



CENTRAL BUREAU INTELLIGENCE CORPS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER**NUMBER 2****JULY 1992**

**24 APRIL 1992
(The Wreath Laying)**

The sounds of the military parade ground surrounded the Cenotaph after sunset. Orders were barked and the step called. Alongside the A.I.A. Detachment members of C.B.I.C.A. stood to attention while President Jim Williams placed a wreath. In that solemn two minutes silence individuals thought their own thoughts; perhaps about young lives snuffed out by a ferocious enemy.

Just minutes later, at a Pitt Street intersection in our bustling cosmopolitan city an attractive, well dressed overseas visitor took particular notice of our two lady members and their war medals. She expressed interest and while the lights were red conversation flowed easily at the kerbside with a few polite words in her own language thrown in by our Auditor as a good will gesture. We walked on together up by The Hilton where the visitor left us for the luxury of the 5 star hotel. In 1992 Japanese tour guides and their groups can afford to stay in international class hotels. The ageing CB members plodded on laboriously to the Goulburn Street car park.

**25 April 1992
(The Sydney March)**

On parade: Roy Perry Madeline Chidgey Ailsa Hale Doreen MacPherson Frank Hughes Allan

Osborne Brian Lovett Bruce Lovett John Shoebridge Les McClean Norm Allen Don Robinson Ivan Auprince Dave Geyer Stan Russell Syd Carey Gordon Gibson Bob Leonard Tony Carson Keith Phillips Bill Clarke Gordon Swinney Geoff Milne Tony McDermott Noel Langby Les Haines Jim Kennedy Syd Cooper Marion Winn Bruce Bentwich John Pascoe Reg Murphy John Laird Diana Parker Norma Keeling Dennis Moore.

The weather was our friend on that Saturday morning. Close to forty marchers representing C.B.I.C.A. were enthusiastic and were keen to march well and to keep up the high standards always set by the Australian Intelligence Association on our right and Z Force to our rear.

Drill Sergeant Allan Osborne insisted that we all listen to the same beat as we gathered our confidence striding down Hunter Street. The left wheel into Pitt was skillfully executed and we were boosted by an oral pat on the back from a Pitt St. march marshall. As we reached George Street we were indeed responding to and interacting with an applauding crowd and putting on a first class performance. Then bursting into the field of view of your CB standard bearers were some crouching and scurrying figures; moving sideways and backwards and every which way. A long fat cylindrical object was being waved about obscenely and another figure had his hand around the throat of a camera

lens and was intently screwing the focussing ring back and forth. As close as they were they were coming even closer; physical contact seemed inevitable until we virtually stopped in our tracks. For a fleeting moment I could imagine my fellow standard bearer taking the physical encounter to its ultimate conclusion. But he was cool under provocation was Roy Perry and limited his attack to a few pertinent words.

The target of this media attack was a member who, in his post war role, is also the Archbishop of Sydney Diocese. He was leading our contingent with President Jim. The media team succeeded in taking Jim and the Archbishop right out of the action. The standard bearers kept on marching. By this time The Pittwater House band was disappearing. A.I.A. was still to our right but far ahead. Mark time! somebody yelled. We were already miles behind; why mark time? "We'd better slow down", said Roy, "we've lost them". There we were, carrying a banner with no leaders and no immediate followers. In a time shorter than it seemed our leaders returned to station and our followers caught up. But we never did catch our band. President Jim was testing his impaired mobility by attempting the March at all and on the day he was no sprinter. Allan Osborne checked from time to time, to see if Jim would last the distance, but Jim had committed himself to go the distance and this he did, Channel Nine crews notwithstanding.

Phillip's Foote

This team relaxed at the George Street venue. **Aub Roberts Ailsa Hale Norma Carey Frank Hughes Les Truex John Laird Joyce and Michael Casey Margaret McCafferty Marion Winn Les McClean Flora and Alf Davis Meryl and Allan Osborne Norm Allen Sue and Gordon Gibson Jim Williams Sheila Gregory Mavis and Tim Maddrell Chris Uhlmann Bill Estep John D. Walsh Aileen Wheeler Dai Bobin Heather and Brian Lovett Bruce Lovett Bruce Bentwich John Shoebridge Athol Whyburn Sydney Cooper Roy Perry Jim Kennedy Geoff Milne Doug McNally Gordon Swinney Keith Carolan Ken and Claire Stegga Jackie Keeling Margaret Driscoll Mona Owen Norma Keeling Madeline and Ron Chidgey Diana Parker Helen Kenny Doreen MacPherson David Geyer Francis and Brett Bargallie Stan Russell Bill Clarke Dennis Moore.**

EXECUTIVE NEWS.

