

# **CENTRAL BUREAU INTELLIGENCE CORPS ASSOCIATION Inc.**

**MARCH 1998**

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**AN EVENTFUL YEAR FOR CBICA.**

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**The President Reports.**

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For CBICA, 1997 was a more than usually eventful year. From April 2nd to 5th the Defence Signals Directorate, the successor organisation to CB and FRUMEL, celebrated in Canberra the fiftieth anniversary of its establishment on 1st April, 1947. Dignitaries attending the celebration included the Minister for Defence, the Chief of The Defence Force, the Chiefs of Navy, Army and Air Force, Ambassadors, High Commissioners and the Director General of ASIO. CBICA's representatives were Vice President Michael Casey, Frank Hughes, Hon. Secretary Helen Kenny, Geoff Ballard and Lester Truex. Michael Casey made the presentation of the inaugural CB Award at the unveiling of the DSD Honour Board. The award, which will be competed for annually, comprised a framed citation and medallion which was accepted by Captain Russ Crane RAN on behalf of the Maritime Cryptologic Support Group which "set a high standard in maintaining support to the RAN, Allied Navies and Intelligence Organisations". On Friday April 4th, Lester Truex gave the day's "historic talk", a highly thoughtful personal and moving account of his W.W.2 career and work done with CB. The celebration concluded on Saturday 5th April with DSD Open Day Tours and a Barbecue Lunch.

Anzac Day Celebrations followed and, as usual, were highly rewarding experiences for all those able to attend. The wreath laying on Anzac Eve attended by twelve members was again a very moving ceremony. There were thirty five marchers on Anzac Day and fifty seven members and friends enjoyed the highly convivial gathering at Phillip's Foote following the March. Myron and May Scougale from the U.S.A. were amongst those present. In recognition of their services over the years in leading our marches the Committee decided to make a gift of \$250 to the Pittwater House Cadet Corps. The donation will go towards a new ceremonial sword and harness.

On 23rd July Professor Peter Hilton, mathematician and W.W.2 code breaker, addressed a packed audience in the Powerhouse Museum. His subject was "Alan Turing, Colossus and the Breaking of the German Codes". Hilton, a brilliant speaker gave those present an insight into Turing's eccentric genius, the workings of the Colossus machine and the teleprinter alphabet.

The last official event on our 1997 calendar was the special Reunion Luncheon at the Hotel Lawson on November 10th. The fifty seven members and friends who attended were given the opportunity of watching the video of Lester Truex's "historic talk" at the D.S.D.'s Fiftieth Anniversary Celebrations. The service provided at the Hotel Lawson venue met with general approval and it has been reserved for the 1998 Anzac Day Reunion.

The association is continuing its efforts to have the MacArthur Headquarters in Brisbane preserved as a WW2 Memorial. Queensland member, Allan Campbell, a founder of the Australian-American Association and President of the General Douglas MacArthur Memorial deserves the highest praise for his unremitting labours in the cause. Committee members Frank Hughes and Jim Kennedy have been particularly active in lending support in this matter.

Throughout the year the Executive Committee worked as a team, all members making their contribution to

the smooth running of the Association's affairs. While my thanks go to all, I think you will agree that we owe a special debt of gratitude to Publicity Officer Dennis Moore, Secretary Helen Kenny and Treasurer Norma Keeling.

Lastly it is my sad duty to record the passing in 1997 of the following members: Doreen MacPherson, Alf Davis, Basil Fogarty, Mary Saxby, Geoff Padman, Mac Maroney. On behalf of the Association, I extend sympathy to their families and friends. In this context I should like to point out that our Constitution makes provision for the winding up of the Association's affairs when membership is reduced below five. While it is inevitable that this situation will eventually come about, the Association's present membership numbers 208 and this, I think should give us hope that its dissolution will not be for some years yet.

