



CENTRAL BUREAU INTELLIGENCE CORPS ASSOCIATION Inc.

JUNE 1999

Publicity Officer: Dennis Moore 183 Sylvania Road Miranda 2228 02 9524 6267 dennis@flex.com.au

EXECUTIVE NEWS

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Our travels are now over and we have returned to 'good old Australia.' Our cruise of the Mediterranean was absolutely brilliant and we highly recommend our Orient Line cruise ship, "Marco Polo".

We had every possible comfort on this ship. The food was to die for. We called in at twelve different ports from Barcelona to Istanbul, including Palma, in Majorca, Cannes, where the film celebrities were parading, four ports on the Italian coast including Porto Fino, a gem of a little spot near Genoa, Sorrento and the ports for Florence and Rome: Livorno and Civitavecchio; then Malta, Santorini, Delos and Mykonos. We also visited Kusadasi on the Turkish coast and then the historic Dardanelles.

I could go on about the interaction that Sue and I had with the city of St. Petersburg and the Russians but that is another story

Gordon Gibson.

(Dictated over the telephone by a wearied world traveller. Ed.)

HON. SECRETARY'S PAR.

Greetings again to Cbers. It was good to see so many of you in town (Sydney), particularly at the Anzac Day reunion lunch at the Mercure Hotel Lawson City West. Here's the list (complete, I hope) of those who gathered there:

Norm Allen, Noni Benn, Col Brackley, Mark Brackley, Kath Burns, Bruce Bentwich, Faye Gilinski, Jack Bennett, Elma Bennett, Hope Cleary, Syd Cooper, Joyce and Mike Casey, Joan and Keith Carolan, Joe da Costa, Geoff Day, Chris Day, Robyn Day, Joy Granger, Sue, Kate and Gordon Gibson, Sheila Gregory, Lou Harris, Frank Hughes, Norma Keeling, Jacqueline Keeling, Jim Kennedy, Helen Kenny, Pamela and Alan Langdon, Brian and Heather Lovett, Dennis Moore, Max McCredie, Margaret McCafferty, Les McClean, Allan Norton, Katie Norton, Keith

Phillips., Ruth Phillips, Diana Parker, Dave Perry Bill Rogers, Jan Rogers, Fred Smith, Gordon Swinney, Peter Swinnney, John Shoebridge, Peg Teague, Lester Truex, Sue Wareham, Jim Williams. 54

Five came up from Melbourne, Lester flying in and out that day. Our guest speaker Professor Desmond Ball, special professor at the Strategic and Defence Studies Centre, came from Canberra by air, taxied to the "Lawson," and went back the same day..Co-author with David Horner of "Breaking the Codes", this much travelled academic, whose book tells of the Russian spy ring operating from Canberra, of SIGINT, Central Bureau, and of Australian Communist links with the KGB, gave us a memorable talk. His publisher, John Iremonger of Allen and Unwin, also joined us for lunch.

First, though, Gordon Gibson, our President, welcomed the speaker and all of us who sat at the large round tables. He read out messages from those unable to attend. Among those who sent regards, wishes for a "great day" and warmest greetings were: John Laird (Canberra), whose duties as a member of Canberra Legacy Club made a visit to Sydney impossible; Vic Lederer (Canberra), who wrote: "Yes, I'm still alive and kicking at 84 and a half but it's too inconvenient to get down to Sydney. Best regards to all who know me."; Norma Smith, of Caringbah NSW, Dai Bobin, of Gympie Queensland; Doug Pyle, of Bolwarra Heights, NSW; Cec Cousins, of Eleebana, NSW, who was prevented from coming by illness, but looked forward to reading Professor Ball's address in Newsletter; Joy Linnane, of Henry Kendall Village, Wyoming, NSW, sent wishes, and explained that ill health stopped her from being with us; Betty Murray, of Beaumaris, Vic., was off crutches, getting around but feeling a "bit wobbly", and sent special wishes to Norma Keeling. Betty hopes to attend the SIGINT Reunion in Melbourne in November, 2000; Phil Dynes of "Little Merridong", Gloucester, NSW, wrote that he could not be with us because he planned to be in Launceston, Tasmania, for the Z Special Force Reunion. He said: "This will no doubt be Z's last reunion, as we're now considered too old, so I will no doubt make a few more CB meetings in future." Phil

launched his book "Leyburn's Liberators and Those Lonely Special Duties Operations" in Launceston and will send a copy to CB. Olive Williams, of Toowoomba, Queensland, sent wishes with the comment that she'd always enjoyed the quotations in Norma's column.