From The President's Desk

I made mention in my last report regarding a possible change in venue from Phillip's Foote to the Journalist's Club in Chalmers Street. Committee Members Norma Keeling, Madeline Chidgey and I did inspect this venue with Bill Williams, the Acting Secretary of A.S.W.G. We have since reported back to our Executive Committee with a unanimous recommendation that we turn down this offer and remain at Phillip's Foote in 1993. I will not relate in this report as to our reasons, I'm sure Norma or Madeline will fill you in if you so desire.

The Executives thoughts at the present moment are centred around the reunion in Canberra in Novem-

ber this year. Considerable initial work has already been done and I must thank our Hon. Secretary, Gordon Gibson for much of this. We are hopeful for a good response from our Melbourne counterparts.

I have spoken to Bob Bevan who advises his health is much the same. He practically lives at Greenslopes Repat Hospital in Brisbane. I wrote to Diana Parker on the passing of her husband Gerry. Spoke to her on Anzac Day. Gordon Wilson has had a spell at Concord Repat Hospital and I was able to have a chat with him per phone.

We will be having another meeting of the Executive in August to fine tune our Canberra event.

New members are still being received and that is certainly a pleasing situation.

Sincerely
Jim Williams

Hon. Secretary's Par.

Combined Reunion Number 4

Thanks largely to the enthusiasm and efficiency of Canberra members John Laird and Les Downer, arrangements are already in place for Combined Reunion Number 4.

For those desiring motel accommodation a very special deal can be made available (courtesy Jill Downer) at the Eagle Hawk Hill Motel (NRMA rating 3 1/2 stars) on the Federal Highway near the A.C.T. border approximately 7 1/2 miles from Canberra. The special rates of \$35 a double for bed and breakfast or \$53 a double for dinner, bed and breakfast are contingent upon our ordering an advance block booking for

at least ten rooms so your prompt attention to the relevant section of the highly important Intention Notice accompanying this Newsletter is requested. If you are interested in this generous offer there is the added advantage of further opportunities for "socialising".

2) On Saturday 7th November at 12 noon there will be a Barbecue Luncheon at Old Canberra House in the grounds of the Australian National University on the Acton Peninsula overlooking Lake Burley-Griffin - ample parking, under cover accommodation in case of rain; cost \$18.70 a head includes steak, chicken, sausages, salad, bread, fruit and cheese, coffee or tea (other liquid refreshments extra of course).

3) Sunday 8th November at 10.00am Wreath-Laying ceremony at the Australian War Memorial, the Last Post to be sounded by a bugler from the Royal Military College, Duntroon.

4) Sunday 8th November 10.30am - 12 noon Guided Tours of the Australian War Museum in parties of 25, the tours to be conducted concurrently.

5) Sunday 8th November at 12.30pm for 1.0pm Luncheon at the Ainslie Football Club located about 4 kilometres from the A.W.M. This will comprise a three course meal in a private room at a cost of \$18.15 a head (as a bonus table wine and soft drinks are included).

There should be no need for me to emphasise the importance of our being able to advise the people concerned of the exact numbers of members who will be attending these various functions so let me repeat that your prompt attention to the Intention Notice will be greatly appreciated. I have already been in contact with Harold Jones and Steve Mason in Melbourne and with Mac Jamieson in Brisbane who have publicised the Reunion to members of the Ex-RAAF W.U. and ASWG Associations and we are hopeful of a good response from them and the opportunity to renew old friendships. Everyone knows that there are many interesting places to visit in Canberra so there should be no problem filling in any spare hours on the week-end. If necessary, a quick visit to the Canberra Tourist Bureau will get you the Official Canberra Map, the 1992 Canberra Traveller's Guide and "This Week in Canberra". A special map showing the locations of the places where our own functions are to be held will be issued to those who return the notice indicating their intention to attend.