**Gordon Gibson**  
President

## EXECUTIVE NEWS.

### From the President's Desk

Combined Reunion of SIGINT Associations - Sydney  
November 1998

At the Annual General Meeting proposed arrangements for this important function was discussed at some length. As yet nothing has been set in stone but the following suggestions are under consideration (and investigation) by the Executive Committee.

(1) The date - probably Monday 9th and Tuesday 10th November. There must be very few of us who still have Monday- Friday commitments so there seems to be little point in restricting ourselves to week-ends and these are usually busier than week days.

(2) A Hawkesbury River cruise commencing at Brooklyn and lasting about four hours. Cost about \$30 including smorgasbord lunch plus \$2 return rail to Brooklyn for seniors.

(3) Conducted tour of the Olympic Site. Cost and transport arrangements still under investigation.

(4) Formal Luncheon at Abbotsford Rowing Club, a beautiful venue overlooking the Parramatta River,

access by River Cat (\$1 for seniors). Cost of smorgasbord in a private room about \$35.

(5) Wreath laying ceremony at Hyde Park War Memorial.

We hope to be able to put forward a final programme at the Anzac Day Reunion. Meanwhile any comments or suggestions from members who were unable to attend the A.G.M. will be welcome.

### Anzac Day 1998

At the invitation of the Returned and Services League of Australia (N.S.W. Branch) I attended a meeting of the Anzac Day March Participants. This meeting was held on Monday 2nd February at 11am, immediately before our A.G.M. so there was no opportunity to consult members beforehand. Before the meeting was a motion from the Sixth Division Association:

"That we support the State Council Policy of not allowing relations of veterans to march in the Sydney Anzac Day March unless they are qualified to do so." The following amendment to this motion had been put forward by the Executive:

"That one relative of a deceased or disabled veteran wearing the veteran's medals be permitted to march in the Sydney Anzac Day March with the veteran's unit and with the approval of the unit."

As it transpired I and a number of others found that we had been invited as observers only without voting rights. So all I can do is inform you without comment that after discussion the amendment was carried and became the motion which was duly carried.

See you on Anzac Day if not on Anzac Eve when there will be a note of added sadness with the absence of Bill Robinson who always contributed so much to this Ceremony as well as to the March.

**Gordon Gibson,**  
President

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**HON. SECRETARY'S PAR.**

Greetings again. On February 3, we held our Annual General Meeting at the Combined Services Club, Barrack Street, right in the heart of Sydney. Barrack Street – it's an old, old name, going back almost to the start of the colony in 1788, when the soldiers – the Marines – (not yet Royal) had their barracks around the present Wynyard Square, when the First Fleet ships tied up to trees at Circular Quay, when violent thunderstorms broke, and lightning flashed over the tented settlement of sailors, soldiers and convicts, over the Aborigines who sheltered in caves around the harbour. And so – appropriately at Barrack Street, 210 years later, we gathered, turning on the air conditioning against the heat in a club where ex-servicemen and women meet.

Present were Gordon Gibson, Mike Casey, Dennis Moore, Les McClean, Norma Keeling, Madeline Chidgey, Frank Hughes, Joy Granger, Norma Smith, Gordon Swinney, Bruce Bentwich, John Shoebridge, Phil Dynes and I. Apologies came from Betty Chessell, Alan Langdon, Noni Benn, Noni McNaught, Edgar Kelson Reg Harris and Roy Ward. Our thoughts were of those who could not be with us, and of those who have died. We remembered them with a minute's silence, but memories last much longer than that.

All official positions were declared vacant. Nominations were made, votes taken. The result? Office bearers for 1998 are: President, Gordon Gibson; Vice-Presidents, Mike Casey and Bruce Bentwich; Hon. Treasurer, Norma Keeling; Hon. Secretary, Helen Kenny; Publicity Officer, Dennis Moore; Executive Committee, Frank Hughes, Jim Kennedy, John Shoebridge; Hon Auditor, Malcolm Moss.

