



CENTRAL BUREAU INTELLIGENCE CORPS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 1

MARCH 1992.

Annual General Meeting.

The Association's Annual General Meeting was duly conducted at The Combined Services Club in Barrack Street, Sydney on 3rd. February, 1992 at 7.30 pm.

REPORTS.

President Jim Williams reported that in his view the Association's activities in 1991 had been as successful as they were in 1990. Indeed most of the comments he made in his reports over the year were relevant to an Annual report. Jim had arranged for belated condolences to be sent to Len Carrigg's widow Margaret.

To recognise the generous hospitality of Mr and Mrs Look he had sent them a copy of Geoff Ballard's book, "On Ultra Active Service". Jim reported that he had written to Geoff to compliment him on his book and at the same time had drawn attention to what he considered to be some "minor errors" relating to the R.A.A.F. Wireless Units.

Honorary Treasurer Norma Keeling tabled the income and expenditure account for the year ended 31 December 1991. This account showed a positive balance of \$780.32. The major items of expenditure and, of course, income related to the Brisbane reunion. The audited account was confirmed and the Treasurer's report adopted by the meeting.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The call for nominations for appointment to the Executive Committee produced only enough names to fill the positions available. There was no competition. The following members were declared to be elected to the positions indicated.

President: *Jim Williams*

Vice Presidents: *Mick Casey, Aub Roberts.*

Hon Secretary: *Gordon Gibson*

Hon Treasurer: *Norma Keeling*

Publicity Officer:

Dennis Moore

Committee Members:

Madeline Chidgey, Noni

McNaught, Ron Tabley.

Mr Ronald Chidgey having once again indicated his willingness to accept was appointed to the position of Honorary Auditor.

CELEBRATION OF ANZAC DAY 1992

The meeting endorsed the following programme for Anzac Day.

- Assemble for Anzac Eve wreath laying ceremony at 1830 hours on 24 April at corner of Pitt Street and Martin Place
- Assemble for March at 0900 hours on 25 April on the south side of Hunter Street on the Elizabeth Street corner.
- The traditional reunion is to be held at Phillip's Foote Restaurant, 101 George Street following the March.

Stan Winn reported an approach by Nev Winton of the A.S.W.G. Association to consider the possibility of a combined Anzac Day Reunion at the Journalist's Club near Railway Square. The meeting resolved to ask Jim Williams, Madeline Chidgey and Norma Keeling to examine this proposition in relation to Anzac Day 1993 and to report back to a future Executive Committee meeting.

GENERAL BUSINESS.

Publicity for the forthcoming ceremonies to mark the Battle of the Coral Sea was drawn to the attention of the meeting which resolved to ask Norma Keeling to make enquiries about our possible involvement.

The Meeting was asked to note that "The Eavesdroppers" was now available from Commonwealth Government Bookshops for \$12.95

A suggestion from Athol Whyburn that future Annual General Meetings be held in the daytime rather than at night was put to members present. After some brief discussion there was overwhelming support for this idea. It was resolved that the next Annual General Meeting would be held at 3.00pm on Monday 1st February 1993.

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING.

Following the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting the Chairman convened the Special General Meeting of which notice had been

duly given. The Special General Meeting was called to vote on a motion that the Association's annual membership fee be increased from \$7 to \$10. The motion was carried unanimously. It was further resolved that the fee for Associate members remain at \$5.

EXECUTIVE NEWS.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK.

In my last report No. 4 Newsletter (December 91) I made mention of a proposed amalgamation into one body by the integration of Central Bureau, A.S.W.G. and State Wireless Units. Over the past couple of months I have had many strong objections to this proposal and the subject was dropped. At our last Executive meeting I only made brief mention on this topic. So ends this matter---we will retain our own identity and remain Central Bureau Intelligence Corps Association.

Your Committee has discussed at length our venue for this years interstate visit. Adelaide was discussed, but I hear on the grapevine (as late as 5 March) that response was not good and that perhaps Canberra would be more suitable. A decision on this topic will be made at our next Executive meeting on 6 April.

At the Annual General Meeting, Stan Winn raised the matter of our Reunion on Anzac Day. As you know it will be held again this year at "Phillip's Foote". Stan was approached by A.S.W.G. that we join with them at the Journalist's Club in Chalmers St. I have been in touch with Bill Williams, Acting Secretary, who will meet with Norma Keeling, Madeline Chidgey and I, inspect this proposed venue and report back to Committee on 6 April.

