



CENTRAL BUREAU INTELLIGENCE CORPS ASSOCIATION INC.

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HON. SECRETARY'S PAR:

SIGINT REUNION MELBOURNE

Our Reunion started when we met at the Commemorative/Dedication Tree (Casuarina stricta) in Shrine Park Melbourne. It was the eleventh day of the eleventh month, 2000. This was Remembrance Day – the old Armistice Day of 1918.

The Casuarina tree is our tree. At its base is a plaque worded: "This Casuarina is dedicated to the memory of all those who served in Central Bureau and its field units - Australian Special Wireless Group; AIF; RAAF Wireless Units; RAN and Allied Forces who were involved in Signals Intelligence Operations against Japan during the war in the Pacific, 1942-1945".

The ex-servicemen and women who gathered around the tree have never forgotten - and never will forget - their mates who died in the war and after it. They have not grown old in memory. Their faces and names are clear.

About 140 had accepted the invitation to come to the Reunion, which marked the 58th year of Central Bureau's founding in Melbourne and the 25th anniversary of our Association. I have no accurate

count of those near the tree, but there would have been 80, who greeted one another with handshakes and kisses. Some by the tree had not even know that CBICA existed until they read of the SIGINT Reunion in Reveille and VetAffairs.

"It is something like making contact with a 'family' I didn't know I had", wrote Kelvin Hocking, a former South Australian member of 1 WU and 4 WU, who now lives in the ACT. "I find it exciting and I'm looking forward to the Reunion".

He was there - and is a new member of the Association.

Before proceedings began we were handed the programme for the Reunion and a copy of Chapter 19 from Geoffrey Ballard's book, "On ULTRA Active Service". This chapter, "Establishing a SIGINT Organisation in Australia" is a record to keep.

At 1110 hours came Orders of the Day. The Hon. Roy Ward OAM, welcomed us, spoke of "proposed action" for the day, and introduced the Rev. Robert Brown to deliver the Address. Robert Brown, who worked beside Professor Room at CB, spoke from the heart and

gave a most thoughtful address which we will publish in the Newsletter.

He used a loud hailer (held patiently by Geoff Patience) as we crowded close to hear.

President Gordon Gibson then stepped forward to lay the wreath, which mingled green laurel leaves with red Flanders poppies. The ritual of the Ode, and the recorded sounding of bugle calls (Last Post and Reveille) followed, the ceremony ending with the playing of the national anthem "Advance Australia Fair". (This was not Australia's national anthem when the prison camps opened after VJ or VP Day. The words used then were "God Save the King").

The ceremony was over.

Most then went by special buses on a tour which took them past "Cranleigh" where, in March 1942, CB began setting up its "Research and Control Centre". The old mansion has gone now. Flats stand on its site. The late Nobby Clarke once sent an e-mail to Dennis Moore saying: "I have vivid recollection of Marion (Manson), Anne (Moon) Linda (Paton) and Norma (Peel) at the old mansion of the Jack family in Domain Road South Yarra". These WAAF had reported the frequent presence of an old lady on the landing which "raised something of a security problem", as the only the surviving member of the family, Miss Jack was authorised to "reside there during the gestation period of Central Bureau".

When complaint was made to Miss Jack about the matter, she replied: "Oh, that would be mother".

Nobby also remembered the time when he and Joe Da Costa were chatting in Japanese as they came down the stairs. Hearing this, "that master of deadpan", Norman Webb, popped his head out from a room on the left and exclaimed: "For a moment there, I thought we'd been invaded!".

On then to Queen's Parade and slowly past "Monterey", once headquarters of FRUMEL (Fleet Radio Unit, Melbourne). This was the new name for the U.S. Naval Intercept Unit, most of whom had escaped from the Philippines by submarine, making hazardous journeys to Australia. Frumel operated under the Commander-in-Chief of the US 7th Fleet.

Our luncheon was at Caulfield Racecourse Bistro. This wasn't a race day. It was SIGINT Day. Geoffrey Patience OAM, BEM, welcomed us. Geoff, three times Mayor of Caulfield and 16 years a councillor, had chosen a place that was easy of access for the able and disabled, had plenty of parking, and room enough to seat 140 guests.

As people checked in, I ticked off names on a list and, helped by Treasurer Bruce Bentwitch, wrote down the former units of Siginters. Most remembered to wear name badges. Thank you for your thoughtfulness.