Our President Gordon Gibson has given you a run down on the Annual General Meeting, and how plans are progressing for the November Combined Sigint Reunion. So that I don't overlap his report, I'll tell you about Allan Campbell, whom some of you met in Brisbane, and who organised our 1996 visit to MacArthur's former headquarters in the old A.M.P. building.

Allan, although well over ninety, seems both timeless and tireless. For decades he has preserved documents and photographs from those headquarters where he

served as a RAAF officer with CB, between postings to the Pacific Islands. Mr. Campbell, AM, OBE, OMRI is President of the General Douglas MacArthur Memorial, and has the backing of many, including CBICA Inc. in his attempts to preserve the historic site, and to have a modern display set up there for the interest of Australians, old and young, and of tourists.

At the Annual General Meeting the motion was put, and passed unanimously, that in view of Allan Campbell's "outstanding service to the cause", we should ask him to accept the title of a "Patron" to CBICA Inc.

Allan Campbell replied that he was "greatly honoured" and that he was "delighted" to occupy this office of a "wonderful body of men and women who played such a meritorious role in World War II."

This founder of the Australian-American Association assures us that the new Governor of Queensland, Major General Peter Arnison, is taking great interest in the proposed memorial, as is the US Consul-General, Mr. J. Tolson. We will be told of any developments.

Allan Campbell sent photocopies of documents for use in our Newsletter. One contained pictures and an article about General MacArthur when he set up headquarters in Melbourne early in 1942. The undated and unsourced periodical (the format looks like "Time") was given to Campbell by General Diller. Photographs show General MacArthur seated next to Speaker Nairn on March 26, 1942, when John Curtin was Prime Minister. This was in the House of Representatives, Parliament House, Canberra. Other pictures show him with Lord Gowrie, the Governor General, and with the War Council.

A short article headed "The Australians" gives an American view of their new ally. (Remember, this was 1942 and the Australians had been in the war against Germany since 1939. Our Sixth, Seventh and Ninth Divisions were in the Middle East, and our Eighth Division was captive in Singapore/Malaya. The RAAF and RAN had been involved from the beginning. Our population was about six million.)

Here then is the article:

**THE AUSTRALIANS.**

*By setting up headquarters in Melbourne, General Douglas MacArthur not only accepted a military situation with the heaviest odds against him, but also accepted the continent of Australia, a territory as large as the United States, with a population about that of New York City*

*Whatever MacArthur wants Australia to do, it will do eventually. It will take some time, despite the nearness of the Japanese and the impatience of the American General to stop them. The Australian is tolerably eager to cooperate in a war requiring unnatural speed, foresight, sacrifice and monumental tasks. Now he is just beginning to learn how he is doing it while going through the greatest mental revolution in his history*

*During the past year or so, it has been my lot to see much of the Australians. I have seen them in Libya, in Malaya, in Java. And I have seen them in their native land. I like them. But I find it difficult to weigh them in the scales of destiny. It's always dangerous to generalise about a whole people. So I find the best way to describe these people, who have become such close partners of the U. S., is in the form of random observations made in the heat of action and at close range. The Australian loathes rushing about. His constant retort is: "What's the hurry? The day's a pup."*

*He is ready to give his life for the defense of the country, but to ask him to give up his leisure is going a bit too far – as yet. Horse racing, beer drinking and lolling about in the sun are just as typical of Australia as rabbits, kangaroos, boomerangs and Gary Cooperish shearers. Legend says that the first words of an Australian boy are not "Mamma" but "I bet." An Australian will bet on anything. But especially, invariably and constantly he bets on horse races.*

*In late November, a Japanese freighter threw off the lines and started easing out of Sydney harbor. A squat, toothy officer on the bridge shouted ominously to an Australian on the dock:*

*"We'll be back!"*

*"And we'll be waiting for you," promised the husky, smiling Australian.*

*"Oh, no you won't," the Japanese Officer retorted. "We'll come on a weekend and you'll be at the races."*

*That Japanese officer knew the Australians. Business men in Melbourne and Sydney began pre-war weekends on Friday and ended them on Tuesday. On racing days to discuss anything but horses is a waste of time. Somewhere, almost every day, the horses run. It is typical of Australia that jockeys are rated higher than scientists.*

Also from Allan Campbell's files came details of the 1944 visit to Guadalcanal of Bob Hope, Jerry Colonna, Frances Langford and others. The instructions to go with the filming include a rather corny scene in which Hope, Colonna, Tony Romano and Barney Dean hold fountain pens and beg "for someone to take their autographs. Unsuccessful, they walk away from the camera.