Our Vice President Aub Robert's wife, Gwen is in the Seventh Day Adventist's Hospital at Wahroonga receiving specialised treatment for

her distressing ailment, after having had previous therapy at Ryde District Hospital. I spoke to Aub today (6 March) and she is in a stable condition at present. We wish her well. I was indeed most unhappy about learning of Len Carrigg's death (he was 76). I had been in touch with his wife Margaret on several occasions prior to his demise. Margaret informed me of his death after another of my calls. I knew nothing at all of Len's passing which was somewhat of an embarrassment to me. I knew Len very well when we were in 3 Wireless Unit at Batchelor N.T. in 1944. Apparently Stan King and Mac Jamieson attended his funeral.

If any member hears of any of our members on the sick list, please inform me on 02 398 7413 or Gordon Gibson on 02 449 9450. This is important, more particularly to me as your President.

*Sincerely,
Jim Williams
President.*

HON. SECRETARY'S PAR.

Still they roll in after all these years! A very warm welcome to the following new members: Bert Cockrum (Vermont, Victoria), Mary Saxby (nee Arnold) of Crookwell, N.S.W. and Joyce Pugh (nee Jackson) of Maddington, W.A. Joyce is only our second member from the west but we hope, not the last. Also thanks once again to very active members Geoff Patience and Geoff Ballard for sending me the names and addresses of prospective members, for which I am always on the look-out.

It is only once or twice a year that I get the opportunity to spend a few weeks at Noosa and the next occasion will be from 11th. to 24th. April, a rather inconvenient time from the point of view of Anzac Day arrangements. Our ever reliable Treasurer, Norma Keeling has, however, kindly agreed to take over my duties while I am away so please remember any communications regarding Anzac Day 1992 go

to Norma. Full details of her address and telephone number are printed on the Anzac Day notice enclosed with this Newsletter.

Members of the Archives Committee have not been entirely inactive. We paid a visit to the Sydney Branch of Australian Archives and obtained the reference numbers of quite a few documents relating to Central Bureau but unfortunately many of them have limited access and those that are "open" are all at Melbourne or Canberra. We are beginning to have an even healthier respect for Geoff Ballard and Jack Bleakley who must have been through all this and more before completing their enthralling books which are surely required reading for all members of our Association!

There has been a change of plans for the Fourth Annual Combined Reunion of C.B., A.S.W.G. and RAAF W.U. personnel. It will now be definitely held in Canberra (not Adelaide) on the week-end of 7th and 8th November (not October). Hope this is not going to cause any inconvenience but after due consideration the consensus seemed to favour Canberra for its closer proximity to the Eastern capitals of Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane where (let's face it) the bulk of our members are located. Thanks are due to John Laird and Les Downer who have agreed to act as our liaison and organisational officers in Canberra and who already have some of the arrangements in hand. Full details will be publicised in our next Newsletter.

*Gordon Gibson
Hon. Secretary*

THE TREASURER'S MESSAGE.

A quarter or the year has caught up already and daylight saving time is over and now another Newsletter which I know we all look forward to receiving, thanks to our editor Dennis Moore.

Once more I had the pleasure of having afternoon tea with Heather

and Brian Lovett at their home at Tuncurry whilst having a holiday at Pacific Palms and on my way home stayed overnight with another of our C.B. members, Joyce Grace, in her most attractive unit on the Central Coast, had great enjoyment looking at old photos before the war and during her service days plus plenty of chatter.

I do enjoy the friendly notes which many members attach to their subs. Our postman thinks I have more friends than anyone else on his rounds with the amount of mail I receive.

Rita Balin, Frances Cureton and Jean Robertson send their regards to all. Jean wishes to be remembered to Marion and Stan. So glad to read you are over your health problem Max Hurley and now playing tennis, that's great. I'm thinking of having a go at croquet, they say there's more to croquet than meets the eye. Quite a few of our members have received and are enjoying Jack Bleakley's book. Thank you Frank Hughes for your kind comments re C.B. Committee, it's sure nice to be appreciated. Tom Hounslow particularly liked the poem written by Gen. MacArthur I included in our last Newsletter, thank you for that.

Welcome to our new members, it's great to see our membership increasing and also thanks for those donations that I have received which helps to build our bank balance.