After the welcoming words of Geoff Patience, President Gordon Gibson spoke, adding his welcome. He read out the names of new members who were there. They were: Stan Baylis, Norman Best, Joyce Bradney (nee Briggs), Jack Douglass, Valan Fookes, Geoff Howard, Alwyn Petherbridge, Kelvin Hocking, Norman Tyshing.

As each name was called, the person concerned stood, and was applauded. At latest reckoning, membership of CBICA is 208. ASWG and Wireless Units between them would muster around 400.

Gordon Gibson then said how sorry he was that past Presidents of CBICA, Jim Williams and Mike Casey, could not be with us. Former Treasurer, Norma Keeling and Newsletter Editor, Dennis Moore, were also missed greatly. Distance and illness precluded their coming, as it did others who sent their regrets.

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Formalities followed, Joe Da Costa, the linguist, who began speaking Japanese when he lived as a boy of eight in Japan, was introduced to members. This CB pioneer from "Cranleigh" days then introduced Mr Ron Bonighton, Director of the Defence Signals Directorate, Canberra.

Ron Bonighton, who volunteered to be our guest speaker, began his Sigint career in the late 1960s when DSD was in Melbourne. This BA (Hons) graduate from Melbourne University wrote to us saying: "Times have changed a lot since the days of CB and FRUMEL, but Sigint is constant in some things - not least in that it never gets any easier! We are conscious of the debt that we owe, even now, to the analytical techniques that were developed during the War and which made such a significant contribution to the ultimate victory of the Allies".

This is the second time that a Director of DSD has spoken to us. In 1995 in Canberra, Mr Martin Brady took on this role. He is now Chair of the Defence Intelligence Board (DIB).

In advance, we had asked Ron Bonighton if we might record his speech, and if he would answer questions. He agreed, spoke with surprising candour of DSD's work, and was unfazed by questions. Although the microphone proved recalcitrant, and acoustics difficult, his words came through clearly to our end of the room - hopefully reaching the other.

Arthur Skimmin, DSD historian, and DSD have arranged to send us a transcript of the recording so that it may be printed in the Newsletter. The reunion of Siginters included wives, friends and families, including Ron Bonighton's wife, Jill; Arthur Skimmin's wife, Kathleen and Celia Truex, who recently married Lester.

Next to speak was Frank Hughes, who introduced Lt. Col John P. Dwyer AM, Executive Officer General Douglas MacArthur, Brisbane Memorial Trust. He spoke of the difficulties encountered with the scheme and of course mentioned Allan Campbell who for decades has protected wartime archives and photographs.

Before Gordon Gibson closed the first day's gathering, there were many meetings of old friends. Space is short, but messages came from many places, including England. Canon Hugh Melinsky (writing to Madeline Chidgey) from Norwich in the UK, said that eight of his original group met recently for lunch in Cambridge with their wives. He added: "Please give our greetings to the brethren, including sisters".

Greetings are reciprocated, Hugh.

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Gordon Gibson thanked the guest speakers, Ron Bonighton and Lt. Col.

John Dwyer. He also acknowledged the work done by Melbourne members, Roy Ward, Geoff Patience in organising the functions and of executive members, Helen Kenny and Bruce Bentwitch.

Special thanks went to the Rev. Robert Brown for his address at the wreath laying ceremony and to Steve Mason and Harold Jones for their co-operation in publicising the reunion in their respective Associations' journals.

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Those at lunch were:

From NSW: Stan and Maureen Baylis, Noni Benn, Bruce Bentwitch, Faye Gilinsky, Syd Carey, Keith and Joan Carolan, Madeline Chidgey, Jack and Melba Douglass, Don Dunn, Eric and Marie Fleming, Gordon and Sue Gibson, Joy Granger, Ailsa Hale, Lyndall Gladstone, Frank and Betty Hughes, Helen Kenny, Stan and Joy King, Alan and Pamela Langdon, Joy Linnane, Doug and Grace McNally, John Shoebridge, Murray Smith, Gordon Swinney, Ray Little, Ron Tabley, Peg Teague, Lorna Whelan, Heather Williams.