Joe Richard had told Mike and Joyce Casey he'd be with us on Anzac Day- that he'd fly from Silver Spring, Maryland, in the USA, have a few days here, then fly back. The flight was booked, the Caseys were to meet him ... Such hopes. 'We all looked forward to seeing our American friend again, but a letter from Joe's wife, Elsie, said that Joe had had another angioplasty, that he was home from hospital, and that his cardiologist said he should be back to normal in a couple of months. Medical advice made it clear, though, that distinguished code-breaker Joe had no hope of coming to Sydney for Anzac Day. Elsie's letter to the Caseys revealed the alarming cost of surgery in the USA. Angioplasty is \$20,000, the cost of a bypass is \$65,000 (a huge jump from the \$20,000 it was 20 years ago.) Elsie and Joe have insurance and hope it "will rise to the occasion." Her letter also brought news of Betty and Maury Coombs of Lancaster, Virginia, USA. They had health troubles, too, and though Maury seemed much improved, Betty was due to have an operation in mid-April.

CB hopes all went well, and sends greetings to these American families.

The luncheon went splendidly. Treasurer Bruce Bentwitch was ever-present with help, and thanks to the cooperation of Rebecca and Mercure/Lawson staff the meal and service were good. Professor Des Ball produced interesting documents to be placed at each table. These contained wartime reports, some from General Blamey, some from Colonel Sandford, and post-war reports which furnished material for his book. His speech, reported in another part of Newsletter, told of treachery, of which some CBers were in ignorance, of which others had secret knowledge.

All copies of 'Breaking the Codes' displayed at our luncheon were sold. I believe that the book may go into a second edition. At the end of the function, our President thanked the guest speaker and asked if Professor Ball would accept another book, "A Code-breaker's Tale", by Hugh Melinsky. The author, a retired Canon of Norwich Cathedral, is a CBer who lives in that city. His book tells of the time when, as a young Englishman, he served in Australia, Borneo and the Philippines. Des Ball accepted with pleasure, said a quick goodbye and took off for Canberra. His publisher, John Iremonger, made comment

on the friendly atmosphere of our Anzac lunch. Yes, there is something special to it.

MINI REUNION

For those who live in Sydney and surroundings please write November 9 (Tuesday) in your diaries, and turn up at the Kirribilli RSL Club for a very informal get together. *Let's meet about midday. We'll pay for our own food and drinks, and eat and talk in the Bistro. If you drive, there's parking beneath the Club in Harbour Street. If coming by train, get out at Milson's Point Station (first stop on the northern side of the Bridge), come down in the lift, and take the short walk to the Club. The way is signposted. The main entrance is in Cliff Street. Bruce Bentwitch and I, both members, will look out for you there. Harbour views are wonderful.*

MOVEMENTS

Madeline and Ron Chidgey, after 42 years in their old home at Dolans Bay, have moved to the Frank Vickery Village, 96/101 Port Hacking Road, Sylvania, NSW 2224. The move, in mid-May, was preceded by Sydney's disastrous hailstorm, which struck the southern and eastern suburbs. Fortunately the Chidgeys didn't lose their roof, but water got in, soaking wardrobes and clothes. Urgent repairs were made, then Madge and Ron flew to Brisbane for the marriage of their granddaughter Karen Redhead to Stephen Oakley, with the ceremony taking place in the Mount Coot-tha Botanical Gardens. After this, came return home, the packing, the move; now comes the settling in. Our wishes to you both.

