



**Number 3, 1995  
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**Central  
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Corps  
Association  
Inc.**

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# EXECUTIVE NEWS.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK.

The major official functions commemorating the 50th. anniversary of the cessation of hostilities in World War II are over, but the main C.B. function is still ahead. "The Combined Reunion No. 7, Eagle Hawk Hill Resort, Canberra." This years reunion will, as reported by Gordon Gibson in Newsletter No. 2 1995, be known as C.B.s third 'Australia Remembers (1945 - 1995) activity. This function will be held November 11th. and 12th. Sydney Australia Remembers Activities

\* Saturday August 12th. 1995—— A good roll up on a perfect day, weather wise, a number of RAAF Wireless Unit personnel joined C.B. marchers. Also a number of A.S.W.G. ex AWAS joined our group (but were spirited away at the last moment to balance the ranks of our march partners, the A.I.A.)

A person who attended and worthy of mention was our visitor from U.S.A., Graham R. Lobb. Graham arrived from the States on Friday, 11th. Aug. and went sight-seeing round Sydney. On Saturday joined C.B.I.C.A. group for the march, on Sunday left for Brisbane to take part in commemorations that were arranged also to renew some wartime friendships.

The march followed the same route as on Anzac Day and as it was a normal Saturday trading day the crowds lining the streets were enthusiastic shown by the cheers and applause of thousands.

\* Tuesday August 15th. 1995—— The commemoration and wreath laying followed a similar format as in past years. After unit representatives had placed their wreaths or floral tributes on the Cenotaph, the public were invited to place a single flower on the Cenotaph. Central Bureau were well represented at this solemn ceremony.

### \* Appreciation.

Special thanks to Syd Carey, who conducted our visitor Graham Lobb on a tour of Sydney after the march on Saturday 12th. August then proceeded to Syd and Norma's home for an Aussie Barbecue. By reports Graham thoroughly enjoyed the whole day, again many thanks to Syd and Norma.

### \* Philippines Liberation Medal.

After an unsuccessful attempt to receive the Philippines Liberation Medal, obviously an 'Australia Post' mistake or loss of correspondence I contacted Department of Defence General

Enquiries, Canberra Phone ( 06 ) 265-9111 who referred me to Discharged Personnel Records, Department of Defence, Air Force, P.O.Box E 33 Queen Victoria Terrace CANBERRA ACT 2600. This Section can assist in any query regarding service records. For Ex Army personnel, replace Airforce with Army. My service in the Philippines has been validated and the application passed to the Philippine Embassy, via the National Headquarters of the R.S.L.

#### \* Archives Museum

As reported in earlier Newsletters D.S.D. is setting up an Archive Museum, any member wishing to donate any memorabilia will be informed at our reunion in November on the procedure to be followed. At this date Helen Kenny has accepted the task of liaising with D.S.D. personnel, hopefully more progress will be possible after our reunion in Canberra.

Looking forward to a very pleasant week-end at Canberra. If at all possible join in our Combined Reunion No.7

Aub. Roberts  
15 Gregory St.,  
Putney NSW 2112  
(02) 807 1426.

### HON. SECRETARY'S PAR.

"Australia Remembers 1945 - 1995 "  
Canberra Reunion November 11th & 12th.  
It is still not too late for you to attend this important final event of the "Australia Remembers" year. That is, provided you make your booking at the Eagle Hawk Hill Resort immediately ( if not sooner ). For full details please consult the enclosed sheet and be sure to return the completed tear-off slip at the bottom of the sheet to reach me NOT LATER than 13th. October. It is essential for us to have the names and the number of those wishing to tour the Defence Signals Directorate and/or attend the Formal Dinner [not a black tie affair] to hear Martin Brady as guest speaker well in advance. May I say again that this invitation is, as usual warmly extended to all ASWG and RAAF WU Association members, courtesy of Steve Mason, Harold Jones and Mac Jamieson to whom I have taken the liberty of sending additional copies of the

information sheet. Thank you, Steve , Harold and Mac.!

#### Memorabilia and Archival Material

Those of us who visited the D.S.D. in February last were given the opportunity of viewing WWII memorabilia of particular significance to us as former SIGINT personnel. No doubt the same opportunity will be afforded us again at the Guided Tour on 11th. November. But we ourselves should be made of our responsibilities in this matter. As David Blanch, Director of Administration states in a letter dated 30th. June, " apart from the real risk of permanent loss, the longer material of national historical significance is left, the more difficult it is to restore and display." Your co-operation in this very worthwhile cause will be greatly appreciated.

