



CENTRAL BUREAU INTELLIGENCE CORPS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

NUMBER

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JUNE

THE MELBOURNE EVENT

HON. SECRETARY'S PAR.



Combined Reunion Number 5 ----- Melbourne 13th. and 14th. November.

Thanks to the organisational expertise of our "Melbourne connection" comprising Roy Ward, Geoff Patience and Lester Truex, arrangements are now in place as follows:

Saturday 13th. November at 6pm. Dinner at the Caulfield RSL 4 St. Georges Road, Elsternwick at a cost of \$17 per head for three course meal including liquid refreshments. Our guest speaker will be Eric Nave who is well known to us all as the pioneer of radio intelligence in the Pacific Area and more recently as the co-author of that intriguing book, "Betrayal at Pearl Harbour." Eric's reminiscences should be well worth hearing. For transport to and from the Club, Geoff Patience will be able to organise buses to "pick up and deliver" at a central point (or points) in the City if sufficient people indicate that they would be interested. The Club is also handy to Elsternwick Station and also has its own car-park.

Sunday 14th. November at 10.30am. wreath-laying Ceremony at the Shrine of Remembrance, St. Kilda Road. Medals to be worn. In Canberra this was a moving ceremony.

Sunday 14th. November at 12 noon. Barbecue in the Parliament House Gardens. Parking in the grounds. Enter from MacArthur Street. The cost is \$17 a head and includes steak and sausages, salad and sweets and liquid refreshments. As seating accommodation was somewhat restricted last time we visited this location Roy Ward has arranged for additional chairs and tables.

As for accommodation in Melbourne, some of us will be staying at Georgina House Guest House, 21-25 George Street, East Melbourne. Phone (03) 419 6353. Bed and breakfast with twin or double room is \$65 (single room \$55). If en suite room is required there is an additional charge of \$20. Light evening meals are available, including drinks. If you are interested in being with other members while in Melbourne, please make your own bookings at Georgina House. It is near the Melbourne Cricket Ground which brings me to the next point.

Entertainment, for those with sporting interests could include a guided tour of the M.C.G. which is famous for memorabilia of cricket and also the 1956 Olympic Games. Geoff. advises me that the cost of the tours is only \$6 before 4pm. but doubles after that. Another point of interest the "Polly Woodside", a restored clipper-ship which has been converted into a naval museum and restaurant. (We were planning to hold our dinner there but prices seemed a little steep). The "Polly Woodside" is located at Maritime Park, Thayer Street, South Melbourne. Phone (03) 6999760.

A final word about Melbourne is a reminder that a Combined Reunion embraces the members of both the Wireless Unit Associations and the A.S.W.G. Association as well as C.B.I.C.A. Harold Jones, Steve Mason and Mac. Jamieson have already indicated their support and will, I am sure, be publicising the details of the Reunion among their members. We'll be looking forward to renewing acquaintance with many old friends in November. Be in it!

New Members. WILLIAM CARTER of Ringwood, Victoria, BERT de MARS of Beacon Hill, NSW., WILL RENSHAW of Blackburn, Victoria, LOU

HARRIS of Lambton, NSW., ALLAN TESSIER of Finley, NSW.-----five in all since last report and still our numbers grow. A warm welcome to all five and a special invitation to be with us in Melbourne. What better way to get re-acquainted?

Hoping to see you in November,
Gordon Gibson.
7 Lindsay Close
Pymble 2073
(02) 449 9450

FROM THE PRESIDENT



At the Executive meeting held 5th. April, the Committee finalised the arrangements for the Anzac Day commemorations, also the Hon. Secretary, Gordon Gibson, outlined the activities proposed for our Melbourne reunion in November.

On behalf of the Executive and members of C.B.I.C.A. our thanks are extended to members of the A.I.A. responsible for the attendance of the Pittwater House School's Service Training Unit at both the wreath laying ceremony and the Anzac Day march. The detachment of this unit are to be thanked and congratulated for the manner in which they performed their duties and the dedication shown.

