

CENTRAL BUREAU INTELLIGENCE CORPS ASSOCIATION Inc.

JUNE 1998

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EXECUTIVE NEWS.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Combined Reunion of SIGINT Associations, Sydney 9th and 10th November 1998

Members and friends of A.S.W.G., the W.U. Associations of Queensland and Victoria are invited to attend this, our annual combined reunion and are assured of a warm welcome from their C.B.I.C.A. counterparts. The following is the programme of events:

MONDAY 9th NOVEMBER: Guided Tour of Sydney 2000 Olympic Site.

10.00am Board Westbus at Strathfield Station on right hand (Hotel) side, coming from the city. 10.30am Inspection of exhibition at Information Centre at Homebush Bay including video presentation and visit to viewing platform. 11.00am Guided bus tour of Olympic Site with in depth commentary. 12.00 noon Guided walking tour of Aquatic Centre, with commentary. 1.00pm Light luncheon, buffet style (sandwiches, fruit platters, tea, coffee, fruit juices)

2.00pm Return by Westbus to Strathfield Station.

Cost \$25 a head.

TUESDAY 10th NOVEMBER: Wreath Laying Ceremony and Formal Luncheon.

10.00am Wreath laying at Anzac Memorial Hyde Park. Address by Canon Alan Langdon. 1.00pm Formal Luncheon in private room at Sydney Rowing Club, Abbotsford. Buffet style hot and cold dishes, desserts, tea, coffee, mints - drinks available from the bar.

Guest Speaker to be announced. Major W.E. (Nobby) Clarke

Cost \$25 a head.

Wharf 5 TRANSPORT: The Rowing Club overlooks the Abbotsford Wharf on Parramatta River. Rivercat Ferries leave Circular Quay every hour on the hour. Buses to Abbotsford (No. 438) run up George Street at quarter hour intervals. Sydneysiders will be aware that Seniors Concession Tickets provide train, bus and ferry transport (including Rivercats) at a cost of only \$1.00. ~~I am ashamed to have to report that the same concession is not extended to Interstate visitors.~~ I hope they will overlook this lack of hospitality, and not let it deter them from joining us at what, I am sure, will prove once again to be a most enjoyable and successful reunion. It is not too early to start making plans now! I look forward to seeing many "old familiar faces" on November 9th and 10th.)

Gordon Gibson

President

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HON. SECRETARY'S PAR

Mid-year greetings to all members in Australia and overseas. On Anzac Eve and on Anzac Day we thought of you. Down through the streets of Sydney we marched, behind the green and gold CB banner with its two new aluminium poles. Dennis Moore and Doug McNally, the banner carriers, found it much easier to handle.

1st Remembrance Kenington

(Do CBers know that the banner was designed by the late Frank Tyler in 1976 when CB marched as a unit for the first time?)

The weather was perfect, quite warm, as we trod the familiar route, past the Cenotaph, past the Town Hall and up to Hyde Park. There, as each unit broke off, Red Cross volunteers handed out hot tea and coffee. The drinks were gladly accepted. We were near the stone wall in Elizabeth Street when one Eighth Div. man finished the march in a state of collapse. His friends and some CBers tried to help. Hands lifted the old soldier over the wall and onto the grass. (Who am I calling old!) A nursing sister, then ambulance men almost immediately took over. There were no seats around where tired marchers could sit or lie down. I think it's essential that there should be. Authorities please take note. From Hyde Park we went to our reunion at the Mercure/Lawson Hotel. Everything was well arranged - seating comfortable, smorgasbord excellent. We had the room to ourselves. After the meal there was much table swapping and talk.

Now this column turns bookish. One of our members, Bob Leonard, OAM, BEM, edited a book 'Their Service Our Heritage'. It tells the story of the Medicos-doctors, nurses, dentists, stretcher bearers and ambulance men who served Australia's three armed services from 1885 to 1998.

