



CENTRAL BUREAU INTELLIGENCE CORPS ASSOCIATION Inc.

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EXECUTIVE NEWS.

By HELEN KENNY Hon Secretary

The last Newsletter for the year goes out, tight-packed with information. Please read on.

The Anzac Day venue, at this stage, is not known. Before our last Executive Committee meeting on October 14, 1996, we asked members to fill in a voting slip and to choose between the Lawson and Phillip's Foote. The tally was Lawson 12, Phillips Foote 2. (Voters, where were you ?) After this, Norma Keeling went about booking at the Lawson, only to hear that the non-returnable booking fee would be \$350, and that the cost of the meal would be on top of this. She conferred with the President, Mick Casey. It seemed that the cost per person could escalate to \$50 —too expensive for most Cbers. Mick, therefore, made an executive decision that the Lawson is out for us on Anzac Day, 1997, and that we'll have to find somewhere else. The search is on.

Ron Chidgey has been our Hon. Auditor for the last eight years. He's decided that he would like to be relieved of the job, which he has performed so meticulously and so well. We thank him very much. Now Mr. Malcolm Moss has agreed to accept the position as Honorary Auditor if invited. He is well qualified for the task. He is a Batchelor of Commerce with an Accountancy major, and is a member of the Australian Society of Certified Practising Accountants. He lives at Bulli, NSW and is Honorary Auditor of the Bulli Sealions Swimming Club. He hopes that he can "prove to be of valued assistance" to CBICA Inc.

Welcome to our new member, James Sutherland, whose long service with the A.I.F., then R.A.A.F., took him from the Middle East, Greece and Crete to the Philippines. He lives now in Sydney. James enlisted in the Army on 26 October, 1939 (NX 4766). He was taken prisoner in Greece, escaped, and enlisted in the R.A.A.F. on 2 April, 1943 and after a varied career, including trainee aircrew finished up as a telegraphist with RAAF Command.

Remember our cruise on the Brisbane River last August—the lovely day, the scenery ? Only one thing marred it – the accident when Bettye Walsh fell and had to be taken to hospital. She answered my enquiries with a card, saying "so far, so good", that she was out of hospital, and that she wished us a "joyous Christmas followed by good health and contentment during 1997."

This friend of Norma's was given great help on that day by another friend of Norma's (she has many). CB ers will remember him at the 1988 and 1996 Brisbane reunions. He was Michael de Sousa Roque. I use the past tense "was" with great regret. He was walking along a road with his daughter near his home in Loganlea, Queensland, when a motorbike and a car were involved in a crash. The bike ricocheted and killed him. Our deepest sympathies go to his wife Janette and children Simone and Paul.

News Intercepts.

Indefatigable Allan Campbell, up in Brisbane, passes on a letter he received from Ron Cuskelly, who is a

founding member of the Queensland Air Museum. For two years Mr. Cuskelly has been researching the history of one of their aircraft, DC-3 VH-ANR. Its tail number was 1944 and its radio call-sign VHCXE. (Two aircraft had that call-sign. The aircraft surviving today in the Queensland Air Museum is CXE number 1) The aircraft, says Mr. Cuskelly, was used by General MacArthur, perhaps for one trip only, but GHQ and Central Bureau used it extensively. Photographs in files show that Major General Stephen J. Chamberlain, Brigadier General Spenser B. Akin and Colonel Joe Sherr were passengers in this aircraft. It is on display at the Queensland Air Museum, Caloundra, Queensland as VH-ANR in "Airlines of NSW livery," when it was known as "Oana". If anyone has information about CB's use of this aircraft, please let me know and I will pass it on to Allan Campbell and Ron Cuskelly.