* *Anzac Eve* *Wreath Laying:-*

This solemn occasion was made even more memorable by the presence of the Pittwater House School's Service Training Unit members who provided a catafalque party, a flag party and a band. As in past years C.B.I.C.A. members joined the A.I.A. Group in this moving ceremony.

* *Anzac Day:-*

Under an overcast sky members of C.B.I.C.A. moved off with the Australian Intelligence Association on our right, our combined group preceded by members of Pittwater House. The march progressed without any major problems, Allan Osborne did, as usual, an excellent job in attempting to keep the group in step. A confession; I feel that I gave Allan his greatest problem, will try harder next time Allan.

The only casualty of the day was the main banner, quotations will be sought to produce a more suitable type made from a lighter material. After the march members gathered at Phillip's Foote for an afternoon of socialising and reminiscing.

Remember the Combined Reunion in Melbourne 13th. and 14th. November, as this is the 75th. anniversary of the end of the 1914-1918 war, all members who are able to attend are urged to do so to make this reunion one to remember.

A number of new members have been admitted to the C.B.I.C.A.. A sincere welcome is extended to each and everyone of these members.

Regards to all,

Aub. Roberts.
President.

Phone (02) 807 1426.

THE TREASURER'S COLUMN



Was great to see so many at Phillip's Foote on Anzac Day, seems all enjoyed themselves by the natter that went on and the clicking of cameras ---- may we have many more happy get togethers.

Let me say what an enjoyable afternoon I and my friend spent with Marion and Stan Winn in their new abode at the War Vets. at Narrabeen. Marion was kind enough to act as guide showing us all around the buildings and gardens. Thank you for that, Marion. I do hope Roy (Perry) your wife's hip replacement op. was a success and that she is coping well.

Thanks for your note, Val (Miller) but sorry to read of your eye problem, if you've had an op. do hope all is going well.



Thanks for the information Joyce (Stead) in telling us that 21 Henry Street was recently shown on television as a part of the series on historic Queensland homes-----I'm sure everyone will be interested to read this and be rather proud that some of C.B. members actually worked in what now seems to be quite an important building.

Maury and Betty Coombs from the U.S.A. sent some old snaps of Army girls taken at Ascot Park and thought maybe we could identify some but alas, up to now no results, but we're still making enquiries---- anyway Betty, thanks for the thought. Thanks a lot for the used

stamps which I have been receiving they are greatly appreciated by the Christian Blind Mission who do such marvellous work both in Australia and overseas, especially in the poorer countries--- so please keep on collecting for me.

As we donate to Sydney Legacy each year am letting you know our last donation was allocated to the provision of hostel beds for their widows.

I'd like to thank all those many people who have enquired about my health---I didn't march on Anzac Day this year but hope to in 1994. Our Committee, with Aub. Roberts as our new President, is working very well and we have a couple of ideas in mind besides our Annual Reunion in Melbourne, one is an outing on Thursday the 5th. Aug. for a boat trip to historical Spectacle Island, which is 5 kms. upstream from Sydney's business centre, where we will be shown a very extensive and interesting Naval Museum after which the boat will take us to Rodd Island where lunch will be served and where we will be able to enjoy each others company, walk around or just relax and natter and then board the boat back to Sydney. The boat leaves the Man O'War Steps, next to the Opera House, at 9.45 am. and the inclusive cost is \$27 per person. Jim Williams was giving me a glowing report of this trip he had recently taken and I thought it would be a great idea for C.B. members and their friends and so after getting the OK. and interest from the Committee I went ahead and made the arrangements so all those interested in joining us would you please ring me at 525-0382 or Gordon at 449-9450 or Dennis 524-6267 as I'll be away from 23rd. June for

about 10 days. The closing date for bookings is Thursday, 29th. July. To end with my usual verse:----

The danger is not what nature will do with man but what man will do with nature.

Norma Keeling.