Bob Leonard took almost a year to compile the book, which was a project of the Westpac Sub-Branch of the RSL. This meant finding printed records and photo-

graphs from years prior to World War 11 and finding men and women who would tell stories untold till now. About 50 people recorded memories of times in WW11, with BCOF in Japan, in Korea, Malaya, Vietnam, and with UN peace-keeping forces.

Major-General 'Digger' James launched the book at Westpac's Sydney office. In the same building Bob Leonard had organised a display of historic uniforms, medical equipment, documents and photographs. It opened in time for Anzac Day. I was amazed to learn that Australians who went to Gallipoli took no dentists with them. New Zealanders did. Our men suffered agony, and also could not eat. Fortunately, Australian authorities later rectified this.

At the launch contributors to the book walked to the dais to receive their copies. "I've never been in a room with so many brave people," whispered a stranger next to me.

There were too many names to name, but let me quote Ken Gray, ex F Force 8th Aust. Div, who wrote of the medical officers and orderlies who cared for the sick and dying on the Burma-Thailand railway. He said: "It was here that we all quickly learned the great lessons of brotherly love and mutual independence. No man died alone but surrounded with love and compassion." A doctor, weeping, said: "I could have saved him with a six penny packet of Epsom salts."

At our reunion the book sold for \$15, of which \$5 went to our unit's funds. This generosity brought us about \$50. Other units also received this bonus. One thousand copies were printed and Bob Leonard says copies are still available. If you want one, tell me and I'll tell him.

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Just to hand by airmail from England, is "A Code-breaker's Tale," by Hugh Melinsky. Published by The Larks Press,

Ordnance Farm House, Guist Bottom, Dereham, Norfolk, UK, NR 2O 5PF, it's obtainable for six pounds and 50 p sterling, plus two pounds and eighty pence sterling for postage and packing. We hope to have copies displayed at our November Sigint reunion, because this work is a most readable and distinguished addition to the growing list of books on codebreaking.

Hugh Melinsky begins his book with the sentence: "I never intended to learn Japanese or go out to the Far East."

He won an Exhibition to Cambridge in Classics and 'went up' to Christ's College Cambridge in 1942. He hoped to join the RAF but was too young. One day he took a Greek composition to his tutors, who asked "By the way, would you like to learn Japanese? They are very short of people who can translate it." The tutor looked like a well-fed pussy cat, thought the startled Melinsky.

Later an interview with Colonel Tiltman from the War Office followed. Did Melinsky play chess (no), do crossword puzzles (yes), read music (reasonably). So it began. He reported to the Inter-Services Special Intelligence School at Bedford, where began the hardest work of his life. Captain Tuck, a retired naval officer, stumped up and down the classroom as if on deck, drilling the Japanese language and script into his pupils, most of whom were classical scholars.

Hugh Melinsky and the others, who made up the 12, were told in February, 1944 that they would be going to Australia. The need was urgent. "Apparently," writes Melinsky, "Britain and America between them could find fewer than forty people who were competent in the language."

After basic training, the 12 (pictured in the book) set off for Australia, taking the Queen Mary to America, train west from New York to San Francisco, then the long flight to Australia.

In Brisbane the author worked on Naval Air with Captain Nave, then went to join 2 WU at Coomallie Creek, 60 miles from Darwin. There he decoded Japanese mes-

sages and sent them by Typex cipher machine to Central Bureau.

The book is technical (codes, Japanese translation, kana and all that) but is immensely readable with a Melinsky twist of irony. Photographs and black and white sketches by Hugh Melinsky and his wife Renate are lively and witty. There's the drawing of the python that put such a scare into a certain officer, and sketched impressions of camp and working quarters in the bush.

Hugh Melinsky came to Brisbane early in 1945 then went to Morotai.

Labuan, and San Miguel (4 W.U).

The material for the book comes from memory, research, and from airgraph letters sent home to his family. He describes the importance of the intercept work which led to destruction of Japanese aircraft on the ground at Hollandia before the allied landing.