New members once again: Syd Cooper of Kogarah Bay and Stan Russell of Umina who were with us on Anzac Day and Allan Campbell of Brisbane who was attached to General MacArthur's H.Q. as Liaison Officer with the RAAF and has sent us a copy of the Instrument of Surrender signed on the Battleship Missouri. Welcome aboard all three!

Gordon Gibson.

The Treasurer's Message.

I'm sure we are all looking forward to our next get-together at Canberra in November, what a delightful spot to visit, so start making plans as time goes by very quickly

and I'll be pleased to receive your monies for this happy occasion. As you will read all details are outlined in Gordon's column.

Nearing the end of summer I visited a piece of paradise of golden clean sands, shimmering clear water for swimming and beautifully coloured birds in their natural state to feast your eyes upon. No houses, no noisy traffic, only cars parked belonging to people taking advantage of this lovely place -Green Patch-down the South Coast of N.S.W. not far from Jervis Bay. If you want to get away from the hub-bub of every day life this is the place to visit.

One of our new members, Norma Smith, has just had a stay in hospital but is now home doing fine. We would like our members or their families to let us know if any member is on the sick list either at home or in hospital so we can contact them as we do care for our members. Marg Marshall and Arthur Sims send their regards. Norma Schneider writes to say she enjoys reading about those days, places and friends of long ago in the Newsletter.

Sincere thanks and appreciation from Olive Williams. From my co-worker, Val Miller at Hut 20 Ascot Park, yes I even remember our hut number. I received an "Order of Service" of the RAAF Assoc. Commemorative Service. I'm sure it was most enjoyable, thanks a lot for that. I'm so sorry after all this time you are still having health problems from your WAAAF days. I may be up in Brisbane in September so will get in touch. Noel also enjoys the Newsletters.

Received a very interesting letter from Eunice and Al Jenkin from Brisbane, thanks a lot for that. They tell me of a very enjoyable days outing to St Helena Is. about 30 minutes boat trip from suburban

Manly — this may interest members who may be visiting Brisbane sometime, they also say "The Eavesdroppers" has been accepted up there with great interest.

Hope you enjoyed your trip to Kuala Lumpur, Ray

Was great to see Lester Truex on Anzac Day and that his health enabled him to make the trip from Melbourne, hope to see you in Canberra also Kay.

Ray Eddolls sends his best wishes and Chester Lange from U.S.A. says "HI" to all his friends.

Thanks Phyl Dynes for your interesting letter, your war experiences, I'm sure made both books very interesting to you and brought back many memories.

To end with my usual "tit bit"

"One good deed is worth more than a thousand words"

Norma Keeling.

THE EAVESDROPPERS.

One of Japan's greatest war heroes, Admiral Isoroki Yamamoto, rarely travelled within range of enemy aircraft. One of those rare occasions was on 18 April 1943. He was in a small flight of two bombers and six Zeros over Bougainville when seventeen United States Air Force P 38s screamed out of the sky. And the great war hero died.

The Commanding Officer of an important Japanese paratroop regiment was scheduled to fly into Wewak at 1800 hours on 28 February 1944. His plane was taxiing after landing at 1758 hours, just two minutes early. Two fighter aces of the American 5th. Air Force, piloting P 38s,

happened to arrive at the same time. They shot up the airstrip and blasted the Japanese plane killing a major general, a brigadier and a whole staff of high ranking officers.

Hundreds of Japanese aircraft were quickly concentrated at Wewak in August 1943. One day, just after sunrise, most of them had their engines revving prior to take-off for a major air-raid on Allied positions. Just at that very moment planes from the 5th Air Force flew in out of the rising sun and raked the still grounded Japanese aircraft with machine gun and cannon fire.

So it goes; time after time the Americans and sometimes the Australians had planes or ships in the right place at the right moment to inflict telling blows. Yet Japanese commanders continued to convey their intentions by electro-magnetic radio waves to everyone with a suitable receiver, specifically to those intrepid 1 W.U. Kana operators who listened to every dit. According to *The Eavesdroppers* "Central Bureau and Kenney's 5th Air Force knew almost as much about the enemy aircraft movements, locations and strength of air bases - even the names of units, squadrons and their commanders - as the Japanese High Command itself". Yet the Japanese still tapped away at their morse keys or bugs or whatever.

