



CENTRAL BUREAU INTELLIGENCE CORPS ASSOCIATION

Number 4, 1994

DECEMBER

EXECUTIVE NEWS.

From the President's Desk.

1994 Reunion — Jamberoo.

Unfortunately, due to ill health, I was unable to attend the Reunion which by the feedback received was an outstanding success.

My sincere thanks to those of the Executive and members who, through their efforts, helped to make the Reunion a memorable occasion. You will have seen a full report on the activities at Jamberoo in the "Newsletter".

Special thanks to Dennis Moore, who in addition to his normal duties as Publicity Officer, performed activities normally undertaken by the President.

The address given by Frank Hughes was, I've heard excellent. Sorry I missed your interesting talk, Frank.

Past President Jim Williams was forced to return early from a trip to Tasmania, prior to the Jamberoo Reunion. Jim underwent an operation on Nov. 30th. and I am pleased to report Jim is progressing well and is due to leave St. Lukes Hospital on Monday December 12th. for a period of recuperation. Best wishes from all the members.

The 50th. anniversary of the cessation of hostilities of World War II occurs next year 1995. Ex-service organisations and Governments (both Federal and State) are planning commemoration activities suitable for this occasion. It is hoped as many C.B.I.C.A. members that are able attend our various activities throughout the coming year to commemorate this important date in the Nation's history.

Gordon Gibson is still fighting the Bureaucracy in regards incorporation of C.B.I.C.A. No doubt Gordon will give an up-to-the-minute report later in the "Newsletter".

This being the last "Newsletter" for 1994 I would like to thank the Executive Committee for their help and support I have received during the past year, without their efforts our Association would not be the success it has grown to be.

To all members a very merry Christmas 1994 and a happy and healthy 1995!

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HON. SECRETARY'S PAR.

Tuesday 15th. August 1995 - VP Day Fifty Years On.

What memories that date stirs for us all! How to celebrate is the next question - one to which your Committee has already given some thought as the following letter from Martin Brady, Director, Defence Signals Directorate, Canberra shows and I quote:

Dear Gordon,

Further to our recent discussion D.S.D. will be holding a family Open Day in Canberra during February 1995. Members of your Association and their spouses would be welcome to attend. Mr. Peter Wilkinson on (06) 265 0387 will confirm the date shortly and make the necessary arrangements for receiving your members.

I also confirm our support for your proposed Reunion late in the year. We will be happy to make our Auditorium available for a meeting session and to arrange for those attending to be shown over our building.

Yours sincerely,

Martin Brady.

I think that you will agree that these are two very generous offers and ones of which we should take advantage as they seem to be highly appropriate ways of commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of V.P. Peter Wilkinson has already given us the following details about the arrangements for the Open Day.

Open Day D.S.D. Canberra, Saturday 18th. February 1995.

Time :- 10am. to 4pm.

The Open Day is designed as a family affair to allow spouses and children of D.S.D. personnel to be given a glimpse of what goes on "at the work face" inside the walls of the D.S.D. Members of C.B.I.C.A. have been offered the privilege of joining these family groups for the day. Working models, static displays, historic displays, significant documents and memorabilia should certainly prove interesting to us all. You will also remember from the previous Newsletter that an Archives Museum is being set up at D.S.D. Arthur Skimmin is in charge of this project and the Open Day will provide a good opportunity to see how this is progressing and perhaps to give valuable assistance. So if you have any memorabilia with which you are ready to part, bring them along and consult with Arthur. You will be doing the right thing by putting them on display for all to see. Anyone wishing to attend the Open Day would you please contact me by 6th. February 1995.

Combined Reunion Number 7, Canberra ?? 1995.

The date for the Reunion has not yet been fixed. Martin Brady uses the phrase "late in the year" because I had told him it was

usually held around 11th. November. However, in view of the special significance in 1995 of the date 15th. August, it has been suggested that we should depart from tradition and brave Canberra's winter chills and hold the Reunion round that date. A final decision on the date and indeed on the general arrangements will be made at the Annual General Meeting on 6th. February, so if you want to contribute to the discussion, please come along. It will be heartening to see members other than the few regulars who always attend, taking an interest and giving us the benefit of their experience.

The Incorporation of C.B.I.C.A. :- A Continuing Saga.

It is now the season of goodwill to all men so I will not give you my opinion of the efficiency of the Commissioner of Consumer Affairs and his staff. All I can say is : May Heaven help you if you ever have occasion to refer a grievance or unjust dealing to them for assistance ! Our original application went in on 1st. September and we still have not got to first base — acceptance by Consumer Affairs of our proposed name; Central Bureau Intelligence Corps Association Incorporated. Let me just quote one example of the frustrations encountered. Phoned a gentleman (14-11-94) who said that he had the second copy of the letter from H.Q. Aust. Defence Force stating that they had no objections to our proposed name — the first copy had been lost — but he now could not find our original application so would we fax a copy to him personally and he would be sure to attend to it. The fax was sent at 9.30am. on 15-11-94 and a few hours later, phoned to confirm receipt thereof to be told it was no use trying to contact that same gentleman as he no longer worked in that Section ! The name of the Section by the way is the Reconsideration Office. At the time of going to press still awaiting official approval for our name.

NEW MEMBERS.

