



CENTRAL BUREAU INTELLIGENCE CORPS ASSOCIATION Inc.

DECEMBER 1999

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EXECUTIVE NEWS

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Not the least pleasant of the six very pleasant days I spent in Melbourne recently was the one on which I lunched with Roy Ward, Geoff Patience and Steve Mason at the Caulfield Racecourse. The restaurant there is spacious, bright and airy, the food and service are good and the prices are moderate. In short it seems to be an ideal venue for the formal luncheon at next year's reunion.

Apart from the usual reminiscences about events that occurred fifty and odd years ago, there were a few tall tales from Geoff including a "bottler" of a "carpet snake in the loo" yarn sent him by Joy Linnane. By the way Geoff is still on the lookout for more of the same or similar for his proposed collection of funny stories. Write to him at 198 Hawthorn Road, Caulfield. Victoria 3162. Phone (03) 95286616.

The rest of the talk centred around the New Millennium Reunion and the history of C.B. (the "Technical Records"). More about the latter in another part of this Newsletter. As for the Reunion the programme is now shaping up like this: SATURDAY 11th NOVEMBER: 11am Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Commemorative Plaque under the Casuarina Stricta at the corner of St. Kilda Road and Domain Road (down from the Shrine of Remembrance). 12.30 for 1.00pm Formal Luncheon at the Caulfield Racecourse. Guest Speaker: Ron Bonighton, Defence Signals Director.

Evening free for Melbourne nightlife!

SUNDAY 12th NOVEMBER: All day sightseeing tour of Melbourne and environs including places of special significance to SIGINT personnel. Informal bistro style luncheon at Mornington Racecourse.

INVITATIONS: Personal single sheet invitations advising cost of each function with tear-off acceptance forms, returnable with remittances to Bruce Bentwitch, Hon. Treasurer CBICA no later than 10th October

2000. To be distributed as follows: to CBICA members with March Newsletter; to Victorian WU Association members courtesy of Harold Jones; to ASWG members courtesy of Steve Mason; to Queensland WU members courtesy of Mac. Jamieson. Non members to be informed by advertisement in newspapers, service journals and on radio and where addresses are known by personal invitations by post.

ACCOMMODATION; On our last Melbourne Reunion I recall that a number of us stayed at a guesthouse in Richmond which was both convenient and economical and Geoff and Roy will investigate this possibility. Please don't forget to mark in the dates - 11th and 12th November, as soon as you open your Year 2000 Calendar. My very best wishes to you all for a joyous Christmas and a wonderful Year 2000.

Gordon Gibson

President

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HON. SECRETARY'S PAR.

Christmas and New Year greetings to you all. As the century swings to 2000, and as people talk of the millennium (theologians tell me this came and went four years ago), I send good wishes to Cbers, those I've met, those I haven't, and hope that health and friendship will prevail.

President Gordon Gibson has told you of plans for the Melbourne SIGINT Reunion on November 11 and 12, 2000, so I've left that to him, but you might like to hear about a 'phone call I received a few weeks ago. "Mrs Kenny?" said a stranger's voice.

"Yes, it is," I answered somewhat warily, thinking it was probably one of those "would-you-like-to-subscribe-to-the-fund-for-arthritis-fleas" 'phone calls which frequently come my way.

"This is Robin Foot, Head of Intelligence Policy, Canberra," said the caller, over a line so distorted by

crackling that I had to ask for a repeat. (I hope I have spelt his name properly. Is it Foott?)

Mr Foot repeated his name. He said the line was clear at his end. Then he told me that Mr Ron Bonighton, Director of DSD, would be willing to speak at our Melbourne 2000 Reunion if we'd like him to do so. Mr Bonighton had read of this in our Newsletter.

This seemed to be thought transference. Committee members had been discussing a guest speaker, and who might be found for the SIGINT reunion which will celebrate the 25th anniversary of the formation of CBICA Inc.

So, to Mr Foot/Foott, I replied: "I'm sure we'd be delighted to have Mr Bonighton as our guest speaker, but I'll have to let our President, Gordon Gibson, know."