The visits of American stars were rare in those days.

If I remember correctly, an aircraft in which Bob Hope and others were travelling ran into trouble on its way to the Pacific Islands and had to set down in the then small coastal village of Laurieton. Great drama.

There was another most interesting press cutting from Allan, but this will have to wait.

On a more serious note, the Sydney Morning Herald of 26/2/98 reprinted an obituary which first appeared in the Guardian. It was of Sir Harry Hinsley (1919-1998). Hinsley, author of the five-volume work, "British Intelligence in the Second World War" was a Cambridge undergraduate who worked at Bletchley Park during the war, deeply involved with Ultra and Enigma. Sir Harry, who met his wife Hilary Brett at Bletchley Park, had a distinguished record as academic and historian after the war. The obituary stated: "On his death bed he noted wryly that the scanner which helped diagnose his lung cancer was also called Ultra."

I think my allotment of space has reached its limit. I look forward to seeing you on Anzac Eve and Anzac Day. Please bring name tags if you have them, and do fill in the form to tell us whether you're coming (I don't want to sound like a nag). Until then sincere wishes to all,

**Helen Kenny**

Hon. Secretary.

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**TREASURER'S COLUMN.**


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25<sup>th</sup> April is our "Special" day and the first of the year to get together to reminisce, so do hope the roll up will be better than ever and that all will enjoy the lunch at the Lawson Hotel, and all those that are still strong enough on their pins will get together and march. The paying for the lunch is different from the years at Philipps Foote as then we paid on entrance but at the Lawson numbers have to be given in and so I have to receive monies before hand - \$24.50 PP is the cost. How have you all coped with the ghastly hot weather it's bowled me over felt like a dried up Kipper if you know what a dried up Kipper would be like – cooler weather come on.

My mail bag.

I hope Norma (Schneider) you've settled in well at your new abode and are quite happy, was so sorry to read of your husbands passing, some members may remember him being an assistant medical officer to C.B. Glad to hear from Diana (Parker) and hope your problems are over with the estate agents and that the sale of your house will soon come to be and you'll enjoy your future plans- look forward to seeing you on Anzac Day. I know what you mean Peg (Teague) when you say the heat has put your mind on hold- me too - Received your U.S. cheque Chester (Lange) but as I mentioned before I have to pay \$7 for bank charges whether it's \$10 or \$100 so it would be better if you either sent U.S. bank notes or an Australian draft. Thanks for your quotation and you'll note I've used it for my ending in this Newsletter.

Was so sorry to read in your letter Wal (Taylor) that you are undergoing chemotherapy and ray treatment. I know all our members will send you their best wishes for improvement to your condition. A friend of Earle Heap, namely Eric Shaw, who was Earle's signal officer at No. 3 W.U. was attending a RAAF function in Melbourne during the year and was told that Earle had passed away and so he was very surprised to receive a Xmas card from Earle, so let it be known that Earle is well and truly alive although the years are catching up, and would be pleased if any member is passing through Ballina would pop in they would be most welcome, he's at Ballina Quays just off the highway near the "Big Prawn".

Thanks for your letter Max (Hurley) and sorry to read the sadness of your wife having had six strokes this year and quite understand you not attending our functions as I can imagine it must take your full time looking after her, as you say you were both lucky being able to celebrate your golden wedding 2 years ago. Glad to hear from you Val (Miller) and to receive your 2 years sub - yes I agree arthritis is a dreadful complaint.