#### New Members.

Trevor Donald of Turramurra, N.S.W. was a telegraphist with 1 W.U. from July 1943 till September 1945 and served at Townsville, Port Moresby, Dobadura (H.F.D.F. ), Nadzab, Hollandia and Manila.

Jack Thorpe of Narraweena, N.S.W. was with 1 W.U. and 4 W.U. at Nadzab, Biak and Philippines, 1944 1945. Great to meet you at the WWII Veteran's March on 12th. August, Jack and hope both you and Trevor will be able to make it to the November Reunion !

My best wishes to all members in this memorable year. Let's finish it on a high note at our final "Australia Remembers" function in Canberra.

Gordon Gibson  
67/1-9 Yardley Avenue  
Waitara 2077  
Ph (02) 487 3029.

### TREASURER'S COLUMN.

Hi everyone ! here I am at last back on deck perhaps not as frisky on the pins but I guess I'll get there in time. The letters, 'phone calls, cards and visits I received whilst under the weather I appreciated so much, to know friends cared helped me through the days. Thanks to Dennis who on my behalf, thanked everybody in the last newsletter.

Now I'm back at my desk I hope I'll be kept busy with current subs. and just a few outstanding coming through to boost our bank account. Seems incredible that the end of the year is getting near & Xmas will be upon us once more & after that the A.G.M.

I expect this year of "Australia Remembers" has been a time for many members to 'get together', unfortunately for me the best was to watch on Tele & there has been plenty to watch & read in magazines and newspapers so I am looking forward to our Reunion in Canberra, hoping many members and friends have made their bookings particulars of which were in the last newsletter. As it is our "Australia Remembers" reunion we want it to be a great success even more successful than past reunions & we've had a number of those.

My warmest thoughts to Alan (Osborne) I so appreciated your 'phone call before you left for Queensland.

Thanks for all those beaut stamps, Jim (Williams). If anyone else could send me used stamps from anywhere at all they would be most appreciated.

What a great day in early August it was for Madeline & Ron Chidgey celebrating their Golden Wedding with many long time friends and family, I'm sure everyone sends them good wishes for their future.

For those members and their families who are having health problems may I wish you well very soon.

A short verse to end off:-

*Life is a journey, not a destination.*

Norma Keeling  
7/11 Kiora Road  
Miranda 2228

## HISTORY.

DON'T turn off! even though your exposure to history in your school days may have left a lasting distaste of the subject. Some of the stories in this edition are about times and events in which you participated; either at the centre or out at the extreme fringes. Now those times and events are themselves part of history; the things that historians investigate and write about.

Historians generally have a difficult task. Usually they have not participated in the events about which they write. They have to use the evidence left by others; sometimes the writings or recollections of participants or the observation of artefacts from times past. Citizens of mature years are wary of any assertion that history always equals truth.

\* Sometimes historians are not able to access all of the information. They may be selective about what they use and what they leave out.

\* Some history is said to be revisionist. It is written with an intent to portray a particular point of view. The history of World War II written by some Japanese people is not the same as the history of the war written in Australia or America.

\* Some history may be coloured by the writers of the primary sources of evidence. Many writers tend to portray their own roles in history in ways which make them feel comfortable or proud.

## HISTORY REVISED ? (Central Bureau & the Atom Bomb.)

Association member Graham Lobb travelled from Washington, D.C. to be with his Australian colleagues as we celebrated, in Sydney and Brisbane, the end of the war. He brought with him the Bookworld Section of the Washington Post dated 6 August 1995. The 50th. anniversary of the first big bomb explosion is providing an audience receptive to books about nuclear bombs and publishers are timing their release dates accordingly. "The Decision to Use The Atom Bomb" by Gar Alperovitz, said to be a serious historian, is one such publication reviewed in the Washington Post. Mr. Alperovitz asserts that the use of atomic bombs was a deeply tragic event (no argument with that) but perhaps unnecessary because the Japanese were ready to surrender anyway. He produces a strong argument that America used the bomb to impress the Soviet Union with American power and perhaps deter the Soviets from aggressive acts.