My best wishes to all those who are having health problems, may things improve for you.

Looking forward to a big roll up on Anzac Day, hopefully more ladies will march this year----put on those good old jogging shoes.

To finish with my usual verse:-----
*"You must give up the way it
is.....to have it the way you
want it "*
Norma Keeling.

PEOPLE

When the "Express", a large circulation suburban newspaper based on Bankstown N.S.W., wanted to speak with some of the Prime Minister's associates and confidantes from the Bankstown area it chose, first of all, one of our members viz. Dr. DOUG McNALLY. Doug is ex 4 W.U. The "Express" described Doug as a world authority on child psychology and ex Dean of the School of Education and Language Studies at the former Macarthur Institute of Higher Education (now the University of Western Sydney--Macarthur).

According to the "Express" Dr Doug spoke of Mr. Keating in glowing terms saying among other things that Paul Keating is an example of what some university staff have known for years "the development of the mind is not necessarily dependent on formal education....."

Avid reader of the "Express", KEITH CAROLAN, points out that Doug is indeed an unassuming person whose qualifications may have remained hidden from us had it not been for the "Express" and his links with the P.M.

ERIC FULLER, one of our trio of members who live in Orange, N.S.W., has sent to "Newsletter" some prints of snapshots taken in Tolosa, P.I. in 1944. The 6 W.U. "lads" dressed in typical R.A.A.F. tropic dress (boots, shorts and bare chests) are identified by Eric as Snow Bradshaw, Trevor Wilson, Johnnie Ryan and Barney Hearfield. If you have contact with any of these blokes now and believe they may want to be reminded of their youth write to "Newsletter".

When Middle East veteran E.D. PATON joined the Association last year his succinct response to a request for some comment or special memory was "Christmas 1941". STAN WINN was also in pre-C.B. Sigint in the Middle East so I asked Stan if he could shed

some light on this cryptic comment. Stan pondered for some few seconds. "Snowed all day at Souk-el-Gharb in Lebanonthat was Christmas Day 1941!" said Stan.

MARION WINN is still a good source for "Newsletter" stories. The other day she was browsing through "Reveille" and noticed reference to a letter from John Bombell who said that he was one of four brothers who served in the Army in World War II---Ray, John, Ron and BRIAN BOMBELL. "Reveille" has been running stories about service families.

RECOLLECTIONS.

*{ A story based on an interview with
Nancy Johnson nee Reichelt }*

It is a feeling that can't be put into words but you know that something is very wrong; the street is too quiet. There is an uneasiness about Dresden. Not to worry; it will be alright when I reach the Henkel's house. I'll feel at home there just like it was when I lived with them for about twelve months a year or so ago. Mr. Henkel is a man of substance; a director of Zeiss-Ikon.

This can't be! Surely not. The house is boarded up. It is quite deserted. Nancy's thoughts flashed back to a few short weeks earlier. Her host family in Paris had reacted with shocked disbelief when she and a girlfriend said that they were going to Austria for a couple of weeks. Didn't they know about or understand the very serious political situation? It was August 1939.

After they had visited cities in Austria as planned Nancy's friend returned directly to Paris while she herself, a young Australian language student, brave, devil-may-care or just plain naive, decided to pay a farewell visit to her former host family, the Henkels. But the Henkels had vanished.

This new feeling could be described. Sheer anxiety. Better get

back to Paris quickly, thought Nancy. So without money or friends she hitched from Dresden to Aachen to catch the first Paris bound train. She reached Aachen and then the fun started. That's what she called it, "fun".

He had a black uniform and a swastika on the sleeve.

*"Passport! Where are you going?"
"To Paris."*

"No you are not going to Paris. There are not going to be any more trains to Paris. The fraulein should go for help to the British Consulate in Cologne."

He put the pfennig-less Nancy on a Cologne bound train-----it didn't matter that she didn't have any ticket; the time for those bureaucratic trivialities had passed. Time was fast running out and leaving this Australian adventuress far behind in its wake. She found the Consulate in Cologne. There was a sign on the barred door. "British citizens needing assistance should go to the American Consulate". The sign said something like that but whatever it said it only increased anxiety levels. The British had fled. They were well informed and not naive.

