

Central Bureau Intelligence Corps Association

Newsletter: No. 1 1990

March

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The Annual General Meeting prescribed by our constitution was held on Monday 12 February 1990 at the Combined Services Club, Barrack Street, Sydney.

Reports.

President Jim Williams reported on the years activities. His report, as presented, is incorporated in this newsletter.

Honorary Treasurer Norma Keeling, accounted for her stewardship of Association Funds. We received \$3,542 spent \$3,531 and completed the accounting period with funds in hand amounting to \$385.

Election of Officers.

Nominations for positions on the management team, of members willing to accept nomination, conveniently matched the vacancies. The Acting Chairman of the meeting for the purpose of the election was able therefore, to declare the following result.

President: Jim Williams
Vice-Presidents: Mick Casey and Aub Roberts
Honorary Secretary: Gordon Gibson
Honorary Treasurer: Norma Keeling
Publicity Officer: Dennis Moore
Additional members of the Executive Committee: Madeline Chidgey, Noni McNaught, Ron Tabley.

Ron Chidgey, having once again offered his services was appointed to the role of Honorary Auditor.

Anzac Day.

Norma Keeling reported that following a change of ownership of the Lawson Hotel the cost of the package offered to the Association for its 1990 Anzac Day Reunion function made it doubtful as to whether we should accept. Members present agreed

that the Executive should take up the option of returning to Phillip's Foote which, through the good work of Gordon Gibson and Les McLean was still available to us.

General Business.

President Jim Williams reported his visit to Noni McNaught who was making a good recovery in hospital after a health set-back. Gordon Gibson advised that letters of appreciation had been sent to the people in Melbourne who made the November visit such a success. He named Tim James of the Defence Signals Directorate, Anthony Griffith, Secretary, Shrine of Remembrance Trustees and Association Members Roy Ward and Geoff Patience for the courtesy and hospitality extended to all members visiting Melbourne.

Gordon also reported having sent a letter of congratulations, on behalf of the Association, to Peter Hastings whose award of the Order of Australia was announced in the New Year Honours.

The meeting appointed Norma Keeling to represent the Association at the unveiling of the Ex-Service Women's Memorial in Loftus Street, Sydney on 16 February 1990.

Members present at the Annual Meeting were positive in their approach to an Interstate Reunion of C.B. and associated ex-service people in Sydney on 10 and 11 November next. Some good suggestions for activities emerged and were referred to the Executive Committee for consideration and further action.

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING.

Following the Annual General Meeting the Special General Meeting, of which notice had been duly given, was held to consider two proposals involving amendments to the constitution namely that 1) all retiring presidents become

ex-officio members of the Executive Committee and any Sub-Committee formed by the Association and 2) that the annual subscription be raised from \$6 to \$7.

After full discussion motion one was withdrawn by the proposer and the seconder.

Motion two was carried unanimously. The discussion which preceded this decision recognised that some members at least, believed that a subscription in excess of \$7 was warranted. The prevailing view, however, was that the meeting was limited to considering the proposal of which notice had been duly given.

EXECUTIVE NEWS.

The Secretary.

Gordon Gibson has provided information about Anzac Day 1990 and his usual formal announcement accompanies this newsletter. Gordon points out that Phillips Foote at 101 George Street North is part of the Rocks area and quite handy to Circular Quay Station. Its proximity to the former Maritime Services Board Building and the Overseas Shipping Terminal also make it easier to find in this sprawling City of Sydney. Inflation gallops on and Gordon wants the old hands to remember that this year the base charge of \$14 per head covers roasts or barbecued steak and a variety of salads only, deserts and coffee are extras and the complimentary drink is a thing of the past.

New Members.

Sylvia PARIS (nee Ferguson)
56 Bryant Street, Flemington 3031

Jack REEVE
65 Austin Street, Newtown. Geelong 3220
Brian WALSH
40 Eton Street, Malvern 5061

James WARMINGTON
11 Talbot Avenue, Balwyn 3103

Peter DREDGE
49 Richmond Terrace, Richmond 3121

Kelth PHILLIPS
37 Radio Avenue, Balgowlah Heights 2093

John WARMINGTON
26 Mountain View Parade, Rosanna 3084

Laurie DALE, Tasmania

A hearty welcome is extended to each new member

The Treasurer.

