



CB

**Number 4, 1995
December**

**Central
Bureau
Intelligence
Corps
Associataion
Inc.**

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DEATH OF THE PRESIDENT.

Members and guests were dining at the Eagle Hawk Hill Resort on Friday night. Considering it was the eve of what was expected to be a very interesting and pleasant weekend the mood was rather subdued and contemplative. The word was spreading from table to table. Secretary Gordon Gibson had just received a phone call from Sydney. President Aub. Roberts had died that afternoon.

When Aub. realised that surgery scheduled for 8 November would make it impossible for him to be with us on this special occasion he asked Vice President Michael Casey to propose the toast appropriate for this "Australia Remembers" Reunion. Having missed the Jamberoo weekend because of illness, Aub. was deeply disappointed that he could not participate in the proceedings near the National Capital. He asked Mike if he would read the words which Aub. himself would have said had he been there. As a tribute to Aub. here is the toast written by Aub. and proposed on his behalf by Vice President Mike Casey.

AUSTRALIA REMEMBERS 1945 -1995.

Members of the Central Bureau Intelligence Corps Association Inc., families and friends, distinguished guests.

Firstly the Association would like to express their appreciation to the Federal Government for the dedication of this year, 1995 to the memories of years 1939-1945. Particular thanks to the minister for Veteran's Affairs, Mr. Con. Sciacca for the organisation of such widespread activities.

What do Australians remember?,

Major activities such as Battle of Britain, Siege of Stalingrad, the deeds of the rats of Tobruk, the loss of the HMAS Sydney, the raid on Pearl Harbour, the fall of Singapore, the bombing of Darwin, the Kokoda Trail, the attack on Sydney Harbour, the Island hopping by Allied Forces, the dropping of the atom bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Outstanding persons and World leaders: Sir Roden Cutler V.C., Frank Partridge V.C., Weary Dunlop, Nursing Sisters Bullwinkle and Savage. Generals Bernard Montgomery, Sir Thomas Blamey, Dwight Eisenhower, Douglas MacArthur, John Curtin, President Roosevelt, Charles de Gaulle, Winston Churchill, Josef Stalin, President Truman.

The many thousands of service men and women together with civilians who were interned in German and Japanese prisoner-of-war and concentration camps.

The above memories are just a few of the thoughts of the majority of Australia Remembers. But each of us as individuals have our own memories, of the friends we made, the good times

we experienced. We must remember the parents who had their families divided also the brown-outs, rationing and bomb shelters.

Ladies and Gentlemen, charge your glasses be upstanding and drink a toast —————the toast is Australia Remembers, 1945-1995.

REUNION NINETEEN NINETY FIVE

A SIGINTUPDATE FROM THE DIRECTOR, D.S.D.

This was the Reunion which brought together the pioneers of signals intelligence in Australia and some of the present day practitioners; the men and the women who have to look after Australia's interests in this field through into the twenty first century. The key-note address at our formal dinner at the Eagle Hawk Hill Resort on the night of Saturday 11th November, was given by Mr Martin Brady, Director, Defence Signals Directorate. Mr. Brady has agreed to his speech being published in C.B. Newsletter.

"I am honoured to be here this evening, in this year in which Australia remembers the dark days, the sadness, and the triumphs, of the last Great War - the only time in our history in which our nation was directly attacked and we were at risk of invasion

When you invited me to speak this evening, I began by looking at the history of Australia's signals intelligence effort during the war. I was greatly assisted in this by a number of books and articles, including [some] by members of your Association, which convey the achievements and the excitement of that era, while still carefully safeguarding some of the inner secrets of our craft that are still worth protecting today. I thank the authors for that. There are many who claim that these old secrets are no longer worth protecting. Yet I am always struck by how the real professionals in this business are always careful - even decades later - about revealing too much about our techniques.

I am also struck by the fierce commitment and loyalty of the people who have worked in signals

intelligence, to preserving and protecting those secrets. In what I think is a remarkable reflection of that dedication, from literally thousands of people who worked in Central Bureau, the service units and in D.S.D. for over 50 years, we have had very few people seeking to damage us. And virtually no disclosures from former staff have caused us serious damage - although there has been damage caused by other people, generally from the fringes of the wider intelligence community.

