

**CENTRAL BUREAU INTELLIGENCE
CORPS ASSOCIATION Inc.**

JUNE 2000

Publicity Officer: Dennis Moore 183 Sylvania Road Miranda 2228 02 9524 6267 dennis@flex.com.au**EXECUTIVE NEWS****FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK**

Invitations to Combined SIGINT Reunion, Melbourne November 11 and 12, 2000.

We printed 800 of these. Dennis Moore has already posted 200 to members of CBICA and sent 350 to Steve Mason who, if he hasn't already done so will be sending them to ASWG members with their June issue of Ink Emma Ink.

Harold Jones has received 75 copies for posting to the Victorian RAAF WU people and Mac Jamieson has already posted 50 to members of the Queensland RAAF WU Association. Incidentally these went out with their Newsletter announcing their July 29th Reunion at the Irish Club, accompanied by a mouth watering luncheon menu. All this adds up to the fact that we have a surplus of over 100 invitations which Secretary Helen Kenny is holding in reserve for distribution to any other SIGINT personnel whose names and addresses she can find. Your help in this connection would be greatly appreciated. Speaking personally, I have already been able to locate a number of ex-CB types who are not Association members and will be sending the necessary details to Helen. I am sure many of you would be in a position to do the same. We look forward to your co-operation in helping us to make this last (?) Combined Reunion the biggest ever. It has come to my notice that some members may arrange their own transport to the luncheon at Caulfield. The lunch only cost will be \$25.

Wreath Laying Ceremony

There has been a change from the programme given in the invitations. Ted Brown has expressed a preference for the ceremony to be conducted by his close friend, Rev. Robert Brown who has very willingly agreed to undertake that duty.

Accommodation in Melbourne

Phone calls to the Serviced Apartments recommended in the Invitations have unfortunately revealed that both are already booked out. Accommodation is still available at this date at the following:

Birches Apartments 169 Simpson Street,
East Melbourne 3002 Freecall 1800
6510623

Punthill Apartments Flinders Lane, South
Yarra, East Melbourne, North Melbourne,
St. Kilda Road

Freecall 1800 331529 e-mail
info@punthill-apartments.com.au

Aston Apartments South Yarra
Freecall 1800 333454 e-mail
sales@astonapartments.com.au

One of our Victorian members has made the suggestion that some Melbourne residents might be in a position to offer accommodation to out of town or interstate visitors. This could be especially helpful in Melbourne Cup Week when regular accommodation may well be at a premium. Should you feel that you would like to make this offer, Secretary Helen would be only too pleased to hear from you.

Wedding Bells for Lester Truex

It was no great surprise to receive a change of address notification from Lester Truex - now to be living at 37 Malone Street, Ormond, Vic. 3204.

However it certainly was a great and won-

derful surprise was to find that the reason for this was of his coming marriage to Celia Dutton on 28th June, 2000. In Les's own words, "With 100 years of married experiences between us, we thought that it would be worth a try for our twilight years." None of us will disagree with that sentiment Les and I am sure I speak for all CBICA members when I say congratulations and very Best Wishes to you both.

Gordon Gibson

President

67/1-9 Yardley Avenue,

Waitara. 2077

02 9487 3029

sueg@optusnet.com.au

HON. SECRETARY'S PAR.

Greetings to all. It was great to see so many on Anzac Day At the Mercure /Lawson, Ultimo. This time we had no guest speaker. People just drifted in after the March ended, sat down at the big round tables, and began to talk to old friends. Here was little speechifying. President Gordon Gibson said a few words of welcome; Treasurer Bruce Bentwitch read out messages from those who could not attend.

Good food was eaten and drink taken in pleasant moderation. Read the list of those who came — Sydney locals, country members, interstaters. People circulated and everyone talked — with the exception of John Laird who tried to, but couldn't. He made do with whispers and gestures, making himself understood, although his voice had been lost somewhere back in Canberra. (I learnt later that it took him some time to regain it, and to shake off the virus or whatever it was that he had.) Best wishes, John.