I did. Then I rang the Canberra number I'd been given and followed this with a letter to Mr Bonighton, who has had 30 years of service with SIGINT. By then we knew the date and place of the lunch, and only hope this suits him. As things stand, I have not heard otherwise, and it seems most appropriate that we should have another Director of DSD to speak to us. In Canberra, some years ago, Mr Martin Brady, then Director, spoke to us at a reunion. The speech was well worth hearing. I'm told that Mr Brady is now Director of the Defence Intelligence Board (DIB). Congratulations to him.

Historic Documents.

Thanks to Myra Rowling, A/Director, DSD, we now hold the Central Bureau Technical Records. DSD sent us Parts A to K inclusive, binding these eleven sections for our reference. These declassified sections came from DSD. In the Treasurer's Column Bruce has revealed how you, too, may have access to these documents. Ms Rowling also advised that Australian Archives, Melbourne, held the last two parts, L.....Bibliography, and M.....examples of traffic. We sent to Melbourne for these and received them recently. (The record series number under which they are filed is B5436.)

The September 6 letter of Ms Rowling drew our attention to the A10908 series - Central Bureau files held in Canberra, and to the Army Directorate of Military Intelligence (DMI) files in the series A6923. We asked National Archives of Australia (Canberra) about these and received from Ms Jessie Day, of their Access Services, a Consignment list, also a print-out from their computer system data base. The lists are

long and detailed, and require close study. We are hoping that John Laird, who lives in Canberra, may be able to help us by looking at the lists, and perhaps advising us about the more interesting items to copy. Nothing is definite about this yet, because John was taking holidays and because Christmas is upon us all. I am sending a copy of the list to John, and hope that Vic Lederer may be able to look at it too.

MINI REUNION.

This informal gathering of Cbers was held at the Kirribilli Ex-Service Club (Sydney) on November 9. I had no idea how many would turn up for drinks and a bistro (serve-yourself.) lunch, but warned the Club we would be coming. They reserved tables for us from which we could see the Bridge, and ferries, barges and ships moving up and down Harbour.

The tables were soon filled with members and their guests. They were: Doug & Grace McNally, Gordon Swinney, Peg Teague, Noni Benn, John Shoebridge, Heather Lovett, Brian Lovett, Bruce Bentwitch, Faye Gilinsky, John Laird, Betty Hughes, Frank Hughes, Joan Narayan, Leslie McClean, Michael Casey, Pamela Langdon, Alan Langdon, Noeline Hansen, David Hansen, Gordon & Sue Gibson, Helen Kenny and Dennis Moore. That made 24. We talked, moved around, and really missed those who could not be with us because of distance or illness.

Phil Dynes had sent me copies of his book, "Leyburn's Liberators and Those Lonely Special Duties Air Operations." One copy is kept with our records and inscribed "To Central Bureau and all Cbers with my best wishes" by the author. There's no room in this issue for a review, but that will come, because the book, launched at the Z Special Unit National Reunion in Launceston on Anzac Day, is well worth reading. At our Mini-Reunion I managed to get two extra copies to take along. The book (\$20 plus postage) is obtainable from the author who lives at "Little Merridong", Fairbairn's Lane Gloucester, NSW 2422. The extra copies sold on the spot at the mini-reunion.

That's it, Cbers, until the A.G.M. Please come if you can, do fill in the form, sent with this Newsletter, and vote and send any snippets of news so I can pass these on. Again, best wishes to you all.

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TREASURER'S COLUMN.

With year 2000 fast approaching the good news is that our subscriptions are not subject to G.S.T. I wish to thank members who have already paid year 2000 subs while a few have paid further in advance. Unfortunately quite a number are overdue and we request subs are sent to me A.S.A.P.

Dennis has referred to the two volumes of the declassified Central Bureau Technical Records later in this Newsletter. They are quite weighty publications being approx 8 kg's each. If members wish to borrow the publications postage will be approx \$6.50 each and of course the return postage should be the same. This rate is within Australia and we propose members return each volume within 30 days. The books do contain much technical jargon, which, after 50 years, does not excite me. For Sydney members who can call at my home this will save postage and possible damage. Alternatively members with access to the Metropolitan Railway Network could meet me at Roseville Station which is not far from my home.