Twenty year old Aircraftsman Jack Bleakley could never have envisioned, back in 1942, when he was at the very base of the RAAF pyramid that he would be personally praised by the man at the apex of the pyramid in 1992. "Jack Bleakley is to be congratulated for producing this comprehensive and fascinating historical work". These are the words of the Chief of Air Staff, Air Marshall R.G. Funnell. Every reader of *The Eavesdroppers* would have to agree.

It seems that, in Jack's case, a career in banking administration has given him first class skills in research and writing. Anyone who has the slightest experience in researching previously classified defence archives and turning the material into a logically related and captivating narrative must be appreciative of the six years of hard work involved. Jack has filled a gap in Australia's defence history which otherwise forever would have remained a black hole.

The Eavesdroppers is not just an intelligence story but a clear exposition of the progress of World War II in the South West Pacific. Allied achievements in building up a picture of the enemy, his resources and intentions and plans of action would have continued to be attributed to "intelligence sources" - a very non-specific term for very non-specific people. Jack is very specific about the role of RAAF Wireless Units in intelligence successes in the Pacific war. The late Peter Hastings was one of the first Australians to indicate publicly that the term "intelligence sources" was used even in recent years to mask sigint as the real source of much information about the enemy.

Jack invites his readers "to enter the little known world of secret intelligence.....and to share in the story of the unknown war against Japan through the eyes and ears of the eavesdroppers". Although his target audience is clearly the uninitiated he has, however, revealed many, many sights and sounds previously unknown to some, at least, of his fellow eavesdroppers. Indeed, who among us knew that John Curtin himself gave his personal approval to the establishment of each Wireless Unit. On the other hand insiders are entitled to give the work some close scrutiny. Some of us might even blush when we read on page 8 that to learn the 71 kana morse symbols was a "huge task". The blush turns to a deeper shade of

red when the words "high degree of dedication, intelligence and professionalism" are used to describe what was needed to master the skills required. If I may be permitted a personal recollection it is one of utterly boring and repetitious sending of kana signals for hours and days and weeks on end by instructors Cook, Towers and Jaffray. One would hear the transmitted group of dits and dahs and write the appropriate shorthand symbol in response so many times that the whole thing became an automatic process. To master the speeds required it had to be automatic; rather like good speed Pitman shorthand. There is a certain irony in Jack's comment that during operations signals or messages missed by an operator could often lead to loss of lives in many situations. The book makes it very clear that signals or messages accurately copied certainly did lead to the loss of lives in many situations.

The Eavesdroppers fills a gap in Australia's defence history and does it remarkably well. There is a slight tendency to "put the best face on things" so far as the RAAF Wireless Units are concerned but that is par for the course when Australians write about their own units. Perhaps no one will ever write about the stories of serious resistance to authority in one or more of the units or how young operators were initiated into a unit by doing at least one raid on a Yankee food dump or about those thoughts for your relatives and pre-service mates in air-crew or in combat infantry units or your navy mates who prayed every time they went to sea and still did not return from that one last voyage. By comparison some of us had a "good" war.

One big gap still remains in the "Sigint" story. We need a revelation about the role of the Austral-

ian Special Wireless Groups in the Pacific war.

The Eavesdroppers by Jack BLEAKLEY is published by the Australian Government Publishing Service G.P.O. Box 84 Canberra A.C.T. 2601

PEOPLE

Joy LINNANE says of "The Eavesdroppers" "Terrific! Many say you can't live in the past. I did, nearly 50 years past as page after page names leapt at me and I saw the young lads who worked on shift with me and off duty when we went to Magnetic Island—I also appreciate the recognition given to the WAAAF Kana operators—which is rare"

Roy PERRY was enthralled by "Eavesdroppers". He says he "learned much of what we did without knowing what we did".

Condolences have been extended to Diana PARKER on the loss of her husband, Gerry. And we feel for Betty CHESSELL whose husband, Tom died some weeks ago.

Charles STEPHENS has had more surgery on his legs and is exercising daily to restore his marching skills.