In the Philippines he translated for General MacArthur the first Japanese radio news reports of something called 'shingata bakudan'. Wireless operators had picked this up from the Domei News Agency. Melinsky translated it as 'new-type bomb'. He writes: "The word 'shingata' was not in the dictionary."

Fifty years later, on TV, he saw a Japanese woman who was recalling the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima. She quoted the announcement, the Japanese words, and gave the translation which tallied with Melinsky's. He and his unit in the Philippines knew nothing of the weapon. The secret, as he says, was well kept.

Many well known names, such as Clarrie Hermes, 'the immortal Sergeant', appear in the book. (Alas, he has gone to another immortality.)

Hugh Melinsky returned to England, and asked for his records before returning to Cambridge. As he puts it, a dusty Major in a dusty room blew dust off a form headed 'Record of Service.' It was blank.

"Be a good chap, take this home, fill it up and let me have it back," said the Major. "That was all they knew about my wanderings," thought Melinsky. This book has filled in the blanks. The publishers are seeking an Australian distributor for it. Hugh Melinsky, who had a long career in teaching, became a Canon of Norwich Cathedral. He lives at Eaton, Norwich, and set off to write his memoirs for his grandchildren. The book grew from there, and is one for the general reader as well as for the cognoscenti.

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VALE Jack Gregory Thorpe (18.3.24 to 12.3.98). This 'kind and gentle man' died in March leaving five children, Lyn, Heather, Greg, Megan and Duncan, and five granddaughters to mourn him. He was only 20 when he joined the RAAF, trained in Brisbane and served with 1 W.U. and 4 W.U. at Nadzab, Biak and the Philippines. Those who met him then remained friends for life.

Jack was a Bondi Boy and a Bondi lifesaver. He loved the surf, beaches, fishing and sailing.

After the war he joined the Telegraph service of the PMG and there met his late wife, Beverley. As years passed he had several job changes and lived at Lismore, Narrabeen then Narrabeena.

Heather Leahy, his daughter, remembers camping holidays at the Basin, Pittwater, and the time when he caught a record 73 pound jewfish. He sailed in a wooden boat, then in the fibreglass Endeavour 26. He belonged to the Pittwater Aquatic Club and to the S.B.C.C. - the 'Snoozing Boozing, Cruising Club' at Clareville. After races round Lion Island he and his sailing mates would gather for drinks and laughs. Jack's funeral service, sad as it was, had flashes of humour when fishing tales were told.

"Thank you for sharing in Jack's life," said the printed order of service. His daughter, Megan, out from Scotland, spoke. Greg Thorpe gave a reading, and Duncan Thorpe played a movement from J.S. Bach's

Adagio from Sonata for Oboe in G. Minor. Duncan, an oboeist with the Australian Chamber Orchestra, did great honour to his father, as did they all.

At the end, after prayers we walked into sunlight as Vera Lynn sang that tune of Jack's time - our time. "We'll meet again." This is our hope.

Our sympathy goes also to Geoff Day, whose wife, Joy, died on March 30, 1998. They had been married for 54 years and three months. Geoff went into hospital soon after Easter and could not be with us on Anzac Day. Please let us know how you're getting on, Geoff.

New Member. Les Perkins of 1/8 Meadowvale Drive, Grovedale, Victoria, 3216, was in the AIF, and spent two years with CB, starting in January 1944. He worked in the CB Cipher Section, then went to Finschhafen and Hollandia before returning to administration. From there he went to USAS, Queensland district.

Resignation. With regret we learn that Bob James has decided to resign. Bob served with the AIF (Combined Operational Intelligence Centre), G.H.Q., S.W.P.A. from December 1941 and held the rank of Captain. He was in Melbourne, Brisbane, Port Moresby, Hollandia, Tacloban (Leyte) and Manila. He came down from Newcastle to march on this Anzac Day and to attend our reunion. Our best wishes to him.

Helen Kenny

Hon. Secretary

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TREASURER'S COLUMN.

There isn't one this time. After many days in hospital Norma is now back at work preparing our bank deposits and paying our bills. However, preparing a column

for Newsletter is a duty from which she can be excused for the time being. We all look forward to a return to better health for Norma; and to reading, again, a Treasurer's Column in the Norma Keeling style.