From Victoria: Geoff Ballard, Jack and Dorothy Bleakley, Joyce and Ray Bradney, Ted Brown, Robert Brown, Ian and Loraine Buckingham, Geoff and Gwen Charlesworth, Syd Crawcour, Ronald Corr, Joe Da Costa, Arthur Evans, Keith Falconer, Rupe and Remy Fisher, Alan and Louise Flannery, Alan and Margaret Fookes, Lindsay Gaggin, Peg Gillies, Stan Harper, Sandy and Coral Hinds, Tony Hyland, Harold Jones, Maisie Kelly, Keith Lavers, Steve Mason, Anne McDonald, Evan Nutting, Ronnie O'Neill, Barbara McNab, Sylvia Paris, Diana Parker, Geoff and Jean Patience, Keith and Wilma Payne, Les

Perkins, Alwyn and Marie Petherbridge, Will Renshaw, Bill and Jan Rogers, Herbert and Marie Rushen, Joyce Sandars, Ken Trezise, Lester and Celia Truex, Bronwyn Truex, Annie Dutton, Herbert and Ian Toohill, Norman Tyshing, Roy and Joan Ward, Jim and Margaret Warmington, Colin Wilson, son Edwin Wilson, Alan and Pam Young, Nick Manestar, Harry Buckland, Roy and Pat Gills.

From ACT: Ron and Jill Bonighton, Kelvin and Nerida Hocking, Geoffrey Howard, John Laird, Arthur and Kathleen Skimin.

From South Australia: John and Ludmilla Davies, Jim Pulford.

From Queensland: Betty Chessell, John Dwyer, Roy, Julia and Margaret Inches, Gordon Peters, Bill and Madeline Schleusener, John Stumm, David Parker.

Recent bookings to be grouped by State: Mr and Mrs C. Seakins (Vic), Bill and Wyn Lindstedt (Vic).

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On Sunday November 12, we waited for special buses at that familiar meeting place, Flinders Street Station. Melbourne has changed, but some things remain including Young and Jackson's hotel (now being renovated) where the nude painting of Chloe has gazed down on drinkers for most of the twentieth century.

Along came the buses. Off we moved, over Westgate Bridge, out of the city to the flatlands, where new housing estates were rising and where the yet to be finished Sanctuary Lakes Development Scheme with its golf course came into view.

Our way led to Point Cook, birthplace of the RAAF. Just inside the base, a Tiger Moth, immobile, waited on the grass. At this place in 1914, the first pilot to gain his wings was Lieutenant Williams, later Air Marshal Sir Richard Williams, father of the RAAF, which grew out of the earlier Australian Flying Corps.

In World War II, 1 Signals School was established on August 1, 1940 under command of Flight Lieutenant D J McPherson. Commanding officers who succeeded him were Squadron Leader A G Richmond, Squadron Leader W J Deane, Flight Lieutenant R D Austin (in July 1942) and Squadron leader G Finley in October 1942.

Many of our Siginters had trained there, at the centre on the Port Phillip Beach area. A document given to us at the Reunion said that "there was an Intercept Training Centre in rusty buildings, just north of the Signals Training Centre. Trainees were housed in huts T1, T2, T3, etc."

Servicemen who toured the Point Cook Aviation Museum and inspected the hangars, travelled back in time to the days of their youth when they studied so hard, learning W/T, morse and kana, cipher and languages. From this place they went to distant parts of Australia, to the islands the Philippines.

Servicemen were here too. Joy Linnane, with us at the reunion, was a WAAF who having passed a kana course, worked with an Intelligence Unit at point Cook. Her reminiscences (in Geoff Ballard's book and more recently in Michael Smith's "The Emperor's Codes") recall how her unit operated in a hut separate from the Sigs. School. With clocks set on Tokyo time the

shiftworkers intercepted Japanese naval messages.

The autumn 2000 issue of "Wings" kindly sent to me by Jack Biles of Gerringong, NSW, gives the history of the Point Cook air base. It claims that any unsympathetic development "would lead eventually to the demise of the Museum and an erosion of the vital heritage values of the Base".

A non-for-profit company "Point Cook Operations Ltd." (PCOL) was formed in October 1999, with the Chief of Air Force agreeing to be company patron. Supporters maintain that the airfield, base and museum should be preserved in accordance with heritage guidelines. Those of us who went through the Museum would agree.

These places are part of Australian history.