Whilst 1999 has been a great year for our sports people in other respects worldwide it has been a violent year (wars natural disasters etc.) and let us hope 2000 is much more peaceful.

Last month I spent a few days in Canberra visiting the War Memorial where many changes have, and are still taking place since our last visit. The Nurses Memorial on Anzac Ave. is a very interesting memorial, constructed of thick patterned bluish glass, about three metres tall x 9 metres in length and slightly curved. Canberra seems to be still spreading - perhaps more Public Servants?

For those members such as Norma, Joy, Athol etc. whose health has not been so good let's hope the New Year is better for all.

Wishing all the compliments of the season and a happy and healthy New Year.

Bruce Bentwitch

Hon. Treasurer

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THE TECHNICAL RECORDS OF CENTRAL BUREAU.

With such a label it is not surprising that there is a lot of technical stuff———pages and pages of words to appeal to old time cryptographers. Is that the right word? Perhaps the term code-breakers would be better. On the other hand buried in the many hundreds of pages of the volumes of Central Bureau's Technical Records there is information to interest, dare we say, every CBICA member. Most of us are likely to find something to capture our particular interests or to evoke memories. Here then is a general overview.

There are eleven parts lettered "A" to "K". Part "A" covers Organisation and General History. Part "B" is about Naval Air-Ground Communications; part "C" is labelled Army Air-Ground Communications. Part "D" is called Three Figure Systems and part "E" is Naval Short Weather Reports - JN36. Part "F" is about Code Book Analysis and Permutation Studies while part "G" refers to Mainline Army Systems. If you were into Traffic Analysis part "H" is for you. Part "I" is called Translation Section. For everyone who served in a field section turn the pages until you find part "J". There you may read seven pages about Australian Army Wireless Sections, approximately fourteen pages about the seven RAAF Wireless Units and six pages about the American Signal Radio Intelligence Companies. The final part, "K" is titled 'Critique'; it is about problems faced and suggestions for solutions.

When all of this material was written way back in 1945 or 1946 (our copy is not dated) we must assume that the authors had a special purpose in mind. Central Bureau was being closed down, disbanded, terminated; one can guess that some people either wanted to, or were directed to, leave a permanent record of what this historic organisation was all about. Perhaps CB was dying a reluctant death. The documents say much about the birth of Central Bureau on 6 April 1942 but there is virtual silence about its demise. Only these words signal an ending. ".....and the greater proportion of Central Bureau was shipped to Luzon in July 1945. Movement of the remaining personnel, less a small Rear Echelon, was imminent when hostilities ceased." End of story. No emotive words were written about any final celebratory parade, or wake, or lowering

of the flag ceremony; nor were there any congratulatory words on a job well done. Perhaps it would not have been proper for the Authors to praise themselves.

However, in the Section headed Critique there is a strong indication that our former leaders believed in a resurrection or, perhaps, a reincarnation. A. Sinkov, Colonel United States Signal Corps, A.W. Sandford, Lieut Colonel, Australian Military Forces and H. Roy Booth, Wing Commander, Royal Australian Air Force have their names appended to this Section. The opening paragraph says: "This review is designed (1) to examine the major problems encountered in the development of Signal Intelligence in the South West Pacific Area and (2) to record for future guidance the lessons learned from the solution or attempted solution of those problems."