PRODUCT SAMPLES WITH THE CB BRAND

Motor cars display the "Holden", "Ford" or "Toyota" brands. Banks and insurance companies nowadays become enthusiastic about their ranges of products and services. They market insurance products and superannuation plans and investment products.

What about that complex organisation we came to know as Central Bureau and its field units? What about the cooks and clerks, officers and operators, traffic analysts and transport drivers, technicians and translators, mechanics and machine operators and all of the other women and men who made up that top secret world? What was in their product range?

Only a select few of us had much of an idea about our end products and they certainly were not advertised. We read later that even the 'end users' were not supposed to know where the product originated.

Now years later we can see a sample of one product from the CB range and we can identify it with a C.B label. Naturally it is very stale sample and well past its 'use by' date.

It is no longer of any use to anyone (except, perhaps, academic researchers or nostalgic war veterans) otherwise it would not be freely available.

Here it is; an end of the line product resulting from our combined labours.

TOP SECRET

MONTHLY REPORT

JAPANESE NAVAL AIR ACTIVITY REPORT FEBRUARY 1945.

Main features of Naval Air Activity observed during the period were as follows:-

- (a) *Probable evacuation of MINDANAO by remaining elements of No. 1 Combined Air Force.*
- (b) *Low scale of operational effort from FORMOSAN bases.*
- (c) *Reorganisation of patrol activity over SOUTH CHINA SEA placing elements of 901 Kokutai and 11th Special Base Force under operational control of 936 Kokutai.*
- (d) *Greatly increased patrol activity by an unidentified unit or Units in the JAPAN - NANSEI IS - FORMOSA Area.*

General.

Activity of the former major operational command in the PHILIPPINES - No. 1 C.B.A.F. - was confined mainly to evacuation of airplanes from LUZON and MINDANAO. Very little use was made of operational reserves in the FORMOSA Area.

A high degree of cooperation was noted between units concerned with patrol activity over the SOUTH CHINA SEA. The 936 Kokutai appeared to exercise control over detachments of the 11th Special Base Force and 901 Kokutai in FRENCH INDO CHINA. Airplanes of these two units consistently worked on the 936 Kokutai frequency.

There was a substantial increase in patrol activity in the general area of JAPAN - NANSEI IS. - FORMOSA. Three frequencies in particular viz. 6850 kcs, 5715 kcs and 6347 kcs were consistently active and there were some indications of a connection between the three. Confirmation was lacking but it was considered that the 951 Kokutai was possibly responsible for this activity.

Recorded operational activity in the NETHERLAND EAST INDIES was slight but there was a minor increase in administrative flights mainly between SOURABAYA, BANJERMASIN and

BALIKPAPAN and occasionally MACASSAR and KENDARI by airplanes of 2nd Southern Expeditionary Fleet.

5130 Kcs. 3934 Kcs.

Controlled by No. 1 Combined Base Air Force.

The decline in the activity observed in January continued during the period.

A total of 137 sorties was flown averaging 5 airplanes per day decreasing towards the end of the month.

TAKAO was the main base and other FORMOSAN bases were used occasionally, particularly TAINAN and TAITO.

Evacuation from LUZON continued during early February, two bases connected with this activity being BAGUIO and TUGUEGARAO. Flights were invariably made at night.

On 12th February, 2 airplanes of 1021 Kokutai flew from SAIGON to DIEGOS via LABUAN returning to SAIGON on the following day. These airplanes used the frequency 5130 Kcs. suggesting that flight was connected with No. 1 C.B.A.F. activity.

On 18th February, another airplane of 1021 Kokutai was active on a similar flight possibly using ZAMBOANGA as an intermediary base.

Again on 28th February, an airplane of 1021 Ku flew from SAIGON to DAVAO via ZAMBOANGA.

