 02 407 1432. Reg MURPHY has already responded. Any others?

A letter from Dr. Abe SINKOV said he was planning to spend a week in April in the Galapagos Islands. We look forward to his report of enjoyment of that enviable experience. Lester TRUEX sent us the enclosed information concerning Dr. Sinkov's election to the U.S. Military Intelligence Hall of Fame in 1987, along with seven others.

Lester and Kay are overseas just now, we think, visiting family and friends in the U.S. and touring Europe also.

Max and Nance HURLEY "spent most of last year doing a Caravan Trip around this great country of ours. It is certainly a big place and has many beautiful spots to visit". Max says, "I did my best to recognise the old camp sites at Coomalie Creek and Night-cliffs but Coomalie is now a big farm, and Nightcliffs is a suburb". They had a great trip, and "all in all, travelled 28,500 kms".

Bill ESTEP's interesting "Profile" is attached, plus a copy photo of 7 of the first 8 Enlisted Men from the U.S. who joined the small Australian and Air Force group awaiting them in Melbourne. (Tris Johnson was missing when the photo was taken). Thanks, Bill.

Al and Eunice JENKIN could not make the Anzac Day reunion due to the prospect of a further operation for Al; but we are happy to know that Melbourne is on their agenda.

Alan MARSLAND of Mitchelton, Queensland, is a new member. Because of health problems (a heart condition), he says he will have to take a passive role in our activities. Alan was a W.U. operator and also had a spell in 21 Henry Street. Geoff DAY, from A.S.W.G., has also joined our Association, having learned of CBICA through the A.S.W.G. Bulletin. A warm welcome to both.

Charles STEPHENS of Port Macquarie wrote, following our mention of his coming operation, with the astonishing news that the bone sent from Sydney in a freezer bag per "Comet" was dropped and smashed, and the new bone being despatched required at least 10 weeks testing for transferable diseases. So now we hope that his operation is over and that he is looking forward to a more comfortable and pain-free future. More news next time.

A letter from Frances CURETON, Derrinallum, Victoria, mentions that she was one of the original seven AWAS who went to Brisbane from Melbourne just before Christmas 1943. The others were Margaret KENNEDY, Betty (TOUGH) Chessell, Ruby McKEAN, Diana (MATTHEWS) Parker, Betty (BRYMER) Murray, and Nancy NELSON. So from the group of 7, we have 4 in CBICA and they should have a grand time together in Melbourne in November, assuming they all say "I will come" on the attached slip. Also Frances still occasionally sees Ruby McKean who lives only 20 miles away. But where are the other two?

Norma (PEEL) Schneider has had two spells in hospital recently and is now aiming at 100% fitness by July when she and Otto fly off to visit their daughter in Paris.

Sydney's continuing rain has already been given a mention, but the inconvenience this has caused is as nothing compared with the floods in so many areas, and some of our members live where their lives may have been seriously disrupted. If this is the case, please accept our sympathy for any inconvenience and discomfort you have been forced to endure. We would be pleased to hear that all is well with any who live near rivers which are liable to flooding.

And finally, sad news, once again.

During preparation of this Newsletter, we learned that PETER COLLESS had died on Thursday, 11th May, after five weeks in hospital. Peter (Snow) Colless will be remembered as a cheery and brave man, who will be sadly missed. Our Newsletter of May 1988 had his picture at our reunion at Henry Street. Who could forget seeing him walk into No. 21 on his recently acquired two artificial legs?

For many years, Peter has worked diligently for the welfare of veterans and was President of the Logan City Veterans Advisory/Counselling Service and he will be missed there, and also by his colleagues in the Queensland W.U. Association where he was President. For Central Bureau, when he was not with the Wireless Units, he was in the Order of Battle Section at Ascot Park. Peter's wife, Molly, is also 'one of us'.

Although Peter was a member of CBICA for only a few years, I, for one, will remember him as friendly, cheerful, brave, uncomplaining. We send our sympathy to Peter's family and especially to Molly who has shared Peter's life in health and infirmity for so long, with the same approach to life that we saw in Peter.

Marion Winn
Publicity Officer.

2/61 Moruben Road,
MOSMAN. N.S.W. 2088.

02 969 4277.

About two weeks after Douglas McArthur arrived in Melbourne, a group of eight enlisted men and three officers of the American Signal Intelligence Service arrived from the War Department in Washington D.C. to join with the Australian Central Bureau then stationed in Domain Road, South Yarra.