Norma Keeling is well ensconced in her new quarters at Elizabeth Lodge, 46, Bayswater Road, Rushcutters Bay. It's close to King's Cross and to bus routes, and Norma (phone 02-9360-5195) seems to be benefiting by life in the serviced apartment, which is reached by lift, not steps, and which seems to hold many of her cherished belongings. After severe bouts of illness and many hospital visits, Norma was well enough to join us on Anzac Day for the reunion lunch, to which her daughter Jacqueline came. Old friends clustered around, and talk was non-stop.

Jim Kennedy and his wife have left Turramurra for the Central Coast, I had only time for a few words with him at the lunch, but gather that the retirement village to which he has moved has a swimming pool, and excellent facilities. Again, well wishes to you.

The Central Coast and area north to Newcastle and beyond seem popular with CBers when I look at our lists. The trip up and down to Newcastle is a good and reasonable (Seniors' Card) ride. My own wish (would anyone agree) is for a

future mini-reunion in that area.

HAPPENINGS

Peg and Gordon Gibson, from Port Macquarie, came to Sydney recently for the wedding of their son Phillip to Ruth Gordon at St. Peter's, Cremorne. They stayed for a few nights with a friend, Jean Mulholland, who lives in my building, and in between family celebrations, had time for drinks and a talk with me.

Sue and (President) Gordon Gibson are due back on June 10 from their trip to Barcelona, Istanbul, St. Petersburg and places between and around. When they're over jet lag, I hope they'll relate some travellers' tales.

Betty Chessell, who went down to Launceston for the Z Special Force Reunion, said that it was wonderfully organised and that it included interesting tours. One was to the historic "Woolmers" homestead near Longford, where a volunteer guide, Helen Bond, said how pleased she was to welcome the Z visitors because she'd been with CB. Betty introduced herself and after 51 years the two former AWAS officers met again. Helen Bond was formerly Helen Rex, and features in one of those group photographs taken outside 21 Henry Street. She had not heard of our Association, so, at Betty's request, I've sent a copy of our Newsletter, an application form, and details of the coming SIGINT 2000 reunion, which might prevail upon her to take that trip across Bass Strait.

Things have moved on the MacArthur front. The Premier of Queensland has announced that the State Government and the Brisbane City Council will restore the top floor in MacArthur's Chambers in time for the Capital Games in October, 2001.

Mr. Beattie hopes that the Americans visiting the Games will also visit the historic room from where MacArthur ran the Allied defence of Australia against Japan.

The American Legion's Brisbane Adjutant, Chris Bowen, said his group had been pushing for fifteen years to have this office open to tourists but the Council had been sitting on it like it's a toilet.

Brisbane Tourism welcomed the planned renovation. The National Trust of Queensland has listed MacArthur's Chambers and on June 11 Allan Campbell was to speak about MacArthur in Brisbane at the Queensland Art Gallery Society's rooms. On 17th June Major W.A. Benston, U.S. Army, Retired, was to speak about MacArthur at the Queensland State Library.

Down in Melbourne, Roy Ward is rounding up colleagues to organise the SIGINT Reunion, which will be held in Melbourne on November 11 and 12, 2000, to mark the 25th anniversary of the formation of Central Bureau Intelligence Corps Association (Inc.) Our President, Gordon Gibson, who suggested that Melbourne should be the meeting place, because this is where GB started in 1942, read out Roy's letter at our Anzac Day lunch. The letter is reprinted in this issue of Newsletter.

Now Newsletter alerts you. Spread the word, think of Melbourne and 2000, and hope to be there. Keep well. **STOP PRESS.** Helen Bond nee Rex, has joined C.B.I.C.A. Inc

My wishes to all,

Helen Kenny

Hon. Secretary

27/1-13 Mackenzie Street,
Lavender Bay, NSW 2060
02 9954 0940.

HON. TREASURER'S REPORT.

Firstly I would like to thank those members who sent best regards on my taking over from Norma Keeling and hope the health of those on the not too well list is improving.

For those who do not know me I thought I would give a brief history of my wartime service. I joined the RAAF on 8th September, 1942 as a trainee wireless mechanic, one month after my 18th birthday. After "Rookies" at Bradfield Park I was off to 1 S.T.T. Exhibition Building, Melbourne and commenced the W.M. course at an annexe of Melbourne Tech in Little Lonsdale Street.