Other book reviews in the "Post" reveal the controversy which exists in America to-day about "the necessity and the morality of dropping history's most powerful weapon on two crowded cities". One Japanese book store promotion for an American book called "Hiroshima - Why America Dropped the Bomb" summed up the book this way + Truman Dropped the Bomb to Prove His Manhood.+

Another American author, however, argues that the revisionists are wrong. He is putting the finishing touches to a book called "The Last Intelligence Mission of World War II". This author is Col. Don McBride, of Seabrook, Maryland who served with a Sigint unit on Okinawa in 1945. Don McBride believes that Central Bureau, from its base in San Miguel, provided the facts for intelligence summaries which convinced President Truman to use the bomb rather than proceed with the invasion of Kyushu [Operation Olympic].

According to Don, in mid 1945, the Americans planned an invasion in the belief that the Japanese would use three divisions to defend Kyushu. Suddenly, in July, intelligence summaries told the President that there would be nineteen; nineteen divisions of fanatical Japanese defending their homeland.

What changed the forecasts? Rikugun Angosho 4 (Japanese Army Code 4) captured by the Australian Army in Sio, New Guinea had served CB's decoders well for a long time but the code changed and unread messages banked up. Then the Americans on Okinawa captured Rikugun Angosho 5. Somehow the new code books, or copies thereof, got to Central Bureau at San Miguel and there was a flurry of activity to decode the backlog. Central Bureau people did this job more quickly than Arlington Hall in the States. These decodes revealed the massive build up on Kyushu.

If you were in CB at San Miguel between April and July, 1945 perhaps you can provide Don with the "smoking gun", as he calls it, to clinch his thesis. If you recall Col. Mick Sandford, or one of his staff, travelling to Okinawa to collect Army Code 5 and a subsequent rush of decoding activity please let Don know. Any other helpful recollections would be appreciated. If Geoff Ballard had been there he would have known but at that time he was off in Burma or India on that other front we didn't hear much about. "Newsletter" can provide you with Don's address or pass on information if you have any recollections which will help put the truth into history.



## HISTORY OMITTED.

Writing in the prestigious "Australian Defence Journal - No 112 May/June 1995" Wayne Gobert places on record, perhaps for the first time, the history of an intelligence service in the Royal Australian Airforce. His article is headed "RAAF Intelligence Operations 1921-1945". Mr. Gobert has researched diligently. He lists about twenty four separate sources of evidence, including 'On Ultra Active Service' by Geoff. Ballard. He records that when the RAAF was raised on 31 March, 1921 there is no evidence that an intelligence service was even considered. In 1936 when some people believed that Australia should start to think seriously about defending itself, the Australian Navy put its intelligence service under the control

of an Australian. As late as 1939 a proposal to raise an intelligence service in the RAAF was rejected.

When war did come it was thought that the RAAF should lead the Combined Operations Intelligence Centre but it was unprepared for the job because it did not have a permanent intelligence structure; only the RAN had that. Nevertheless by 1941, before

Japan attacked, Mr. Gobert says that the RAAF had secretly constructed a Sigint chain in the theoretically neutral Netherlands East Indies.

In August, 1941, Wing Commander Gerald Packer was appointed as full time Director of Air Force Intelligence. There was, however some disarray. Eventually the RAN and USN Sigint Units were assigned to Admiral Nimitz, USN and Central Bureau claimed Army and Airforce Sigint which was all assigned to Maj. Gen. Aiken for Gen. MacArthur.

Mr. Gobert writes that the RAAF had been a late player in the Sigint game but became a major player through its wireless units. He refers to their work in places which most of us know well; Darwin, Port Moresby, Biak etc. BUT not a word does he write about Tacloban, Tolosa, San Miguel or anywhere else in the Philippines. The fact that RAAF signals intelligence units, were, with the RAN and the Australian members of CB, the only

Australian forces to operate in the Philippines is not mentioned. From "D" Day on Leyte until wars end RAAF Units operated in the Philippines. Also ignored is the fact that RAAF Kana operators and some Australian CB people were so highly regarded by their American masters that they had been assigned to the doomed Olympic invasion force. They would have been the only non-American forces in the invasion.

There is, however, coverage of the history of the RAAF in the Phillipines in the RAAF publication "Saga of Achievement", especially the chapter headed the RAAF Radio Story which details the history of each of the seven WUs. Mr. Gobert could have accessed "The EAVESDROPPERS" as well.

## VALE. JOHN WALSH.

So well do I remember John Walsh. Early in 1993 John and I spent a very pleasant couple of hours in his unit at the John Paul Village south of Sydney. John reminisced about his life and in particular about his war service. I captured his story on tape and recorded his thoughts in the March, 1993 edition of Newsletter.