FAME AND INFAMY



Bletchley Park, that icon for code breakers, famed for the Enigma code break and indeed a mecca for some sigint people is to become a memorial. Museums of cryptology and the history of computing are to be developed within its buildings. Last year our members had the opportunity to contribute their own funds to this end. But what about the people who made it famous. Let us consider one person in particular.

In 1954 Dr. Alan M. Turing died suddenly and alone in the countryside of England. His body was cremated and his ashes scattered over the earth. There is no memorial stone; not even a niche in a wall or a brass plate. If the cracking of the Enigma code and the development of computing contribute to Bletchley Park's fame then Allan Turing must be regarded as one of those who made it all possible.

Without Dr. Turing Enigma would have taken much longer to break; if indeed anyone else could have solved the problem. Without Dr. Turing it is doubtful if Bletchley Park would have become the birthplace of modern computing. After the war he was awarded an O.B.E. Secrecy saw to it that the reason for

the award was not made public. He certainly did not receive the recognition accorded to many other people whose contribution to victory was much, much less significant. Perhaps it was because Dr. Turing's achievement's were the result of very high intellectual skills; he was no macho hero. Or perhaps there was some other reason.

When he died at age 42 he was probably still under police surveillance. Some time before he had been arrested in Manchester and subsequently convicted of offences related to his homosexuality. In 1954 attitudes were different----- in 1993 he may not have offended the law.

After one particular long weekend in 1954 his housekeeper came as usual to his large country home and found his body in his bedroom. Cyanide was found. There was no suicide note. Some of his contemporaries from the Bletchley Park days accepted the official suicide finding. He had, they said, talked about suicide.

Inevitably there were other theories to explain his death. He was still in possession of classified information and from time to time after the war he was still contacted by G.C.H.Q. Indeed when he sought to seek some freedom in Norway, (where there were men only dances) after his conviction, he was watched carefully.

Dr. Turing is receiving some recognition now. Geoff. Ballard has recorded that during his own recent visit to Bletchley Park he was shown the hut where Dr. Turing "initiated his theories which gave birth to computing science".

For a fascinating insight into this man's outstanding intellectual achievements and the difficulties which his lifestyle created watch out for a repeat of a program entitled "*People - The Strange Life and Death of Dr. Turing*" broadcast by SBS television some weeks ago (if you missed it first time around). Much of the material for this story is derived from that documentary.

In post war years Dr. Turing was disappointed by lack of support, in England, for his attempts to revitalise British industry. He returned to academic life in a university. Which University? Need you ask?

LAST POST



Early in 1992 ex Staff Sergeant H.W. COCKRUM, VX72807, wrote to "Newsletter" expressing surprise that after 46 years some old mates had contacted him, especially Marion Winn and Geoff. Patience.

These contacts provoked memories of his C.B. service. He recalled his time at South Yarra and at Ascot and his work with the "cryptos". At one time he was Secretary for Mick Sandford. Sadly Bert died on 5th. May 1993. Condolences are extended to his widow who still lives in Vermont, Victoria.

The death of FRANK SCALLY, a member of both C.B.I.C.A. and the A.S.W.G. Association was reported briefly in the last edition of Ink Emma Ink. His sister Julie contacted IMI. Some members may recall meeting Frank in later years

at one of those barbecues at Gordon Gibson's place.

Among many sad duties Mrs. Ilse Eddolls arranged for a friend to let C.B.I.C.A. know of the death, on 16th March 1993, of her husband, Raymond. RAY EDDOLLS was one of the British Army personnel attached to Central Bureau. He was a keen Association member. Our condolences to Ilse.

PEOPLE



EARLE HEAP recently travelled from Ballina to the Melbourne W.U. reunion at the Crest Motel. The reunion was well patronised, says Earle. Being in Melbourne on Anzac Day he was able to draw some comparisons between the Sydney and Melbourne marches. (Dangerous ground !)

