



CENTRAL BUREAU INTELLIGENCE CORPS ASSOCIATION

Newsletter Number 4 December 1991.

NOT SO SECRET SIGINT

It is interesting to reflect that in 1991 other people are carrying on with the work that we used to do. It isn't, however, the top secret activity it used to be. Shadowy perhaps, but certainly not secret.

* S.B.S. Television News, The Sydney Morning Herald and A.B.C. Radio News recently have all carried stories about a secret operations room which Australia maintains on Cape York. We have been intercepting diplomatic and military radio traffic from Papua New Guinea since 1987. It is alleged that the main interest was in traffic about the situation in Bougainville. The Government of Papua New Guinea has expressed its displeasure.

* Defence Signals Directorate would have a comprehensive picture of events surrounding the November 12 massacre in East Timor. The story comes from Dr. Des Ball of Canberra's Strategic and Defence Studies Centre and was reported in the Sun Herald on November 24. Dr. Ball presumes that the detailed intelligence information would have been passed on to the Australian Government. He claims that by monitoring communications from Jakarta to Dili, from military units in East Timor to the Indonesian armed forces in Dili and from Dili to Jakarta D.S.D. would know quite a lot including why the troops fired on Timorese people.

Dr. Ball raises that old chestnut which plagued the Sigint specialists in World War II, "If the Australian Government admits to knowing too much detail" it would let the Indonesians know precisely which communication channels and frequencies are being monitored and which codes are being broken." There are two factors to be considered here. If the traffic originators know that their communications are not secure and are subject to successful eavesdropping they can either stop using broken codes or take other steps to beat the interceptors. In other words they take steps to

deprive the unwanted listeners of a source of intelligence.

Perhaps the second of the two factors is the more serious one. We experts know how much detailed information can be gained from intercepting enemy radio traffic. In more recent times it seems that we tune in to non-enemies as well. Having the motivation, or if the motivation then the capacity to take any meaningful action in response to what is discovered is much more significant than merely knowing. Geoff. Ballard's readers will know that his unit copied much German traffic in the Greek and Crete campaigns but this didn't seem to be of any help to Allied forces fleeing in the face of German forces superior in equipment and numbers. Does the Government have any will or, if will, any capacity to do anything about the East Timorese situation anyway?

* British forces are still publicly in the Sigint field too. Signal intelligence staff copying the Iraqi radio net in the Gulf war needed counselling by Army psychiatrists according to a Reuter's news report. "They were distressed by the sound of Iraqis screaming for medical attention as their tanks burned and their columns disintegrated under air attacks."

Newsletter lifted this item from Australian Intelligence Magazine as a further example that Sigint is alive and well, albeit with a little psychiatric help.

NUCLEAR FISSION (it changed your life.)

What if someone had decided not to drop those bombs? What might you have been doing late in 1945? All those C.B. AWAS and WAAAFs may have got their wish and travelled offshore afterall.

The first massive assault on the Japanese homeland was planned for November 1, 1945. The landing on the main island of Honshu was scheduled for the

following March. To be sure the landings were to be all American affairs except for some British Naval units. Nevertheless it is a fact that Central Bureau was to have been fully involved. Some of our members had already been measured for cold weather apparel and knew that their next operations base after Luzon was to be Kyushu. We were officially included in the plans for "Operation Downfall", the invasion of Japan.

The first stage code named "Olympic" was designed to put a big force on Kyushu on November 1. If that succeeded "Operation Coronet" would attempt to put American forces onto Honshu. Attempt is the key word. The Japanese nation was waiting and well prepared to resist to the end, just like the British when anticipating a German invasion. Most of the material for this story comes from a book called "TOP SECRET- the Story of the Invasion of Japan" written by James Martin Davis. According to Mr Davis the Japanese civilian population was inflamed by a national slogan, "One hundred million will die for the Emperor and the Nation." Remember Churchill's "We will fight them on the beaches etc."?

Davis claims access to recently declassified documents in the National Archive in Washington and also refers to captured Japanese documents and post war interrogation of Japanese military leaders. He says that the Japanese outwitted our intelligence people by deliberately winding down air activity. We were duped into underestimating the number of aircraft available for the defence of Japan's home islands. American intelligence put the number at 2,500. Not so! Davis puts the number at five times higher. A large number of these aircraft would have been used in Kamikaze attacks. With good reason the Kamikaze pilots were a feared weapon in 1945. Japan had been saving aircraft, fuel and pilots after the Philippine withdrawals and was indeed still building new planes in underground factories.

Intelligence analysis made some forty years ago and close to the events suggested that the battle for Japan would have produced the biggest bloodbath in history. Japan's navy, army, airpower and twenty eight million civilian members of a National Volunteer Combat Force would have resisted to the death.

Where would you have spent Christmas 1945?

Thanks to Allan Marsland for drawing attention to "TOP SECRET".