We are part of it too, pointed out Arthur Skimin, DSD historian, who came to the reunion. As we drove off in the bus, Werribee bound, he pointed out that Fred Hinsley has written a multi-volume history of British Sigint and that American writers such as Edward J Drea have done the same, telling of the USA's Sigint role.

Now that Australian wartime archives are open, the full story of Australian Sigint can be told, with more material available than when Geoff Ballard and Jack Bleakley wrote their pioneering works.

Perhaps it is time, suggested Arthur Skimin, for us to apply for a commemorative grant from "Their Service – Our Heritage" programme and to commission a professional historian to write the complete story of the

CB/ASWG/Wireless Units/FRUMEL
effort in World War II.

"It needs to be recorded as part of our heritage", he wrote later. "Go for it and do it".

Secrecy has been lifted now. People can talk. That was what we did at the reunion and at the Commercial Hotel, Werribee, where we had a most pleasant, informal lunch.

Thank you again to the Victorian organisers, and to Gordon Gibson who thought up the idea of having the Sigint Reunion. Our organisation would like to give special thanks to DSD Director Ron Bonighton for giving us such an interesting address and agreeing for it to be published in our newsletter - we appreciate it very much.

My wishes to you all for Christmas and 2001 and consider the suggestion of setting down the complete Australian Sigint story. Let us know what you think.

May we meet again.

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**ADDRESS GIVEN BY THE REV.
ROBERT BROWN AT WREATH
LAYING CEREMONY: CBICA
REUNION, 11 NOVEMBER 2000.**

Welcome to what will be, for some of us, the last reunion. Each time we meet, a number have dropped out of the ranks. That's how life is. We make the best of

each opportunity and invest it with all the meaning we possibly can.

It has been interesting this year to have a very small part in helping John Stumm compile a full list of personnel who served with Central Bureau and associated units. Recalling names, faces and characteristics has been an exercise in constructive nostalgia. Many of us owe our presence here today to advances in medicine and surgery, some of them related to - even made possibly by - technology we used when it was in its comparative infancy.

Although we are not in the Shrine, we are conscious of what it memorialises. This tree is, in a way, the Shrine in microcosm. It is a symbol of the ongoing significance, in the history of the nation, of the part we were called on to play in what we have every reason to hope will be the last world war.

We didn't strafe road convoys or columns of troops, or hurl grenades to silence machine-gun emplacements. We didn't bomb industrial complexes, torpedo ships or bring down aircraft. We didn't wade through mud and blood to capture enemy positions. We were awarded no VCs for conspicuous bravery. So, "what did we do in the war?".

Today we honour, with the crowds, the fallen of other units and other services, and deeply respect their memory. We realise, at the same time, that casualties, though a major part, are not the whole, of the measure of sacrifice. When we enlisted, either in our original units or in one of the services represented in our Association, we had no way of knowing where we would finish up.

We made an open-ended commitment to serve our country anywhere. For the treasured freedom to plan our lives and chart our course, we exchanged risk and uncertainty. It is no exaggeration to say that, I doing this, we laid down our lives. That we were fortunate enough to be able to take them up again does no lessen the meaning and value of that surrender.

The transfer into Sigint altered our destiny. There was further development of the integrity which was one of the bases of our selection in the first place. The divergent paths we have taken since then have all been influenced by where we went, what we saw, what we did, what we thought.

There were many unexpected rewards. Our much younger, active minds were exposed to the influence and challenges of other minds as young and active, as well as many more mature and more knowledgeable. We met people we might never have known otherwise. We were confronted every day with problems that could not be solved by force. We had to use our wits.

Although the need for intercepting and processing W/T traffic has persisted (and everyone is doing it and knows everyone else is doing it), there is some satisfaction in the fact that the work we and our companion organisations did, humdrum as it often seemed, has been credited with helping to bring World War 2 to perhaps a twelve months earlier end.

Which of us imagined, pre-satellite and pre-air-based sensors, that the Morse keys, the transmitters and receivers, the typewriters, the teleprinters, the card punch machines, the sorters, tabulators and printers, that clattered day and night, would lead to the exponential

developments in electronics, computing and communication that have taken place and are being superseded almost daily?