Although I had no problems with the theory side of the course, the practical side found me all thumbs and after solder burns I was scrubbed from the course and in mid April 1943 was off to 5 FTS, Uranquinty as a Flight Clerk.

At Uranquinty I had my first flight in an aircraft. Late afternoon the Wirraways scheduled for night flying were taken on test flights, so with the section Flt. Lieut. Pilot, dressed in flying suit with parachute attached, on a cloudless afternoon went on a half hour flight over the scenic area south of Wagga Wagga.

After two months at 5 FTS the F/L announced I had been posted to RAAF Command, Brisbane, a unit unknown to anyone at Uranquinty. Two days later I boarded a train to Sydney; then troop

train to Brisbane, met at Roma Street Station and driven to the relatively new camp near the Victoria Park golf course.

Shortly after arriving in Brisbane I reported to our C.O., Roy Booth at his office on the second floor of the A.M.P. Building and was given brief details of RAAF Command and training to be undertaken. Boxing Day, 1943 six of us including the late Clarrie Hermes boarded a USA C47 freighter for the flight north. Sitting on packing cases we flew via Charleville and Cloncurry to Fenton for unloading of freight then on to Batchelor, through a violent thunder storm and joined 2 WU at Coomallie Creek. Operations commenced a few days after our arrival. While at 2WU we clerks were given the new mustering of Recorder W.

Come September, 1944, together with John Shoebridge (CBICA Committeeman) we were on our return to Brisbane. "Train" Daly Waters to Larrimah to find we arrived a day late for the road convoy to Mount Isa so were on a road convoy to Alice Springs then rail to Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney and finally Brisbane.

On 13th March, 1945 together with about 20 other Cber's, including Frank Hughes (CBICA Committeeman) we boarded the MV Van Swoll, a former Dutch island freighter for the trip north but shortly encountering a cyclone and the voyage to Hollandia took about a month. (I previously wrote about this cruise.)

Following the next two weeks in Hollandia I flew in a USA C47 to Tacloban and joined 6 WU at Tolosa. After a month at Tolosa 36 of us, including Dennis Moore (CBICA Publicity Officer) boarded a C46 at Tacloban for the flight to Clark Field but this aircraft blew a motor on take off, circled over the water and we were very thankful to return safely to the airstrip. Eight hours later we reboarded and eventually landed at Clark Field and were driven to San Miguel.

On 15th September, 1945 I was back to Clark Field, boarded a RAAF B24 Liberator, destination Sydney, spending the night at Morotai, but on arrival at Darwin found the B24 had two faulty motors. After a week in Darwin flew overnight in another B24 to Sydney with no heating and nearly frozen.

Shortly after arrival was discharged and back to my old job and resumed accountancy studies. I did wear my winter uniform on one occasion in November, 1945 which was to partner a debutante to the R.S.L. Victory Ball at the Trocadero Ballroom, now the site of the Hoyts Cinema Centre in George Street.

Until hearing of CBICA in 1980 the only Cber's I had kept in touch with were John Shoebridge, the late Alf Davis and Joy Linnane. Does any of the above renew memories?

Back to business; following expenses connected with Anzac Day and the luncheon we have a credit balance at Bank of \$2840.72. Perhaps I could mention that we look forward to some members sending subscriptions to me at their earliest convenience.

Bruce Bentwitch

Hon. Treasurer

7 Holly St.

CASTLE COVE 2069

(02) 9417 1427

AUSTRALIA LEAKED LIKE A SIEVE.

(Anzac Day Revelations).

Reads like a tabloid headline, doesn't it? Had you been listening to post war Academic, Professor Des Ball, at our Anzac Day luncheon, perhaps you may have come to the same conclusion. About the sieve, I mean.

While you were operating I.B.M. equipment in the Park, or using the machines in the Garage at 21 Henry Street, or helping to process or analyse intercepted Japanese telegraphic messages, or intercepting Japanese signals in Australia or the tropics, or risking your life whilst intercepting on board the Leyte invasion Fleet, some other Australians were doing their own form of interception.