A bit of nostalgia from Stan (Willis) referring to 'Smilin' Billy Blinkhorn. Billy was attached to 6 W.U. at Tolosa and San Miguel, no idea what role, but he could speak and understand Japanese. He was an Army Sgt. And we often wondered what an Army Sgt. was doing in our camp, he then spent 3 weeks at Inaparcon on the west coast of Leyte. Billy came home with us on the liberty ship "Frances N.

Blanchett". And I well remember him singing and playing the guitar on the voyage home. Billy is now playing his guitar in another place, he passed away many years ago. Thanks for that, Stan.

Thanks for your \$20 cheque Bernard (Anderson), no you certainly weren't behind in your fees and so as you asked \$10 went through as a donation.

Was so interested to read of all your postings whilst over in this part of the world Myron (Scougale) you certainly got around, quite a Cook's tour around the "Brass". You'll note on your receipt that you are well and truly in advance up to and including the year 2000, what a year that's going to be in Sydney. It would be great to see you and May in 1999 and hope by then you will have improved in health to make the trip.

Another interesting and lengthy letter from Cec. (Cousins) which I enjoy so much, If only my handwriting was as good, how you manage to get around on trips like you do with all your knee problems is a wonder, but I can see your family takes good care of you and with their modern outfit makes travelling easier. By now you and the doctor may have come to a decision re a knee replacement, it's a pretty painful business for sometime but I think worth having done. The lass who was in the bed next to me when I had my knee replacement was 90 and she came through with flying colours, she was light on weight like you that may help quite a bit. Thanks for your kind wishes and donation.

For all those that have sent kind regards and good wishes to C.B. members and Committee thanks a lot not forgetting those that have sent donations and stamps for the Christian Blind Assoc.

My quotation this time was sent to me by Chester Lange:-

*"You only live once, but if you live right, once is enough."*

**Norma Keeling**

Hon Treasurer.

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## VALE.

The Washington Post, on 3 February 1998 announced the death of ABRAHAM SINKOV. Under the headline 'Master Code-Breaker Abraham Sinkov Dies' the Post reported the death of one of the nation's master cryptanalysts – a leader among those who laboured in secret over the decades to crack the codes of the nation's adversaries. Abe died on 19 January in Meza Arizona at 90 years of age. He had Parkinson's disease and a heart ailment.

According to the Post Dr. Sinkov was a mathematician recruited by William Friedman in the 1930's to work in the U.S Army's new Signals Intelligence Service. He headed the communications intelligence organisation attached to Gen. MacArthurs headquarters in Australia. (Which we know as Central Bureau.) Abe was credited with doing much to bring cryptanalysis into the age of the high speed electronic computer. He became one of the top officials of the National Security Agency from which he retired in 1963.

Just before the U.S. entered WWII Abe met English codebreakers on a British battleship and according to intelligence historians laid the ground work for a formal cooperation between US. Code-breakers and those of the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia and New Zealand which continues to this day.

The Post notes that Dr. Sinkov was decorated with the Legion of Merit and an Oak Leaf Cluster. For the benefit of non U.S. readers Joe Richard adds that Abe also received the OBE in 1945.

Those of us too far down the pecking order to have met Abe in WWII recall meeting a kindly, elderly gentleman when he visited Australia a couple of times in recent years to give his support to our Association and its activities.

*(Newsletter thanks both Joe Richard and Graham Lobb for sending copies of the "Post" obituary)*

ARMY SPECIAL WIRELESS  
UNITS

## TOP SECRET REPORT DECLASSIFIED.

"Top Secret", are words which had a special relevance to the impressionable teenagers of WWII years. Even the thirty somethings of those days were impacted by the Government directed media. Morale building films portrayed the heroics and sacrifices of the Allied forces and the scurrilous and dastardly behaviour of our enemies. Newspapers and radio reports tended to do the same thing. On the other hand there were events, places and people not officially talked about. They were "top secret" things and referred to as classified or restricted and often surrounded by mystery. The possession of a special pass to enter otherwise forbidden spaces gave one a certain status as did access to classified information..