It is great the way old members are still locating for us prospective new members. Harold Sullivan of Aldinga Beach, South Australia found out about CBICA by reading an article entitled "Codebreakers" in the Adelaide Press which had been written by Jack Brown. Harold was with 5W.U. in the Philippines. Betty Chessell ran into Keith Jarrott at a Plaque Unveiling Ceremony commemorating Sigs. Ops Sites. Keith, who was with 53 W/T at Hollandia lives at Sunnybank, Queensland and has sent Publicity Officer Dennis an amusing article on "A Lighter Side of Flying to War". Welcome to CBICA Harold and Keith and we look forward to seeing you both at one or all of our functions next year.

My very best wishes to you all for a joyful Xmas and a happy and healthy new year. See you at the A.G.M. - I hope.

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TREASURER'S COLUMN.

Hello everyone!

Christmas is just around the corner, to me this year has just flown by like magic. 1994 hasn't been a good year world wide. I'm sure you will agree. May 1995 bring us a ray of hope for more peaceable times and that folk coming from other lands will join us in peace and realise what men and women in Australia gave up and thousands died to keep us free.

After misgivings because of cancellations due to illness, Jamberoo Re-union was a great success, many members making the remark that everyone being under the one roof all the weekend was the factor. Jamberoo Lodge, I think, came up trumps, the rooms being most comfortable, the location so peaceful and the meals, I hope, to everyone's satisfaction not to forget to mention the friendly staff.

It was great to see Alan and Pam Langdon on the tennis court, I won't mention my attempt, maybe in my next life I'll come back as a tennis player but certainly not in this life. A shame it wasn't warm enough for a swim in the pool.

Two members to thank, Alan at the wreath laying and Frank at our Saturday night dinner, we appreciated their taking part in our Re-union. I do hope those folk who were unable to attend because of illness are much improved and looking forward to our 1995 Re-union. It was great to see Gordon and Marcia Wilson with us as Gordon remarked to me that the thought of coming and being able to attend the Re-union did him the world of good; as you know he hasn't been 100% for some time. It was also great to see Ron Chidgey with us.

My wartime C.D. news:- I came across a double C.D. with a photo of War Service Personnel, men and women, on the front containing 127 sing-a-long favourites bringing back many memories, also another great C.D. with orchestra and vocal named "Dance and Romance hits of the war years", containing 50 tunes, will definitely get your feet tapping, both put out by J and B.

Very little mail to answer this time but many thanks to those wishing us a successful re-union and also Christmas greetings. With the following words I'll send my Christmas greetings to members and their families:—

*The music of Christmas is Laughter;
The warmth of Christmas is Friendship;
and
The spirit of Christmas is Love.*

Norma Keeling.

SIGINT REUNION IN "OZ".

Combined Reunion Number Six.

Jamberoo Valley Lodge Nov 12 -14.

Reporter: Madeline Chidgey.

Our reunions seem to get better and better with the re-cementing of friendships formed over fifty years ago. The sixth was no exception though numbers were down, due to illness in most cases.

Jamberoo Valley is all the brochure says and more, a most beautiful spot surrounded by green hills and showing no sign of the drought. Most of us arrived before lunch on the Saturday, and had a chance to explore, which included a marvellous walk through the rain forest area. Some energetic souls had a spot of tennis before dinner, some just sat and talked and enjoyed the pool and gardens — I didn't see anyone venture in, though. there was a noisy peacock and his mate — why do peacocks look so beautiful and sound so awful? Fortunately he and his mate settled down at night and didn't wake too early.

Our after dinner speaker, Frank Hughes, would have to be one of our best yet. Despite a serious heart attack earlier this year Frank went to a great deal of trouble to prepare and deliver his talk on the War Crimes Trials in Singapore. Tremendously interesting, and accompanied by a fascinating display of letters and memorabilia. It was a real pleasure also to meet Frank's wife Betty, who joined us for the first time.

The wreath laying on Sunday morning was attended by about thirty local residents including Guides, Scouts and Brownies. Alan Langdon, whose addresses always give us food for meditation, spoke of the sacrifice of so many in the War not having been for nothing — so many nations, including the losers, having benefited from the Allied victory. As Michael Casey laid the brilliant red and gold wreath on the War Memorial on that peaceful Sunday morning, one could not but ponder again on the great debt owed to the men and women who did not return.

After lunch at the Lodge (all meals were of a high standard and plentiful) everyone did their own thing until dinner, and the raffle was won by Dave Geyer, a popular win. The prize was a beautifully wrapped Christmas pudding made and donated by Noni McNaught, cook par excellence. Hope you enjoyed it, Dave! The sale of raffle tickets raised \$188 for Association funds.

There is a lot to be said for having the reunion under one roof, our C.B.-ers being such a cheerful and friendly lot. And Norma and I both felt we had gotten to know the members' partners a lot better. Altogether a pleasant enjoyable event.

Those attending were:- Bruce Bentwich, Ian and Lorraine Buckingham, Sid and Norma Carey, Michael and Joyce Casey, Betty Chessell, Madeline and Ron Chidgey, Eileen Donnan, Don and Isobel Dunn, Eric Fuller, Dave Geyer and Yvonne Andrews, Gordon Ross Gibson and Sue Gibson, Gordon

Richard Gibson and Peggy Gibson, Frank and Betty Hughes, Nancy Johnson, Norma Keeling, Helen Kenny, Alan and Pamela Langdon, John Laird, Bill and Joan Leyshun, (good to have A.S.W.G. represented) Eileen Lochlin, Margaret McCafferty, Dennis and Peggy Moore, Ronnie O'Neill, Gwen and Geoff Padman, Diana Parker, Keith and Wilma Payne, Jack Shoebridge, Norma Temens, Gordon and Marcia Wilson, Stan Willis. Hope I have not omitted anyone.