What is it that inspires such commitment, then and now? There are I think many answers to that question. But to my mind two things stand out. The first is the intrinsic interest of what we do, and the value that we contribute to the security of our nation. For us, as for you, we ultimately provide a means by which the lives of our service people are protected, conflicts are avoided or shortened, and victory made more certain. This alone is a powerful motivation to strive to do our best, and to keep at seemingly impossible tasks and problems until they are done.

But there is something else as well, which may be just as important. We in DSD sometimes refer to it as our family culture, but it seems to me that something similar was at work in Central Bureau. It is a special combination of teamwork, of bonds between individuals and groups, that makes up an environment in which the achievements of an individual are seamless with the achievements of the group and the organisation. And in consequence the impossible gets done. Central Bureau people did that, and so do their successors in DSD.

Of course, as you will have seen this afternoon, many things have changed. Perhaps the most obvious is the role of computing. We have analytical and processing power at our fingertips, undreamt of in the era of Central Bureau. We increase it by large percentage leaps every year, and we use space-based systems to move vast amounts of data around the world, all of it protected by sophisticated encryption systems that we also supply to the rest of Defence and the Government. These systems enable us to process vast amounts of complex material, and quickly extract the valuable intelligence. We do this to a point where sometimes we can flood our customers with more material than they can possibly cope with. One of our major challenges today is to

reduce the flow, so that they do not drown in a mass of material. I don't think this was a problem that you faced very often, although there were signs of what was to come towards the end of the war as the first processing machines came into use.

But for all this technology, this is not a business run by machines. The key thing is that working the machines, and looking after them, are very clever people. The machines maximise and extend human skills; but they do not replace them. And in that sense things are not so different today from your wartime experience.

Another change you might have noticed is the number of women in DSD, both service and civilian. This is even more obvious on week days when you will see that at all levels of DSD women are in key roles. I sometimes say that if I am not the last male Director of DSD, then I am almost certainly the second last. And no-one in DSD thinks I'm joking. But even here, I understand that the Central Bureau was probably ahead of the times in the way it used the talents and skills of its women staff.

A change you wouldn't have seen in your visit today is the way the range of our work has expanded. Apart from our traditional military and national security tasks, we can also support the Government in areas like economics and technology, although the vast bulk of our efforts, and our resources, goes into areas that will be familiar to you. And that is as it should be - for now as in the past, the ultimate value of our work is in promoting the security of our nation, and supporting our Defence effort.

To describe this use of signals intelligence to support combat efforts a new term has been developed in recent years - Support for Military Operations, usually shortened to SMO. What this means is that with advanced collection, processing and communications systems material can be collected, transported across large distances, analysed and processed and passed back to field commanders within minutes, and so can be used on the battlefield. In doing this, the traditional distinctions between tactical and strategic signals intelligence largely disappear. So organisations like DSD can directly support field units in near real-time.

Another thing that hasn't changed is the importance of our alliance relationships. Central Bureau was an integral part of an allied war effort; and DSD today is an integral part of our intelligence partnership with the United States. We gain, as you did, immense benefits from the generous access we have to United States sources, their technology and their expertise. It is a partnership that, if anything is even stronger today than it was fifty years ago.

As you will know, at the end of the war, our signals intelligence effort largely ended along with the rest of our war effort. And it was not until 1947 that signals intelligence was reestablished in an organisation that later became DSD, first at Albert Park in Melbourne, later in St.Kilda road, and a few years ago in our new Canberra headquarters.

Over that time DSD has grown into an integrated service and civilian organisation operating with the most advanced technology. We have literally thousands of customers in the Defence community and across the Government, and they speak highly of the unique value of our work. Our role as the national signals intelligence organisation, and the Australian authority on communications and computer security, has been publicly acknowledged since 1977. And while details of our staff numbers and finances are classified, I can say that we are the largest and most expensive intelligence organisation in Australia. So the contribution made by signals intelligence to victory in the last war continues to this day, in providing the Government and the Defence organisation with the information Australia needs to pursue our interests in the world, to protect our national security and to contribute to the effectiveness of our Defence forces.

In 1997 we will be celebrating DSD's fiftieth anniversary, and we look forward to you participating in our celebrations at that time.

Thank you."