It was somewhat ironic that the biggest ocean liners ever to enter Sydney Harbour were top secret visitors. There they were anchored in Sydney Harbour unable to be hidden and ferry cruises circled the drably camouflaged troopships; but never were the words "Queen Mary" or "Queen Elizabeth" ever written or broadcast. Sydneysiders were important people in possession of this top secret knowledge which they were not supposed to talk about.

In the circumstances it would not be unreasonable for this WWII teenager to feel a certain sense of expectation when holding in hand a very special letter marked "TOP SECRET", typed with a 1940's typewriter on "General Headquarters Southwest Pacific Area Central Bureau Rear Echelon" letterhead. It is, of course, a photocopy with many, many pages also marked top secret attached.

The letter is addressed to the Director of Military Intelligence, AMF Headquarters, Melbourne and the Director of Intelligence, RAAF Headquarters, Melbourne. It is dated 19 Dec. 1945 and signed by E. Nave, Acting Captain (S)RN. (Note the RN, definitely not RAN).

**"Herewith is forwarded a copy of a report prepared by Lt Colonel. W. Ryan A.I.F. on Australian Army**

**Special Wireless Units 1940 - 45**" says the letter. So now we can read the official account of Australian Army Sigint in World War II until now hidden from public scrutiny for fifty two years. After a very quick scan the initial excitement recedes. Indeed, many a reader may gain a more interesting insight of Army Sigint by reading the late Basil Fogarty's work or Jean Hillier's story or Geoff Ballard's publication and the contributions over the years to Steve Mason's "Ink Emma Ink". Fifty two years later the forbidden TOP SECRET fruit has lost its attraction.

Buried in his bureaucratic recital of dates, facts and figures about the formation and organisation of Special Wireless Units (Signals) 1940-45 - which one would expect to see in an official report, 1940's style- Col. Ryan does hint at his misgivings about the way in which Army Sigint was managed in WWII. His language is restrained and his views mildly stated. Only those who had personal contact with this officer would know whether his mild language masked more strongly held critical views.

#### Organisation.

"Prior to the formation of Australian Special Wireless group in May, 1945, the employment of Type "B" Special Wireless Sections for interception duties in SWPA was attended by certain administrative and organisational difficulties." writes Col. Ryan. After listing the factors which influenced the magnitude of the intercept task in any particular area Col. Ryan records ; "It was found that the required flexibility could not be achieved without serious administrative difficulties due to the fixed establishments allotted to the individual sections. These difficulties were overcome by the introduction, in May 1945, of the Special Wireless Group and 96 Special Wireless Section". Male personnel of the former "B" type sections (intercept sections) became the Special Wireless Group; except that Sec. 51, together with the AWAS from 58 Section became 96 Section.

#### Equipment.

Col. Ryan reported that much of the specialised technical equipment required for his units was not readily available through normal ordinance channels and he argued for an "adequate Finance Grant" for the purchase of such equipment. He proposed the provision of "comfortable working conditions for intercept personnel" as a result of experience in Middle East and SWPA. These are his words; "It

must be realised that the work of the intercept operator is particularly trying and that efficiency is inevitably governed by such factors as lighting, ventilation, insulation against heat and cold, facilities for proper rest during off-duty periods and recreation." Surely the Colonel was speculating about the future of Sigint in peacetime. These were unrealistic expectations for intercept operators regularly moving on and keeping close to a retreating enemy in tropical conditions. Even peacetime DSB, in its early days did not have that level of comfort.

#### Training.

If you were in the "Operating personnel category" and over twenty five years old be ready for a slap in the face. Col. Ryan wrote that "Experience has shown that an upper age limit of 25 should be set as personnel whose ages are in excess of 25 rarely become proficient. Exceptions can be made in the case of experienced commercial operators." Should ex RAAF WU people who have read thus far feel that this is all irrelevant to them just hang in there. "After the arrival of No. 3 Wireless Unit (RAAF) (in Darwin) in September '43 the training of RAAF operators from that unit was carried out by 51 Section and all operational air commitments were finally handed over to the Wireless Unit by October '43." So there it is in the official record; 3WU was trained by the Army.