In the case of the flight on 13th February, from DAVAO to SAIGON, the airplane of 1021 Ku was accompanied by 2 type 1 land attack planes, suggesting that the No. 1 C.B.A.F. was evacuating MINDANAO. SAMA was also informed of the flight indicating that the airplanes rejoined the Headquarters in FORMOSA via SAMA

No activity was observed from Central PHILIPPINES bases.

The main duty of the force during February appeared to be widespread search for Allied shipping to the east and south of FORMOSA.

2nd Southern Expeditionary Fleet (F/Ps)

Frequency used was 6680 kcs.

Airplanes of this unit flew 109 sorties during February with a maximum effort of 9 flights on 20th of the month.

Sourabaya was the main base and BATAVIA, SEMARANG, KANGEANIs and DENPASAR were also active controls.

In addition, administrative airplanes of this unit visited TJILILITAN, SELETAR SAIGON, SAMA, AMOY, SHANGHAI, OMURA, KENDARI, MACASSAR, BALIKPAPEN during the period.

CB's Monthly report on Japanese NAVAL AIR ACTIVITY for May 1945 indicates that CB was having problems. Here is the opening paragraph: "Owing to the movement of field sections to new locations and certain technical difficulties, a complete and continuous coverage of Naval Air Ground frequencies was not possible." However this extract from the ten pages of the May report shows that information was still being gleaned.

6850 KCS/ 3290 KCS

Activity was first observed on these frequencies on 3 May and continued throughout the period. The activities of the unit could be divided into two sections:-

(1) Reconnaissance

(2) Special Attack Units (TOKKO)

The term "Special Attack Unit" is believed to refer to "Suicide Aircraft". Such activity was readily identified, as the airplanes connected with the activity used KANA fig KANA fig callsigns. The controlling bases were MIYASAKI, MIHO and KANOYA. Planes have also used the airfields at OITA, SUZUKA, NANAME and IWAKUNI.

One last quote from the June, 1945 report.

Frequency 4774 KCS

This frequency was intercepted on 19 June by RAGFOR which reported the following:-

What may have been an attack by suiciders using 4774 kcs as frequencies and numeral for callsigns, possibly occurred at 192130. At 2104 number nine called number six stating, "TU TU TU 2130". This appears to be a variant of "TO TO TO", the all units attack order. This was immediately followed by a sign-off and silence which had been used before as "KAMIKAZE" radio farewell procedure. The only thing known about this frequency is that it was used as an R/T circuit in the TOKYO/NAGOYA area, but has not been heard for some time.

These snippets have been extracted from about seventy pages of archival material originally forwarded to Central Bureau, Rear Echelon, GHQ (Attn. Capt. T. E. Nave R.N.) on 4 September, 1945. They originated from Central Bureau G.H.Q. AFPAC. The letter which accompanied the material from the Philippines to Brisbane was signed by one of the quieter Heroes. Names known to some of us and mentioned in that letter are F/Sgt. Paton and the late F/O C.Hermes. Newsletter will send (for keeps) a copy of "The Quiet Heroes" to the first Association member who correctly identifies to your Editor the member who signed this letter from the past; even the member himself is eligible if he can remember what he was doing on 4 September 1945.

The archival material from which this story was sourced was made available by the Archives Unit, Defence Signals Directorate. We are grateful for their interest in and support for C.B.I.C.A.Inc.

LES TRUEX MEETS JOE RICHARD.

(and misses ANZAC DAY in Washington, DC)

Reporter: Graham R. Lobb

April 30, 1998

"I attended ANZAC DAY Dawn Service at the Korean War Memorial last Saturday.

Members of the Australian and New Zealand Embassy staffs were in attendance along with members of the both communities; and Americans who had served in the Pacific area.

Both Ambassadors spoke. The service was moving and appropriate in memory of those who gave their lives or have died in the years since April 25, 1915.

I am sending you a program of the event. There is also information on the Korean War Veterans Memorial which is not far from the Vietnam War Memorial.

There was a good number of veterans, their families and friends in attendance.

Afterwards, the group went to the Australian Embassy for breakfast furnished by the RSL. I have recently joined the RSL.