Mr. Martin Brady was appointed Director, DSD in March 1994. He is a graduate of the Australian National University. While on the staff of the Department of Foreign Affairs he served in the Australian High Commission in Fiji. In a subsequent posting to the Defence Department he worked in the areas of Australian strategic policy,

ANZUS relations, joint defence facilities and arms control. Rapid progression from 1985 saw him work as civilian adviser to the Dibb review of defence capabilities, Assistant Director in the Joint Intelligence Organisation and later as First Assistant Secretary, Force Development and Analysis. In 1991, with General Sanderson, he was responsible for the conduct of the 1991 Force Structure Review. In 1993 he finalised the 1993 Strategic Review.

EXECUTIVE NEWS.

HON. SECRETARY'S PAR.

As we seem to have done little else but talk about it for some time now many of you will already be aware that Sue and I are going overseas next year. We have booked our flights to the U.K. via Cairo leaving Sydney on 2nd. March and arriving in London on 10th. March. After a few days at the Union Jack Club near Waterloo Station we'll be off on an extended and as yet unplanned tour of the British Isles, which we hope will last to the end of the year, that is, provided our funds hold out. Wish us luck ! We've heard some chilling tales about the cost of living over there.

Annual General Meeting, 1996.

CBICA Inc. will be in need of a new President and a new Secretary. Enclosed with this Newsletter is the Notice of Annual General Meeting and the usual tear-off form which gives you the opportunity to nominate office bearers or alternatively to offer your own services for one of these positions by arranging for a fellow member to nominate you. "New Blood" will be very welcome on the Executive Committee. Even if you are not in a position to stand for election at least come along to the Meeting and register your vote on this and other important matters.

Anzac Day Reunion, 1996

Stan King has come up with the suggestion that we try the Hotel Lawson again as the venue for our next Anzac Day Reunion. Stan says the menu is top quality in all respects - a buffet lunch with a variety of hot and cold dishes and desserts - and

that the service and surroundings in the "Eureka Room" are excellent. Cost: \$23.50. This suggestion was discussed at the last Executive Meeting and because we have had a long association with Phillip's Foote it was decided that the fairest thing to do was to put it to a vote of all members. So if you want to record your vote, drop me a brief note indicating your preference for either Phillip's Foote or the Lawson. Better still attend the A.G.M and cast your vote in person.

Combined Reunion Number 8

As you know, the decision was made last year that our 1996 Combined Reunion would be held in Brisbane. Contact has already been made with Al. Jenkin who with the help and co-operation of other Queensland members and also the RAAF W.U. Association is preparing a programme for submission to the A.G.M.. While this is still only in the planning stages. possibilities in mind are a luncheon in the grounds of 21 Henry Street, a combined luncheon with the RAAF W.U. Association members, inspection of the plaque at the fire station and the usual wreath laying ceremony. As the Brisbane W.U. Association always has its annual get together in August, there is a strong likelihood that our Reunion will be arranged to coincide with theirs.

New Members.

Mostyn (Mos) Williams of Malua Bay, N.S.W. Mos served in Madang, Hollandia, Tolosa (Leyte) and San Miguel, continued on in interim army after disestablishment of CB and was involved in the creation of the D.S.B.

Joan Baxter (nee Read) of Hornsby, NSW was a Kana Operator with A.S.W.G.

Gordon Peters of Ulladulla, NSW served at Nadzab, Biak, Leyte and Luzon. Good to meet you, Gordon at Canberra !

Myron Scougale of Washington, USA was at 21 Henry Street and Ascot Park from April, 1943 to September 1945.

Norma Howard (nee Gee) of Gosford, NSW was a Kana Operator with ASWG.

Welcome to all four !

Vetaffairs.

Some of you may not be aware of the existence of this periodical which often contains information of

interest and importance. Vet Affairs is published 11 times a year and is a free newspaper for Australia's veteran community. For inclusion on the mailing list, write to The Editor, Vet Affairs, P.O. Box 21, Woden, A.C.T. 2606 or telephone (06) 2896547.

My best wishes to all for a joyous Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Gordon Gibson
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Phone (02) 487 3029.

THE TREASURER'S COLUMN.

Time for another column the last one of the year and time to wish all our members and families a very Joyful Christmas and may 1996 be a year of hope and plans to eventuate.