We had an enjoyable time together. Some days later, CBer Allan Norton rang up to say how well the luncheon went off and to thank the organisers. Thank you, Allan — and my belated thanks to the Mercure/Lawson staff

for the smooth running of the occasion.

This is the list of those who came to lunch: Noni Benn, Hope Creary, Eve and Eric Webb, Colin Brackley, Mark Brackley, Kath Burns, Keith Carolan, Joyce and Mike Casey, Syd Cooper, Gordon and Sue Gibson, Joy Grainger, Ailsa Hale, Lou and Joan Harris, David and Noeline Hansen, Norma and Jaqui Keeling, Helen Kenny, Jean Mulholland, Pamela and Alan Langdon, John Laird, Bob and Pam Leonard, Geoff Milne, Dennis Moore, Allan and Kate Norton, Roy Perry, Keith and Ruth Phillips, John Shoebridge, Gordon Swinney, Peter Swinney, Jennifer Swinney, Susan Wareham, Kate Wareham, Peg Teague, Jim Williams, Sheila Gregory, Bruce Bentwitch, Faye Gilinsky, Jim Kennedy, Stan Winn, Bert de Mars, Doug and Grace McNally with son Michael. I make that 54 — a very good turnout.

I have no idea who was the oldest (and wouldn't dare to ask) but the youngest was Gordon Swinney's granddaughter, Kate Wareham, aged two and a half. She behaved, as one would expect, with endearing charm. AND, if CB gave prizes (we don't) for fashionable hats, Grace McNally would have been a winner.

Melbourne is certainly the place for our SIGINT Reunion in November this year. This is not just because CB started there in 1942. It's because Melbourne's links with wireless and signals go back to the nineteenth century and to the start of the twentieth. On May 1, 1901 the Duke and Duchess of York (later King George V and Queen Mary) were bound for Melbourne where they were to open Australia's first federal Parliament. Their ship, HMS Ophir, was escorted by HMS Juno. Victoria's chief electrical engineer, Walter Jenvey, had established an experimental wireless station at Bluff Head, near Elwood. He sent welcoming messages to HMS Juno, which was about two miles out to sea, and "thus accomplished the first recorded telegraph com-

munication between ship and shore in Australia."

(Quoting Ann Moyal's "Clear Across Australia: A history of telecommunications", published by Nelson). The message was then passed on by semaphore to HMS Ophir, and the Royal couple received their history making welcome. In 2001 — the hundredth anniversary of Federation—communications move a little more speedily.

The advertisement in Reveille about the coming reunion has brought me telephone calls from people who sound interested in coming. Most were ex-service in signals, intelligence and cipher, but one was a civilian who worked with Professor Trendall and his team, recording Japanese diplomatic messages. They worked in a guarded room at Victoria Barracks, Melbourne. Her invitation has gone out. Have you replied to yours? I have many more to send. Want any?

Now for a couple of coincidences.

The first. After Nobby Clarke died, I sent a letter on CB's behalf to his widow, Wendy Cobcroft. She rang me and said that in the last months of his life Nobby had seen few people, one of the exceptions being his cousin, Kath Broughton.

"Kath!" I exclaimed. "Her sister, Margot, was in cipher with me at Boronia Park (NSW). She's been a friend since 1942." Since then, Wendy, Kath and I met. Wendy invited me to go with Kath and her to Canberra — to see the Book of Kells, as well as Nobby's old comrade Vic. Lederer. They went, but at the last minute I had to pull out. Wendy is now an Associate Member of CB, and I'm looking forward to meeting her again. She's an academic and a linguist, like Nobby.