Every major conflict in recent years has seen what used to be called "intelligence" supplanted by "dominant battle-space knowledge". Instead of digests by secraphone to GHQ for relay as considered appropriate, field commanders have immediate access to high-resolution images of people and vehicle movements. The new buzzword is C4 I S R – communications, computers, command and control, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance. The biro and the pencil have largely given place to the PC and the laptop. Global Hawk, an unmanned aircraft about the size of a business jet, though much more expensive, will soon fly at great heights and take radar pictures of even the expression on a soldier's face.

Yet the outcome of war, in which we fervently hope we shall never become embroiled again, will depend not only on advanced technology, but still on political leadership, morale, the generals, strategy, the courage of the troops, ratings and airmen, and the economic strength of the nation.

It will still be necessary for information to be gathered, data to be analysed, and strategy to be planned at top level. But Dad's Army has long since had its day.

War has always been seen as a material exercise. But is there more to it? Why do people volunteer? What motivates them to lay down their lives for people they have never seen? What impelled us to offer up ourselves for the good of others? Why did we believe the forces against us had to be stopped, and that we had to win?

Is it a moral universe after all? Are good and evil real? Will right always triumph in the end? Do we all have to give a final account of ourselves? As a prominent Australian wondered in a mass-circulation magazine, "There is Someone out there - isn't there?"

It would be no surprise, in this age when we are often told it is fashionable to be agnostic, or to appear just not to care at all, if quite a few of us here today were people of faith, who, as we have aged, have become more and not less active in our faith.

We pay respectful tribute to the memory of our comrades who have died this year, not from the ravages of war but from the attrition of age. We remember those who are sick or frail. We extend our sympathy and understanding to their wives, husbands and families.

And we thank God for our own life and breath.

We made an open-ended commitment to serve our country anywhere. For the treasured freedom to plan our lives and chart our course, we exchanged risk and uncertainty. It is no exaggeration to say that I doing this, we laid down our lives. That we were fortunate enough to be able to take them up again does not lessen the meaning and value of that surrender.

The transfer into 21st century life is a destiny. There was further development of the strategy which was one of the bases of our selection in the first place. The divergent paths we have taken since then have all been influenced by where we went, what we saw, what we did, what we thought.

There were many unexpected rewards. Our much younger, active minds were exposed to the influence and challenges of other minds as young and active as well as many more mature and more knowledgeable. We met people we might never have known otherwise. We were confronted every day with problems that could not be solved by force. We had to use our wits.

Although the need for intercepting and processing WT traffic has persisted (and everyone is doing it and knows everyone else is doing it), there is satisfaction in the fact that the work we and our companion organisations did in the past seemed, has been, needed with respect to being viable. It is perhaps a twelve months earlier end.

Which of us imagined, pre-satellite and pre-air-based sensors, that the Morse keys, the transmitters and receivers, the typewriters, the teleprinters, the card punch machines, the solars, tabulators and printers, that cluttered day and night, would lead to the exponential

**TRANSCRIPT OF SPEECH PRESENTED BY
MR RON BONIGHTON
ON THE OCCASION OF THE COMBINED SIGINT REUNION
SATURDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2000.**

Gordon, thank you very much for the invite today and to Helen as well, who I know has been doing a lot of tick-tacking to make sure that we arrived at the right place at the right time. And thanks too, for including Jill in today's function.

On this Remembrance Day it does us a great deal of good in DSD to reflect on our past: and we certainly see that past as stemming from Central Bureau. It is around this time of year when we particularly think of Central Bureau as we decide the Central Bureau Award which is presented annually for Support to Military Operations in the Sigint arena. A variety of tactical units have been presented with the award over the years: last year it went to a rather strangely named body called the Cryptologic Resource Coordination Centre.

What I wanted to do today is to talk about some of the similarities and the differences in the sort of work that you folk did so amazingly in the WWII era and the work that we're continuing with today. I'm a little bit constrained in what I can say - it is obviously difficult to talk about specific targets but I think those of you who have been involved in the business will get the general idea of what I'm talking about. Someone, it might have been Mos Williams, once said that in this business any publicity is bad publicity. However, I do not see this as being a public occasion, rather as a discussion among friends.