EXECUTIVE NEWS

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK.

Since my last report in No. 3 Newsletter (Sept. 91) I was pleased to learn that we now have over 170 members. Quite a number, of course, are dual members and are associated with A.S.W.G. or State Wireless Unit Associations. This fact speaks well for a change in our name. I have been an advocate for this for a long while, without having brought it up at any of our meetings. After all, we were all doing the same job under different guises or in different uniforms. I rather like Bruce Cooper's suggestion of "Australian Special Signals Intelligence Section". (I personally prefer "Corps" to "Section"). Bruce is a member of Queensland Ex RAAF W.U. Assn. Naturally any change would necessitate much work on revised letterheads, badges etc. Nevertheless, I think that it would be worth it in the long run and bring us under the one banner. I would not consider the cost beyond our monetary capabilities. I will raise this subject at our next Committee Meeting. Perhaps we need a referendum involving all States.

From time to time we receive reports of sick members and regrettably deaths. I always make a point of writing and/or phoning the member or some close member of the family. Recently one of our Victorian members passed away and I have written to his wife this day. Please let me know of anyone who is on the sick list. I consider it my duty as your President to contact these people and express our condolences.

I'm hopeful for a South Australia or Victoria sojourn in 1992. This subject will also be reviewed at our February 92 Annual General Meeting.

I do not have to carry on with further comments as our Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer, Publicity Officer and indeed other scribes are so comprehensive in their reports, that it leaves little for me to say.

Do have a Merry Xmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Jim Williams
President.

Hon. SECRETARY'S PAR..

First Melbourne, second Sydney, third Brisbane. The venue for our Fourth Annual Combined Reunion of C.B., A.S.W.G. and R.A.A.F. W.U. Associations ?? How about the fair city of Adelaide with its stately spires sparkling in the mid-October sunshine and beyond the Hills the vineyards of beautiful Barossa Valley verdant after the winter showers? This is the picture that sprang to the mind of our member on the spot, Ted Cooper when I contacted him recently for

preliminary discussions only. Ted will be in touch with our other "Adeladians": Ken Price, Jack Brown, Brian Walsh, John Davies and Don Laidlaw for their ideas and suggestions. So more later but it is by no means too early to start giving the matter some thought especially with airlines now offering such cheap rates for advance bookings. Full details in the first Newsletter for 1992.

Our membership continues to grow and we now have 172 on our mailing list due to people seizing the opportunity to spread the word, when the occasion arises. The most recent example is when Dennis Moore, attending a function at the University of N.S.W. found himself in conversation with its former Professor of Political Science who turned out to be Doug McCallum, well known to me personally as I was with him at 51 W.T. in Darwin and we came down on leave together early in 1945. This entailed a long overland journey by the "square wheeled" train to Larrimah, then truck to Mount Isa, rail across to Charters Towers and Townsville and then down the coast to Brisbane. I seem to remember our being penniless at the time and not having the price of a drink on the whole hot and dusty trail! Welcome aboard Doug and we look forward to your company on Anzac Day next!

Thanks to the team work of our entire Executive Committee and also to the goodwill and camaraderie of all members, our Association has had yet another good year. I wish you all a peaceful and joyous Christmas and health and happiness in the New Year.

Gordon Gibson.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

With Xmas almost upon us I'd like to wish all our members and their families a joyous Xmas And a Happy New Year and for all those whose health in 1991 hasn't been the best may 1992 show great improvement.

A little interest to anyone who was lucky enough to be in barracks at "Whytecliffe" Clayfield Brisbane. I was there before being posted to C.B. Whilst in Brisbane for our C.B. reunion I called there just for curiosity and was greeted very warmly by teachers and the headmaster as a boy's school has now been built on the property. As they are putting together the history of "Whytecliffe" they were most interested in what I had to tell them and now an Australian movie is being made called "Red Heads" and they will be using "Whytecliffe" and many of the Landmarks of Brisbane in the film. Whilst there I was taken over the building which then was not in use but soon to be restored and there I stood on the very spot where my bed stood ---- what memories came tumbling back to me.

On a more serious note; at our last C.B. Executive meeting the matter of increasing our annual subscriptions was discussed, due to increased costs as it was pointed out that the postage and printing costs of each Newsletter now amounts to approximately \$200. A motion was carried to the effect that the proposal to increase the annual suscriptions from \$7 to \$10 be placed before a special meeting to be held after the A.G.M. on the 3rd. Feb. 1992.

I had a most enjoyable lunch with one of our very new members, Norma Smith from the Special Wireless Group and her friends of the Wireless Group are showing interest in joining C.B. ----- so that's great. Our membership is still increasing although very sadly some are no longer with us but we remember them with great comradeship.

Was so pleased to receive a Xmas card from Bob Bevan, he sends his kind regards to all his friends at C.B. Assoc. and I know we all send our best wishes to him.