Myron Scougale, of Everett, USA, tells how he went to Port Moresby in December, 1942 to work for Colonel Sherr at Government House. (Col. Sherr, a founder of CB, who came from the Philippines with MacArthur, was killed in a 1944 air crash.) I asked Myron if he remembered the aircraft. He replied: "I flew to Port Moresby twice in a DC-3 but I am afraid I didn't pay any attention to the numbers on it. It was a courier plane.... with seats around both edges facing inward with cargo and mail in the middle." It stopped in Rockhampton and Townsville to refuel before going out over the water. The second trip in May, 1944 was when he went up with Col. Erskine (Japanese linguist) and Major Girhard, (cryptanalyst), to bring back a captured code book from Finschafen. "It was so wet and soggy that they put it in a box and brought it back to work on," writes Myron who did work at decoding, shorthand and typing. He was glad to return to Brisbane with the Japanese code book, because his wedding date was set for that month, and could proceed as planned.

There's still plenty of news from Brisbane. Everyone, it seems, was pleased with our get-together there. Sad to hear that Al Jenkin has fractured vertebrae (caused, he says, by "old age." He's had to give up driving his car, and cannot get around as before. Our sympathies, Al. Harold Cook, President of the

WU Association, Queensland said his members "expressed their pleasure and approval of the turnout." He invites old unit mates and Cbers to the next WU reunion in Brisbane on the first Saturday in August, 1997. Leonie Fox, who conducted us through the Fire Station, sends Christmas greetings. We return them to her. Moving down to NSW, there's word of Geoff Padman, who is home in Minnamurra, after a spell in hospital. He remembers his time as a 2/3 WU member in Broome when he was a cipher assistant. He was also in Darwin. Regards from him to Dave Berry, whom he hopes to contact.

In Victoria, Belle Moss (nee Meissner) and her husband, Bob have just moved into a retirement village, called "Tudor Village Mews" near Lilydale. Belle worked as an AWAS cipher operator in that Henry Street garage. She contributes memories of "Typex machines across the room in rows of four" and of the long table or bench where she worked as assistant to the shift officer, Betty Tough (now Chessell). Belle asks for the address of Beryl Heidke (now Holzberger). She worked at Henry Street, but hasn't joined the Association ... yet! I met her with Betty Chessell at Chevron Island. We'll trace her for you.

President Mick Casey sent a very interesting clipping from the publication "Vetaffairs", November, 1996. It tells of the unveiling of the National Australia Remembers Freedom Wall at Mt. Coot-tha in Brisbane on Remembrance Day, November 11. The Minister for Veteran's Affairs, Bruce Scott, and Brisbane's Lord Mayor, Jim Soorley, unveiled the wall. "Vetaffairs" says it is the only one of its kind, that it honours not only the fallen but all who contributed to the war effort. The Brisbane Council donated the site and the Federal government gave \$300,000 to the project. More than 15,000 brass plaques, arranged in groups of 96, are fixed to the walls. Special coatings preserve the plaques from corrosion and graffiti. The Hon. Secretary understands that the Brisbane Wall has now closed to further entries but there may be proposals for walls in other cities; enquiries are continuing.

Combined Reunions. We've been holding these every year, switching from state to state, city to city - Melbourne and Brisbane, Canberra and Jamberoo. (That beautiful valley, fortunately does not rate as a

city.) At the last Executive Committee meeting it was agreed that we'd meet every two years, instead of annually, and that we'd plan to have our reunion in Sydney in November, 1998. It would focus particularly on Sydney Harbour and on the Homebush Olympic Site. We envisage Harbour and river trips, perhaps lunch on one of the islands. Start thinking about this please, and bring your ideas to the Annual General Meeting. We Sydneysiders will be delighted to take our turn as hosts.

That's about it. To all CBers and their families in Australia, the UK, the USA—wherever—greetings for Christmas and 1997. May you have good health in the year to come, and may friendship last. These greetings extend, of course, to ASWG and Wireless Units! ULTRA wishes to you all.

Helen Kenny

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THE TREASURER'S COLUMN.