This was the first plane trip I had ever done. Washington to San Francisco; the last flight of the Pan-Am Clipper San Francisco to Hawaii; a B-17 to Christmas Island and Fiji; Liberator, wrecked on take-off from Fiji; another Liberator to Sydney; then, thankfully, the Spirit of Progress to Melbourne.

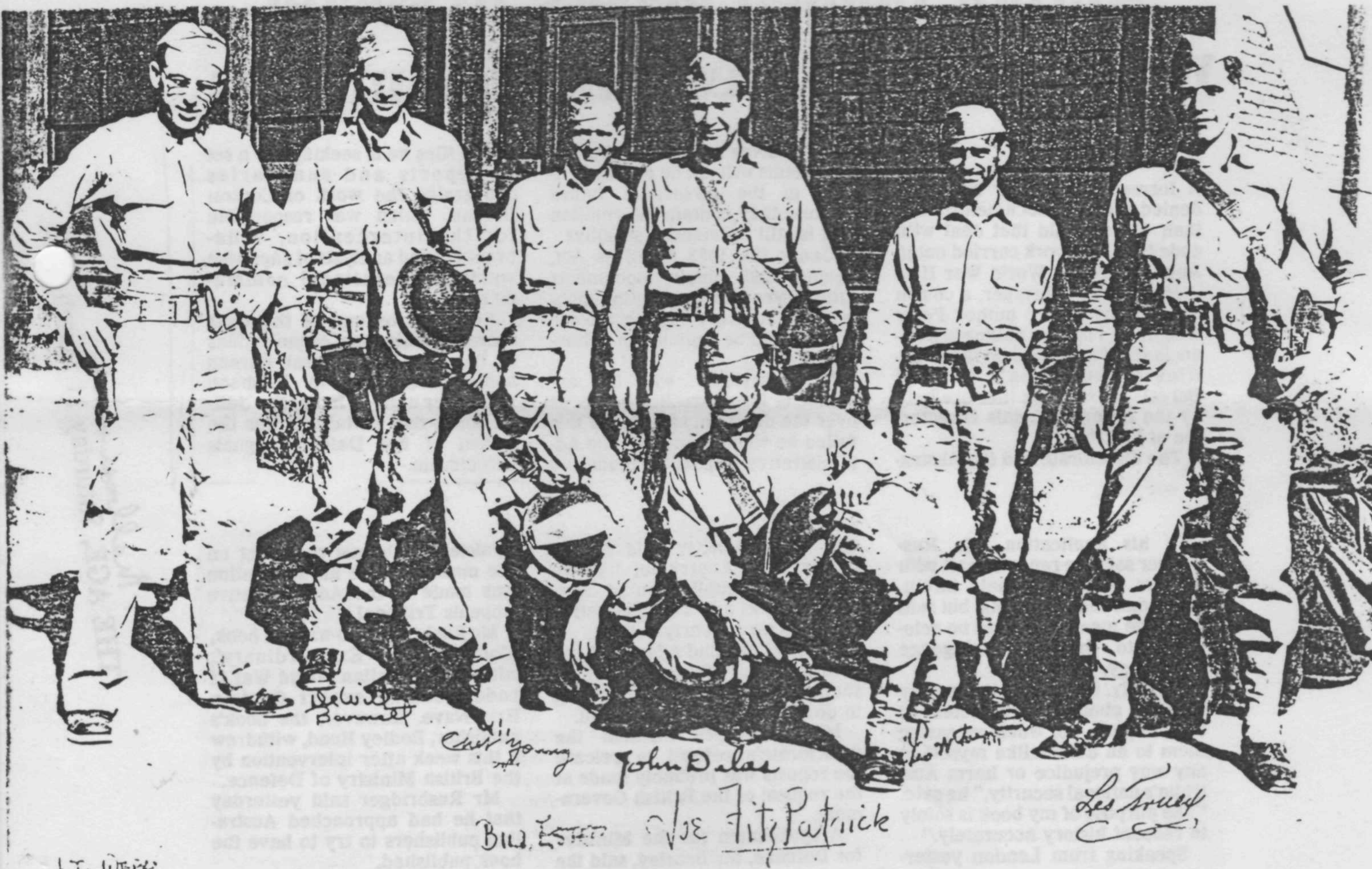
These eight men and three officers were the nucleus of the American Signal Intelligence contingent. They were: Capt. Larry CLARK, Lt. Charles GIRHARD, Lt. WEBB, DeWitt BARNETT, John DALAS, Joe FITZPATRICK, Leo TOEPPERWEIN, Les TRUEX, Chet YOUNG, Tris JOHNSON, and me. We referred to ourselves as "the original eight". Two larger groups arrived later; one group while Central Bureau was still situated in Domain Road, and more after moving to Henry Street in Brisbane.