For example, Miss Frances Bernie, in her early twenties, was working away in the office of Dr. H.V. Evatt in Sydney. In 1945 Dr. Evatt was both Foreign Minister and Attorney General. As we went about our duties, in 1945, Frances would bring over to Mr. Walter Seddon Clayton, once or twice a week, copies of Dr. Evatt's correspondence. Mr. Clayton was the co-ordinator of a Russian spy ring. In the spy game his name was KLOD. Indeed, in the Russian cables to Moscow that was his title. So, copies of material sent from Canberra to Dr. Evatt, in his capacity of a Member of the War Cabinet and the Advisory Council, were available to Clayton. From Clayton it went to the Russians and believe it or not, from the Russians to the Japanese. This was just the tip of an iceberg.

The spy ring was so effective that "when Australian soldiers landed at Tarakan and Balikpapan in 1945, the Japanese commanders

had been alerted to their coming and had taken measures to prepare for their coming". "Hundreds of Australians were killed." The quotation marks enclose words from Des Ball's speech.

It was Billy Graham, (remember the Billy Graham Crusades?) who helped Frances Bernie to contrition—she attended a crusade gathering at Randwick in November, 1959. She was converted and prayed for God's guidance. On the following Monday "she turned up at A.S.I.O. and provided them with a full confession, including, what was perhaps most disturbing, that she had provided the Russians, not just with the material from Evatt's office, but she had also provided them with encrypted versions of the material coming into Evatt's office. So the Russians had both the encrypted material and the plain text material. Not just the Australian stuff but also the British stuff which was very useful to the Russians, because at that time our codes were based on the British codes. If they could have got into our encrypted material they were at least one step forward in breaking British codes."

Des Ball told us that his research has revealed that "during a period from 1943 to 1949 there was a group of about ten people in the country, all of whom were either members of the Communist Party of Australia, or close acquaintances of C.P. members, who provided information and documentary material to members of the Soviet Security Service, commonly known as the K.G.B. The material that was given to Moscow included not only information about domestic Australian political matters, foreign policy and the structure and activities of the Australian war-time Security Service, but also British and U.S. documents concerning post-war strategic planning". "During the last few months of 1944 Allied cryptanalysts, who by this stage of the second world war were regularly intercepting and decrypting Japanese diplomatic and military signals traffic, had discovered that Tokyo was receiving top secret intelligence reports, details of General MacArthur's war plans and other sensitive material concerning the Allied war effort."

"The first inkling that anyone in Australia had about this", said Dr. Ball, "was in October, 1944 when the Americans informed General Berryman and **Colonel Mick Sandford** at Central Bureau that they had been intercepting Japanese communications." The communications revealed information coming from Canberra. "Later, that same month, October, 1944 the British Sigint Agency, the Government Code and Cypher School, also informed Brisbane that they had been monitoring Japanese communications, during the course of which they realised that one of the sources for this material getting to Tokyo was the Nationalist Chinese Liaison Officer in Australia, Colonel Wang." Wang's cables to

Chunking were insecure and were also copied by the Japanese.

Perhaps anticipating that there may have been sceptics in his audience Dr. Ball tabled for us copies of several documents from Australian archives. For example we had before us a letter marked 'Top Secret' and dated 6th January, 1945, from General Blamey to Senator J.M. Fraser, Acting Minister for the Army. General Blamey said "it has been definitely proved that there have been leakages of information from Australia which have their origin apparently in Canberra." He gave examples of the information, including the 'Harbin Special Intelligence Reports' and asked the Acting Minister to "consider it desirable to ensure that such action as can be taken at Canberra, to limit the association of official personnel with foreign representatives is put in train. The matter is recognised as one of great delicacy since, apparently, allied official channels play an important part in the transmission of information." How's that for beating about the bush!