Joe Richard could not make the ceremonies. That day, Les Truex and his daughter who are touring the US, arrived for a visit.

On Monday, August 27, I attended a luncheon given by Joe and Elsie Richard for Les Truex. Others in attendance were: Harold Spain and Mr. and Mrs. Ed Duin.

I hope you had a good turnout for the Anzac Day activities in Sydney.

All my best to your members."

The programme for the ANZAC DAY Dawn Service at the Korean War Veterans Memorial, Independence Avenue, Washington, reveals that an Aust/NZ 'Color' Party took part together with His Excellency, The Honourable Andrew Peacock, AC and His Excellency, The Honourable L. John Wood Ambassador of New Zealand. The Ode was read by Principal Chaplain Bruce Roy, Australian Regular Army.

The American Legion and the Director for Veterans Employment and training, District of Columbia played a major part in the ceremony.

RECORDS AND RELIABILITY.

Perhaps it would be easy to regard records prepared close to the times to which they refer as being more reliable than those accounts written years afterwards; especially if the record has "official" status. However, when confronted with two sets of records, each prepared within a year or so of the actual events, which reveal differences in detail, one's level of confidence takes a nose dive. Consider this extract from a letter written to Newsletter by CBICA Member, Earle Heap.

".....However, one item in the March edition [of Newsletter] prompted me to check my War Diary (which incidentally had been written in Shorthand - for years my family has asked to have it transcribed - I started the task last year and have almost finished) specifically page 7, the report by Lt Colonel W Ryan on Australian Army Special Wireless Units 1940-45.

Under the heading "TRAINING" it is quoted: "No. 3 WU RAAF arrived in Darwin in September 1943, the training of RAAF Operators from that Unit was carried out by 51 Section and all Operational Commitments handed over to the Wireless Unit by October 1943."

I was one of the original members of No. 1 WU at Townsville in June 1942 and posted to No. 2 WU in Townsville September 1943. I have recorded that No. 2 WU as a Mobile Unit arrived at NWA HQ about 1400 hours on 7 November 1943. We had trained operators and after setting up the Operational Site at Coomallie Creek took over all Operational Air Commitments on 1 January 1944 (This has previously been verified in your Newsletter many months ago that it was then that the RAAF took over from No. 51 Section).

No. 3 WU did not arrive in Coomallie Creek until about 20 January 1944. I was attached to No. 3 from 7 March and posted there officially on 22 March 1944. It was not until March 1944 that No. 3 WU became operational. I understood the operators had been trained in Brisbane and as they did not arrive into the area until January 1944 I would be of the opinion that Lt Colonel Ryan has been misled!

....."

A LETTER TO MUM.

While that CB insider was writing to his Headquarters on 4 September, 1945, a young fellow from one of the W.U.'s in San Miguel was writing home to his Mum. Both letters have the same date. However the content of the second letter was much different and was written on Australian Comforts Fund letterhead from "Group 568 RAAF Pacific". And if you know that this particular Mother spent twenty nine years as a Commonwealth Film Censor you may understand the focus on films.

"I'm sorry the letters I posted to you when peace was declared, were not very exciting. I guess everyone was feeling a little morose and homesick.

Our Aussie Rules team lost again a few nights back, but we are still confident that we shall win the Premiership. I go over with the team to practice with them but unless there are a lot of casualties I would never get a game as I don't know the rules properly.

The pictures are showing every night now and there have been some wonderful shows. Barbary Coast (Miriam Hopkins, Joel McCrea, Edward G.R.) Incendiary Blonde (Betty Hutton) Dodge City (Errol Flynn); When Irish Eyes Are Smiling and some of the ones on the way are 'The Very Thought of You' (Dennis Morgan, Eleanor Parker) Don Juan Quilligan (W. Bendix, Joan Blondell) M'Melle Fifi (Simone Simon, Kurt Kreuger) 'Where Do We Go From Here' (Fred McMurray, Joan Leslie) 'Chicago Kid' (Don Barry, Lynn Roberts). There'd be some new releases amongst those I should think. Have you seen them all yet?