Not written, hands on, by Norma Keeling this time, but comes to you via the phone line, dictated to Helen Kenny. Norma, you'll be pleased to hear, is out of hospital after an operation and is convalescing. As usual she's uncomplaining and cracking hardy, and we all send her wishes for speedy recovery. Meanwhile here's what she had to say:

"It's only the second time I haven't been able to write my column. I'm convalescing now, and send best wishes to everyone for Christmas. We're finishing our year, and I hope—as a special Christmas present to me—that everyone overdue with subscriptions will pay up by December 25."

(Norma's voice as she said that sounded hopeful that the money would come in. Please make sure that it does.)

She wound up with one of her quotations:-

"Yesterday was the deadline for all complaints."

DSD 50TH ANNIVERSARY

DSD, the modern successor to Central Bureau, will itself turn 50 years old in April next year. CB had a short life in momentous times for Australia. It did, however, in that short time demonstrate that its work was most significant in the preservation of national security. So much so that soon after CB's demise the Government of the day on 23 July, 1946 gave "in principle" approval for the creation of the Defence Signals Bureau as it was then called.

"Corporate Copy" has been launched by DSD as a serial newsletter to keep its staff and ex staff informed about some of the proposed activities planned "to commemorate this milestone". The special relevance for CBICA Inc is that the Acting Director, DSD, has invited us to participate in the celebrations.

Detailed planning is still in progress but we have been invited to take part in an Open Day planned for Saturday 5th April, 1997.

The celebrations will start on 3rd April and culminate with the DSD Annual Ball. CBICA is on the mailing list for "Corporate Copy". Early publication of the first CB Newsletter for 1997, say towards the end of February, will enable us to bring you up to date with all of the details at that time so that we will be in a position to let DSD know, in due time, which of our members may be attending.

VALE DOREEN MACPHERSON.

By Helen Kenny.

Members will be saddened to hear of the death of Doreen MacPherson, who, as Doreen Hughes, was a W/T operator in the WAAAF at 21 Henry Street from 1943 to 1945.

News of her death reached your Secretary in a strange way. The Newsletter with the voting slip for the Lawson or Phillip's Foote had gone out to Doreen. The slip was returned with a message reading: "Re Mrs. D.C. MacPherson.... I regret to say that your esteemed member died during the month of July." It was signed Frank C. Vivian. He gave no address, and was not in the telephone book. I could not trace him.

At several Anzac Day lunches at Phillip's Foote I had met Doreen MacPherson, and remember talking of music to her, as well as of past times in Brisbane. Would Marion Winn know? Neither of us had worked with Doreen, but had met her at CB gatherings. Marion remembered that Doreen had expert knowledge of cats and had been a judge of them. Thanks to Marion, who got in touch with the Royal Agricultural Society and a section called "Cat Control", I was able to write to their address, and received a letter signed Karen Moore ("friend of Doreen"). With thanks to her I quote part of the letter:

"I can't tell you a great deal about Doreen as she was always a bit of a loner, but here goes....
Doreen played the cello in orchestras in her youth and that was how she met her husband, who was an American and had played in bands across the USA. Sadly he died many years ago... and Doreen never remarried. "Some 10 years ago Doreen moved in with her mother at Queen Street, Woollahra, as her mother had not been well. During her time here she enrolled in an animal technicians course and spent much time and study at the Taronga Park and Western Plains Zoos, pursuing this interest. She graduated with flying colours from this course and then went on to be a tour guide at the zoo in her spare time.

"Doreen spent many long hours doing the most wonderful tapestries, many were of the big wild cats that she loved so much. Her work was exquisite and was always entered into the Royal Easter Show."

(Karen Moore was given several pieces of Doreen's work.)

"Doreen bred cats for many years after her late husband bought her a Siamese kitten as a pet. She bred under the Yoogali prefix and specialised in Siamese and Foreign White cats. In fact Doreen was responsible for introducing the Foreign White breed of cats into NSW and knew her genetics back to front. Doreen was also a well respected Cat Judge in NSW and was the President of several cat clubs during her breeding career"

(When Doreen's mother passed away, Doreen lived in the large home at Queen Street, Woollahra until her death.)