In a somewhat less formal letter to Lt. Col. R.A. Little, of Australian Army Intelligence at Victoria Barracks, **Mick Sandford**, writing on **Central Bureau** letterhead, discussed the arrival in Melbourne of R.A.F. Group Captain Winterbotham, Chief Security Officer of the U.K. Government. He was here to install Squadron Leader Burley and, I suspect, the S.L.U. Among the many concerns which Winterbotham had to clear up was the "Japanese Harbin Special Intelligence Reports" "As we suspected", wrote Sandford, "the source is the Soviet Ambassador in Australia. Two things are not clear. First, how the Japanese obtain the information from the Soviet and secondly, how the Soviet Ambassador himself obtains the information."

Again, on 25th. January 1945, Sandford wrote to Advanced L.H.Q. stating that London had told Burley to urge that the Chinese be excluded absolutely from the receipt of Ultra intelligence. Sandford said that it appeared that the Japanese were obtaining information through cryptographic study of Chinese cypher communication.

In 1945 the American **Venona** project was producing material from the interception and decryption of Russian traffic. Included in this was K.G.B traffic between Canberra and Moscow. On our lunch tables, at the Mercure, we could peruse some copies of these decrypted cables. We read about documents obtained by Australian Communists working in the Department of External Affairs. Some of them were British documents. Walter Clayton, code named KLOD, got them from the War Cabinet in London via the Australian Department of

Defence. Apparently what was too difficult for MacLean, Philby or Burgess, on the spot in England, to access could be obtained by the Australian spies in the External Affairs Dept here.

Clayton's team included, on the Russian side K.G.B. man Semyon Makharov and Fodor Nosov, nominally a Tass representative. The G.R.U. were set up here too, under Col. Victor Zaitseff. Their code was not broken and according to Des Ball there are still piles of undecrypted G.R.U. cables over in the D.S.D building in Canberra.

Clayton was a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Australia. He recruited people who did not disclose Party membership. They joined the Public Service, the Army and other parts of the Government. Clayton was assisted by Katherine Susannah Pritchard, Communist author and academician. She died in October, 1949. Alfred Thomas Hughes (BEN) was in charge of counter Intelligence Operations against the Soviets in Australia. Yet it is alleged that he, himself, was a Soviet spy. In 1945 Clayton and Hughes met once or twice a week. When the Americans began to express concerns about a spy group in Australia Hughes was well placed to alert any of the Clayton team who were coming under notice. Ian Milner (BUR) was a secret member of the Melbourne University Branch of the Communist Party. He was in the Department of Political Science and joined the Department of External Affairs in February, 1945. The Venona decrypts revealed him as a source. He went from Australia to the fledgling United Nations and then defected to the Eastern Block, Czechoslovakia, in July, 1950. Documents released from that country, when it was democratised, revealed that he spied for the Eastern Block for many years afterwards. Jim Hill (TOURIST) joined the C.P.A. in 1937

or 1938 and was in the Dept. of External Affairs. He passed to Clayton cables coming from Whitehall to External Affairs. Then there was Ric Throssell (FERRO) and Wilber Christiansen (MASTER)

In 1948 there must have been serious alarm in the U.K. They sent to Australia MI 5 men, Sir Percy Sillitoe and Rodger Hollis. These two had to be careful that, when alerting the Australians, they did not reveal the Venona project as the source of their concerns. Given that Australia was indeed leaking badly, whom could they trust?

They used Sir Frederick Shedden and Brigadier Chiltern as their two contact points. Chiltern was the first Australian to see Venona decrypts. Professor Ball says that in 1949 the top echelon of MI 5 spent more time in Australia than in the U.K.

The Americans were even thinking about cutting themselves off from the Australian intelligence scene.

Dr. Ball told us that the events about which he spoke were still on the secret list until a decision was made, in 1992, by the then Prime Minister, and the Director of Security that it was time for the story to be told.

REG HARRIS WRITES TO THE EDITOR

"I don't want to seem carping, or finicky, or excessively pedantic", writes Reg, "but on page five of the March issue of our publication, I found myself disliking the reference to 'Yamamoto's assassination'. To my way of thinking, Admiral Yamamoto was NOT assassinated - he was killed, certainly he was removed, he was taken out of the way."