I hope all who attended Canberra Reunion enjoyed themselves as well as I did and that all was happy with the accommodation and activities that were arranged. The roll up at the "dinner" was most gratifying with 81 members and their friends attending. I know the Committee wishes to thank Noni for donating that most attractively packaged, and I know delicious Xmas pudding which raised \$216. Thanks also to Geoff. Patience for his raffle which raised \$110. Congratulations to the Jenkin family who won the pudding; whilst speaking of the Jenkin family I know we enjoyed Al's talk on "what's happened to CB's headquarters at Ascot"; thanks Al.

Those who attended the Canberra Re-union in 1992 no doubt will remember Geoff. Ballard telling us about his visit to Bletchley Park in England which claims to fame as the Gov. Code and Cypher School which achieved so much in 1939-1945 and as the birthplace of the world's computer industry. As I receive their newsletters and read the work that is being put into Bletchley Park to restore and make into a museum of great importance I thought any members who might be travelling overseas and visiting England would find it worthwhile to pay a visit to Bletchley, Milton Keynes MK3 6EF Telephone (01908) 640-404. If anyone would be interested and would like more particulars just ring me on 525-0382.

My mail bag.

Firstly to thank all who wrote to say how glad they were that I was on deck again and who sent their best wishes for a successful reunion. Was so pleased to receive your photos, Marcia (Wilson) and the one of Gordon with two pals, hoping to come up with their names also hoping you're coping O.K. and keeping well. Bob James has been on an extended tour outback, half your luck. Was so sorry to read of your complications after your fall Joyce (Pugh) and I do hope the skin graft on your leg was successful and that your family illnesses have taken a turn for the better. Sorry we didn't see you at Canberra, Brian (Lovett); I do hope all is well with you and Heather. Read with interest the "Australia Remembers" celebrations in Gympie Daisy (Bobin) and like you I could only watch the celebrations on T/V. Do hope your fall injuries are progressing well, also thanks to Joyce (Stead) for your news of the R.S.L. improvements at Gympie. Sorry you couldn't make our reunion Fred (Frank) you did miss an interesting visit to D.S.D.; continue to have fun with your computer "windows & mice" ??? Hope you had a happy holiday in Melbourne Margaret McCafferty, would be so pleased if you could make another trip to come over and visit me.

Again many thanks for stamps received especially to those kind folk who went to all the trouble of bringing so many stamps to me at Canberra. What a large and varied assortment from Lester (Truex) hope you and Kay had a safe and pleasant trip home to Melbourne. Speaking of stamps the Christian Blind Mission Christmas party went off well and as usual the voluntary workers all received a gift made by the blind people — its really amazing how clever they are despite their blindness. One lady who is totally blind knitted me a bed jacket in a fancy stitch with buttons and bows for my birthday, its really amazing.

Don't forget our A.G.M. on 5th Feb. at Combined Services Club at 1 pm in Barrack Street.

And now another "think again" idea.

"We neither get better or worse as we get older, but more like ourselves".

Norma Keeling.

VALE. AUB. T. ROBERTS.

Aub. Roberts played a major role in the affairs of our Association, particularly in recent years. We are a group of people who formed the signals intelligence community in Australia in World War II and played very diverse roles within that community. Aub. was a radio technician in the Royal Australian Airforce and was posted to RAAF Command. A posting to RAAF Command was the device employed by the RAAF to assign personnel to the control of Central Bureau. Aub. worked for C.B. on radio receivers and transmitters. And whenever we fought the war again, over a few grogs, Aub. was able to broaden the conversation beyond "T" Rooms, Kana Code and cypher machines.

Aub. and his wife Gwen, not only attended C.B. functions but they both "rolled up their sleeves" and did what needed to be done to make our activities so successful. Gwen's death about three years ago was a sad blow which time did not seem to be healing.

As a young bloke in post war Australia Aub. had a serious interest in motor sport and boxing. He maintained his contacts with motor sport but left boxing behind. His working days were spent in the electronics industry; the companies for which he worked were sometimes involved with Defence contracts so to some extent his war-time career merged with his life in civvy street.

Members of the Executive Committee will not forget Aub's dedication to his role in C.B.I.C.A. At our last meeting when the business was to fine tune plans for the successful "Australia Remembers"

Reunion he did not shirk his Presidential duty even though his health was such that he could not disguise his physical distress.

The announcement of the death of our President on 10th November was nevertheless a shock—a sad loss.