Karen Moore's letter ended. "Sorry I cannot be of much more assistance, but hopefully the above will

give you few clues to Doreen's life"

Thank you, Karen Moore, for your help. The clues pointed to a life that was creative and distinguished. I wish I had known Doreen better. If any CB-ers can put me in touch with members of her family, or can tell us anything else, please let me know, and I will send a letter of sympathy to her relatives.

KANA NOT EXTINCT ?

John VASEY, CB Member from Forster NSW, suggests that Kana may still live.

Says John, " I may be able to help in answering the question raised in CB 3/96 whether Japanese operators still use Kana. A couple of years ago one of our members - WAAAF I think - recalled the call signs of some of the stations that she had copied Kana traffic from, and one such she remembered was JMC. Since 1975 and up to the time of my retirement in 1990 I have used the services of this station to get synoptic weather information for the North Pacific. I did this in the course of several voyages made from Japan to Australia in newly constructed ships for Australian owners. The most recent of these was Nov 1990.

At that time JMC broadcast weather information daily at 2-hourly intervals (1 hour if typhoon warnings were current). The broadcast started, precisely on the scheduled moment, in fast international code in the English language and that took, about 5 minutes. At the final "+" there was a pause of 1 second and then the broadcast was repeated, this time in fast Kana code. All machine-sent.

Since I don't possess a communications receiver I can't guarantee to those members who do have one that the 1996 situation is unchanged from 1990, or that the broadcast schedule times haven't changed. But JMC is a powerful station, probably now serving the ocean-going tuna fleet most of all, and transmits simultaneously on many hf channels, each one associated with one of the maritime hf bands, i.e. 4, 8, 12, 16 and 22 MHz. It precedes its broadcast with the call "CQ de JMC/JMC1/JMC4/JMC5 &c" and the broadcast in English begins typically with "Part 1 Warnings nil = Part 2 Synopsis for area from Equator to 40 deg. north" So if you want to brush up on your Kana code

skills, go to it.

I understand that there is no longer any internal telegram service in Japan. Why would anyone ashore want to use Kana nowadays? Fax is available everywhere and is the complete solution to the transmission of Kanji characters, with none of the ambiguity that the Kana telegraphy code might sometimes give rise to (e.g. spelling out the syllables of the characters that "look" different but sound the same). "

Prompted by John's letter I dusted off my old Yaesu FRG-7, connected a very temporary long wire antenna thrown over a tree trunk and searched the bands for a few hours over a couple of days. I used CW. There was indeed plenty of morse in the maritime and amateur radio bands but I did not detect any Kana. I admit that I did not spend the hours, dial twiddling with headphones clamped to ears, that I did 51 years ago. D.L.M.

THE AMERICAN INFLUENCE.

The President of the United States of America and Mrs. Hilary Clinton landed on Australian soil last month. They charmed everyone they met. The hard nosed print journalists, the sometimes cynical radio personalities, the T.V faces, the shopkeepers and the citizens on the street were all entranced with this husband and wife team. Bill and Hilary had the skills to make every meeting with an Australian a meaningful personal experience rather than a perfunctory political duty.

Back in the 1930's, when we were young we knew something about Americans and their culture; or we thought we did. Young Australians were exposed to American films and the Hollywood publicity machine. It was from these we built up a picture of rich, confident and sometimes brash men and beautiful, well groomed women who lived in homes and apartments the envy of suburban and country dwelling Australians. These people smoked cigarettes and cigars with style. The films with a wild west theme showed us just how tough they could be.