The second. In ASWG's readable "Ink Emma Ink", someone asked if the writer, Morris West, had been connected with CB. I doubt it. He had served in Darwin, but was cipher officer at Boronia Park in 1943, when we came under NSW L of C. I worked on his shift, and he showed some of us the draft of

a novel on which he was working. It was called "A.G.H.", and was set in an Army hospital up north. He left Boronia Park to become secretary to the former Prime Minister, Billy Hughes, who was notorious for the speed at which he took on and dispensed with staff. I don't think Morris West (Lieut.) lasted there long, but his career as a writer lasted until his death. His last book, about Giordano Bruno, comes out soon. I don't know if "A.G.H." saw publication.

Welcome Stan Harper, ex RAAF, who lives in a Melbourne suburb. He was with 1, then 6 WU.

Signing off now,

Helen Kenny,

Hon. Secretary

27/1-13 Mackenzie Street

Lavender Bay 2060

02 9954 0940.

TREASURER'S COLUMN.

Well, another Anzac Day has passed with the number of Cber's attending the March being near previous levels as seen elsewhere.

Unfortunately, due to health problems, Geoff Day, Bill Estep, Alan Marsland and Jack Bennett could not attend but we were thinking of you all as well as other members unable to march. One with us as usual was Reg Murphy, now in his 90th year looking as well as ever but could not attend the luncheon due to his wife's health.

In my last report mention was made of the C46 drama when taking off from Tacloban Airstrip, we have found another on that flight viz. Col Brackley who also remembers the event vividly.

Mention of the above prompted Max Hurley to write about an incident at Hollandia and I quote:-

"My memory goes back to a hike we took up

Mt. Cyclops under the command of Lt John Stumm. Unfortunately one of our members took a small detour on the way down and slid down a cliff. We had no rope so I and another volunteered to go back to H.Q. and get help, which we ultimately did, gathering a number of men from a P'Pine unit who were camped at the foot of the hill. Next morning, feeling a bit stiff and sore, we led a group back up the hill with Hugh Dunn carrying a heavy coil of rope which we threw over the cliff and hauled the wayward corporal back to the land of the living where he was glad to be."——unquote. Max does not give the offenders name but I believe Hugh Dunn was the tallest in the unit.

Incidentally those at San Miguel will recall a wedding in the camp Chapel. The groom was Max who married Nance, an American WAC and a number of us formed a guard of honour outside the Chapel. Max and Nance did return to the site some time ago but the Chapel, built of bamboo is no longer in existence. Nance, like many other members has health problems these days. They live at Casterton, Vic.

Late last year I met Norman Webb who was best man at the wedding. After the war he also married one of the Americans, brought her back to Sydney to live, but she passed away in 1998.

To date we have had quite a number of acceptances for the November Reunion, mainly from Victorians, so it should be an interesting event.

I hope members are coping with the cold spell, especially Norma Keeling who must be relishing the snow at Katoomba and hope Phil Dynes enjoyed his trip to Borneo.

Bruce Bentwitch

Hon Treasurer

7 Holly Street

CASTLE COVE 2069

02 9417 1427

VALE PETER DREDGE

Geoff Patience has sent me a clipping from a Melbourne newspaper announcing the sad passing of Peter Dredge. Peter was known to us all as "Tiny" as he was a strapping lad well over six feet tall and of athletic build. His personality matched his physique and as we shared the same hut at 51 W.T. near Darwin for the best part of 1944 I got to know him well. He was a great guy. I liked him a lot. Unfortunately, like so many of our members, Peter only joined the Association in recent years but at least I did have the good fortune to meet up with him again at two or three reunions where we exchanged notes. The following extract from his Death Notice paying tribute to Peter for his fine character and unselfish work for the community will come as no surprise to those of us who knew him during the War years. "Peter was a wonderful supporter of projects for young people throughout the State of Victoria and a tireless worker for the community in general. He will be sadly missed."

GORDON GIBSON.

MAYDAY SOS HELP

Rollcall now lists 2638 names. [In March it had about 2300].

To reach the target of 4300 we need 160 more Australian names;

A list of members of the US SRI Cs;

A list of members of Canadian 1 SWG.****

Can anyone supply more of us. Thirty members each offering five new names would solve the first problem.

Sources for the American lists would make the project almost complete.