Of course we do not know whether the opinions expressed, or the recommendations made, were the consensus views of all three or, indeed, whether they merely permitted their names to be appended to this 'Critique' to give credence to, or to authenticate, the composition of others. It is apparent that the words were designed to have an impact on some future organisation. Over the years the names of some of our members have been associated with the writing of a "history". Perhaps there were many contributors but so far as the official document is concerned they remain anonymous; only the names of Sinkov, Sandford and Booth appear. (See Note 1)

The Critique identifies many Signal Intelligence problems in SWPA. For example, reference is made to difficulties with continuity and collaboration. It is claimed that a Signal Intelligence Organisation must be fully operative in peace time in order to be available for immediate use on the outbreak of war. "The American contingent was unprepared to carry out large scale studies in traffic analysis or radio intelligence", says the report. "Fortunately for Central Bureau", say the writers, "the organisation included at the outset a group of AIF traffic analysts who had returned to Australia after almost two years of experience in traffic analysis in the Middle East." "The RAAF contingent of Central Bureau, handicapped by the same difficulties as the American Group, required a long time to get to the point of taking over these functions adequately." (I.E.

traffic analysis and radio intelligence). In short the authors are saying that, apart for some AIF people, the Aussies and Americans were unprepared for the tasks ahead.

There is critical comment about the lack of attention paid to the development of special intercept receivers and direction finding sets. The lack of easily transportable direction finding apparatus was especially noted. Although non-morse transmissions were encountered in other theatres we were unprepared for non-morse interception in the SWPA. It was fortunate that the Japanese relied mainly on morse, says the document.

Under a heading "Cooperation Between Services and Centres" the authors noted "the lack of cooperation between Central Bureau and the Naval 'Y' Service. Also noted was "the lack of collaboration between the Radio Squadrons Mobile (serving the U.S. Army Air Forces) and Central Bureau."

Many paragraphs are devoted to a discussion of the operational control of field sections. Because of the nature of the war in our area "the intelligence producing capabilities of the field units was reduced and this made it all the more necessary to direct their interception efforts from a central headquarters." "The degree of efficiency achieved in the coordination of field effort was due to the fact that Central Bureau, as an inter-service organisation, had in the crucial stages of the war unrestricted operational control over its field sections, irrespective of service." Statements such as this in the report may indicate that our leaders were under some pressure over the control of the field units. For example they said that the success achieved "would have been further emphasised and a considerable unnecessary duplication of effort would have been avoided had the Radio Squadrons Mobile (serving the U.S. Army Air Forces) been brought under the same centralised control." (See note II). Another quote; "A signal intelligence organisation in a theatre can function at its best only if it is made self sufficient. It should have its own administration and its own housekeeping and not have to be dependent on other services."

Now we can move on to the recorded wisdom, gained through experience, which our leaders wished to pass on. In 1999 it can only be a guess that they were hopeful that there would be, some time in the future, a successor organisation. Here are a few of their fifteen recommendations.

"Continuity of research both in peace and in war into traffic analysis and cryptanalysis and all other aspects of Signal Intelligence is essential to success."

"Continuous research with all appropriate scientific assistance must be conducted into all phases of the development of technical equipment for the purposes of interception, traffic analysis and cryptanalysis."

"Careful selection of suitably qualified personnel is a prerequisite in the formation of a permanent peacetime section."

"The Central Signal Intelligence authority in any theatre should be a fully integrated inter-service organisation and have direct operational control of all field sections irrespective of the service to which such units belong."

"A strong Air-ground party should operate on a specially allotted vessel during major landing operations."

"The Signal Intelligence function should be the responsibility of the Intelligence, and not the Signals branch of a Service."

Was the advice heeded? There was a Sigint rebirth in Australia. Under the cloak of secrecy so familiar to C.B.ers the Defence Signals Bureau was born in 1947. Writing in the 'Australian Defence Journal' in 1994 Ken Barnes confirms that Central Bureau and Frumel were the likely parents. However Ken Barnes and other writers noted the 'manger-like' accommodation to which the infant was assigned in the Albert Park Barracks in Melbourne. **Perhaps, one day, one or two of our members who walked the plank between C.B. and D.S.B. could tell us how they assisted with the birth.**

Note 1

The late Clarrie Hermes told Newsletter, in August 1990, what happened in a house called 'Eldernel' in Hamilton Heights during 1945. "We were there engaged in writing an operational history of C.B. under the direction of Captain T. E. Nave R.N.....I have never been able to discover what happened to the operational history."