New member LOU HARRIS from Lambton, near Newcastle was in a Dakota aircraft which ground looped at Merauke on 31.03.1945 on take off for Morotai. Last year he searched unsuccessfully for fellow passengers but did in the process find Roy Perry and Gordon Swinney who arranged for him to join C.B.I.C.A.. Gordon and Lou discovered that they shared a voyage on LST 696 from Morotai to Labuan for the June 1945 invasion. As he browsed through some back copies of "Newsletter" Lou's attention was grabbed by Roy Ward's letter about the shooting incident in Labuan on June 10 1945. Lou would like to make contact with Roy.

Brisbane member, ALLAN CAMPBELL, could not come to Sydney for Anzac Day. He had a conflicting engagement. For more than forty years Allan has been an Executive and Hon. Publicity Officer on the Anzac Day Commemoration Committee in Queensland. He still arranges the publicity for the Brisbane Dawn Service and Combined Parade. Allan is also working on the establishment of a memorial to General MacArthur on the eighth floor of MacArthur's Chambers at the corner of Queen and Edward Streets.

WILL RENSHAW, ex 5 W.U, was one of that very large group of sigint people who was discharged and lost all contact with war-time colleagues for more than 45 years. Then he read "On Ultra Active Service". He sent to Geoff. Ballard a collection of photographs which Geoff. would have liked to have had for his book. But as Geoff. says "Too late". The photographs cover the Luzon era and the sea journey home. Secretary Gordon has Will's address.

The Ex RAAF WU's Association's Queensland Newsletter reports the death of Doug Trigar's wife. Your C.B.I.C.A. colleagues offer their condolences, Doug.

FRANCES CURETON is sure that the A.W.A.S. who did their cipher training in Melbourne, before journeying to C.B. in Brisbane, will remember Pat PENROSE (RATTRAY) at Grosvenor. Patricia Penrose, OAM, was the subject of a feature article in the March 93 "Vasey Newsletter". This is the official Victorian publication for the Veterans and War Widows in association with the War Widows

Guild. The article is headed "Still Fighting For Servicewomen's Rights. It says that Pat was a "member of Special Z Unit, a double security signals outfit. She lived under canvas in a tent city in Fawkner Park, South Yarra. Working with Allied Intelligence she deciphered and en-ciphered top secret signals from London and the Middle East or Port Moresby on military movements which helped decide the outcome of the conflict." However the main theme of the article is a tribute to Pat's forty plus years of dedicated service to the welfare and rights of about 272 surviving signal women and to the community generally. She seems to be a forceful lady and says she is always there when needed and the women trust her. Frances has her address.

After writing to "Newsletter" Frances kept a professional appointment with her surgeon. She hopes to be fit enough to join in our Melbourne reunion. And we all hope to see her there.

These members were sighted at that remarkable Wreath Laying ceremony in Sydney on Anzac Eve shared with the Australian Intelligence Association and the young ladies and gentlemen of the Pittwater House School's Service Training Unit. MADELINE and RON CHIDGEY NORMA KEELING DIANA PARKER NORMAN ALLEN GORDON GIBSON AUB ROBERTS JIM WILLIAMS DENNIS MOORE also supporter MONA OWEN.

The marchers on Anzac Day in Sydney were (with sincere apologies if any name is missed). NORMAN ALLEN AUB ROB-

ERTS DON DUNN DOREEN MACPHERSON DOUG MCNALLY BILL ESTEP ALLAN NORTON BOB JAMES MARION WINN LES McCLEAN SYD CAREY REG MURPHY GORDON GIBSON JIM WILLIAMS JOHN WOOD FRANK HUGHES ALLAN OSBORNE BRUCE BENTWICH BRIAN LOVETT BRUCE LOVETT JOYCE GRACE JOHN KENNEDY DAVE HANSEN BILL ROBINSON NOEL LANGBY KEITH CAROLAN BOB LEONARD MICK CASEY JOHN SHOEBRIDGE JOHN LAIRD IVANA AUPRINCE JOHN PASCOE LOU HARRIS STAN KING DENNIS MOORE KEITH PHILLIPS.

These people were either sighted at or accepted for the Phillip's Foote function.