The other deficiency is a cosmetic one. Over 300 women members are listed by both their serving names AND their married

names but another 70 are known only by their married names.

C'MOM Ladies and fix this problem.

Reveal your skeletons to your Association or directly to

JOHN STUMM
E20/61 EXPLORER DRIVE
ALBANY CREEK. QLD. 4035.

****Stop Press. "JACKPOT !" says John. He's now got the list. Clever detective work.

BLETCHLEY PARK.

There's that name again! *Britain's Best Kept Secret* is a secret no longer, notwithstanding that tag from one of the promotional brochures. This is Bletchley Park in the year 2000. "Bletchley Park, also known as 'Station X', was home to the famous codebreakers of the Second World War and the birthplace of modern computing and communications. It is now run by a charitable Trust, with historic buildings, exhibitions and tours for visitors, community activities and non-residential conference facilities." Nowadays you can watch Enigma and other coding machines at work, inspect displays which are changed frequently, picnic by the lake or visit the 'Hut 4' bar and café.

Modern computing and communications and the information super highway have brought our President, Secretary, and Publicity Officer together with Peter Wescombe BA FRGS. Some weeks ago we all had a couple of luncheon dates in Sydney. Peter is a founding member of the Bletchley Park Trust. From his home in Bletchley, Bucks. he discovered our CBICA Inc on the Internet, sent an e-mail or two and made contact again when he visited Australia on an archive gathering trip earlier this year.

Peter is one of the people who saved Bletchley Park for the home team. At one stage, not so long ago, a German entity was contemplating a take-over of the valuable site. Although not old enough to have had a WWII service background Peter had a very long post war career in the information game, which directed his interest to the Park. He now receives 'truckloads' of archives recently declassified by GCHQ to enable him to pursue his research objectives. Some of the emerging information relates to GCHQ's links to Australia and Central Bureau. Peter is anxious to find out as much as he can at this extremity of the information chain and has made contact with Australian Archives and, of course, he has visited Defence Signals Directorate in Canberra. We at CBICA have been able to make some small contribution to his research project. Let's hope that he doesn't forget us when his research turns up some interesting interactions between the 'Old Dart' and its former Colony. I suspect that something will emerge.

SIGINT AND THE " HMAS SYDNEY" TRAGEDY.

When in a contemplative mood think about this question; Why publish history ? A cynic might answer that, in our time, commercial interest is the prime motivator. History is researched and published for someone's monetary gain. It's a way to earn a crust. Alternatively you may feel that the research and publication of history is mainly an academic pursuit—the discovery and revelation of truth for its own sake. A true cynic might still argue that academic pursuits and commercial gain now often coalesce. However, history specifically relevant to CBICA members has been researched and published for a third purpose.

Tragedy struck Australians in November, 1941 when so many young sailors who

crewed the "HMAS Sydney" were lost. Mystery surrounded this disaster. People did not know enough about what had happened. As the years rolled on people needed to know more. Was there blame to be attributed? There were rumours and hints of a 'cover up'. It was claimed that certain records relevant to the loss of "HMAS Sydney" had been withheld or destroyed.

In response to mounting pressure the Australian Parliament set up an inquiry into the circumstances of the 1941 sinking of "HMAS Sydney" by the German raider "Kormoran". Evidence was taken early in 1998. During the 1990's claims had been made which "speculated on the role that Sigint played or might have played in connection with the 'Sydney — Kormoran' engagement.". It was in response to such speculation that the Defence Signals Directorate made a formal submission to the Parliamentary inquiry. D.S.D.'s aim was "to provide the inquiry with a description of the conduct of signals intelligence (Sigint) at the time of the sinking of 'HMAS Sydney'.....". It also sought to assist the Defence Sub-Committee conducting the inquiry in reaching a determination with regard to claims that records had been withheld or destroyed.