Crossing the city on foot Nancy remembers an encounter with a helpful Jewish lady whose husband had been "arrested" and who herself feared the arrival of the authorities. Nevertheless she shared a meagre food supply with the young Britisher. The Americans were most helpful. At least they promised to be. Which is not surprising for she was indeed a young and beautiful damsel in distress. But it would not be easy. Australians in those days carried British passports and it was very close to September third 1939 when the war became official.

While the diplomatic staff tried to get Nancy out of Germany they were mindful of her safety and purity. She could sleep at the Evangelical Church Girl's Home. The

name sounds much better when said in German. The place has indelibly imprinted Nancy's memory. It was, she noted, practically full of pregnant teenage German girls who had done and were continuing to do their duty by the Fatherland.

"Where do you come from?" they asked.

"Australia" replied Nancy in Australian accented German.

"Ahh! Sud America" they said. With the quick wit which Commander Nave undoubtedly noted when he selected Nancy to be his assistant in Central Bureau she decided that it was best to allow the misunderstanding to persist---better to be an accepted South American German than a British Australian enemy. "Ja ja, Sud American."

Anxious days of reporting to the American Consulate and to the Gestapo Office followed. Nancy still visited the galleries and without fail put her last few coins in the collection boxes rattled for "Hitler Youth". It was dangerous not to. The Americans arranged an exit over the Belgian border and across the channel. She didn't get back to her Paris family.

Australian officialdom in London found her space on the last civilian ship to travel to Australia via the Suez Canal until after the war.

So here was a bright young Australian with a proven track record of initiative, independence, resourcefulness and with first class language skills; a natural choice to work in C.B. with our most famous code breaker. During her four years service with Eric Nave Private Reichelt completed N.C.O. Schools and officer training in Victoria. On discharge she held the rank of Lieutenant in the A.W.A.S.

{ Nancy may have preferred that her recollections of life at C.B. and her recent contacts with Eric

Nave be recorded. It was an editorial decision to reveal her European adventures first. The other story will keep for another day.}

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

BERT COCKRUM
Vermont Victoria.

"After 46 years it was a little surprising to hear from old mates who had remembered me. Geoff Patience (Vic) phoned and Marion Winn sent a card, both flying the flag for auld lang syne ----- loyal troopers in a good cause. My dim memories only relate to service life at South Yarra (Vic). and Ascot (Qld.) but there were many sparkling personalities in both places who come to mind occasionally.

Plenty of fun and laughter, too, offsetting a lot of frustration until excitement began to build up as the factual picture gradually clarified. Mic Sandford's originals in the nucleus he brought back to Australia from the European theatre were our first heroes at South Yarra. At least they had seen action and knew something of what it was all about while the new boys, a motley collection of odds and sods, were trying to find our feet.

As I recall it, S.R.I. Clarke's "WE" work started the real push early on while cross matching of captured 2468 gave the cryptos a picnic at Brisbane, after years of hard slogging at the high-grade stuff.

Suppose there are lots of fascinating stories concerning the Bureau's work that will never become public knowledge because some of our people must be active still under another name. In a world of changing and uncertain alliances information-gathering still goes on. That we do know.

Strange, isn't it, that while dipping into the past, odd incidents of no great impact except to the people

actually involved hit our minds with searing impact?

One such was the senseless slaughter of a fine American lad at Henry St., shot during a "pistol present" detail---A sad memory indeed.

With warm regards and best wishes for successful promotion of the newsletter...

Cordially

Bert Cockrum.

one-time shorthand typist/cum secretary for Mic Sandford then later O/B *** when Geoff Ballard handed it over to me before moving elsewhere."

- [I have been told that Bert says he is now old and sick but he is still fighting. With correspondents like Bert "Newsletter" will successfully promote itself. Editor.]

VIC LEDERER

Curtin A.C.T.

"Just received Newsletter No 4, December 1991 and many thanks for your good wishes, but something seems to have gone wrong somewhere. You say "Vic Lederer endured some high-tech surgery in Sydney in mid October and has not been blessed with a quick recovery". Is the word "not" a misprint for "now"? If so, everything would be as it should be.

To set the record straight: On 17 October I had a triple coronary bypass operation at Prince Henry Hospital, and 9 days later was discharged home. Since then, I have made an amazingly good recovery and feel 100% better than before the operation, carried out by the brilliant surgeon Dr. David Newman. I should therefore be grateful if you would rectify this matter in your next issue.