Condolences are extended to his family. Those of us close to Aub. knew how important they were to him.

D.L.M

VALE. ALLAN KEITH OSBORNE

Allan was born in December 1925. He originally enlisted in the RAAF as an air gunner but was found to be medically unfit (colour blind) for that job and became a trainee telegraphist at Point Cook. He was late in 1944 transferred to the Intelligence School at RAAF Command, Brisbane.

His first posting was to Batchelor in the Northern Territory to 3 Wireless Unit. He later was transferred to 2 Wireless Unit, where all operators were intercepting Navy (Japanese). Allan was a Kana Operator.

It was some months before I met him in Batchelor, prior to my posting elsewhere so I did not see much of him in the Northern Territory. He joined the Central Bureau Association in the 1970's, perhaps late 1979. He was an ardent member of our Association and I got to know him well when I was appointed Hon. Secretary then Vice President and later President. Allan always attended Committee meetings until he and Meg sold their home at Lindfield and moved to Mudgeeraba in Queensland.

He was keen to obtain the latest happenings whilst he was in Queensland and was always present on Anzac Day. As the then President I gave him the job of our "R.S.M" - keeping the "troops" in line during the march and making sure our banner was in order. This work I know he enjoyed.

During 1994 he was not well and was having quite a lot of medical treatment, until it finally caught up with him on 21/10/95, two months before his 70th. birthday.

His wife, Meg always attended on Anzac Day and we give her our deepest condolences.

Frank Hughes and I represented the Association at his funeral at St. Johns Church, Burleigh Heads on 26th. October

Jim Williams.

Charles Stephens joined the Association back in 1987. He served in RAAF Wireless units. Plagued by long term ill health he found it difficult to travel from Port Macquarie to functions in Sydney but nevertheless kept in touch for some time with regular correspondence. Charles was a worker in ex-service affairs and for three years, 1981/2/3 was Secretary of the large Port Macquarie R.S.L. Sub-Branch. It was through Mac Jamieson's Wireless Units Association Newsletter that we found out that Charles died some months ago.

THE ULTRA FACTOR.

Allow me to pinch Snow Bradshaw's line about "the Ultra Factor"; 'a darn good read!'. I can't say whether people who didn't copy Japanese telegraphy would agree — I suspect they would. This reviewer feels a strong association with the soldiers of 78 Section as characterised by author, Basil Fogarty; notwithstanding that 78 Section is mythical. Like Ms. Demidenko it didn't exist. On the other hand Ms. Darville does exist and so did 51, 53 and 55 Sections of the Australian Special Wireless Group of the Australian Army. Says Basil ".....use of a hypothetical 78 Section simplifies the conveying of many aspects of enemy radio interception at jungle levelany resultant similarity herein to any person living or dead is purely co-incidental and unintended." On the other hand "the intercepted Japanese messages quoted are from declassified official archives."

When faced with the daunting task of:

a) writing about Army activities cloaked in secrecy for about 30 years,

b) recording a story 50 years later when memory may have been impacted by time,

c) accessing such records as may have been retained and

d) accepting that not all retained records are accessible,

Basil's device of melding fact with fiction may be a careful approach to take. It reduces danger and it seems to work well. When, however, this author does write in his book about the exploits of 51 Section in Darwin and 55 Section at Moresby one must assume that the information is factual. A Captain Bamford is the character devised by Basil

to reveal the 51 Section story. Some readers might assume that "Captain Bamford's" disguise is too thin to conceal his real life identity. This Captain, who became a Major, is a major player in this "Ultra" story. But the "Editor fellow" of Ink Emma Ink, Steve Mason, is not disguised at all.

If your contact with Sigint was limited to hard copy please read "The Ultra Factor" to gain some idea of how young Australian soldiers transferred Japanese wireless telegraphy from the airwaves to hard copy while crouched in jungle mud holes covered with canvass.

"The Ultra Factor", by Basil Fogarty is published and distributed by the author; P.O. Box 133, Terang, 3264, Vic.
D.L.M.

In BRIEF

Many years ago a young reporter for the Sydney Morning Herald was assigned to interview Canon James Whild. He told her that he first came to Australia when the RAF sent him to work in a secret unit in Brisbane. Said the young newshound "was it at 21 Henry Street, Ascot?" That young reporter, not so young now, recollects that the Canon looked astonished and said yes, it was. It was a long shot that the reporter was HELEN KENNY who also did her war service at Henry Street.