Apologies were received from Alf Davis, who had a nasty fall the day before; hope you are feeling better now, Alf; Jim Williams and Sheila, John and Joan Warmington, Aub Roberts (how we did miss our President!) Mac and Audrey Maroney, Dave and Margaret Berry, Di Seymour also Mary Saxby.

Earl Heap, Alan Osborne, Noni McNaught and our "ninety plus" veteran John Walsh all rang with their good wishes for a successful reunion. To all those who were unable to make it, we missed you, and hope to see you next year.

Madeline Chidgey.

SIGINT REUNION IN THE U.S.A.

Joe Richard has written to "Newsletter" to tell our members about the SIS USAFFE Reunion held at Fort Meade, Maryland on October 27. Joe was a member of the SIS Reunion Committee. Colonel Abe Sinkov attended the banquet. Although suffering from Parkinson's disease Abe reminisced about life in Melbourne and Brisbane, concluding with the words, "Good on you, we helped to win the war." The following story has been extracted from a report on the Reunion prepared by Richard A. Grodin.

84 SIS veterans, wives and husbands gathered at Fort Meade on October 27, a date chosen to coincide with the National Security Agency's Cryptologic History Symposium. The first day's events started at NSA with a tribute to Central Bureau and a review of the history and now de-classified accomplishments of the successful cryptologic efforts in the war in the Pacific and European Theatres. In the evening a great cocktail party was held at the Holiday Inn where guest Ed. Drea autographed copies of his most successful book, *MacArthur's ULTRA*. On day two participants visited the new National Cryptologic Museum and toured nearby Washington.

The banquet began with a toast to the Allied Services of Central Bureau: The Australian Air Force and Army contingents and the United Kingdom, New Zealand and Canadian Armed Services. "We toasted with GREAT wine provided by generous contributions from Clarence Yamagata and Richard Smith. Clarence, now 91 and living in Tokyo, sends greetings to all of his old friends, telling us Aloha and Konnichi-wa saying he wished to attend the celebration 'in spirit and happiness'."

Among the names of SISers who apologised for non-attendance was that of Lester Truex who wrote from Melbourne. Bill Robinson President of the Australian Intelligence Association

wrote to say that his Association had decided to lay a tribute at the Cenotaph at the exact time the Reunion was to commence.

In closing the banquet Joe Richard spoke of the importance of lower level signal intelligence which contributed so much to the Central Bureau's product. It wasn't just Ultra. He added that until in mid 1943 when the US 126 RI Company got going Central Bureau relied on Australian intercept.

"Newsletter" has a copy of a list of attendees at the 1994 SWPA S.I.S. Reunion Banquet. It contains addresses and could be copied and posted, on request, to interested members.

Joe says that at the Reunion there was interest in what C.B.I.C.A. will be doing to celebrate the 50th. year since the end of the war. Some S.I.S. people might want to join in. Indeed, Joe ends his letter thus:—

"I hope to march with you again on an Anzac Day. Best wishes to all."

SIGINT REUNION IN THE U.K.

Geoff. Ballard has reported on the "Enigma Reunion" held in Bedford from 30 Sept - 3 October, 1994.

"This years reunion was attended by 400 delegates - an increase of about 100 over the previous one, and I was invited to lecture on some aspect of the Australian involvement in Sigint during W. W.II

Like in 1992, the reunion was both a socialising and learning experience, with a "Gala Dinner" on the Saturday night, followed by a sing-song for which song-sheets of many war-time favourites had been prepared, accompanied by an army choir on tape. This put everyone in a wonderful mood.

The learning experience took the form of a series of lectures.

1. The experience of Special Operators
2. The role of the ATS Special Operator.
3. New beginnings (concerning Sigint careers.)
4. The Radio Security Service
5. Eavesdropping on the enemy.
6. Sigint in the Far East (Burma)
7. Colossus revisited. (technical aids)
8. Hut 6 Bletchley Park.
9. The Naval Service.
10. An appreciation of Alastair Denniston.
11. A civilian at Bletchley Park.
12. Sigint successes in war against Japan (G.B.)
- 13 "Job Up" Enigma Decoding Processes."

Geoff. describes a tour of Bletchley Park on the Sunday morning including a most impressive museum. 'Several 1940's cars were parked outside the mansion to give atmosphere to the occasion', says Geoff.

The next reunion is set for Sept/Oct 1996.

FROM CENTRAL BUREAU TO A WAR CRIMES UNIT. AN ADDRESS BY FRANK HUGHES.

Frank Hughes cast a spell over his after dinner audience at Jamberoo. Not even the young waiters, who would otherwise be bored by a reunion of "oldies", were immune from his magic. They, too, listened intently. It wasn't just the subject. War crimes trials which drag out heartrending and horrific evidence and often lead to grisly conclusions are not everyone's idea of a topic for after dinner relaxation. No, indeed, the magic was in Frank's very personal way of describing some momentous times in Australia's short history. He was describing times through which we all lived. This is what he said.

"How could many of us here today have known the change our years of war service would make to the direction and substance of our future lives. But fortunately fate decreed we were some of the privileged few selected for wireless groups or Central Bureau.