Instead of ending with my usual verse I thought this poem written by General Douglas MacArthur would be appropriate.

Build Me A Son.

*Build me a son who will be strong enough to
know when he is weak,
And brave enough to face himself when he is
afraid,
A son whose wishes will not take the place of
deeds.
Build me a son whose heart will be clear,
whose goal will be high;
A son who will master himself before he seeks
to master others.
One who will reach into the future, yet never
forget the past.*

*And after all these things are his, may he
have
Enough of a sense of humour, so that
He may always be serious, yet never take
himself too seriously.
Give him humility, so that he may always
remember
The simplicity of true greatness, the open
mind of true wisdom,
And the meekness of true strength.*

*Then, I, his father, will dare to whisper,
"I have not lived in vain."*

Norma Keeling.

PEOPLE

HENRY W.KROGER died quite suddenly late in October. Harry, as he was known to us, and his wife Myra, travelled from their home in Victoria to Brisbane and enjoyed participating in the Henry Street reunion in August. Harry's name appears in that list, compiled at war's end, of people who had served in 6 Wireless Unit. Condolences are extended to Myra.

ROY PERRY made good use of his video camera at Henry Street and later shared with Newsletter his view of the reunion through the camera lens. He arranged for the tape to have a limited circulation in Sydney before being routed back to his home in Dora Creek N.S.W. Viewing Roy's subsequent travels through Sanctuary Cove on the end of the tape proved to be just as interesting as the re-run of those Henry Street speeches.

New member, **DOUG TRIGAR**, an ex Army C.B.er happens to be in the same bowling club as Mac Jamieson. Doug found out about C.B.I.C.A. through press reports of the reunion. Anyway, Mac is searching for info. about a Canadian wireless group which, it is said, came down from Oro Bay in 1945. They called themselves "No.1 Special Wireless Group" says Mac. If you know anything about this group please contact Mac direct or through Newsletter.

JEAN ROBERTSON (NEE McLENNAN) from Brisbane did a typing course through the A.W.A.S. in October 1942 and was posted to C.B. there to remain for the duration. Jean came to the Henry Street reunion. She believes that she was one of the first Army girls to be assigned to Central Bureau.

VIC LEDERER endured some high-tech surgery in Sydney in mid October and has not been blessed with a quick recovery. Perhaps he doesn't remember, or didn't even know that back in the early A.I.F. C.B. days in Melbourne he was affectionally known as "The Baron". We wish Vic an early return to good health.

Our wishes for a return to good health also go to **LEN CARRIGG**. Len has been battling an illness for some time. He also had to battle to get into the armed services in W.W.II. Eventually the system channelled him to serve with 1 W.U. in the tough times.

LESTER TRUEX now lives in a Melbourne suburb. **BILL ESTEP'S** home is just outside of Sydney. **JOE FITZPATRICK** didn't become an Aussie immigrant and still lives in the U.S.A. When it was known that Joe was to visit Sydney in August a strong bond inevitably drew these three veterans together again. Lester, Bill and Joe met up in Sydney. What was that

bond you say. They were once part of the team of eight U.S. Army personnel who joined the embryo C.B. organization in April 1942.

EVE SCOTT has written to Newsletter about the memories stirred by the Henry Street reunion. She says that her five WAAAF and two AWAS colleagues who operated coding machines for C.B. were bitterly disappointed at not being able to serve outside Australia. She did, however tour P.N.G. battle zones with a group of service personnel in 1987.

E.D.(Dave) PATON is a new member whose Sigint connections go way back to Syria and Lebanon with an Australian Army unit which he recalls as "5 Special Wireless". Dave did not get involved with intercept in the Pacific but served as a despatch rider. Perhaps some Middle East veteran will remember Dave.

JOY NOWLAND, our very active member in Western Australia has taken out an advertisement to publicise the existence of C.B.I.C.A. Perhaps Joy has in mind that if we had more members in W.A. we could hold a reunion in Perth and save her at least one long journey East.

Since the August reunion Secretary **GORDON GIBSON** and his surgeon have had a close encounter in the operating theatre. Gordon seems to have benefited markedly from the intimate contact and is now fit and well--- and his C.B.Assocn.co-workers are delighted about that.

New member **REG HARRIS** served in the R.A.F. and S.L.U.9 London. Probably S.L.U.9 was known only to a very exclusive C.B. inner circle. Newsletter will try to find out more for a 1992 edition.

IT CAN BE A GREAT LIFE (or) A SELF DRAWN PERSONAL PROFILE by RON TABLEY)

A week or so before 18 May 1943, Percy Baker, the Chief Clerk of the Division of Animal Industry, Dept of Agriculture NSW, in Sydney, spoke very solemnly to young Ron Tabley, one of his junior clerks, who was about to enter the RAAF, after having waited for what seemed an eternity for his call up.