Gordon WILSON has our wishes for a successful result following hospital treatment.

Ex 1 W.U. Adjutant John WALSH sends the following: "Robert D. FARLEY died 31st. March, 1992 in Washington, D.C. buried in the Arlington National Cemetery. Bob Farley came to Central Bureau in Brisbane in 1944 having just completed his training course in the O.T.C. He had interrupted his university studies to enlist. He worked in the Army Air-Ground stripping section at Ascot and later at San

Miguel

After his return to U.S.A. he completed his degree and then reinlisted and served in the Army of Occupation in Germany for ten years. He took his discharge with the rank of Major. He then carried on with similar work in a civilian capacity in the Pentagon. He was still working there up to the time of his death."

It is sad to report that Gwen ROBERTS, Aub's wife is seriously ill. She is in a very caring hospital.

Life goes on.....Past President Mick and Joyce CASEY were noticed one beautiful autumn morning taking "Tea and Symphony" at the Sydney Opera House. Marion and Stan WINN travelled south to the big City to be disappointed by the Guggenheim Exhibition at the Art Gallery.

Our best wishes go to Mac MARONEY and Audrey and to Ted CORRELL and his wife who all participated in the rites of marriage this year.

TOO MUCH OF A GOOD THING? or THE STORY OF SLU 9

by Reg Harris

A legitimate question for members of the association to have asked in the past, and even now, with the recent acceptance into association membership of ex-SLU 9 (R.A.F.) member Reg Harris, was -

If Central Bureau was established in April, 1942, and based in Brisbane from September, 1942, to provide SIGINT to MacArthur and his SWPA headquarters (with sup-

port from several existing U.S. and Australian communication intelligence units, such as the Fleet Radio Unit - moved from Corregidor - or Australian Naval Intelligence's cryptographic units, or Australian Army and Air Force Sigintel units) ... then why did the Powers-that-be in London decide to set up an additional Special Liason Unit in Brisbane in late 1944?

This was S.L.U. 9, part of the British "Ultra" organisation based on Bletchley Park. Other S.L.U.s were, at various times, at Malta, Bermuda, French bases in the early days before Dunkirk, at Cairo, Algiers, Caserta (Italy), Colombo Fighter Command HQ, Teheran briefly (for the conference), Eisenhower's HQ Delhi and Ceylon. Bletchley Park was the centre for British cryptanalysis, and the home of the original bombs, or mechanical-electrical aids to decyphering the German Enigma machine, or the even more sophisticated "Fish" machine (used for Hitler's top-level and for German diplomatic traffic). The bombs were later updated by the introduction of the "Colossus" computers - first Mk I and then Mark 2. almost certainly the first electronic computers ever used in Britain. They used triode valves as "on-off" (or "yes-no") switches.

Group Captain Winterbotham (author "The Ultra Secret", a member of Britain's Air Intelligence team and of the Secret Intelligence Service, and much involved with the work at Bletchley Park, was responsible for the formation of the R.A.F.'s Special Liason Units. These were small units of specially selected and trained personnel, indoctrinated with the story of Ultra, who were to form conduits responsible for relaying the Ultra material in total security from its source (originally Bletchley Park, but later also Washington and Delhi) to the few selected and vetted recipi-

ents at Command levels. Not only were these SLUs responsible for the safe transmission of Ultra material (using their own specially modified Type-X) machines but also for ensuring constantly its total security.

The American cryptographic system had been having its own remarkable successes with the Japanese "Red" and "Purple" machines, giving the U.S. sigintel staff America's "Magic", equivalent of Britain's "Ultra", and eventually American commanders had the use of tactical and strategic information based on "Ultra" - and in Europe they followed the British limitations and practices in the use of "Ultra" with total observance. Indeed, Eisenhower said in July, 1945, that Bletchley Park's "Ultra" had been of priceless value, simplified his task, and made a major contribution to the speed of Germany's surrender. Bradley and Patton too took every advantage of the knowledge of Hitler's plans and orders given to them by "Ultra". fed to them by the SLU in their area. These Special Liason Units, incidentally, were deliberately kept low-key, and comprised comparatively junior officers, with NCO staffs, to ensure that they did not appear to be of any importance - a camouflage measure not emulated by the Americans when they set up similar units which were otherwise based on the British ones.