ROY PERRY EDDIE KELSON NORMA and JACKIE KEELING MONA OWEN DIANA SEYMOUR MADELINE and RON CHIDGEY KEITH GAGGIN LOU HARRIS ELMA and JACK BENNETT AUB ROBERTS BILL CLARKE JOYCE and MICK CASEY JIM WILLIAMS SHEILA GREGORY JOYCE GRAINGER BRUCE BENTWICH MARION WINN MEG and ALLAN OSBORNE JOHN DUNN CHRIS UHLMAN NONI MCNAUGHT MARGARET MCCAFFERTY HELEN KENNY MAVIS and TIM MADRELL JOHN WALSH FAY and AUSTIN KELLY NANCY JOHNSON FRED O'COLLINS DIANA PARKER SUE and GORDON GIBSON GORDON SWINNEY DAPHNE and BOB JAMES NORMAN ALLEN KEITH

GORDON LESTER TRUEX PHIL DYNES CLARE and KEN STEGGA NORMA TEMENS KEN BROWN NORMA and SYD CAREY SALLY CLOUGH ISOBEL and DON DUNN BILL ESTEP JOYCE GRAINGER JOHN LAIRD NOEL LANGBY REG MURPHY PAM and BOB LEONARD HEATHER and BRIAN LOVETT BRUCE LOVETT LES McCLEAN DOREEN MACPHERSON KATY and ALLAN NORTON RUTH MACDONALD RUTH and KEITH PHILLIPS PAT PHILLIPS SUE PEDLINGHAM JOHN SHOEBRIDGE PEGGY & DENNIS MOORE

NEWSWATCH

C.B.'S SUCCESSOR ALIVE AND WELL



If you joined with your colleagues in Canberra on November 8 1992 you may remember Mr. Gary R. Marshall, Director of the Defence Signals Directorate, telling our members, but not for publication, something about the size of present day D.S.D. budgets. Accordingly "Newsletter" didn't publish the figures; but Brian Toohey has. Writing in the Sydney Sun-Herald on April 4, this year, he says that D.S.D.'S new base at Geraldton, W.A. is estimated to have cost \$M 200.

Back in April D.S.D. departed from its Hong Kong Station. Considering just how close we are to 1997 this is not surprising. Now our China watch is conducted from Geraldton along with lots of other watches. Mr. Toohey says that "Geraldton will be able to eavesdrop on any 'phone calls, faxes or elec-

tronic data sent via any communications satellite in Australia's part of the globe."

We seem to be interested in improved economic intelligence of our Asian neighbours, especially Japan. Our Indonesian watch is reported to be run from Shoal Bay near Darwin.

Despite the end of the Cold War D.S.D. has pushed for continued budget support at a very high level for operations to focus on economic intelligence. Allegedly D.S.D. wins about 90 million dollars a year. It is building a new base at Wagga Wagga in N.S.W. and has a new installation at Bamaga on Cape York.

It seems, however that D.S.D. seeks support from the Government not only in the area of finance. Telecom, Optus and Vodafone wanted to introduce mobile 'phone systems which would be extremely difficult for any eavesdropper to decode. The Telecommunications Act was changed in 1991 to require equipment suppliers to liaise with security agencies to ensure that calls are still able to be tapped and recorded.

A cynical person could ask why, in the light of this massive financial input into intelligence gathering relating to foreign economic matters, Australia is in massive debt and some would argue in economic decline? Well perhaps in some small way it is because we are apparently bound by a 1949 agreement to pass our intercepted material to trading competitors in the U.S., Britain, Canada and New Zealand all of whom are out to beat us in the Asia trade. These countries may be on our side in a war game but in the cut and thrust of

world trade it is very clear now that we have few, if any, friends.

Paul Lyneham on ABC Radio 2BL on May 25 also commented on the D.S.D. budget. He noted that Dr. Cheeseman, an academic from A.N.U., was saying that some of our neighbours were concerned. Australia's public position is that we see no threat from countries in our region yet we are spending \$M 200 (Confirm \$M 200) per year on secret activities; specifically monitoring the airwaves to listen in to what our neighbours are saying. According to Mr. Lyneham one of our military leaders didn't share Dr. Cheeseman's view and dismissed it as what you might expect from an academic.