Yesterday they asked for volunteers to go to Japan and it caused a lot of confusion as they only allowed us eighteen hours to make our minds up. As far as I know they managed to get 26 from our unit. I did not even consider it, but Junior did until we persuaded him to cross his name off. The conditions were that the same rates of pay would apply and one would have to serve for not less than one year and not more than eighteen months. Three months away from home is quite enough for me.

There is still no definite date for our departure. Hope you have the papers that were published on VJ Day. They must all be very interesting. Your parcels which are sent letter rate arrive here in about 10 days, so it is well worth it. Thanks very much for all the trouble you are going to, and have been going to, to send me parcels, papers film etc. I appreciate everything."

On 14th September, 1945 CBICA member, L.A.C. David Hansen was still in San Miguel and surprisingly, was still under orders to look for Japanese signals. This is part of what he told his Mum on that day:-

"Censorship has been cancelled now, or at least we are allowed to seal our own letters.

As yet, no one knows what our movements will be. Work is still going on, or should I say that we still go to work but there has been nothing doing for a month.

.....On Sunday night there will be a concert held in the mess, but unfortunately our shift is on watch."

It is likely that Dave was still in San Miguel in the first week of October. Some months ago he was delving into family archives and was surprised to find that his mother had indeed kept as treasures many of his letters to home.

JOYCE PUGH REMEMBERS.

Joyce Pugh (nee Jackson) has contributed these memories of Mary Saxby (nee Arnold)

"As a long time friend of Mary's I would like to add a few personal memories to the notice of her death in December's newsletter.

Mary and I had been friends since 1943, when we both found ourselves working for Lester Truex in Ascot Park. Later we worked for Joe Richard and others, always being moved around together. We both had many happy memories of those times.

We kept in touch over the years and lately saw each other roughly once a year when I made the trip from Perth to visit my daughter in Canberra and later Wollongong. I stayed with her both at Clifford Mt. Henry and in Goulburn, where she lived for the last few years. My daughter and I had lunch with her in Goulburn in January of last year. She had been very ill for over a year and was then very frail and in a wheel chair, although in good spirits. She bore her illness with great patience and courage. Two months after our last lunch she was dead.

I shall miss very much seeing her on my annual pilgrimages from Perth to the "Eastern States."

ROLL CALL.**24 April 1998 Sydney Cenotaph.**

Norman Allen Colin & Mark Brackley Madeline Chidgey Bill Clarke Peter Dredge Yvonne & Dave Geyer Gordon Gibson Ailsa Hale Dave Hansen Frank Hughes Norma Keeling Helen Kenny Dennis Moore Diana Parker.

25 April 1998. The March.

N Allen I Auprince N Benn B Bentwich K Burns S Carey K Carolan M Casey W Clarke S Cooper G Gibson J Grainger D Geyer J Grace A Hale D Hansen L Harris E Heap H Kenny J Kennedy R Kennedy S King N Langby B Lovett B Leonard G Milne D Moore R Murphy L McClean D McNally A Norton D Parker K Phillips J Shoebridge G Swinney

25 April 1998. Afterwards at lunch.

K Burns W J Clarke A & P Langdon M & J Casey M Chidgey G & S Gibson J Linnane P & M Dredge R & Mrs Leonard L Harris G Swinney B Bentwich A & K Norton S Cooper J Shoebridge L McClean M McCredie D Parker N Allen A. Hale C & M Brackley F Hughes B & H Lovett D McNally J Williams S Gregory D & Y Geyer F & B Bargallie R Perry N Benn J Grainger H Kenny G Milne M McCafferty K & R Phillips K & J Carolan N & J Keeling B Mortimer D Moore.

CENTRAL BUREAU on WWW.