For most of us our future and that of our future wife or husband was not so much as a blush on the cheek. Perhaps only a few of us present have previously met Betty my wife and mother of our four children. I am delighted she could come tonight. The past fifty years of our lives was only a blink in the measure of time. But in that fifty years I think you will agree we have observed and experienced more change and development on earth and in space than human kind had known in the previous five hundred years

Demographers tell us that the current population of the world is now greater than the total number of people that had ever previously existed on earth. The vast majority of whom are long forgotten; including the kings, queens presidents, popes, dictators and prime ministers. Oh yes! Even prime ministers are forgotten in time.

I well remember when I was a very young Frank Hughes people would say to me, 'are you related to the Prime Minister old Billy Hughes? I'm not, but in his time Prime Minister William Morris Hughes was one of the truly great political haters — especially of those who did not agree with him on every subject. Some time ago James Killen told me a story that may interest you. During World War I a little known meeting took place on a battleship in the Atlantic Ocean. Among those present were U.S. President Woodrow-Wilson, U.K. Prime Minister Lloyd George and Australian Prime Minister, William Morris Hughes. Now Woodrow-Wilson detested Hughes, the diminutive little Welshman. But little did Wilson know that Hughes responded with a far greater passion and loathing. After the historic meeting Hughes returned to the Australian cruiser. Early the next morning the Prime Minister summoned his aide-de-camp to his cabin. This was the young John Latham who later became Sir John Latham who presided over the High Court of Australia six decades ago. 'Have you heard the news Latham?', said Hughes, 'Woodrow-Wilson's battleship has been sunk - sunk to

the very depths of the Atlantic Ocean, Latham!' 'That's terrible, Sir -terrible!' 'But that's not all, Latham. It is far worse, worse Latham! It is not true!'

I regret to say that such ugly personal hatred has been a consistent destructive force hindering the development, progress and defence of our country in times past and so perhaps even today. Compare the attitude and intelligence of some of the magnificent Australians who survived Japanese atrocities. I give you the example of the late Sir Edward 'Weary' Dunlop. He served in Greece, Crete and Tobruk and was later taken prisoner in Java. Then he dedicated himself to his fellow POW/S as surgeon and leader of the prisoners in Changi and those working on the notorious Burma-Siam railway line. There was never hatred in that heart. Sister Vivian Bullwinkle, now living in Perth, is the sole survivor of the twenty or more Australian nurses massacred by Japanese on Bangka Island. When enjoying their only pleasure, an afternoon swim together under guard, they were machine gunned to death by their Japanese capturers to hide the treatment and the brutality which they had suffered as prisoners of war. Sister Bullwinkle makes no demands for retribution; she does not publicly seek sympathy and notwithstanding her knowledge of those tragic events and her personal experiences she has not participated in the publication of any book to reveal all to the world for profit.

Robert Scott, a member of the British Foreign Service and the Singapore War Council, was caged for one year. He was beaten, starved and tortured by the Kemptei (military police). Scott was one of the very few ex-prisoners to give evidence in a war crimes court. At the trial of Lt. Col. Sumida. Chief of the brutal Kemptei military police he gave his impartial and dispassionate evidence, ever truthful and without hate. In an extraordinary act of human kindness he attended Sumida's hanging to give support before the trap doors sprang. Intelligence and character will always prevail over hostility, enmity and hate.

After the war I was invited to go to Singapore with a group of twelve or so for one year. The prime objective was to investigate and try Japanese prisoners of war held in Changi who were believed to have been responsible for the torture and deaths of Australian prisoners of war. We were there for three years. The Goodwood Park Hotel, which was to have been our accommodation, had been stripped bare of fixtures and fittings. We were assigned to a small building in the grounds in reasonable condition which had been used to house a brothel for Japanese Officers. Some Americans came, took one look at the once beautiful Goodwood Park hotel and moved elsewhere. They generously gave us all of their stores and equipment which included a couple of refrigerators (not on Australian stores lists) one excellent Chev. car and three Jeeps. Otherwise we had no transport and the British had none to spare.

We were a small group. Lt. Col. Jennings was President of Court and Queenslanders Major H.H. Beavan and Major S.J. Hodgson were members of Court. Warrant Officer Maguire plus five ranking sergeants, including myself and four drivers together with Investigating Officers and linguists Mc.Lound, Cullen Mc.Donald, Smile and Denniston made up the rest of the team.

Most all of the P.O.W., physically and mentally well enough had sworn affidavits on matters of their experiences and treatment as prisoners. There were thousands of similar affidavits to be examined and it was soon evident that we could only pursue the matters on a worst case basis.

Col. Fukuye Shrimpe, Commander of Changi Prison Camp, was tried first. Due to the number of escapes and attempted escapes from Changi and other prisons he demanded of Lieut. General A. Percival the signing of a non escape pact. In the terms of this pact any prisoner escaping or attempting to escape would be executed. All officers refused to sign. Prisoners, including the sick, were then herded into Changi prison courtyard surrounded by high walls. Trapped in this confined space all had to stand up.