ARMY RADIO INTERCEPTORS AT DUNDAS IN 1942 ?

Journalist Martin Warneminde made some remarkable revelations in the Sydney "Sun-Herald" on 30 May 1993. He tells the story of Sam Fowler. Now 78, Sam was an Army Lieutenant in charge of a secret radio interception unit in Oatlands House at Dundas, Sydney, just on 51 years ago this month. Indeed it was just about the time that those midget Japanese submarines raped Sydney Harbour and the great city lost its innocence. Oatlands House picked up some strange signals. "One was strong and presumed to be from the Mt. Solitary repeater station and there were seven very weak ones believed to come from the midgets and their mother submarines", according to Sam Fowler's nephew, Mr. Peter Walker, member of the National Trust's Industrial Archaeology Committee. Lieut. Fowler

reported this to his headquarters but was told to "disengage".

Mr. Walker is convinced, says the "Sun-Herald" article, that the Japanese set up a temporary radio repeater station on Mt. Solitary, south of Katoomba in the Blue Mountains in 1942.

Did the A.S.W.G. have a section or a detachment at Dundas or are we now learning about yet one more secret radio intercept outfit? As it is alleged that the signals were intercepted some 72 hours before the subs. attacked and the attack caught us with our defences down we need to know. Perhaps the Japanese were using J.N.25 and in April 1942 we had only solved about 30% and anyway the code was changed on May 1.*. Or perhaps the messages didn't ever get to Central Bureau which was then an infant.

*The Eavesdroppers, Page 37.

RECOGNITION FOR JOSEPH E. RICHARD.



Harking back to the subject of fame and heroes and Bletchley Park, here are some thoughts from Keith Payne on C.B. heroes.

"One thing that I find has not been given sufficient exposure in the various books that have been written is the part played by a few key players for the successes gained during the war.

The true heroes of the war were those who tended to be self-effacing workers behind the scenes. So I

was delighted to read in the NSA magazine for NSA retirees, belated recognition of the work done by Joe Richard. Joe, I reckon, was the leader in the high grade crypt area with Bob Botterill his counterpart in the low grade side. These two people along with the Don Inglises, Bert Rushens and Nobby Clarkes on the traffic analysis side were very much the backbone of the organisation in its early years.....There is still much to be written about the heroes of the Second World War but I guess it will never be written now.

Research of archives is one thing and while Geoff Ballard attempted to write up the personal side of members of the unit the technical achievements will remain classified and out of reach of those members of C.B. who contributed at various levels but were unable to see the significance of their labours. More's the pity."

From the N S A Magazine

"Back in December Chief Warrant Officer (Retired) JOSEPH E. RICHARD of Silver Spring, MD, received a letter from Major General Paul E. Mencher, Chief of the Army's Military Intelligence Corps, announcing that Joe had been selected for induction into the Military Intelligence Hall of Fame at Fort Huachuca, Arizona. The induction ceremony will take place on July 1st. Other NSAers in that Hall of Fame include William Friedman, Dr. Solomon Kullback, Frank Rowlett and Dr. Abraham Sinkov.

Joe, who retired in 1973, worked for Army Signal Intelligence from 1941, spent time in the Munitions Building, Arlington Hall, Australia

and Fort Meade. He modestly says that the Hall of Fame honor was due "to some lucky discoveries that I made in March- April 1943 which started successful work on the high-level Japanese communications systems." Our guess is that there was more than just 'luck' involved and we'd like to congratulate Joe Richard on getting into the Military Intelligence Hall of Fame!

Joe's Australian C.B. colleagues echo that .

THE AUSTRALIAN SPECIAL WIRELESS GROUP

Part Two



After having operated in the Moresby area from September 1942 ASWG Section 55 was relieved. They served there for about 15 months. The Moresby camp was closed and Section 55 was eventually merged with Section 53 at Finschaff in February 1944. They moved to Dreger Harbour and then in July, 1944 had a beach landing experience from an LST at Hollandia (as it was in those days). At that time they gained a cipher section. This meant that they could transmit intelligence by airwaves so a radio link was set up with Headquarters at Kalinga, Brisbane. The W/T operator at Hollandia was usually Charlie Muir, an ASWG identity and a skilled telegraphist in pre-war days.