Also: Yes, I am well aware of my old nickname "The Baron", although not sure who invented it. I

think it dates back to July or August 1940, when I was with the 2/1st Battalion, 6 Div. on the Dutch ship "Slamat", where I bought up all available Dutch cigars and when off duty would lie in the sun on deck with a book smoking, regardless of suspected minefields all around. This perhaps contributed to my so-called "baronial airs".

Thanks again for your kind wishes,
Yours sincerely,

Vic Lederer"

- [Sorry, Vic, it was no misprint---I got it wrong. But this was a rare occasion when I am glad I was wrong rather than right, if you get what I mean! Editor.]

**GEOFF BALLARD
and STEVE
MASON.**

On ULTRA Active Service Sales to individuals, bookshops and libraries, as well as gift copies for reviews, institutions, etc., now total well over 1,000 which means that we are more than half way through the initial run of 2,000 copies. The book is now to be seen throughout Australia and in New Zealand, UK, USA, Canada, Austria, France, Germany, Sweden and Switzerland.

There have been favourable reviews in "The Age", "Herald-Sun", "Canberra Times", "Geelong Advertiser", the Defence Association's Journal, the Journal of the Military Historical Society of Australia - with others in the pipeline, including international defence and intelligence journals.

Whilst this is most encouraging and we express our sincere gratitude to all members who have purchased copies and publicised the book, we are still several thousand dollars in the red. Accordingly, to achieve more sales, we are reverting to the pre-launch price of \$45.00 for the rest of the year, post-free to anywhere in Australia. This applies to members, their relatives and friends- and to anyone else who

may be interested to have copies. (During the past few weeks, seven friends in the Rosanna-Ivanhoe area have bought books for presents for relatives or friends.)

We would be very grateful if members could make use of the new pamphlet-order form enclosed to spread the word around.

March 10, 1992

*Geoff Ballard Steve
Mason*

CODE BREAKERS, INTERCEPTORS AND INFORMATION MANIPULATORS.

Eric Nave joined the Royal Australian Navy in 1917. He was 18. Before Australia claimed him back after Pearl Harbour he had become the Father of British Code Breaking in the Far East. He worked at the British Government Code and Cipher School and the British Far East Combined Bureau and was deeply involved in breaking JN 25---a Japanese Navy operations code used during 1939 and the war years. When Australian leaders were at panic stations after Pearl Harbour (with good reason) the R.A.N. "borrowed" him back. Eric Nave was involved with the creation of Central Bureau. Yet Tim James, Director, Defence Signals Directorate, resisted an approach by James Rusbridger, a former M I 6 operative and noted author to "see any files relating to Eric Nave's work with Central Bureau in 1940-41". Under pressure D.S.D. released documents with every page relating to pre-war code breaking against the Japanese blanked out---and this was 50 years down the track.

And just in case you thought that intercepting Kana was all fresh and new in 1941 it is recorded that Eric Nave established a small Sigint operation based on Shanghai and directed at Japanese radio traffic in 1925. However, the first break of a Kana code message was made long before that in 1920. "Betrayal at Pearl Harbor" by Rusbridger and

Nave has some interesting information about the beginnings of Kana and contains a full exposition of the system including the Japanese ideograph, the "romanised" phonetic sound and the morse code signal sound. (Memories may come flooding back to "I" Room staff and intercept operators----- I am reminded of dah, dah dah d'dit, copied as T Z, romanised as MU FU and meaning in Army Air procedure "nothing more" also dah dah d'dit dah, dah d'dah dah, copied as Z Y, converted to HI E and signalling "Air raid". I'm sure an Army Air expert will tell me if I am wrong.)

However, "Betrayal" is not just about Kata Kana. It is an epic work resulting from many tedious hours and days of research in British, American, New Zealand and Australian archives. It relies not just on dead archives but also on interviews with key figures still living including one with Abraham Sinkov. All this material supports the thesis that President Roosevelt was deceived by Churchill in 1941 and that the President "was also badly served by his own divided and jealous subordinates". Perhaps not such a unique concept in ancient and modern history.

"Betrayal" is a scholarly piece of research revealing a great deal of

hitherto unseen hard evidence. Unless one is an enthusiast for the subject it may not be an easy read.

"Betrayal at Pearl Harbor" is published by Summit Books and retails in Australia at \$29.95.