Ted Correll wrote these words in a letter published in C.B. Newsletter in March 1991. "At the same time (late 1945) Australian Army Officers located at San Miguel in the Philippines were engaged in a C.B. history with emphasis on R. I. operations under the direction of Army Captain 'Pappy' Clarke. Contributions were made by Lieutenants Roger Joyce, John Stumm, Ken Price, Moss Williams (who was to continue with DSD) and me." "It would seem quite likely that the history written by Clarrie Hermes joined in what we had written to become parts of a complete history that is now kept within the records of D.S.D." We do not know, in 1999, whether 'Technical Records' and 'Operational History' are the same thing.

CBICA member, Rev Robert Brown has some current comment on these matters. "It was interesting to read in the last Newsletter that the technical report on CB had turned up at DSD. This of course, was the logical place for it to be, though several members to whom I spoke of it during recent years seemed unaware. Capt. Eric Nave led the team compiling the report, at Mic Sandford's former quarters in Eldernell Terrace, Hamilton. Clarrie Hermes was there, NZ Army Captain Ted Bennett, Judy Roe and about ten others. Eric Nave gave me my first editing job — the first of many since. He also recommended recognition of various people by the DMI. (Dept. of Military Intelligence Ed.). Mine was a personal letter of thanks for service in C.B. and especially in respect of work on the technical report; more than anyone could deserve."

Robert added a further recollection a few days later. "My re-activated memory has thrown up John Shoebridge as one of the group working on the technical report. There may also have been an AWAS named Dorothy something. The one mental picture is of the penultimate day when the Skipper suggested a farewell drink. We were sitting in the small kitchen. I, being a

non-drinker, was the only one with an empty glass. Clarrie Hermes took my glass, went and filled it with water. That was typical of his thoughtfulness." So, after all, here is a record of a celebration of the last days of C.B. A glass of water in the small kitchen at Eldernell.

By the way, the publisher of Robert's book, "Saturday Reflections" (see September Newsletter) is Hill of Content.

Note 2.

The late John Walsh knew about the problems of divided control. He told Newsletter (March 1993) that as Flight Lieutenant Adjutant of 1 Wireless Unit in Townsville, he met Captain H.W. Brown, an American who had been evacuated from Corregidor. John was wasting his time, according to Brown who wanted to transfer John to "I" work on the spot. In John's words "RAAF bureaucracy wouldn't hear of me becoming an "I" officer on the spot". He had to go to Melbourne to do a course first. John also talked about the difficulties of split control when RAAF Wireless Units operated in RAAF Areas. "It was always a question of what degree we were under the C.O. of the Area."

VALE.

John Keith Jarrott, or Keith to his friends, died on 25 July 1999. At the funeral his nephew, Ian Hiley read the eulogy. Keith was an accountant; his professional career was disrupted by the Second World War. He joined the AIF in February 1942 in the 2/16 Light Field Ambulance. The eulogy records that he was seconded to 53 Australian Wireless Section, Central Bureau and served at Ascot, in New Guinea at Finchhafen and Hollandia in the ultra secret intelligence service.

Keith became the senior partner of his accountancy firm until retirement in 1976. He did much voluntary accounting work including the Treasurership of the Anzac Day Commemoration Committee. In 1994 he was awarded the Anzac of the Year Award. For forty one years he was Honorary Secretary of the National Parks Association of Queensland. In addition he

published five books on historical subjects.

However on other matters he practiced the reticence typical of the C.B. people of that time. This is how Ian Hiley spoke of Keith's war years. "At a time when the war intelligence work was declassified in the late 1980's, he was permitted to write a short account of that work and stated: 'I feel privileged to have served with the Central Bureau at Henry Street 53 Wireless Section, at Finchhafen and Hollandia, and at Ascot Park.'

Condolences have been passed on to Keith's widow, Jean.

Mrs N. Howard, late of the RSL Village at West Gosford died earlier this year. Mrs Howard served with an ASWG Unit. Her A.W.A.S. colleague, Norma Smith let us know of her passing.

STATION X AUTHOR CONTACTS CBICA.

Did you watch the Station X series on ABC TV? You probably noted that the series was based on a book of the same name. The author is Michael Smith. Now Mr. Smith wants to hear from you. He is the man of letters so I will use his words.