With the tropic sun beating down upon them through the day the weak were supported by those more able bodied. Fukuye was unrelenting and refused to give any form of relief to the suffering mass of prisoners. By lifting some of the flag stone paving they dug pits in the sandy soil with their hands to relieve their bowels. After what I think now to be about three days or more the documents were signed under duress! A young Victorian Corporal named Brevington was the first to escape together with a couple of British Servicemen. Upon recapture Fukuye decreed that Brevington and others would be executed by firing squad on a well-used place of execution behind the gaol walls. The location is a beach with a high bank of sand rising back from the water line.

Disregarding all other matters associated with Fukuye's command he was tried specifically for the murder of Brevington. According to evidence Brevington was horribly wounded by the Japanese firing squad, mainly in the legs and he cried out in pain 'For Christ's sake finish me off'. The Japanese officer in charge drew his pistol which misfired. Another person, believed to be a member of the Indian army and a collaborator mercifully shot Brevington in the head. The court determined that 'Fuki' would be executed by firing squad because of his rank and in consideration of other matters relating to consideration given to prisoners in the latter part of his command.

He was to be executed by firing squad on the same spot that Brevington had died. I was there on that beach. As the sun rose in the early hours of the morning an extraordinary event took place. Nobody spoke. Bound to a large post, hooded against his will he was granted permission to utter the cry of Banzai. His voice was loud and clear as he shouted the word three times. Eleven new recruits of the British Army stood by their rifles. They had been told that one held a blank bullet. They took up position, fired on command but failed to execute the Colonel. He was silent in his agony. The young British Officer in charge of the firing squad drew his pistol to finish him off. A sharp click of metal was the only sound on the beach. A British Sergeant Major drew his pistol and carried out the merciful Coup-de-grace.

It was awful.

There were never to be any more executions by firing squad.

Many Japanese prisoners began taking their own lives. As

they had been taken prisoner and not died for their emperor they believed they were a disgrace to their family and country. The Australian prisoners gave their Japanese and Korean guards nicknames like 'Liver lips', 'Push face', 'The Boybastard' and so on. They were identified in that manner in the affidavits and later also in our files as the Japanese kept few if any records of soldiers of ordinary rank. The problem then arose of a number of look-alikes claiming to be, say Liver lips. However, when news reached the prisoners that those found guilty were being hanged and not executed in the military manner the look-alikes suddenly withdrew and it was difficult to identify the individuals we were searching out for trail.

The trials revealed accounts of chilling brutality. Very few of the thirty seven thousand Indian servicemen survived the slavery and ruthless killing. Many were tied to rubber trees and killed for bayonet practice. In all of the trials there was only one moment of humour. A Japanese officer, A prancing rascal, was in charge of a squad of Australians engaged in unloading cargo at a Singapore wharf. He prided himself on his knowledge of English as spoken by Australian prisoners. Addressing the group he said 'About this bloody stealing—I know! I know you think I know bloody nothing. I tell you I know bugger all'. Laughter erupted and sad to say in furious anger he ordered the guards on to the men. Seven of them were bludgeoned to death with rifle butts. He was hanged. Hanged by the British civil official brought from England for the grizzly tasks.

Two members of our trials team were killed by Indonesian insurgents in Batavia. They were on their way to interrogate Japanese prisoners about the deaths of some Australian airmen and the murder of Australian nurses on Bangka Island. They may have been mistaken for Dutch.

In those days it was the custom for Japanese officers to bash non coms. They in turn bashed the Japanese private. Privates bashed the Korean guards. Prisoners of war suffered at the mercy of the low ranking Korean guards. I ask myself a question. Were the Japanese behaving in the only known purely Japanese manner? When I reflect on the death of my own dear 22 year old cousin and his Commando mates who were tortured and bayoneted to death in the town of Dilli and I contemplate the terrible fate of other Australians I hold my own counsel of our northern neighbours.

In conclusion may I remind you that we have lived to witness the power and skill of the Japanese Commander-in-Chief for the area, General Yamashita, who swept down the Malay peninsula to capture Singapore with its naval guns facing the sea and with separate commands of Navy, Army and Airforce which condemned it to defeat before the attack which lasted just 67 days. Personal animosity, rivalry and incompetence which also surfaced in World War One must not have a place in the political and defence establishment of our country. There are 190 million Indonesians nearby.

Finally, Australian ex-prisoners of war seldom speak of the obscenities they suffered but I want you to know that you may be proud of our very own. In spite of the suffering your fellow Australians were always on top of their captors; in their spirit, in their humour, in their determination to survive and in their

faith and their belief in victory.

These words of Churchill, spoken about the fall of Singapore should be a warning to those in Canberra responsible for Australia's defence.

"I ought to have known. My advisers ought to have known and I ought to have been told.

And I ought to have asked. The possibility of Singapore having no landward defence no more entered my mind than that of a battleship being launched without a bottom."

D.S.D. DEMYSTIFIED.

"Newsletter's" comments about our successor organisation, the Defence Signals Directorate, have been prompted in the past by the revelations of journalist, Brian Toohey.

Now comes an opportunity to present an authoritative account by an insider. For this opportunity "Newsletter" is grateful to the Managing Editor of the "Australian Defence Force Journal" who has given permission for the following article to be reprinted from that prestigious publication. Thanks are also due to Geoff Ballard who drew our attention to it!

THE DEFENCE SIGNALS DIRECTORATE— ITS ROLE AND FUNCTIONS.

By Ken Barnes, Department of Defence

Functions of DSD

This article seeks to answer the question, "What is the Defence Signals Directorate and why is it surrounded by mystery?". After reading it, you should at least know something about DSD's role and functions since there is no mystery about those. But you will not know much about how DSD performs those functions because to explain that in any detail would take more space than the editors have allowed and because some of the methods used by DSD are classified.