Norma Keeling reports that some members were so supportive of moves to increase the annual subscription by an amount more significant than one dollar that they pre-empted the decision of the Special General Meeting and sent to her amounts in excess of the prescribed seven dollars. Norma says "no problems!"—she can deal with this in one of three ways:-

a) use the overpayment for prepayment on the 1991 subscription,
b) treat the overpayment for 1990 as a donation or

c) refund the excess subscription. Some members who overpaid already have indicated their wishes. If you have overpaid and haven't indicated your wishes please let either Norma or Gordon know. Norma represented the Association at the unveiling of the memorial to Ex-servicewomen. She was glad of her "official" status which meant that she was entitled to a seat. There was such a big audience at this event that many people were left standing. Mrs. June Stone B.E.M., Chairman of the Council of Ex Servicewomen's Associations opened the proceedings and welcomed guests. The memorial (sculptured by Australian Dennis Adams) was unveiled by His Excellency Rear Admiral Sir David Martin KCMG AO, Governor of New South Wales. He was accompanied by Lady Martin. Norma says that she was delighted by the appropriateness of the memorial but even more so by the Governor's speech. Sir David referred to the work done by "service girls" (Norma's term---not the writer's) in many of the tasks of the army, navy and airforce and put intelligence work at the very top of his list. This is the first time such major public recognition has been made of the contribution made by servicewomen in the field of intelligence gathering, says Norma.

PEOPLE

Madeline CHIDGEY is recovering from a further round of aural surgery and seems to be progressing very well.

Frank SCALLY'S health is such that nowadays he is virtually "confined to barracks". We are sorry that he is unable to attend Association functions. Having such a taste for good literature as Frank does is a blessing during times of physical disability.

Remember the story about the bone damaged in transit? Well it did have a happy ending. Charles STEPHENS up there in Port Macquarie finally had a good replacement bone installed. Charles' who is nearing eighty says his repaired limb is coming along slowly and "it will come good in time". He gives praise to his very good personal nurse—his wife.

Noni MCNAUGHT is looking forward to being fit enough to attend the Anzac Day reunion with Lach and friends including Joy ROWLAND our only member in Western Australia.

Phil DYNES of Springwood was all set to travel to Melbourne last November. To use Phil's words "I got a hurried call to Concord to have a cornea transplant ---- that put finish to the trip south". Stitches are due out this month and in goes a new lens. After forty six years Phil will have an eye which sees again.

Eve SCOTT visited Europe and the U.K. last winter for a six weeks holiday and of course met up with her doctor daughter Robyn in England. Apparently it was quite a surprise to Eve when Robyn arranged to be married during Eve's visit. Our reporter says that Eve contacted her last January just before taking off for England again. This time it was to be with Robyn in a time of need. Robyn's husband had died following a sudden heart attack six months after the marriage. Our sympathies are extended to Robyn and Eve and her family. Indeed a tragic situation.

According to the present Mayor of Caulfield Geoff PATIENCE'S "contribution to the City of Caulfield has been enormous". Now it is a family affair. Two of Geoff's three sons hold senior positions in the local government

sector. Geoff himself is a former Mayor of Caulfield and has represented the South Ward of that City since 1976. (with acknowledgments to the "Malvern-Caulfield Progress").

If we forget about time differences, whilst we are marching down Martin Place on April 25 or perhaps watching the march on T.V. and trying to glimpse the C.B. banner Past President Mick Casey will be attending the special 75th anniversary service on the Gallipoli Peninsular. Mick's father was an original ANZAC and remained on Gallipoli for the whole period of the operation. Mick will spend more time at the site on 26 April before he and his wife Joy travel to Athens, French and Belgian World War 1 battlefields and then to England.

RECOLLECTIONS.

"No uniforms had been made for us but we did have A.W.A.S. armbands and mens greatcoats to top our civilian dresses." This was the Australian Womens Army Service in March 1942 according to the recollections of Helen KENNY. Helen did her rookle programme at Killara and proceeded to the cipher office at Victoria Barracks to learn her cipher skills on the job. Such was the level of preparedness for the entry of women into the armed services in 1942—no uniforms and little in the way of formal training courses. Helen and her cipher colleagues went to Brisbane in September 1943 fully expecting to go on to active theatres of war in New Guinea but the Army, or was it the Government of the day, intervened and only nurses it seems were sent closer to overseas battle lines. In April 1944 Helen transferred to Central Bureau.