Then, in 1942, we met the Americans in person. They arrived on our shores by the thousands. To some of us our first impressions confirmed that Americans were rich and brash. Their unit insignias worn on uniforms were bold and colourful in contrast with low key Aussie colour patches. Perhaps some of us were too young to make mature judgments. Young Aussie males did not give much attention to the fact that these soldiers and sailors were on foreign soil, a long, long way from home and about to be involved in some of the World's fiercest battles. Their Army uniforms looked good and the accents reminded us of the movies. Their cigarettes came in those attractive soft packs; with a deft flick of the wrist a cigarette would stand up from the pack to be extracted from the pack, sometimes by the lips. Many young Australian ladies were impressed by the Americans. Some said they were just being hospitable to our charming and well mannered guests who were going to save us from the Japanese. "Tokyo Rose" was known to comment on the Americans and Aussie girls.

The war continued and some of us who were kids when the Americans arrived found ourselves far from home on foreign soil in small Aussie Sigint units surrounded by American military might. Most of our stores and equipment were "G.I." We didn't go to the canteen anymore. We went to the "P.X." for "candy bars" and gum. The coffee and donuts from American Red Cross stations were highly regarded. Our Aussie clothing wore out at a fast rate so we could get into replacement G.I. clothing and boots which we regarded as superior to our own. Our slouch hats were the exception. No matter how battered and worn were those hats they were always prized possessions, never to be given up. We did give up Australian cigarettes because American cigarettes and cigars were free issue, just like food and the other necessities of life. In a short time we could flick up a Camel or a Lucky Strike from a soft pack with just as much panache as those film stars.

We were also exposed to that other American culture which, in the movies was frequently represented by shoe shine boys and railroad porters; we met and got on well with black Americans and enjoyed the cultural diversity revealed by those people, especially the ones from

the deep south. In the mood of the 1940's some white Americans did not understand that.

Back to the present and one of the biggest Sigint reunions held in Australia. Across the crowded and noisy Irish Club in Brisbane I sight a face from the past, fifty one years in the past and not seen since. He was a young Aussie then, from Cooma and surrounded by that American culture. I think I recognise the face. When I hear that distinctive voice I know that my recognition will be confirmed. Voices have unique qualities. We can recognise people just from a voice. But there wasn't any voice from this Sigint veteran, none at all. Norman Rolfe, ex 6 Wireless Unit, pressed a silver tube to his throat where his voice box should have been, and the machine said "Bloody American cigarettes".

CB Newsletter does not suggest that, if there is a causal relationship between smoking and ill health, American cigarettes are any more or less guilty than Australian brands.

PEOPLE.

THAT FIRST ARMY SHOWER.

Do your daughters and especially your granddaughters know what it was like to be a young lady aged teens to twenty something in the 1940's? Jean Hillier reveals some of her experiences in "No Medal in This Unit". One of Jean's colleagues, CB member **Norma Smith**, from Caringbah, NSW (some of her contemporaries remember her better as Andy, ASWG) has also taken to the keyboard to record some of her impressions of life in the war years before they are lost forever. Whether Norma would ever get around to publication is not known. However CB Newsletter has had access to Norma's computer. Here are some extracts. "I was an 18 year old who lived with my family of Mother.....Father....and brothers.....in Kyabram". Norma says that she did as she was told, was always a sensitive child and was perpetually teased by her brothers. She found country life unstimulating.

"Fruit picking was our weekend relaxation. Sunburn, rashes from the peach skins, falling from ladders, lugging large bags suspended around our necks - mighty heavy when filled with fruit." Then came the Army Signals Unit. "There was laughter, fun and companionship. Marching, exercise, training, music in the recreation hut, dancing, movies and leave in town. Life was very good. I just wish I had stayed with it all when peace was declared, as I have never again felt the same light-heartedness and happiness. I am privileged to have had those times. Perhaps my memory plays tricks, but I don't think so." "Early rising, lots of human beings - chatter, laughter etc. Racing across paddocks to the showers in the dark, and falling over, so we could have a hot shower before the rest of the girls got up. Undressing in the ablutions in front of people - no doors on showers or toilets. I wore a black sou'wester as a shower cap and popped my head around into the next cubicle to ask if that shower was as cold as mine. **Loud screams from the girl in there. Must have thought I was a bloke.** The girl in the next bed to mine in the hut must have had her shower in the dead of night, she was so shocked at her first nude confrontation with the gang. I never saw her again at shower time. Having a surname beginning with "A" gave me the doubtful honour of being called first for everything. Many years later I learned that as the same needle was used many times for inoculation I was protected from being a statistic of transferred blood disorders, - hepatitis etc. - from reused needles."