DSD is an integral component of the Department of Defence and is one of the components of the Strategy and Intelligence Program of the Department supervised by Deputy Secretary S & I. One of the objectives of the S & I Program is "to provide intelligence services for Defence and other Government customers"; and DSD has a key role in meeting that objective.

Underlying all of DSD's activities is a Government Directive which states that

"The Commonwealth Government requires the maintenance of a capability to collect, produce and disseminate foreign signal intelligence and to advise the Government on all matters pertaining to communications security and computer security."

So DSD performs a dual function:

- it gathers signal intelligence (Sigint) from foreign communications (Comint), radars and other non-communications emitters (Elint) and foreign instrumentation signals such as telemetry (Fisint) to meet the requirements of the ADF and other elements of Government, and
- it provides material, advice and assistance to the ADF, departments and other authorities on the security and integrity of official information.

The latter function is known broadly as information security or Infosec: a combination of communications security and computer security. In effect, the two functions — Sigint and Infosec — are mutually supportive: lessons learned from one can in some cases be applied to the other.

DSD is located in Buildings M and N of the Russell Complex, and its field activities are in a number of areas in Australia and overseas. It has close connections with the ADF's Electronic Warfare (EW) units and establishments, notably RANTEWSS at Nowra, 7 Signal Regiment (EW) at Cabarlah and EW Squadron, RAAF, at Edinburgh.

Control and Policy Guidance

DSD is a vital part of the Australian intelligence and security community and takes its place as a collector of intelligence with those agencies which also collect and/or assess intelligence from various sources, namely:

- The Office of National Assessment;
- The Defence Intelligence Organisation (assessment and some collection);
- Elements of The Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade (collection and assessment);
- The Australian Secret Intelligence Service (collection); and
- The Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (collection and assessment).

Like the other members of this community, policy oversight is exercised by the Security Committee of Cabinet (SCC) in respect of targets, priorities, activities, organisational requirements, broad allocation of resources, performance and co-ordination, and the inter-relationships between agencies.

A committee of officials known as the Secretaries Committee on Intelligence and Security (SCIS) oversees DSD's activities and functions as the primary advisory body to the SCC. The Secretary, Department of Defence, and the Chief of the Defence Force are members of that committee. Director DSD furnishes to the Secretary and CDF an annual report which includes an account of the performance of DSD in relation to its functions as described above.

1: One of DSD's former directors was in the habit of reading LeCarre novels while awaiting his turn to brief the Security Committee of Cabinet. As a senior minister passed by on his way to the Cabinet Room, he remarked, "What's this George, still trying to memorise your lines?"

Tasking Arrangements: DSD Clientele

DSD is tasked through a concerted national mechanism and also by individual clients. In relation to Sigint tasking, the primary source is the Cabinet-endorsed National Foreign Intelligence Assessment Priorities: a set of general intelligence requirements put into effect through The National Intelligence Committee. This committee serves to bring together the various policy departments and the assessment agencies, notably ONA. A sub-committee, known as the National Intelligence Collection Requirements Committee, translates the needs of intelligence users into specific tasking requirements and priorities for the guidance of DSD and the other collection agencies.

In addition to this national machinery, individual users of operational Sigint, notably the major commands but also other elements of the ADF requiring direct Sigint support, make their requirements known to DSD through regular bi-lateral contact. For example, the Maritime Intelligence Centre and Air Headquarters are two of DSD's more active customers, requiring a wide range of Sigint support.

In all, DSD provides Sigint to about 25 different Australian departments and agencies, and a varying number of ADF elements depending on strategic and operational circumstances.

DSD provides an Infosec service to a somewhat larger number of clients, including virtually all Commonwealth departments and several agencies and statutory authorities. It also supports those sections of Australian industry involved in the design and development of cryptographic products and trusted computer systems for government use, sponsors the Australian industrial tempest program, and is responsible for evaluating cryptographic and computer security products.

Virtually all of the ADF's cryptographic equipment and devices are evaluated and their procurement or manufacture sponsored by DSD; DSD provides the ADF with cryptographic advice, and supplies keying material to commands and units at all levels.

The DSD Culture

DSD is a multi-cultural organisation, and not only in the sense that it adheres to anti-discriminatory EEO practices. It is staffed with a mixture of civilian and service personnel and at present the civilian/service ratio is 6/4. Its civilian Director, Martin Brady, is

supported by a one-star officer, Commodore Kim Pitt RAN, who is the senior military officer in DSD and an Assistant Director. ADF members are spread throughout the organisation, and handle the bulk of DSD's Sigint collection operations. Many of DSD's longer-serving civilian members are ex-service.

Civilian/service relationships, though occasionally troubled at the policy and planning level in the past, are now generally harmonious; indeed they always have been at the coal face. This is partly due to the professional attitudes which are generated when two culturally dissimilar groups work together to achieve shared objectives.

Multi-culturalism is also evident in the wide variety of skills and background experience required of the DSD workforce. DSD is populated by mathematicians, linguists, radio operators, accountants, technical officers and engineers, computer specialists, administrators, reporters and analysts of various types, and a long list of other workers, both specialist and generalist.

DSD's international relationships also provide cultural diversity which adds variety and experience to the lives of DSD staff members.