Bill CLARKE supplied the following story about Frank (Paddy) PATRICK as told by Group Captain Quentin FOSTER who was Paddy's Commanding Officer at Six Wireless Unit. It is a story which fits in either the PEOPLE or the RECOLLECTIONS segments. "Our recent C.B./Wireless Units gathering at Parliament Gardens, Melbourne, was a huge success and enjoyed by all. There were many exchanges of friendship and memories of events which occurred during service with

C.B. and Wireless Units. Maybe everyone didn't realise it but the oldest member of us all at 85+ years was F.J. Patrick of Bundoora, Melbourne, who finished the war as an Intelligence Officer with 6 W.U. in the Philippines. Frank spent sixteen years or so in the Merchant Navy before joining up as a RAAF radio operator and was posted to HQ RAAF Station, Richmond N.S.W. He was later posted to 7 E.F.T.S. Bundaberg in 1941 as a morse instructor and also spent several months at No 1 W.A.G.S. Ballarat as a morse instructor. Then he got caught up in the Wireless Unit web and was posted to an embarkation depot in Melbourne where he became a student on the first Kana Morse course. On completion of the course in 1942 he was posted to Townsville to join the Wireless Unit detachment at Pimlico. In September 1943, with a section of 4 W.U. he was attached to an Army section at Port Moresby and operated from the old Aeradio Station at Kella, (3 mile) Alstrip. Whilst at Port Moresby he went on a tour of captured Jap signal offices at Nadzab and Sanananda. Later in the year he returned to 4 W.U. at Townsville and was N.C.O. in charge of a watch where the C.O. was Captain Brown from the U.S.A.F. From Townsville he was posted to C.B. to become a kana code morse instructor. Whilst at C.B. he was recommended for a Commission and went to Melbourne to do the A.S. and D. Course. On completion he was posted to Blak then to Hollandia where he embarked on the "Panama Express" for Leyte and joined 6 W.U. at Tacloban in the Philippines. From Tacloban he went south to Ino Pacan on Mindanao Island with a voice intercept party. He later returned to Tacloban and accompanied 6 W.U. to San Miguel where he was stationed for five months until the war ended. He returned to Brisbane with C.B./W.U. personnel on that never to be forgotten hell ship the "Frances S. Blanchett". There were no saloon passages on that old tub. On his discharge from the RAAF Frank took out an Amateur Operator's Licence and now spends his time talking around the world to other amateurs. He would dearly like other C.B./W.U. amateurs to contact him with the intention of forming a C.B./W.U. network. He can be contacted on 03 467 2733 or at No. 4 Marie Court, Bundoora, Victoria 3083.

EDITORIAL.

Times change and so do Publicity Officers which is rather sad for our Association. Madeline Chidgey and Marlon Winn produced newsletters which I believe met all of the standards by which one can judge these things. They gathered the right kinds of information to capture and to hold the interest of our members. They presented the information in a style appropriate to the audience for which they were writing. I know that their work is very much appreciated by a wide range of members, especially those whose personal contact with their C.B. and W.U. friends is limited because of distance or sadly with the march of time, by limiting physical incapacities. I accepted the job because Madeline and Marlon both offered to assist. Indeed Marlon's information gathering skills are reflected in this particular newsletter and are gratefully acknowledged. The Melbourne reunion has prompted an all out effort to have an equally successful reunion in Sydney in November. Some venues and activities have been proposed. Your Executive is open to, and in fact hopes to receive an avalanche of suggestions from our members. Planning time, however, is running out quickly so don't delay. I guess we all have ideas about the purpose of C.B.I.C.A. Likely as not these would include good fellowship, reunions and the enjoyment of reminiscing about those far off war years. The Paddy Patrick story certainly struck chords in my memory. How about writing for publication a note about your wartime activity to include your units, locations and special events. Please, new members especially, let's hear from you!

Dennis Moore.

Publicity Officer.

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