"Ron" he said, "you are in for a great experience"
"It will either make you or break you"

"You will make lasting friendships and when it is all over you will remember the good times more vividly than the bad."

"I wish you well in all that you do, and look forward to your early return."

Percy Joseph Baker was an Australian Lighthorseman in WW1, and to this day whenever I think back to those

early days there's often a plumed slouch hat ther somewhere, with Percy underneath it. What he said to me that day was of course 100% correct.

That Ron Tabley was called up for the Army, but was lucky enough to be permitted to try for the Air Force, where he wanted to be.

He got in.

He subsequently was trained at Tocumwal, Point Cook and RAAF Command, Brisbane and then served at Nadzab, Hollandia, Biak, Leyte and Luzon with Nos. 1, 4, & 6 Wireless Units.

He had a short spell with the 112th. S R I of the USAF on Luzon. He can't quite fit those WU periods of service into perspective. He says he was posted to 4 WU but the only time he actually saw that unit was a few days before he finished his term in the Philippines (he was on Luzon at the time) from a hilltop where he and some others were watching a convoy of vehicles including mobile radio vans (he forgets what they were called but the name had a "9" in it somewhere ----- thinks it was TC9) winding their way towards their camp. It turned out that this was in fact 4 WU arriving from Australia!

4WU was operational at last but those posted to it initially saw it only as they were finishing their fifteen month term overseas.

The subject of this story was in, trained, overseas, back and out before he was 21.

Forgive me for using the third person in this writing up to now, but I hate using the word "I" (and have actually used it twice in this sentence). Since 1946 I have lived outside of Australia for almost twenty years on and off, including six in New Guinea and only recently caught up with the CB Association.

Speaking with ex WU and CB people I mentioned the latest adventure in my life, which actually surpasses anything which has happened to me previously and believe me life has never been dull.

I was married in 1951.

There are three boys and two girls from that marriage. My then wife and I drifted away from each other over twenty or so years and ultimately called it quits officially.

I have been married now to a Singapore girl for fourteen years.

My wife Misa has a son Rizal from HER first marriage. You can make an accurate guess how old I am.

We now have a beautiful fairhaired, very lively daughter, Yasmin Bessie, born would you believe on 8.8.88. Three year old Yasmin Bessie has some interesting family relationships, including a brother 37 years older than she is and three nieces plus one nephew just finishing high school.

I'll leave you to figure out some of the other family "ties" and don't forget that this is only on the Australian side. Singapore hasn't had a mention yet.

Thanks for listening.

Ron Tabley.

EDITORIAL

The long wait for the R.A.A.F. Wireless Units to have their story inked in on paper has just about ended. "The Eavesdroppers" should now be at the printers and be in the shops for you to buy before the end of January. Mr. Jack Bleakley arranged for publication by the Australian Government Publishing Service. The Chief of Air Staff, Air Marshall Sunnell has written a foreward to "The Eavesdroppers" and this indicates that Jack's book has achieved an air of "authenticity". Look for it in Commonwealth Govt. bookshops, big bookstores or try the A.G.P.S. Mail order service. It shouldn't cost you more than \$15.

Those gold name badges with black letters and our "official" Association badge mounted thereon, which a few members wore in Brisbane, may be purchased privately. The cost, where the member supplies the "official" badge is believed to be about \$5.50. Enquiries may be directed to the manufacturer Vic. Enterprises, P.O. Box 30 Runaway Bay 4216.

In response to a few requests we purchased from the Australian Broadcasting Corporation the video tape of the Henry Street news broadcast. It includes only the material which went to air and is therefore very brief. The tape may not legally be copied. Please contact me if you want to borrow it.

Even if you have only minimal contact with the mass media you could not help seeing some of the references to the fiftieth anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbour. Furthermore, if mention of the interception of radio signals still grabs your attention some of the material published in recent weeks may have aroused your interest. Among the most attention grabbing events is the long awaited publication of the book which British authorities tried to suppress "Betrayal at Pearl Harbour" by Rusbridger and Nave. Newsletter has lined up an interview with member Nancy Johnson, wartime secretary to Captain Eric Nave. In the next edition it is planned to review some of this material including also a fascinating BBC T.V. production called "Sacrifice at Pearl Harbour".

If you have read and/or watched these publications how about sharing your reactions through these columns.

And now at the end of my second year with Newsletter heartfelt thanks to everyone who has contributed an article, written a letter or report, or provided information by 'phone or drawn a cartoon. It is your input that enables Newsletter to be something more than an editorial monologue.

Best wishes for Christmas
and New Year.

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THE WAR AS RECALLED BY BRIAN LOVETT.

Me Mom wants to know
why we want so much
dried fruit up here.

Hic! Tell her the cook bakes
you a cake!!

On Active Service
San Miguel
1945