2: *One of DSD's traditions is a Christmas door decoration competition in which the prizes are donated by allied organisations. First prize last year was a bottle of Cloudy Bay Sauvignon Blanc; third prize was one dozen of the best New Zealand reds.*

Despite this cultural diversity, DSD has developed a unique corporate culture of its own. It is an organisation where inter-discipline networking is vital and where the constant interaction between functional elements working to strict deadlines fosters an innovative approach to operational tasks and a somewhat idiosyncratic management style.

Why is Sigint Important?

The *Defence White Paper* of 1987 stated, at paragraph 4.2:

"A high level of capability in strategic intelligence is fundamental. This allows us to review developments in the defence capabilities and political positions of other countries and to monitor them for changes that could affect our security. Our intelligence priorities focus on those potential changes that affect us directly. We must also, however, be able to assess developments beyond our region of primary strategic interest."

The importance of intelligence in providing timely warning of emerging threats, activities or attitudes affecting Australian interests was further developed in the paper, *Australia's Strategic Planning in the 1990s* which pointed out that if we are to have confidence in our ability to spot the emergence of threats to our security, it will be necessary to direct adequate effort to the detection and evaluation of warning signs. The recently published *"Strategic Review 1993"* affirms that intelligence monitoring and analysis play a key role in assessing warning time for major conflict.

Sigint is important because intelligence is important. The information provided by DSD to Defence and other policy areas has played a significant part in keeping the Government informed of developments outside Australia's borders and in monitoring crisis points relevant to Australia's interests.

Sigint is the most prolific and most comprehensive of the Government's secret sources, and is a unique source in terms of its ability to provide timely, detailed and authoritative information.

Sigint's value is not confined to strategic warning. It is also a powerful force multiplier and its value in this context has been amply demonstrated in virtually all the conflicts and military operations involving Australian forces since the Second World War. Several writers have detailed the exploits of cryptanalysts in that conflict, none more convincing than those contributing to a new book, *Codebreakers: The Inside Story of Bletchley Park* edited by S.H. Hindsley and Allan Stripp and published by the Oxford University Press in 1993.

In more recent times, DSD and EW elements of the ADF, working together, have provided vital operational or tactical intelligence to ADF units involved in regional conflicts such as the Gulf War and in supporting military activities more generally. ADF mobiles and ground force units operating outside Australia are regular recipients of a direct Sigint advisory warning service coordinated by the Australian Sigint Operations Centre, an element of DSD which functions on a 24-hour, 7-day week basis.

3. *Sigint is not always first with the news. And this was illustrated most graphically during the Gulf War when senior Defence officials regularly traded information from CNN with their intelligence staffs. As the conflict escalated, it was quite a coup to be the first to wake a very senior official in the dead of night with the advice "switch on your television set".*

Why is Infosec Important?

It should not be necessary to emphasise the need to protect information concerning the capabilities and plans of the ADF or the Government's policies and attitudes to key questions concerning the security of the nation. Yet in some circles one hears the view that there is not much about Australia that is worth protecting and indeed nothing much that a foreign power would bother collecting. A few academics and journalists appear to believe that by publishing sensitive information obtained overtly or by surreptitious means they are somehow doing the public a service. The writer believes they are doing no-one a service but themselves, and those foreign governments which might benefit from the information so provided.

There is little DSD can do to prevent the disclosure of sensitive defence and security information through deliberate leaks. DSD's job is to provide advice and assistance to departments and agencies seeking to protect their confidential communications and the information in their computer systems. The

professional skills, techniques and equipment available to DSD in this role are as advanced as any in the world, and DSD has a great deal of confidence in its ability to meet the needs of its clients, provided that its advice is heeded.

The threat to Government communications and computer systems, carried out in conjunction with ASIO, has been assessed as very real. There is ample evidence of attempts by foreign intelligence agents to exploit electronic information being transmitted or stored by Australian Government departments and agencies.

The threat is not confined to foreign espionage. Over the past year two major hacking attacks and a virus attack against Government computer systems were detected, and it is not unreasonable to expect that the incidence of these attempted penetrations will increase. DSD will continue to work closely with its clients in attempting to forestall these activities.

The Past

The genesis of DSD lies in Australian involvement in two joint Sigint organisations formed during WWII to support US and Australian forces in the Pacific theatre: Central Bureau in Brisbane and the Fleet Radio Unit (FRUMEL) in Melbourne. However DSD, originally known as the Defence Signals Bureau, did not emerge as an independent organisation until 1947, and initially occupied somewhat primitive accommodation in temporary WWII huts in Albert Park Barracks, Melbourne.

4. *So oppressive was the atmosphere in the fibro huts that the DSB management was obliged to set up a "heat committee" which had the power to declare a stand-down if the temperature exceeded 100 degrees fahrenheit. However the system broke down when it was discovered that a group of analysts had posted a cockatoo to watch for the appearance of the committee and to switch on all the radiators at the crucial time.*

The early years were characterised by the development of technical and analytical skills, setting up collection operations at a number of intercept sites, the establishment of working relationships with the ADF and client departments, and consolidating liaison arrangements with Australia's intelligence allies. A professional relationship was also formed during this period with the emerging Defence Science Organisation.

The 1950s saw DSB move into the computer age with the acquisition of its first high speed machine and progressive development of its cryptanalytic capability. Planning for new intercept sites commenced in the 1960s and culminated in the opening of a major new station in the early 70s.