As an "I" officer he took the first C.B. group to Leyte in 1945. To the extent that John and I were in some of the same places at the same time I can accept that his oral history of his time in the W.U.s and Central Bureau is reliable. I do not believe that age had distorted his recollections. At the age of ninety he upgraded his audio-visual equipment—it was truly state of the art. Time had not passed him by.

It is sad that John was pretty much alone when he died, aged ninety two, on 31 January, 1995. Newsletter did not find out until much, much later.

## BRISBANE'S WARTIME HERITAGE.

Australians who experienced the reality of World War II represent only a small proportion of today's population. Most people living in our land in 1995 only know World War II as part of our history. The war is revealed to them through the

written word or through the medium of film or they learn something of Australia at war from the recollections of old folks.

There are, of course, other links with those times; solid physical objects which resist the ravages of time and give some sense of reality to a past which most modern Australians did not experience. One of these "icons" is in Brisbane. It is the former headquarters of the AMP Society in Queensland, now glorified as MacArthur Chambers. CBICA member, Reg Harris, worked in the AMP Building during W.W.II as did Gwen Wade. Last year Reg. did some research for "Newsletter" on this Brisbane landmark which was built in 1934; in particular he concentrated on the eighth floor. This is part of his report.

"In December, 1989, Brisbane City Council acquired the building for the better conservation of MacArthur Chambers and its heritage significance. In a lengthy description of the building and the history of the site the State Government Department of Environment and Heritage said 'the board room, with adjoining luncheon room, was on the eighth floor and featured a parquet floor of different coloured local timbers. Staff offices were provided on half of the seventh and eighth floors and the staff dining room and kitchen was on the ninth floor. The remainder of the building was tenanted.'

'Owing to its central location and reinforced concrete roof, the building was used as the headquarters of the Allied forces in the South-west Pacific in World War Two. Tenants were compulsorily evacuated under military orders from 21 July, 1942, until 14 June, 1945. AMP reserved the basement and part of the ground floor, while Commander-in Chief General Douglas MacArthur occupied the Board room and his staff occupied the remainder.'

From hand-written notes in the Brisbane City Council Heritage office we read on a page apparently compiled by a Ralph Pepper, a member of MacArthur's staff [anyone remember him?] 'Pepper on 3rd. floor. MacArthur on 8th. Communications on 9th. floor. Restricted area with American M.P.s at Edward Street entrance'.

How well I - as an S.L.U. sergeant going to and from the Office - remember those American M.P.s -

or 'Snowballs' as some called them because of their white helmets. They were still there after MacArthur moved up north, but not once was I or any other S.L.U. staff member, to the best of my knowledge challenged by them. Our Royal Air Force uniforms must have been a sufficient pass.

Among the other documents in the B.C.C. Heritage file was a copy of page 1 of the AMP Building telephone directory of that time. It lists about 45 numbers and room numbers - including General MacArthur Rm. 806 Ph.266; Lt Gen. Sutherland Rm 807 Ph.255; five officers in room 804, all sharing Ph. 30; and a Major Cunneen in Room 822, Ph.29. Room 806 was in fact the Board Room on the 8th. floor.

Gwen Wade said she was in RAAF Command, but 'we certainly did our part in conveying messages down to the 8th. floor. We WAAAF used to love to say that we were above General MacArthur, being on the 9th. floor while he was on the 8th.' {see *Newsletter of June, 1994*}. Now Ralph Pepper's undated notes suggest that originally the 9th. floor was used by American communications, so presumably some time later RAAF Command took over all or some of that 9th. floor communication facility."

Reg. relates how SLU9 moved into the 8th floor in January, 1945 after MacArthur moved north in September 1944. SLU 9 had code machines in a room overlooking Edward Street. He recalls a lane between Queen and Elizabeth Streets and an incinerator in a basement courtyard where sergeants armed with Smith & Wessons burnt the previous 24 hours waste paper; "one had to stir the ashes with a poker to ensure total destruction".

One day last year ex RAF Sergeant Harris faced his past and walked through the Edward Street vestibule. Except for the absence of Snowballs he says it seems not to have changed one iota. Not so on floor 9. The receptionist for Save the Children Fund on duty at the time told Reg. that the MacArthur area was locked. But she did have a key. Says Reg. "She gave me the key and left me to my own devices. So I wandered around a large part of the area which used to be the AMP Board Room then MacArthur's conference room. One can walk to the Queen Street windows and look down as MacArthur once would have - but onto a very different scene from the one that would have

been familiar to him. Brisbane has changed so much."