I suppose one of the major changes in the environment from your time is that there is now much less secrecy involved in what we do. And that's probably because there are so many more people involved who are not directly in the sigint system. We have some very senior committees who help us decide on what our targets and priorities should be and we report to them very regularly. We have in fact, one computer system in Defence - the Joint Intelligence Support System - which has several thousand subscribers at the secret level who have routine access to our material. Enforcing security is not easy. With less secrecy one virtue is that our people tend to get a much better feel for the whole sigint process. Talking to Gordon and to others today there was clearly a lot of frustration in the WWII era because of the tremendous security focus. It was difficult for people to understand exactly what impact their particular piece of work might have had on any given day and it was hard to get an overall picture of what was happening. At least we seem to have overcome some of those problems.

A second change is that there is a lot more oversight of our activities these days. I've already mentioned committees helping us with targets and priorities. We also have people worrying about the day-to-day activities of an organisation like DSD in today's society. And that's a pretty normal reaction because of the concerns these days about individual privacy. Obviously we're not in a war-time environment, so there's no censorship in the way there was in WWII. Indeed quite the reverse: the emphasis on

privacy means that we now have an Inspector General of Intelligence and Security who makes sure that we're not intercepting the communications of Australian citizens and that we are focusing very much externally. It's certainly something we welcome because I think the surest way to destroy DSD's reputation would be any suggestion that we intercept illegally the communications of Australians. Our work is foreign intelligence and we must never forget it.

That of course means we face some real security challenges. As a consequence of less secrecy and more oversight, maintaining security is a much more difficult task. The role of the media is quite different from what it is in a war situation. There is no longer any "Defence Notices" that stop newspapers publishing sensitive matters. We have on occasion tried to stop people publishing sensitive information about sigint and cryptanalysis, and regrettably it has had very little effect – all we've done is waste the taxpayers' money on lawyers! That of course doesn't mean that security is less important to us – it's just that we have to rely very much more on the integrity of our people. In particular we have to be very careful in recruitment; for example we now run all our people through psych tests. (Knowing some of the cryptanalysts in the past, you can imagine it might not be easy for them to pass a psych test! We need to make sure we don't end up with a very nice group of people all working together, but with no one who can break cyphers.).

There is also a general feeling that because the Cold War is over the Russians have gone away and the need for security is much reduced. But it was only last year that the FBI discovered a Russian diplomat sitting outside the State Department in Washington looking a little bit suspicious. When they followed him they discovered he was a frequent visitor to the same park bench. After intensive investigation, it was discovered that the Russians had in fact bugged one of the State Department's conference rooms. We certainly need to remember that there are still very real threats to our security.

Another area of change is where and how we find our targets. I know in WWII this was never easy – you were dealing with the propagation vagaries of HF and VHF. There were burst transmissions – it wasn't easy. These days our difficulty tends to revolve around the fact that communication centres are pretty well dead. Increasingly decision-makers have secure phones and secure faxes on their desks, and more and more messages just go from one person to another over routes determined at the time by the phone companies. The challenge is to locate the sort of traffic we want to look at and that's of course compounded by huge volumes of data. We all know we're in the middle of an information revolution. Regrettably that seems to mean everyone is continually talking to everyone else – which creates an awful lot of static!

Then we have the challenge of the internet and what role that will play in the future. It is a huge communications medium that increasingly organisations such as DSD will have to get on top of. And we have the problem of encryption that I know was something you faced and overcame so magnificently in WWII. If you saw an encrypted message by definition it was to be interesting. In future we are likely to have big pipes of information entirely bulk encrypted. The task will be to break the bulk encryption first, then access the individual channels and see what is there that might be of interest. Probably much of that will be encyphered as well, meaning a lot of effort working through layers of data to find worthwhile intelligence.

And that leads on to the role of computers in our work these days. Sigint – or more precisely cryptanalysis – led to the invention of computers and DSD has been in the forefront of computing every since. When I arrived in DSD in 1967 we still had our first computer and I see Margaret and Jim Warmington here who will remember that well. That computer, which took up a whole room, is probably about a hundred times less powerful than the least efficient PC that you see on a desk today. But we tended it, and loved it, and nurtured it. It was the only place in Albert Park Barracks that was air-conditioned so it was great to get over there and pretend you were picking up a job to get into that nice cool air-conditioning when it was 100 degrees outside. Compared to those days our computing power is massive and IT people and mathematicians continue to be absolutely integral to what we do. In fact DSD employs more mathematicians than any other single employer in Australia.