#### Control.

Colonel Ryan was critical of the division of control in Special Wireless Units. He strongly recommended that both signal and intelligence personnel should be placed under the control of the same officer. He quoted the unified commands in US Army SRI's to support his case. The fact that, after March 1942 intelligence personnel came from GDD's, rather than Special Wireless Units also earned critical comment. To quote the Colonel; "Experience has shown that the most successful officers of Central Bureau (Aust. Army) trained and served with 5 Aust. Wireless Section

#### Location and Mobility.

"The main strength of the signal personnel should be located as close as practicable to the Crypto and Signal Analysis Sections thus ensuring quick delivery of traffic and economy in manpower" wrote Col. Ryan He stated that delays were eliminated when 53

Aust Wireless Section moved from Darwin to Brisbane in May 1943. Priority traffic was delivered within 20 minutes of receipt rather than the previous 5 days. "Remote receiving centres should only be established when it is not possible to receive the desired traffic at the main receiving centre." One suspects that many WWII Sigint operatives would have other views. Perhaps Col. Ryan's outlook was swayed by the Army's early move away from air-ground intercept duty. Would it have not been preferable for some signals analysis sections to move closer to the receiving sites? If enemy aircraft movement is detected you want your defending air force to be notified in minutes. However, Col Ryan also reported that 'the advanced parties of both Sections (53 section and 126 RI Coy) were ill equipped and could not undertake the task which was allotted to them.'

*Newsletter thanks the Archives Unit, Defence Signals Directorate, for supplying this archival material. The Acting Manager tells us that to the best of their knowledge, all CB material has now been transferred to Australian Archives. For serious researchers Newsletter can supply the Series Numbers.*

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### VALE

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Our Association was represented at the funeral of Captain G.W.F. ROBINSON ED R/L. As well as being a supportive member of CBICA, Bill was also President of the Australian Intelligence Association. After war service he remained in the Army and had many years of service. Bill was a dedicated supporter of the Army in which he served; even in retirement. If you visited the Army Museum at Victoria Barracks, Sydney, it is possible that Bill was your volunteer guide. CB members who met Bill at the various Anzac Day functions were impressed by his sincere efforts to keep alive 'the spirit of Anzac'. Underneath that tough military facade was a bloke who was deeply responsive to, for want of a better word, the spirituality of the Anzac Eve Wreath Laying ceremony. AIA has lost a worthy President.

A few days ago we became aware of the death of **Jack Thorpe** after a long and distressing illness. More about this ex-RAAF WU man in the next Newsletter.

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Also in the next edition some words about the late **Mary Saxby** written by her long time friend, Joyce Pugh.

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### AUSTRALIAN SERVICE MEDAL

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Thanks are due to members who share the knowledge with their colleagues. Remember Earle Heap's story in the Dec 96 Newsletter about the Australian Service Medal with a Southwest Pacific Clasp? Now Dave Geyer from New Lambton and Don Burn from Orange have both confirmed that if you were one of the mob who travelled home from the Philippine Islands on 'that ship', you know the one, the "Francis N. Blanchett", which sailed from Manila on 9th October, and arrived at Hamilton Wharf, Brisbane on Saturday 27th October, 1945 you probably qualify for the award.

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If you want the 'gong' write giving your service number, brief particulars of your service history, especially your P.I. postings and the dates of the voyage home. Air force people should write to the Director, Air Force Medals Section, Queanbeyan Annexe, Department of Defence, Canberra 2600.

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To qualify for the medal you need 30 days service outside of Australia between 3rd. September, 1945 and 24th. November, 1946. Don Burn's 5WU mate, Tom Hogan has received his medal and Don has applied.

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*Let it be known that some valuable contributions from CBICA Members have been held over for future issues. Editor.*

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