The D.S.D submission claims that it was misleading for some commentators "to assume that Sigint must necessarily know the whole story or have access to all relevant resources". In describing the practice of Sigint in WWII, especially during the first and second years, D.S.D. uses the words "difficult", "demanding" and "very uncertain business". "The task of identifying particular frequencies used by specific enemy targets among the many thousands of signals audible to the Sigint operators required a strong and dedicated effort by highly skilled specialists. "Difficulties in beating German and Japanese expertise in disguising the identities and locations of their combatants were outlined.

The submission records that not all German and Japanese ciphers were broken. Its authors make the point that, at the time of the loss of the ship, Australia did not possess the Sigint organization needed to have a reasonable expectation of success against the German and Japanese targets (except for a small R.A.N. unit directed against the Japanese.)

One theory about the loss of the "Sydney" proposed that the "Kormoran" transmitted signals to Tokyo or Berlin after its encounter with "Sydney". D.S.D. says it sighted no record of this. It suggests that if signals were indeed transmitted "there could have been no guarantee that a Sigint listening station would have picked them up." The messages could not have been read anyway as "armed merchant cruisers, such as the 'Kormoran' used the foreign key on their Enigma machines which had never been broken" says the D.S.D. paper.

D.S.D's submission aimed to give the inquiry some background knowledge of Sigint activity in Australia in 1941 and the likelihood of records from those days surviving until this time. There was not, in Australia, a centralized Sigint organization. There was no war in Australia. Elements of the Australian Army and Navy helped the British Sigint effort. "Australia had not been engaged in significant Sigint activity before the war although the R.A.N. had conducted some operations against the Japanese, in concert with the British." In November, 1941 the Australian Sigint effort was fragmented. The Army, Navy and Airforce each had some capability but it was not co-ordinated across the three services and no organization comparable to D.S.D. existed. It is concluded therefore that finding records from those days would be extremely difficult

It was only after Japan entered the war in December, 1941 that Allied Sigint personnel and equipment were evacuated to Australia to join the small number of units that were

conducting Sigint operations from bases in Melbourne and Darwin. This led, in mid 1942 to the establishment of two major Sigint units; Central Bureau and Fleet Radio Unit, Melbourne. C.B answered to the Allied Commander, South West Pacific and Frumel was controlled by the Commander of the U.S.N. 7th Pacific Fleet. Central Bureau did not have a precursor organization. The USN Fleet Radio Unit was reconstituted as Frumel.

When D.S.D (D.S.B. as it was then) was constituted in 1947 it became the releasing authority for WWII Sigint related records. The submission contains a table of the most significant records, relevant to the "Sydney" inquiry, examined by D.S.D. One dated 09/1945 contained a "report that the German Naval attaché in Tokyo believes information that the Sydney was towed to Japan was 'definitely incorrect'

The D.S.D. submission also canvasses the Dutch Sigint effort against the Japanese in the early period of the war. There was collaboration between the Dutch, the British FECB and the RAN. Many Dutch records were destroyed in the Dutch East Indies and during the German occupation of Holland.

D.S.D concludes that there was no material relating to the loss of the "Sydney" held or examined by D.S.D which was not publicly available. Existing records shed no light on the sea battle between the "Sydney and the "Kormoran in November, 1941.

(The complete submission, upon which this article is based, has been published by the Defence Signals Directorate as a matter of interest. The eleven A4 pages may be read on the Directorate's Internet Web-site. If you wish to read the document and are unable to access the site you may contact your Publicity Officer.)

MELBOURNE 2000. A VERY SPECIAL EVENT

Like the recent re-run of the evacuation of British forces from the shores of France, which the vets.themselves said would be their last, this may well be the last big get together for the veteran's of Australia's World War II Sigint effort.

Central Bureau and its collection of field units was a beginning. There was no predecessor in this part of the World. However, it is generally acknowledged that there is a successor organization, born in 1947; a brief two years after the demise of Central Bureau.

We are fortunate that the Director of that successor organization, the Defence Signals Directorate, has agreed to be Guest Speaker at the November, 2000 Reunion.