Although Reg would deny it he does a good tourist hard-sell for his adopted City of Brisbane. He believes "that there is still enough of that 8th floor left to evoke memories.....memories of the RAAF, WAAAF and RAF, American and Dutch forces and the men and women who once fought the good fight from there and filled those lifts or waited outside the Edward Street entrance for the truck that would take them back to Victoria Park." "So thanks, Gwen Wade, says Reg, "for sending me off on that pilgrimage of wartime memories and my greetings to all one-time habitués of the old AMP Building!"

## PEOPLE.

### 12 August 1995. Marchers in Sydney.

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N. Allen B. Bentwich S. Carey K. Carolan\*  
M. Casey M. Chidgey W. Clarke C. Cousens\*  
D. Edmondson\* G. Furner\* D. Geyer \*  
G. Gibson M. Goldsworthy\* D. Hansen  
L. Harris\* H. Kenny S. King\* G. Lobb  
D. Moore\* R. Murphy J. MacFarlane\*  
D. McNally\* J. Pascoe A. Roberts W. Robinson  
B. Satchell\* J. Shoebridge B. Stibbard\*  
J. Thorpe\* R. Ward\* J. Wood

\* also shared a W.U. vets. luncheon at The Lawson.

### 15 August 1995. Participants in the Wreath Laying Ceremony.

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Norm Allen Bruce Bentwich Mick Casey  
Madeline Chidgey Alf & Flora Davis Gordon  
Gibson Dave Hansen Frank Hughes Les  
McClean Dennis Moore John Pascoe Stan &  
Marion Winn and Diana Seymour met up with  
some of us at Phillip's Foote afterwards.

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The Pike County Dispatch has been published in Milford, Pike County, PA for 120 years. On 24th of last month the Dispatch carried a story about an former G.I. who marched behind the colourful green and gold banner of C.B.I.C.A. in Sydney on 12 August 1995. The story also refers to the

parades in each State capital on 15 August. Says the author; "I discovered the Breakfast Creek Pub is still open serving wonderful Aussie lager XXXX beer and the best steaks in town."

The author is, of course C.B.I.C.A. member, Graham Lobb. On returning to the States after his sentimental return down under Graham has written to "all members of CBICA". He relates his participation in Australia Remembers events in Sydney and particularly in Brisbane where Rita Taylor Balin took him to familiar places, including 21 Henry Street and the Gold Coast.

Graham thanks Gordon Gibson, Mike Casey, Helen Kenny and especially Syd Carey and his wife, Norma for the kind treatment and welcome he received.

If anyone took a photo with Graham in it he would appreciate a copy. He sent us some pictures of C.B. identities but he was on the business end of the camera. AND if you go to America call Graham on 202-337-8829. Says Graham, "I want to see you".

### Non - Military Associations.

It seems that more went on at Central Bureau than tedious code-breaking and analysis. To help in the accurate recording of the history of Central Bureau here is some hard evidence of close co-operation between members of C.B.'s staff.

Max Hurley, AIF married Nancy Lou, WAC, in the Chapel at San Miguel. Bill Chippendall, AIF married Ann Moon, WAAAF. Stanley Winn, AIF, married Marion Manson, WAAAF. Bill Barnett, RAAF, married Jean Wilson, WAAAF. Basil Goldsteen, AIF, married Nancy Nelson, AWAS. George Henderson married Marjorie Piggot. Norman Webb, British Army, married Linda Paton, WAAAF. Colin Wilson, AIF, married June Esler, AWAS.

According to Newsletter's Social correspondent some of these marriages resulted in transfers or exits from the forces as husbands and wives were not supposed to serve in the same unit. Sadly Bob Frost, Basil Goldsteen, George and Marjorie Henderson, Norman and Linda Webb and June Wilson have died.

C.B. blokes married three of the four original WAAAF members of Central Bureau.

AND to quote our Social Correspondent "The following Americans had the good sense to marry

Australian girls — Maurie Coombs Bill Estep Chester Ray Joe Richard Myron Scougale Walter Scott and Lester Truex."

The Winn/Manson alliance has stood the test of time and passed the 50 year mark last year. A few weeks ago Madeline Chidgey celebrated 50 years of marriage to Ron. Ron was in the Army although not in C.B.