Which leads me on to the role of people. I'm sure in sigint work in your time, it always turned out to be the people who made the difference, who got the smart ideas, who saw the possibilities for a break here or there, and who picked up connections that otherwise would not have been obvious. We're in exactly the same situation today despite all the whiz-bang technology. We need to recruit and retain the best people we possibly can and we put a lot of effort into doing that.

I think these days we are able to relate to our customers in different ways than you could in WWII. Then there were very few people involved in passing sigint to the commanders in the field who were actually using it. These days we find our customers are very interested in what we do and are very keen to help us. They become very frustrated when we don't produce what they think we should be producing so we spend a lot of time interacting with our customers. Every report that goes out of DSD now has the reporter's name on the bottom and a secure telephone number. If our customers have a question about it they can phone the reporter and have a chat about what it means, and to do some instant followup and feedback. Our focus has changed from being like a newspaper where we produce the same thing each day, obviously to a tight deadline, to being more like a subscription news service where we work with each of our customers and aim to tailor the product to meet their individual needs. It's a lot easier to do these days with the aid of computers and desktop publishing.

Every day we produce a widely read report which goes to key ministers and officials throughout government. The reason we put out a daily is that when we were moved up to Canberra in 1991-92 we discovered that the people who used our product – the desk officers in various assessment areas – really had no influence on our budget, and the people who decided what our budget was never saw any of our products. We realised we had to fix that quickly, so the daily reminds people that we're there doing good work, and gives some idea of the sweep of information that we can provide.

I see some very familiar faces here. I've already mentioned Margaret and Jim, and I see Bert Rushen who was a Branch Head when I first joined DSD. Keith Payne spent considerable time trying to teach me traffic analysis in my very early days and it was Peg Gillies who actually made cryptanalysis intelligible to me. I thought I'd give them a little reminder of what DSD was like in 1967. We were still of course in the temporary collection of WWII huts in Albert Park Barracks. Ralph Thompson was the Director and had been for many years, and would be for many years to come after that. All our

communications were paper tape and teleprinter rolls and I remember an amazing day when a clerical assistant, Bob Stone, came out of the Comms Centre to walk across to one of the other barracks, a fierce wind blowing and a whole box full of top secret papers flew up in the sky and out across Albert Park. It was a great day for young blokes like me because we were detailed to go and try to find these particular pieces of paper. A couple of us spent a considerable amount of time searching down by the Beaconsfield Hotel, but regrettably we were unable to find any at all! In 1968 Albert Park Barracks was re-fenced because of the worries about the Vietnam War demonstrators at the time and that led to a number of "derros" who used to live under some of the barracks being somewhat surprised to find that they were either fenced in or fenced out. We had lots of lino, varnished wood and of course all the windows were painted out for security reasons. There were a few hundred of us in the Headquarters buildings and lots more out at the field sites.

I guess if you compare that with DSD now, today we have a very nice, big and imposing building. We've got computers just about everywhere. Our operations centre, which is the focus of most of our support to military operations, actually has windows! More and more we've remoted and automated our collection so we have very few people out in the field these days. And we have carpet, air-conditioning and potted plants. I'm sure that bears very little relation to WW11 conditions!

If I could just sum up. It must be difficult for many of you to imagine that the sort of successes that occurred in WW11 could continue, especially after some of the revelations in the 70s and 80s of Ultra Secrets and the breaking of Japanese cyphers, and the Sigint successes in WW11. It gives me great pleasure then, to say that DSD has never been held in such high regard. If we ask ourselves why it is that sigint continues to be successful I think it is the fact that one weakness in any system is all that's needed for us to do good work. In a world that is increasingly complex, and where communications are increasingly interconnected, it is extremely difficult for those trying to protect systems to make sure that they're entirely secure (and that includes us!). A senior cryptanalyst once said that he had no fears about the future of sigint because communications security was generally expensive, tended to slow down transmission and at the end of the day no one could put their hand on their heart and guarantee that it was absolutely secure. And that remains so today.

It was you folks who passed on the sigint torch to my generation and I now find myself in the happy position of passing it on to the next. And you'll be pleased to know that the next generation is as bright, youthful and enthusiastic as I'm sure you all were when you first got into the business. I'm quite sure too that the coming generation will have a very worthwhile enterprise to pass on to the next generation.

Let me thank you again for the invitation to be here today. I salute you for the critical, founding work that you did those many years ago.