As the Americans advanced further north Section 53 moved to Morotai and there it remained until the end of the war. Early in August 1945 ASWG people were loading a ship in Brisbane said to be bound for the

Philippine Islands but that bomb exploded and the trip was off. As was the case with some of the RAAF units which had either just arrived in Luzon, or were about to go, the need for their continued service had gone.

The mere recital of the facts makes it sound dull; but as the participants know it was exciting, sometimes frightening, frustrating and usually unpredictable. The shadow of security and secrecy which has persisted for so long has probably obliterated a lot of the best parts of the story. Ex ASWG man Bill McCue would like someone to write an ASWG version of "The Eavesdroppers" to capture what is still remembered.

Way back during his service at a British camp at Sarafand he can recall the Aussie contingent being pulled off listening to the Germans and given Kana morse to learn. The officer who made and was able to implement that decision would have some interesting background to fill in. And Jack Butler could contribute some colour. Jack is a one time President of the ASWG Association and a Life-Member. In 1942 Jack and the late Gordon Mountjoy were waiting in a staging camp at Townsville Racecourse to join 55 Section. They had travelled over from Darwin. They waited and waited in vain. Jack thinks that the famous Uncle Jack (Lieut. Colonel John William Ryan) delayed the move of Section 55 to Moresby "as the Japanese were coming over from Kokoda towards Moresby and Uncle Jack didn't want another 'Greece caper' on his hands". John Ryan's name as well as the Greece caper will be known to the readers of "On Ultra Active Service".

So somehow Jack Butler and Gordon, after giving up on their Unit, decided to go it alone. They infiltrated an American troopship bound for Moresby. Aussie service people really did show that spark of initiative when they escaped from unit bureaucracy and were left to fend for themselves. "Nobody there (at Moresby) knew us or wanted to know us----they were more preoccupied with the Japs---- so we found the CSO and hooked on to him." They scrounged a receiving set and a tent and copied Japanese signals from 6.0am to midnight every day. They identified all of the Japanese groups from Rabaul south to the New Guinea mainland with call signs and frequencies. As the front line got nearer to Moresby the codes used by the Japanese became simpler and easy to translate. Who needed C.B.? These two operators cracked the codes and recorded the messages in plain language. They handed their output to G.S.I. (?Army Intelligence) but didn't know what happened to it. As the Japanese got closer and yet closer still "things didn't look too bright", recalls Jack. They formulated their own personal evacuation plans. "We were two very happy fellers when Jack Vasey (and the rest of 55 Section) did reach us".

[This series is compiled from material supplied by Steve Mason and from contributions published in "Ink Emma Ink" the Newsletter of the Special Wireless Group Association.

Steve's co-operation is gratefully acknowledged.]

C.B.ERS ASKED TO HELP.



Betty Chessell from Chevron Island has elected to help the Signals Officers Association in Queensland raid the memories of Central Bureau people and their associates. They want to hear from any Army signals personnel who served at Central Bureau describing the type of work they were doing; viz: intercept, switchboard, cipher etc. These people are invited to write to Betty at 255 Stanhill Drive, Chevron Island Qld. 4217 or phone on 075 315 735.

The Signals Association plans to place plaques in all of the places in Queensland where Army signals personnel served during the war years. Information about CB people is hard to come by. For example, Betty's unit, 11 Cipher Unit, does not appear in War Office records but it is recorded on her personal service and casualty form which she obtained from the Freedom of Information Office. This is why help is needed from those people who were actually in CB associated Army signals units.

Betty says that with the assistance of Roma Hodsdon and other war-time friends who were at Indooroopilly and Townsville etc. already she has been able to help the Signals Officers Association and they have been most appreciative.



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