Norma has documented many more vignettes of life in an Army Sigint Unit which Newsletter may be able to bring to you in future editions. There are revealing stories about every day Army life from the Bonegilla and Kalinga days.

MELINSKY -What Did Happen ?

(contributed by Helen Kenny).

The "What Happened to Melinsky" report by **Roy Ward** in the March 1996 issue of our CB Newsletter certainly brought some interesting replies.

Former WAAAF, **Eve Scott**, of Carindale,

Queensland, is an indefatigable correspondent, who still keeps in touch with four American WACs she met during the war. After reading the March CB Newsletter, she wrote to Canon Roy Melinsky in Norwich, England, enclosing a copy of a book she had written about the 1987 veterans' tour of Papua-New Guinea.

Roy Melinsky answered in a fine Italic hand on April 19. He thanked Eve for the letter and book, then went on: "I spent a few days at Hollandia and on Biak on my way to Morotai where I spent 6 weeks waiting for the trip to Labuan. On our way back from the Philippines after the war we had a pleasant cruise along the coast of New Guinea.

"I don't know how much you know about me because I have not seen the CB Newsletter to which you refer. I had a long talk on the phone to Roy Ward who served with me in 2 Wireless Unit, RAAF, in Darwin, and I asked to be put on the mailing list of CB, but have not heard anything.

"So you and I served together at Ascot! Twelve of us Pommies arrived there in April 1944 and I worked with Captain Nave, RAN on Naval-Air for six weeks before being banished to Darwin.... We have had a couple of reunions of the 12 (2, alas, are no longer with us), which have recalled many happy memories of Australia and the island".

(Roy Melinsky's name is certainly on the mailing list now. We can tell him now that some RAF people were at the Brisbane reunion... H.K.)

(For the record Reg. Harris ex RAF writes that SLU 9 numbered about forty or so "so there was a lot more than twelve of us Pommies, with our own direct line to Bletchley Park - and one and all we HATED Bombay Bloomers and dumped them a. s. p." DLM.)

ADVENTUROUS CBers

Bill Burns, of Batehaven, NSW also responded to the Melinsky item and to the mention of **Mike Webster** in it.

This former AIF man wrote: "The mention of Mike Webster's name prompts me to enquire if anybody

may know something of him since those days.

W.O Mike Webster, Private **Burge Cameron** and Signalmen Bill Burns got 7 days leave from San Miguel the day after the war ended and we went to Clark Field to get a ride into Japan. We missed out there, but we were lucky to get a lift on a Superfortress going to China looking for the father of the Superfortress squadron's C.O. We spent days in Chengtu and then Kunming, and finally hitched a wonky ride back to Manila on a transport plane. We got back to San Miguel very AWL, but the C.O. let us off with a caution.

"Burge Cameron became a Professor of Economics at ANU, Canberra, but I have not heard if he is now retired. Burge and I would have been the youngest members of CB. I was still 19 when the Department of Treasury manpowered me out of the Army about a week after we returned to Brisbane on the liberty ship 'Francis N. Blanchet'".

Bill added that he and his wife were going to south-west Queensland where they have an opal lease.

CB's NAME in odd places.

Writes **GEOFF DAY**: "Our name sometimes crops up in the oddest places". Geoff lives at Wallacia in NSW and reads "Razzle" published by Penrith RSL. He has forwarded an article in that magazine by one, **PHIL DYNES**. Although the story is primarily about Phil's role in Z Special Unit operations he refers to his 'posting to Central Bureau, in Brisbane, which was General MacArthur's intelligence H.Q. in Australia, and where I was attached to the Allied Translator and Interpreter Section (ATIS)'.