I returned to Melbourne in 1943 to be married (on a three day pass), and in 1945 (on R. & R. leave) to be with my wife and baby son.

On returning to Henry Street in June 1945, I accompanied Colonel Hugh ERSKINE to the forward echelon at San Miguel, P.I. and soon thereafter, when the war ended, embarked from Leyte to return to the U.S. where I repeated my interrupted last six months at Cincinnati University and entered the employ of Eli Lilly International Corp. as a representative in Melbourne and Adelaide.

After 31 years with Eli Lilly, I retired in 1977, and after a sojourn on the north coast at Alstonville, returned to Sydney to live in Mowll Village, Castle Hill, trying to find enough time to do all the things Florence and I want to do.

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Colonel Sinkov pioneered the United States cryptographic effort, both as a reserve officer and a civilian employee of the National Security Agency (NSA). In 1930, Colonel Sinkov had been one of the first assigned to the newly formed Signal Intelligence Service (SIS), whose function was the study of codes and ciphers. He served with the SIS in the Panama Canal Zone and established a radio intercept station there—the first outside of the U.S. He also led an SIS cryptologic team to England in 1941, to initiate collaboration with the British. During World War II, he commanded the combined U.S. Australian unit, the Central Bureau, which broke the Japanese codes. The Central Bureau worked closely with the U.S. Army Security Agency and produced communications intelligence which significantly affected the outcome of the war. After World War II, Colonel Sinkov returned to Washington in civilian status, with the Army cryptologic effort. The National Security Agency (NSA) was soon formed and Colonel Sinkov continued his cryptologic work there. He served in a number of key positions at NSA, including Deputy Director for Communication Security and Deputy Director for Production. Colonel Sinkov retired from NSA in 1982.

Author denied access to secret wartime code-breaking documents

By MARK BRUER,
Canberra

A former MI6 officer has been denied access to documents more than 40 years old that deal with code-breaking work carried out in Australia during World War II.

Mr James Rusbridger, a cousin of the 'Spycatcher' author Peter Wright, and now an author-historian, is seeking reports on the activities of Australia's Central Bureau. He says the files are held by the Defence Signals Directorate at St Kilda.

The directorate and the Aus-

tralian Archives have told him the documents will not be made available in the foreseeable future because they contain information that is still considered sensitive.

Under the 1983 Archives Act, people can obtain documents after 30 years unless the Commonwealth can prove that to release them would be against the national interest.

Mr Rusbridger, who has appealed to the Australian Archives over the decision, said that if this failed he would appeal to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

In his application, Mr Rusbridger said the reports dealt with matters such as signals intelligence and code-breaking, but said their age meant they had no relevance to modern intelligence technology.

"Plainly, there is no longer any secrecy about the contents of these reports, nor would releasing them to an author like myself in any way prejudice or harm Australia's national security," he said. "The purpose of my book is solely to recount history accurately."

Speaking from London yester-

day, Mr Rusbridger said it was ironic that Australia, having allowed the publication of 'Spycatcher', was now being secretive about its own elderly secrets.

"Australians had a laugh at the British about that. Now they should realise that they are trying to do the same thing," he said.

Mr Rusbridger claimed the directorate's refusal to release the reports was probably made at the request of the British Government.

A spokesman for the Minister for Defence, Mr Beazley, said the

The files he is seeking are a set of reports and summaries concerning the work of Central Bureau, which was responsible for the interception, code-breaking and analysis of Japanese wartime operational communications.

Regarded as one of the most secret intelligence organisations of the war, the Central Bureau had headquarters in Brisbane with sister units in India, the United States and Britain. It was the parent of the Defence Signals Directorate.

minister would not comment on the matter before an application was made to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

Mr Rusbridger co-wrote a book, 'Code-breaker Extraordinary', with the Australian World War II code-breaking expert Captain Eric Nave. However, the book's publisher, Bodley Head, withdrew it this week after intervention by the British Ministry of Defence.

Mr Rusbridger said yesterday that he had approached Australian publishers to try to have the book published.