Helen noted the Canon's obituary in the SMH of 7 October last. It refers to his service with the RAF's special intelligence liaison unit during WWII.

Sydneysiders might recall Canon Whild as Minister of St.Marks at Darling Point for 29 years. He led prayers at the funerals of Sir Warwick Fairfax, Sir William McKell and Sir William Mc.Mahon. In 1984 he heard the wedding vows of Elton John and Renate Blau.

During his early years as a priest he worked with the mission to Seamen in Rotterdam and transferred to the Mission To Seamen in Sydney.

EARLE HEAP, from Ballina NSW, was one of those members who felt that signals intelligence should be recognised in this year of Australia Remembers so he wrote his own account of the activities of ASWG, the WU's and C.B. with due

acknowledgment of his sources. The Australia Remembers Task Force, Dept of Veteran's Affairs, received his work and said that they had sent copies to Education Committees in the various States. It is likely that Earle's work has become a resource for students participating in commemorations and undertaking research. Earle also initiated an approach to his Federal Member about the acceptance by Australian service people of the American 'Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal'. In a very detailed reply to Earle the Minister for Administrative Services., Hon. Frank Walker QC MP advised that even though field awards of these medals did occur during WWII the US authorities cannot recognise their validity now. The US military is prohibited from offering theatre or campaign awards to foreign citizens. Earle also advises members of the availability of the publication "Vetaffairs". (see the Secretary's par.)

HISTORY and mathematical precision.

Here is part of a letter from Geoff Ballard.

"Ref. Newsletter, No. 3, September, 1995, I think there has been a misunderstanding concerning my "Canberra Times" article. This relates to your "Newsletter comment....."

Having noted the absence of any "Sigint" coverage in the "Australia Remembers" series in the Australian press, I thought that a "personal involvement" article might win recognition and get published. This apparently worked! My article clearly states that the period covered in Darwin was "the whole of 1943", during which the Sigint unit located there was the Australian Army 51 W/T Section. This is correct.

There were no RAAF Wireless Units operating in Darwin in 1943. The small RAAF intercept section which had been there since 1941, was withdrawn to Townsville in March, 1942. No. 2 WU commenced operations in Darwin in January, 1944 and No. 3 WU in March, 1944. Both Jack Bleakley's book and my book confirm these dates. Accordingly, there was no "gap to fill for history's sake" as your comment suggested, and I am sorry that such a misunderstanding occurred. If you could include a correction in the next issue, it would rectify the situation."

(Both Army and RAAF personnel made a very substantial and long term contribution to war-time sigint in the Darwin area; a matter which may have been of interest to contemporary readers of a newspaper story headed 'keeping an ear to the Japanese airwaves.' As Geoff. points out the RAAF was intercepting in Darwin in 1941 and 1942 and according to the RAAF publication 'Saga of Achievement' 2 WU was in the area in October 1943 and operational from December, 1943, but it must be admitted, only just! Ed.)

ANNOUNCEMENT OF SIS REUNION - 1996.

If you are prepared to travel to Florida, USA, to be there on 3rd and 4th May next year (1996) you could participate in the 1996 SIS reunion and tour the U.S. Spaceport at Kennedy Space Centre. Reunion organiser, John J. Larkin, has kindly sent full details to our Secretary. If you are sufficiently interested to contemplate attending contact me (D.L.M.) and I will photo a copy of the announcement and send it to you.

EDITORIAL.

Apologies to the authors of material which has been held over for future issues.

This is the twenty fourth edition of "Newsletter" produced since I became Publicity Officer. The volume of material which is now available for publication is increasing at a rapid rate. Back in 1990 it was difficult to find words for publication. It is to the members, both in Australia and in USA, that I offer thanks and appreciation for this change in circumstance which certainly reduces the stress for a Publicity Officer faced with blank pages. We now have the happy situation where members are using the pages of CB Newsletter to inform one another about some of the details, both social and technical, of "our war" — the signals intelligence war in the South West Pacific. Most of us knew precious little of the scope of this war when we were participants.

I believe that there are still many stories to be told. Thank you, contributors, for your help and seasons greetings to members everywhere!

D.L.M.