Geoff says he didn't know Phil although they both lived in Springwood at the same time in 1986-88 and wonders if he is a member of C.B.I.C.A. Inc. He certainly is. Perhaps we did not know that Phil retired as Supervising Surveyor, Australian Survey Office in 1984. In 1977 and 1978 he held the position of NSW President of the Institute of Surveyors.

A DIARIST and A PHOTO ARCHIVIST

DAVID HANSEN of Chatswood, NSW, has sent in some first class photographs of 21 Henry Street taken during the August reunion. These will be

passed over to **MADLINE CHIDGEY**, defacto CBICA photo archivist and one time Publicity Officer. Madeline now has a big collection of pictures of CB people, places and events carefully preserved for viewing at CB functions.

David has painstakingly hand copied his wartime diary recording on the spot impressions of life in a Wireless Unit in the Philippines. Newsletter has permission to use the material in future issues.

IN BRIEF

First Military Radio in Australia..

If you live in the Sutherland Shire, south of Sydney, please be informed that history was made in your Shire on 28 March 1910. Herb. Ricketts, writing in the magazine of the Australian Intelligence Association, AIM, reports that a radio transmission was made from a cave at Waterfall to Heathcote. It was organised by Lieut George Augustus Taylor of the Australian Intelligence Corps and Capt H.Cox-Taylor.. The operators came from the Wireless Institute. There is a commemorative plaque in Veno Park, Heathcote NSW.

Hi Tech. Sigint in Japan.

The 1995 Japanese Defence budget requested funding for two maritime SIGINT aircraft. One aircraft was to be an electronic data collection aircraft priced at US\$ 126.77 million and the other was to be a training support aircraft. If approved it would have increased the data collection fleet to three aircraft. According to the US Journal of Electronic Defense, which reported this information, the mission of these aircraft includes monitoring, collection, recording, analysis and reporting of electromagnetic signals generated by naval vessels or land installations.

That Medal.

Some days before the announced 21 October 1996 ceremony at the Parliament House of NSW, Mrs. Caberall from the Office of the Consulate of the Philippines rang Newsletter to advise that the Medal presentation ceremony had been postponed indefinitely. The Ambassador, Mrs. Delia Albert had been recalled to the Philippines for the Heads of States meetings in Manila.

Earl Heap, in Sydney for specialist medical treatment, reports that there are moves to approve of the issue of more medals for Australian ex-service personnel; e.g. an Australian Service Medal with a South West Pacific clasp for 30 days or more service between 1945 and 1975. Newsletter does not have detailed info. but you could make inquiries from the records section of your particular service.

"Francis N Blanchet."

It seems that nearly every Australian Sigint veteran who served in the Philippines has a recollection of sailing home on the liberty ship which had never before carried troops. As it pulled away from the dockside in Manila the primitive on board toilets were still not finished. **Will. F. Renshaw**, ex 5 W.U. kept a diary which put the date of docking at Hamilton wharf on the Brisbane River as Saturday, 27 October 1945.

Will blames the toilet arrangements for his going straight from Francis N. Blanchet to Greenslopes Hospital.

Jack Bleakley's literary work, which is becoming famous, spells the name with two t's. From the name plate on Will's photograph of the ship it looks like one t but without some image enhancement I wouldn't bet——; David Hansen's diary opts for one t. Who cares; what I recall most is the ship shuddering enough to make a landlubber believe it would shake its prop loose as the lightly loaded product of American war-time shipyards lifted its stern and propeller clear of the water on gentle Coral Sea swells.

Best wishes to all members and their families. Thank you to all of the contributors in 1996.

If you have ideas about making Newsletter more relevant to your interests let the Publicity Officer know.

DLM.

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