These days it seems that most organisations have a "page" or "site" on the World Wide Web. Put another way they publicize themselves on the Internet. Perhaps to your surprise Australia's prestigious Defence Signals Directorate has an impressive site on the Internet. There you will find plenty of information about the organisation which provides a service to Australia's Defence Organisation, other intelligence agencies and Government Departments. There is even a page about the history of DSD.

It is recorded on that page for the world to see that "DSD started its life as the Central Bureau, providing Sigint support to Allied commanders during World War II, in particular, to General MacArthur who was the commander of the South West Pacific area. Its operations were wound down after the war, but it was reestablished in 1947 as the Defence Signals Bureau (DSB)."

MORE REVELATIONS**Joe Richard writes about Japanese intercept operations.**

"I was interested in Fred Smith's account in the December '97 CB Bulletin. I would like to point out that the routine Japanese Obituary message he quoted, while not of much intelligence value was, however, very useful to the analyst stripping an additive page. Finding two or three such stereotype messages in the depth he had written out would enable him to write in most of the additives for the page in a couple of days.

Thinking of that brought to mind the most interesting (to me) messages we read. One day in late 1944 (I think) Lt. Col. Hugh Erskine, who headed the translation section at CB, showed me two messages; one to Rabaul from Tokyo congratulating a naval lieutenant for his timely and accurate warning of B 29 air raids from the Marianas (Guam, Saipan and Tinian) on the Japanese mainland and asking how he did it. The second from Rabaul to Tokyo told how.

First he said B 29's had a distinctive radio call sign (I think he said 5 letters or digits long and all other bombers had only 4 letters or digits). So he followed all B 29's flying from the US to Guam then his intercept unit listened to the B 29's as they made training flights and filled the air with messages. Then, one day, there would be no B 29 messages and he would immediately warn Tokyo: expect a raid in 3 or 4 days; inferring that all bombers were grounded being overhauled and preped for the long flight to Japan. Then he continued to listen carefully and on the 3rd day usually his men would hear a series of long notes (no messages) just after each plane took off. Its radio operator would hold his key down for a prolonged dash to check his transmitter. Counting the dashes the Lt. would then notify Tokyo to expect a raid by so many planes in a certain number of hours.

Using this information was tricky since reading it was top secret 'Ultra' at the time and of course some aviators were being shot down and captured (losses of up to 6% at that time) and interrogations of captured aviators was brutal. I think that a high level inspection party was sent to Guam. Erskine told me later that he had been told that these T.A. indications were no longer valid. I think I have read in one or two books a reference that the Japanese used the lull in radio communications to predict B 29 raids."



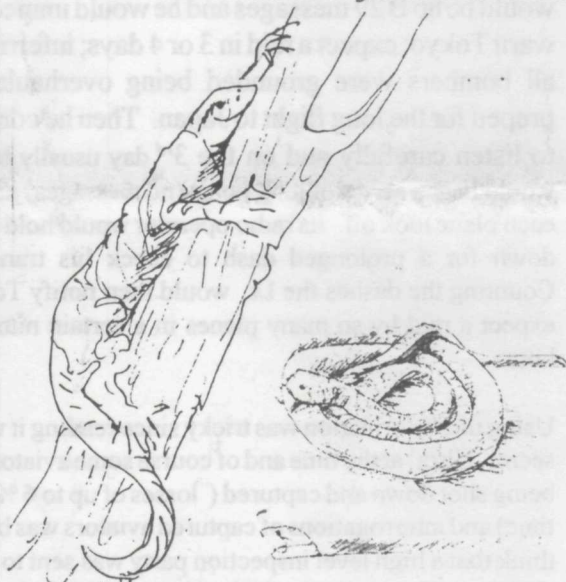
C.B. Brits in Darwin

Back. Warmington, James, Fenn, Webster, Billingham, Polack Seated: Fletcher Hall

Smallman, Smart. Melinsky. Reclining : Eddolls



Needles before Borneo with 4 Wireless Unit



Impressions of Darwin



Impressions of San Miguel

A Canon of Norwich Cathedral recalls his C.B. Days

These illustrations (not the captions) from "A Code-breakers Tale" reviewed on p's.2,3