The picture in the Pacific, however, was much less straightforward. To begin with, there were more than twenty distinct and dissimilar Allied organisations operating in Australia in the intelligence field - and sometimes their attitudes to one another were almost as hostile as they were to the Japanese. However, in summary, it is clear that eventually many of these came together at MacArthur's intelligence office - which included not only American but also Australian, British, Dutch and Asian personnel. This was the

Allied Intelligence Bureau, section B of which was responsible for cryptography - this was based in Heindorf House, Brisbane. Then, on 15 April, 1942 Central Bureau was founded by Lt Col. J.R. Sherr (who headed similar American operations in the Philippines). He was later succeeded by Lt Col. Abraham Sinkov, of the American Army. Assistant Directors were Lt Col. A.W. Sandford (Australian Army) and Wing Commander Booth (R.A.A.F.).

However, there was another major American organisation in the same field - a Navy unit in Melbourne, commanded by Commander Fabian, USN. This was FRUMEL (Fleet Radio Unit, Melbourne), and while it was nominally responsible to GHQ, SWPA, it did, in fact, answer to the Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. 7th Fleet. Parallel with this was an Australian Naval Cryptography unit. The US Navy had had, in recent times, close co-operation with British cryptography units in Singapore, and then later Kandy - a working relationship which also later included some major Canadian groups.

Gradually the traditional rivalry between the US Army and the US Navy began to appear. The Navy unit would feed to the Army only what it thought the Army needed to know - but because the Central Bureau was receiving some British "Ultra" material from Bletchly Park and Delhi, MacArthur was aware that he was being "short changed".

In parallel with inter-service problems in the field, there were, of course, other difficulties created by MacArthur's personality, and in particular his determination to be in absolute control in the SWPA. This determination extended to his considered opinion as to the place of sigintel in field operations and what use should be made of it. Even worse, this attitude made possible a

lax supervision of the security given to "Ultra" and "Magic". In his "The American Magic", Lewin quotes from "Reports by U.S. Army Ultra Representatives with Field Commands in the S.W. Pacific, Pacific Ocean and China/Burma/India Theatres, 1944-45", submitted by Special Branch Officers direct to the Military Intelligence Service in Washington (without passing through normal channels). Lewin says that "throughout the Leyte campaign Ultra was handled by MacArthur's command with an astonishing degree of negligent indifference". He also quotes Major John Thompson, who was one of a group of Special Branch officers assigned to Central Bureau in the latter half of 1944, to "insure that operational Ultra reached the Commands that needed it in the fastest possible time". However Thompson went on to explain "the Chief of Staff of SWPA cancelled this arrangement while the personnel were en route to Australia". Major-General Richard Sutherland (Chief of Staff - and one of those nick-named The Bataan Gang who surrounded MacArthur) then told Thompson "General Marshall's directive to MacArthur about the handling of Ultra was to be interpreted...in the narrowest and most restrictive manner possible". Comments Lewin "The old hands at Central Bureau were still to call the tune and in particular would decide for themselves in Brisbane which Ultra decodes were to be forwarded to commanders at the front" - note that by this time American forces were using the word "Ultra" for some American-sourced material too. [This material is taken from pps.268/269 of Lewin's "The American Magic", Penguin 1983.] With regard to lax security. Lewin refers (on .270) to a number of glaring breaches, in both Army and Navy handling of "Ultra".

Both Desmond Ball and D.M.Horner, in their A.I.I.A. papers (see my later paragraphs) refer to similar situations, so far as unduly restrained circulation of sigintel was concerned. Horner says "The provision of the SLU [i.e., SLU 9] therefore gave the Australian forces greater independence from the American monopoly of secret information. For example", he continues, "SLU 9 could pass information directly to RAAF Command...". From my own experience I would add "not just 'could pass', but DID pass! Just as, in Darwin, at RAAF N.W.Area HQ, at Coomallie Creek, I personally was involved in the distribution of "Ultra" material to the A.O.C. - Air Vice Marshall W.D. Bostock B.C., O.B.E., through our SLU 9 outpost there.