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The ENIGMA REUNION planned for 1996 in Bedford was suddenly switched to 15/17 Sept. this year, because it was realised that they had nothing else on to celebrate the 50th. So Geoff. Ballard is now back in the U.K. His presentation to the 1995 reunion is entitled "*1944 - and ULTRA SETS THE AGENDA FOR THE PACIFIC WAR.*"

Geoff. writes that he complained to several newspapers about the lack of recognition of Australia's role in Sigint in the Australia Remembers series. The Canberra Times published an article by Geoff on 22 June 1995. It was headed "Keeping an ear to the Japanese airwaves" It is a lengthy, detailed and informative story about Sigint, especially about the operations in Darwin and how much we learned from breaking Japanese army-air codes. According to Geoff "the Sigint unit located in Darwin was the Australian Army 51 W/T Section.....". Just to fill in the gap, for history's sake, Newsletter notes that RAAF sigint, in the shape of 2WU & 3WU, was also operational at Darwin, or just 60 miles south to be precise, and the first RAAFsigt people were there before that big raid; indeed before C.B was created.

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Geoff. Patience brings to notice the deaths of two former C.B. people; Brian J. Breen and Allen J Clifton. Mr. Breen served in Darwin. He died in his 85th. year at Numurkah. According to an obituary in a Melbourne paper Mr. Clifton wrote a war book that 'rocked the nation'. He recorded in graphic detail the horrors of the bomb and acts of gang rapes in Japan by Australian soldiers, says the newspaper. The book was roundly condemned. More recently it has been defended. Geoff Patience recalls Mr. Clifton as "our translator in Darwin before Don Laidlaw took over".

Dave Geyer, one of the former teenage interceptors from 1/6 WU, reports the death of colleague Rus Wilkinson, who lived in Brisbane. Rus died on 16 June.

Our 'Colourful green and gold banner' held together well for the August parade. The banner bearers on Anzac Day, Bruce and Brian Lovett, noted the need for some better engineering so they made some technical modifications which worked well. Whether it was Brian or Bruce or both is not known so we will thank both B1 & B2.

## IN BRIEF.

### The LIBERATION MEDAL.

Her Excellency Delia D. Albert, the Philippine Ambassador to Australia, has presented the Philippine Liberation Medal to New South Wales ex-service men. The impressive ceremony took place on 9 August, 1995 in the Parliament House, Sydney.

Most of the recipients were ex RAN. Secretary Gordon Gibson and Sir Eric Willis seemed to be the only Army recipients present. Noel Langby and your Publicity Officer were probably the only ex RAAF members at the event. We had made application for the medal many months ago when the procedure was announced in "Newsletter". It is believed that other arrangements had been made for the issue of the medal to applicants outside of Sydney and in other States. If you were an applicant and have not been contacted by either the Philippine Consulate or the Ambassador's office please please let me know. To qualify for the award your records need to show 30+ days in the Philippines between 17/10/44 & 03/09/45.

### MORE NAVY SECRETS REVEALED.

Joy Mildenhall and Allison Armstrong, ex WRANS broke their cover on ABC radio on the morning of

14 August, 1995. They described how they copied Japanese Navy radio traffic from a base in Townsville. Their training involved learning the geography of the Pacific area and details of the composition of the Japanese Navy. Like all good intercept operators they remember "excited Japanese breaking into plain language when under heavy attack." It is probable that the traffic analysis and code breaking for their intercepts was not done in Central Bureau.

## EDITORIAL.

From time to time we learn about the health problems encountered by some of our members. But I am sure that there are just as many, if not more bouts of ill health we don't get to know about. President Aub. started the victory march with us last month but had to drop out after a few hundred yards.

Earle Heap has had some contact with medico's over past months as has Dave Geyer. Past President Jim Williams has lost a lot of mobility and Chas Stephens continues to have health problems. Over the years our marchers have been urged on and disciplined by an energetic Alan Osborne. It is hard to imagine Alan being laid low but it happened. While we were celebrating V.J. Day Alan had travelled from his home in Mudgeeraba to Sydney for some nasty surgery. And Les Truex didn't get to his golden wedding celebration — the party came to him in hospital.

To everyone who is battling ill health we wish you comfort, relief from pain and anxiety and a return to normality.

With apologies to author Basil Fogarty the promised review of "The Ultra Factor" has been delayed, but not forgotten.

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It is appropriate that from time to time Newsletter acknowledges the continuing technical contribution and advice of Kamil Gurgun, Carlton, NSW or better known as my son-in-law.

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