"To me the word 'assassinate' infers secretly killing somebody for political or religious reasons. This did not apply to the death of Yamamoto, who was a passenger in a bomber. This fact became known in advance, when a coded message was unscrambled, and his bomber was attacked by American P-38s, which shot him down. He was an exceedingly senior Japanese — commander in chief of the Imperial Combined Fleet — and the killing of this most senior enemy was fully justified, tell Nobby Clarke.

The source material available to me contains no suggestion at all of Yamamoto's seeking to negotiate a peace. On the contrary, he was flying to Ballale and Shortland Islands to make a morale-boosting visit to his pilots, I gather.

Apart from this very minor complaint, please let me congratulate you on all the issues of CB - always a most enjoyable read, and I look forward to each issue.

Most sincerely,
Reg Harris."

NOBBY CLARKE RESPONDS

Dear Fellow CBers

After the Battle of the Coral Sea, the "Chicago Tribune" reported that America's victory had been due partly to the USN's ability to read the Japanese naval code. This was not entirely true, notwithstanding Eric Nave's later confirmation of this claim. One of the consequences of this

announcement was that the enemy changed its naval code overnight, and many years' efforts and even the sacrifice of lives demanded by the recovery of that portion of the code that had been readable had been wasted.

Another consequence was an increased mistrust in USN Sigint security. Perhaps as a result of adverse criticism of its performance in failing to provide warning of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour, this had become so warped that Joe Richard, in "An Insider's Recollections", page 5 CB, December 1997 was able to reveal that Fabian had hidden from the commander of a USN submarine in which he was leaving Corregidor the fact that he was about to surface bang smack in the middle of an enemy fleet, the advent of which he had been able to predict from "some Jap naval messages".

This is an example of the empire-building attitude often associated with the erection of code-breaking edifices. Surely the gathering of intelligence is to permit enlightened response, while the cloak of security may well be donned to hide incompetence. Rear Admiral Gil McDonald Richardson, a career Japanese linguist, states in "The Quiet Heroes of the Southwest Pacific Theater" that while working at Frumel they got the Yamamoto message out in a hurry, although it was in a Japanese army code system, because it was a substitution system. While, unlike Joe Richard, he was evidently not surprised that the Japanese army air/ground system should ostensibly have involved itself in housekeeping arrangements for the Commander-in-Chief of the Imperial Japanese Navy, he has also confirmed arrangements for the Commander-in-Chief of the Imperial Japanese Navy, he has also confirmed that the message I have quoted was, as an exceptional instance, unencyphered, and therefore permitted them to "get it out in a hurry".

To sum up, the Japanese Army command had revealed to the enemy the projected itinerary of Admiral Yamamoto and deliberately ensured that their message would be read in time to be used. If this is not tantamount to assassination, I should like to know why not. I thank Reg Harris for the pains he has taken to instruct me in the English language. As a colonial, I am very likely to call a spade a shovel, but I am not given to tergiversation, so when I use the word assassination, that is what I mean, Reg. Unlike yours, my source material strongly supports the proposition that Admiral Yamamoto hoped to negotiate for peace: the fact that the army clique saw fit to assassinate him also strongly supports it.

Nobby Clarke.

INSIGHT INTO THE PLANNING PROCESS

10 Hillside Grove,
Frankston 3199

Victoria, Australia

26th February, 1999-

Keith Falconer & Harold Jones

Howdy Folks,

Copied to Geoff, Gordon
G and Steve Mason OAM.

I received a telephone call from Gordon Gibson (CBICA) recently and he discussed with me the probability of a re-union of CBICA, RAAF Wireless Units and Australian Special Wireless Group (ASWG & WTS) in the year 2000. The venue is Melbourne and similar to previous re-unions here.

Geoff Patience and I had further discussions as we were organisers of the last get together etc..

It would be the weekend of Saturday/Sunday November 11 and 12, 2000. That is the last days of Melbourne Cup week.

Geoff suggested that we could have a re-union dinner/luncheon at Caulfield Racecourse. It is about \$10 for a three course meal which should suit the "old and (now) not so bold". It has the convenience of tram and train travel virtually to the door and being in daylight would suit the people who dislike evening travel etc.