Before long, too, the Allies were advancing and Central Bureau moved forward with them, first to Hollandia. As a result, Australian forces - and especially the RAAF - started to feel that they were being starved of sigintel, thanks to both policy AND geography. As Winterbotham said in his book, "I wanted to make my number with the Australian Chief of Air Staff, Air Commodore Jones. I found him unhappy about the amount of information that was being passed to him from Brisbane. He certainly wasn't getting all that he should have, so I decided to look into the Brisbane distribution as soon as possible".

He found that the "restrictions imposed by General MacArthur on who should have what" were a real problem, and he worked out with Sandford to sort out these distribution problems - and among the solutions was the establishment of an extensive network of SLU 9 outposts to service Australian Army and RAAF HQ units direct. SLU (had been set up in Brisbane in January 1945 - having formed up in London in October, 1944, and trav-

elled to Brisbane via the U.S.A. It was joined by further personnel from European SLUs soon after, to make the outpost network possible. With the flow of "Ultra" via SLU 9 and its outposts from the U.K., Washington and Delhi - though there may have been some duplication - this ensured that Australian commanders had full direct access to the intelligence they needed, from world wide sources. Furthermore, of course, it gave the staff responsible for the security of all high-level sigintel, and especially "Ultra", better opportunities to monitor security more closely.

Of necessity this has been a much condensed, brief, and certainly over-simplified account of aspects of SWPA sigintel - aspects that would fill several books. For some enlightening further reading (if you can find access to back numbers), two papers in the December, 1978, issue of "Australian Outlook", journal of the Australian Institute of International Affairs, are a must. These were : "Allied Intelligence Co-operation Involving Australia During World War II", by Desmond J. Ball, and "Special Intelligence in the South-West Pacific Area in World War II", by D.M.Horner. In addition, of course, there is Winterbotham's "The Ultra Secret", Weidenfeld & Nicholson, London, 1974 (also in paperback; "The American Magic", by Ronald Lewin, Penguin, 1983; and for the basic work at Bletchley Park, an extremely interesting final chapter in Brian Johnson's "The Secret War", Arrow Books, 1979. He says that Bletchley's Colossus Mk II scanned code characters at the rate of 5,000 characters a second, and by paralleling five readers, it attained speeds of 25,000 characters a second. Nothing in terms of today's computers, perhaps, but staggeringly incredible in 1944.

The inter-linking of British and American sigintel was also covered in William Stevenson's "A Man Called Intrepid", Sphere Books, London 1977. This was the story of Canadian-born William Samuel Stephenson, who headed up Britain's Security Co-ordination organisation in America during the war - though in order to tear away some of the myths which grew up around Stephenson (who, incidentally, never did have the code-name "Intrepid") and which were perpetuated in Stephenson's book, it is also advisable to read David Stafford's "Camp X", General Publishing, Toronto, Canada, for paper back edition.

I am indebted to all of these papers and publications for much of what I have written - in addition to my own memories of personal involvement, of course, as a humble sergeant in SLU 9 - one of those about whom Winterbotham wrote "I can only hope that the satisfaction of knowing that they had done one of the most fascinating jobs of the war was some compensation for their lowly ranks to these dedicated men and women of the Special Liason Units", a thought to which I'm sure all Central Bureau Intelligence Corps Association members will add "Hear Hear", for I am sure that it applies to them too.

I trust that nobody will interpret what I have written as being in any way at all a criticism of Central Bureau and the magnificent role it played in achieving victory in the Pacific, for that has not been in any way intended. The difficulties and problems to which I have referred were as much a burden, I am sure, for the day to day work of Central Bureau and its hard-working staff as they were to anybody else. All I have sought to do is answer the question "Why Special Liason Unit No.9?". Finally I thank office-

bearers and members of the Association for granting me the privilege of membership.

R.H.
Brisbane 1992.

EDITORIAL

The pieces are still falling into place thanks to authors such as Rusbridger, Nave, Ballard and Bleakley. Now Reg Harris has slotted SLU 9 into the scheme of things. There is more to come. John Walsh has just about committed himself to write some of the inside story of 1W.U. for Newsletter and if your Editor can transcribe tape notes of an interview with Squadron Leader Bill Clarke revelations about that mysterious RAAF Command will feature in the next issue

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