In August 1974 the Prime Minister announced the appointment of a Royal Commissioner, Mr Justice Hope, to inquire into the Australian intelligence and security agencies, and DSD, along with the other agencies, participated fully in this inquiry. Hope J's findings were presented in April 1977. *Inter alia*, they included recommendations dealing with the control and management of intelligence activities

and the creation of machinery which was to prove beneficial to the tasking and coordination of the collection agencies. Hope J reaffirmed the national importance of DSD's functions, and recommended that DSD remain in Defence as an "outsider" organisation with considerably enhanced administrative autonomy.

After three decades of sub-standard accommodation, DSD was relocated to a new, purpose-designed building in Victoria Barracks Melbourne in 1978/79, coinciding with the acquisition of much more powerful, interactive central computing and a range of modern, high-technology interception facilities.

5. *Shortly before the new building was opened, Sir Arthur Tange, then Secretary for Defence, inspected the new office accommodation accompanied by DSD's chief administrator, a man noted for his competence but not for his modesty. On entering the office with by far the best view over Port Phillip, the Secretary remarked, "I expect this is to be your office George". The reply was "Who else, Secretary".*

The 1980s was a period of further rapid development, assisted by the support provided by a second Royal Commission conducted in 1993/94. It has been rightly claimed that by the mid-1980s DSD had achieved a level of maturity and self-reliance which justified the confidence the Government was by that time placing on its products and the level of resources devoted to producing them.

The Present

The two largest projects ever undertaken by DSD were completed only recently. One was the move of DSD headquarters from Melbourne to new and refurbished buildings in Canberra, the last stage of which was completed in early 1993; the second was the establishment of a major new station at Geraldton WA which was commissioned on time and within budget in late 1993. The early 1990s also saw the introduction of more sophisticated collection and data handling equipment and the acquisition of more powerful computers.

DSD's arrival in Canberra, after many years of relative isolation in Melbourne, marked the commencement of a new era in relationships with its primary clients. Key elements of DSD's Strategic Plan deal with the need to be recognised by its customers as providing timely, relevant and accurate intelligence and to further improve the level of support provided to the ADF. These objectives are equally valid for Sigint and Infosec. DSD's presence in Canberra has enabled its officers to provide on-the-spot inputs to the decision-making process in Defence and other areas of Government, and to respond more rapidly and effectively to changing requirements for intelligence.

6. *It has been noted around town that DSD's customer relations people often travel in pairs, each clad in a dark suit and carrying a thin brief case. After waiting patiently outside the entrance to one department's high-security area, the two DSD proselytisers were greeted by a rat-like face half hidden by a partly opened door. "We already gave" said the face.*

The Future

The view of the future for DSD in 1994 is no less daunting than it was in 1954, 1964, 1974 or 1984. All five decades have been marked by the emergence of Cassandra-like figures forecasting the decline of Sigint as an intelligence source. The doomsters point to the march of progress in cryptography and the increasingly diversified and complex communications systems which face a Sigint agency. A different set of doomsters point to the growing sophistication

of foreign Sigint agencies as evidence that Australian communications are under threat.

The Cassandras are of course quite right; in the business of intelligence gathering, a smug and static organisation which rests on its laurels will very quickly become overwhelmed by change. But what both sets of doomsters neglect to recognise is that the march of progress has not overwhelmed DSD and is unlikely to do so while the organisation strives to maintain a technological edge. Maintaining the edge will largely depend on a group of highly qualified and energetic people who see the future as a challenge and who continue to see DSD's work as a vital part of the nation's security.

EDITORIAL

My apologies to those valued contributors whose material did not appear in this issue as expected. The copy is safely in the files of "Newsletter" and should capture the interest of readers in 1995. There are also some photographs of recent C.B.I.C.A. activities available for publication in future issues.

Our 1994 Reunion attracted some favourable publicity in local newspapers in the Wollongong / Kiama area. The stories focussed on two Reunion participants who were "locals": Geoff Padman and A.S.W.G. member Bill Leyshun.

At this season of good will my personal thanks go to everyone who has made a contribution to "Newsletter" in 1994. For many and varied reasons only a small proportion of our members can attend Association functions. For those who can't participate in our programme of events "Newsletter" becomes the medium which brings our members together. It helps to maintain our links with those far off days when we were pioneers in the business of "Sigint". And what a business it has become!

Season's greetings to all readers and especially to those members who are precluded by ill health or distance from enjoying our warm and friendly gatherings.

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Mr Barnes joined the RAN in 1951. His seven years in the Navy were spent mainly in the Sigint/EW Branch and included duty in the Korean War theatre.

Mr Barnes joined DSD in 1958 and has variously worked as an intelligence analyst, reporter, planner and senior manager. He has had three tours overseas: in Hong Kong (1961-62), Washington (1966-69) and Great Britain (1977-79). In 1976 he was seconded to the Royal Commission into Intelligence and Security as the DSD liaison officer. He was appointed Assistant Director Plans and Programmes in 1981 and then promoted to Assistant Director Production in October 1982. In January 1987 he was promoted to Director of Operations and upon DSD's relocation to Canberra he became Deputy Director. He is now attached to the Defence Staff in London.

In 1992 he was awarded a Senior Executive Service Fellowship and spent 3 months overseas writing a thesis on "The Role of Intelligence in the Post Cold War World".