I am going to England on Monday for two or three weeks and Geoff and I will meet early in April for discussions on many things.

We could have a brief laying of the wreath at the Casuarina Stricta which is easier than marching up hill to the Shrine. We could also tour Victoria Barracks, Ascotvale, Domain Road, Moorabbin and Mornington Racecourse which were sites of training and kana gathering in Victoria. We could use buses and at Mornington there is a very good Bistro (on course) and "pokies".

Gordon Gibson is keen to see a history written on Central Bureau and perhaps this will occur. I know that the late Clarrie Hermes did some valuable work for RAAF Archives but the actual extent is not known to me. Jack Bleakley could have some advice on this subject

Now, the main reason for committing this subject to paper is to prevent members (if that is possible) from saying 'I didn't know about that'; 'Nobody

told me'; This is news to me?

This is something to think about because organisation is vital; essential which is even more important than necessary.

Give this some earnest thought.

Kind regards

Roy Ward~

The Honourable H. Roy Ward OAM, IOM MH(CT), JP.

Tel: 61 3 97811697; FAX: 61 3 9783 6948

E-mail: twucb@eisa.net.au

IN PRAISE OF MRS. KEELING

TO NORMA.

I write this verse with a lot of feeling
To ex-W.A.A.A.F. Scarfe, now Norma Keeling.
What a mighty job you have done,
And a Treasurer's task is not much fun.
All those receipts handwritten and stamped,
And how many times to the bank have tramped?
Your letters so cheery, always a special note,
And we'll miss your column with its little quote.
At the reunions answering questions galore,
Cheery and happy even though it's a chore.
Always getting us organised and paying the bill,
And telling the caterers what's the drill.
We'll miss you as Treasurer, now it's your time
to rest,
You've done your job well, with resolution and
zest.
We certainly hope that you will keep in touch
As all of us members love you so much.
Dear Norma we wish you all the best
And hope to see you at our next.

Brian Lovett



ANZAC EVE 1999-

They remembered at the Cenotaph.

Norman Allen Bruce Bentwitch Madeline
Chidgey Gordon Gibson Ailsa Hale Betty &
Frank Hughes Helen Kenny Les McClean Max
McCredie Dennis Moore Diana Parker Jan &
Bill Rogers Fred Smith John Shoebridge Gordon
Swinney

ANZAC DAY 1999.

They marched in Sydney.

Norm Allen Ivan Auprince Bruce Bentwitch
Noni Benn Kath Burns Keith Carolan Mick
Casey Syd Cooper Gordon Gibson Joy Grainger
Dave Geyer Ailsa Hale Lou Harris Frank
Hughes Jim Kennedy Helen Kenny Stan King
Noel Langby Bruce Lovett Brian Lovett Les
McClearn Max McCredie Doug McNally Dennis
Moore Reg Murphy Allan Norton Di Parker
Keith Phillips Roy Perry Bill Rogers Stan
Russell John Shoebridge Freddie Smith Gordon
Swinney Peggy Teague Lester Truex

36.

CAN YOU HELP ?

Professor Ball's research is continuing.

If you were doing it yourself, or if you have knowledge of anyone else who was involved with the interception or decryption of Russian transmissions during World War II or in the post war period, please contact the Professor direct or through Newsletter.

OLD HABITS

Notice anything significant about our Treasurer's exposé of his wartime service? Not a hint about his specific Sigint role; even fifty four years later. It's different now.

Even the Director, D.S.D. has revealed that D.S.D. in cooperation with the American NSA and its Canadian, British and New Zealand counterparts covertly picks up commercial satellite communications and examines every fax, telex, e-mail, phone call and computer data message. According to the "Sun-Herald" (23/05/99) Australia has become the first country to admit openly that it takes part in a global electronic surveillance system that intercepts private and commercial international communications.

DEATH OF SIR ERIC WILLIS

Our Association was represented at the State Funeral for Sir Eric Willis. Sir Eric often lead our Anzac Day Marchers.

The Prime Minister's eulogy in St James Church outlined the many and varied contributions to the community that this one-time Premier of N.S.W. had made over his lifetime.

Our condolences were extended to his family.