"My name is Michael Smith. My background is as a journalist with the Daily Telegraph (U.K.). Before that I spent 12 years in the British Army Intelligence Corps working in Sigint so I do understand something of how it all works. Last year I wrote a book called Station X on the breaking of the German codes and ciphers at Bletchley Park and as a result have been commissioned to write a follow-up covering the breaking of Japanese codes. Since most of the more widely publicised books have, for understandable reasons, looked at this from the U.S. perspective I am anxious

to look at it from the British/Australian viewpoint which, from my research so far, I already know will make a riveting story.

I am anxious to talk to, or hear from, anyone who worked, in any capacity, on the Sigint side in Australia, or elsewhere, during the war. It doesn't matter whether they were intercept operators, the codebreakers, the intelligence analysts or simply the clerks. Any recollections at all, whether operational or simply memories of the times". (will be welcomed.)

"I am particularly anxious to talk to anyone who knew Eric Nave as he will be one of the central characters in the book"

"My email is mick.smith@dial.pipex.com My address is Michael Smith, 2 Sunnyside, School Lane, Stoke Row, Henley, Oxon, U.K. RG9 5QU. My telephone number is 44 1491 681123."

So there you are C.Ber's. The ball's in your court. The invitation has been extended.

ASWG BREAKS BREAD WITH CBICA.

The names of the people who attended a very pleasant gathering at Chatswood RSL on 4th December would seem to be more at home in an issue of Steve Mason's 'Ink Emma Ink'. Here's the list: Tom Collins, Joe Pritchard, Tank Noble, Jack Ludlow, Neville Laney, Jim Mackey, Murray Smith, Geoff Day, Maisie Kelly, Yvonne Tierney, Isabelle Bartram, Melva Laney, Shirley Briggs, Joan Baxter, Lee Ireland, Margo Smith, Nancy Graham-Evans and daughter Wendy, Rhoda Thwaites and Jack, Tom, John Mc. and, of course, the Sydney based dynamo of ASWG, Life Member Andy Anderson.

As a CBICA member she is more conservatively known as Norma Smith. Some of the other people who lunched at Chatswood are also members of both ASWG and CBICA. What is the punch line? The

CBICA Publicity Officer, who is definitely a RAAF Wireless Unit type, lunched with this group and felt quite at home with his Sigint colleagues from the AIF and AWAS. The march of time mellows the rivalries. *A good omen for Reunion 2000 in Melbourne.*

THE CLOAK OF SECRECY.

Associate Member Joyce Stead has written to Newsletter. She knew that husband Tom served in the RAAF in Brisbane, New Guinea, Biak and in the Philippines. When he died in 1985 he had not said much about what his duties were. He had said that he had been in a unit destined for Japan. "Thank goodness that didn't happen." writes Joyce. Those of us in Tom's group say amen to that.

Anyway, niece Joy found out about Newsletter this year and contacted us to see if anyone knew her Uncle Tom. In your Editor's archives was a RAAF 'passing out' photo of an untitled group of young RAAF blokes taken in the front yard of 21 Henry Street in about October, 1944. This group had successfully completed their training in Japanese Army-Air telegraphy. In the group were the Kana instructors, including Sergeant Stead (Uncle Tom)

So a copy of the pic. was sent to niece Joy with some first hand info. about what her Uncle did in the War. She passed this on to her Aunt. Now Joyce reads her copies of Newsletter with a bit more interest; at long last she understands what her husband did in war-time. Tom was President of Gympie RSL for many years.

EDITORIAL.

Whenever two or three of our members get together they do, indeed, remember and inquire about those colleagues who are not able to physically join in Association activities. We know that age and failing health does weary them. Bill Clarke would join in, as he used to do, and so would Joy Linnane and past President Jim Williams, and Norma Keeling and the indefatigable "Nobby" Clarke, who still has some unwritten stories to tell. There is Athol Whyburn and others we do not know about; the danger in mentioning some names is that inevitably some names are omitted. To all of you go our best wishes for a comfortable life style in the year 2000 and beyond.



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