Mr. Ron Bonighton became Director DSD on 11 October, 1999. He joined the Department of Defence in 1967 after graduating B.A. (Hons) from Melbourne University. Over the next several years he occupied a range of intelligence production, management and liaison positions both in Australia and overseas.

In 1988 he was appointed to the Senior Executive Service as Head of Defence Signals Directorate's Planning and Coordination Branch. Later that year he was posted to Washington as Australian Liaison Officer at the National Security Agency and on return was promoted to head DSD's Information Security Branch. In 1992 he completed an MBA at Monash University, and in January, 1993 was transferred to head DSD's Production Branch. In September 1994 Mr. Bonighton was promoted to Deputy Director DSD, and at the end of 1996 was appointed First Assistant Secretary, Defence Materiel Division. In July 1997, Ron was appointed Head Systems Acquisition (Electronic Systems) in line with the changes introduced from the Defence Reform Programme.

Ron transferred back to DSD as Director.

He lives in rural Murrumbateman, is married and has three adult offspring who are making their independent way in the world. His hobbies include tennis and rural pursuits.

Says Ron: *"When I started at DSD, back in the late 1960's, we had a few people still with us who served in Central Bureau. Of course they have all long since retired, but the current generation of Siginters remembers them with great respect. Theirs was a tradition which we have been proud to inherit."*

ANZAC DAY 2000.

CBICA Members and supporters participated in Anzac Day traditional events in Sydney.

Anzac Eve at the Sydney Cenotaph.

Bruce Bentwitch, Madeline Chidgey, Trevor Donald, Hugh Donald, Gordon Gibson, Ailsa Hale, Dennis Moore, John Shoebridge, Gordon Swinney. We paraded with members of the Australian Intelligence Association.

The March.

Norm Allen, Noni Benn, Bruce Bentwitch, Kath Burns, Syd Carey, Keith Carolan, Madge Chidgey, Betty Chessell, Don Dunn, Eric Fleming, Dave Geyer, Gordon Gibson, Joy Grainger, Joy Grace, Ailsa Hale, Dave Hansen, Lou Harris, Frank Hughes, Jim Kennedy, John Laird, Noel Langby, Brian Lovett, Bruce Lovett, Max McCredie, Les McClean, Doug McNally, Bert de Mars, Geoff Milne, Dennis Moore, Reg Murphy, Allan Norton, Roy Perry, Keith Phillips, John Shoebridge, Gordon Swinney, Peg Teague, Stan Winn.

A fellow Henry Kendall Villager apologised on behalf of Joy Linnane. The brothers, Bruce and Brian carried the Banner.

SIGINT NAMES IN THE HONOURS LIST

Congratulations are due to Geoffrey St. Vincent BALLARD. Secretary Helen noted his name in the list. Mr. Ballard was awarded an OAM in the General List "for services to humanitarian aid."

Also noted was the name of Mr. Martin BRADY, one time Director DSD, who had hosted our visits to Building "M". Mr. Brady received an AO in the General Division "for services to the development of Australian Strategic Policy Formulation." Congratulations to Mr. Brady.

IN BRIEF.

Member Eric Fleming, whose post war career led him to a top job in Golf Administration, has submitted an article by a member of Ballarat Legacy about the planned United States invasion of Japan. It gives brief mention of the likely participation of some RAN ships, but not a word about those RAAF and C.B. people.

As a member of 6 W.U Eric knew that he was going to Japan. Post war literature has confirmed that this was to be. He and his colleagues spent many hours rehearsing the rapid dismantling and re-assembly of his sections direction finding gear. This was near San Miguel in the period just before 'the bomb' was dropped.

Your Editor has tried to persuade Eric &/ or his former D/F colleagues to pen a story about those remote and secretive Direction Finding outposts and their exploits.

AND of course avid watchers of ABC T.V around Australia saw the cameo appearance by Geoff Ballard during the programme about how Melbourne nearly missed out on the '56 Olympics.

Across the lounge rooms you could almost hear the old folks say "Thats Geoff Ballard !"