EDITORIAL

A.B.C. Television some months ago screened the 1970 film "Tora Tora Tora". You may recall that the film portrayed the attack on Pearl Harbour and included some original Japanese Navy footage. This film referred to "Ultra" and claimed that the names of the President and some of his Commanders were, in 1941, removed from the list of people authorised to see "Ultra" material. The very next day A.B.C. ran "Sacrifice at Pearl Harbour" made in 1989. It referred to Eric Nave's work in breaking J N 25 and asserted that the Americans on Oahu consistently monitored Japanese radio traffic in 1941. The Dutch had tracked, through Sigint, the movement of the Japanese Pearl Harbour attack force. The producers of this film took the line that even though it is accepted that some American Commanders were kept in the dark they don't accept that the "Commander-in Chief", the President himself didn't know what was going on. Although a surprising number of archival documents remain Rusbridger claims that large

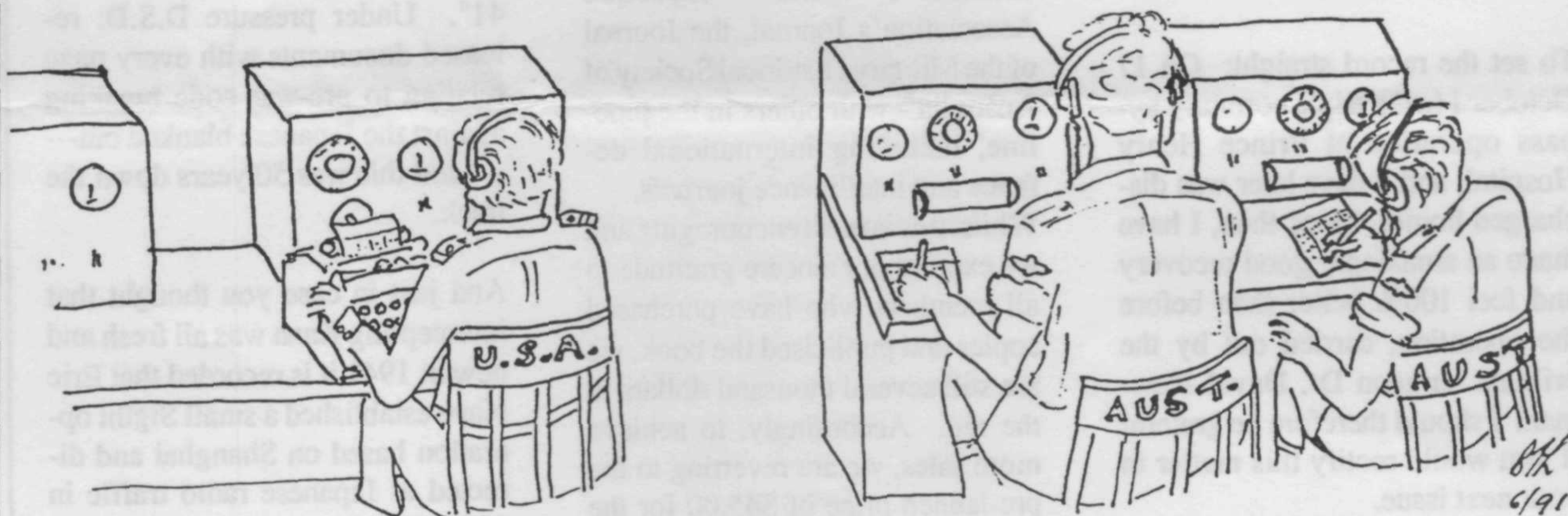
volumes have been destroyed----- the truth may never emerge.

If you served in former Dutch territories forget about that mysterious Dutch award. That is if you were ever interested in the first place. There was a medal called the "Queen Wilhemina Remembrance Cross". Writing in "Reveille" the Dutch Consul General says that the Dutch Government no longer awards medals for services rendered during World War II-- neither to Dutch nor other nationals.

Some snippets about SLU 9 are held over for Newsletter No.2 of 1992. Also on the agenda for No. 2 is a review of "the Eavesdroppers" which now seems to be widely distributed among our members. How about sharing your reactions to it with your colleagues through the columns of "Newsletter"?

And to those members who would be with us on Anzac Day if health or geography permitted please know that those fortunate enough to be able to march will be thinking of you on that day.

*Dennis Moore,
Publicity Officer,
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02 524 6267*



Signals Office, San Miguel 1945.

THE WAR AS RECALLED BY BRIAN LOVETT.