



CENTRAL BUREAU INTELLIGENCE CORPS ASSOCIATION December 2002.

Publicity Officer: Helen Kenny, 27/1-13 Mackenzie St, Lavender Bay NSW 2060 Email: lalkenny@hotmail.com - tel 02 9954 0940

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Unit History

In response to representations made by Bill Rogers, Helen Kenny and Frank Hughes on their recent deputation to the Australian War Memorial, I have received the following letter from the Director, Major-General Steve Gower:

*"Dear Mr Gibson,
I was pleased to meet with the executive committee of the Central Bureau Association, and to discuss the proposals that your members have for getting underway a project to write the history of Central Bureau during the Second World War. The Memorial is very interested in seeing an authoritative history on this subject completed.*

While we would like to make the project a formal Memorial undertaking, at present we do not have the \$100,000 that would be required for the purpose. We would therefore need the Association's assistance in raising the money before the project could proceed. Once the first \$50,000 has been raised, I will be in a position to authorise Dr Clark to commence research and writing. This approach treats publication as a separate problem, but seems justified by the need to get the project underway as soon as practical to minimize the impact that mortality is having among your members.

Of course, the Memorial will become the owner of the copyright for the finished work and be entitled to royalties from sales of any resulting book. However, there are various ways of helping a publisher minimize the commercial risk involved in producing a title, and one of these might be for donors to be rewarded with a free copy of the book, so that in effect donations represent a bulk order.

Please let me have your response to these proposals. It certainly seems to me to be a good way for the Memorial to work with the Association in achieving this goal of having a history written. If acceptable to your members, I see no reason why fundraising cannot commence straight away."

This letter was discussed at a Special Meeting of the Executive Committee on 25 November, and it was agreed that the Association should accept the conditions outlines in the letter with the following two provisos:

1. That donors be acknowledged in the finished work by name but not amount.
2. In the unlikely event of our being unable to raise the total money required, donations will be refunded if the project cannot proceed.

These provisos have now been accepted by the Australian War Memorial. As indicated in the following announcement a fund has been set up and contributions are invited from members of our own Association, and kindred associations such as ASWG and the Wireless Units. We also invite the general public, tertiary institutions and all who have interest in seeing this important part of World War 11 history written to contribute.

HISTORY OF CENTRAL BUREAU APPEAL

Australian Signals Intelligence in World War 11

CBICA, in conjunction with the Australian War Memorial, has set up a fund with the object of financing the production of an authoritative history on the above subject.

The overall cost of the project is estimated to be in the region of \$100,000. An initial target of \$50,000 has, however, been set, and once this sum has been raised the designated historian, Dr Chris Coulthard-

Clark will be authorised to commence research and writing. This history, by describing the contribution made by Australian servicemen and women and Sydney University academics to the Allied Signals Intelligence and code-breaking effort, will fill a gap in the Australian Government's Official History of World War 11. Tight security restrictions imposed for a long period after the war prevented researchers from access to documents and to those who served with Sigint.

Your donation, which is tax deductible, will help to get this highly important and worthwhile project off the ground.

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Donation cheques should be made out to "Central Bureau Fund, c/- Australian War Memorial" and sent to : Australian War Memorial, GPO Box 345, Canberra, ACT 2601

Donors should ensure that their name and address is included with the cheque to facilitate issuing of a receipt for tax deduction purposes.

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In conclusion I do want to wish you and your families a happy Christmas and happy New Year, and hope that 2003 brings you good health.

Gordon Gibson - President
67/1-9 Yardley Avenue
WAITARA NSW 2077
Phone 02 9487 3029 Email sueg@optusnet.com.au

HON. SECRETARY'S PAR

Hello all – a bit protracted this, but necessary. First and foremost, acknowledgment and thanks to the following who responded so marvellously to our request for info and photos in the September Newsletter (great phone calls too):-

Keith Carolan, Ted Cook, Syd Cooper, David Geyer, David Hansen, Stan Harper, Lou Harris, Paul James, Noel Langby, Estelle Mc Innes, Sam Paton, Jim Paterson, Roy Perry, Margaret Raymond, Bill Renshaw, Joe Richard (USA), David (Bill) Rodgers, Eric Saxon, Eve Scott, John Shoebridge, Arthur Sims, Peter Tankard, Ken Trezise, Jim Williams, Heather Williams.

You all have an individual envelope keeping recollections and photos intact

Now to the social bit – our mini reunion at the Kirribilli Services Club on the 12 November. A howling sou'-easter but NO RAIN. Apologies were received from Col Brackley, Joyce Cassidy, Madeline Chidgey, Syd Cooper, Bert deMars, Joyce Grace, Bruce Lovett and Roy Perry. Fronters –up were: Noni Benn, Bruce Bentwitch, Keith Carolan, Judy Carson, Hope Creary, Jack and Melba Douglass, Don Dunn, Gordon and Sue Gibson, Joy Granger, David and Noelene Hansen, Lou Harris, Frank Hughes, Helen Kenny, Canon Alan and Pamela Langdon, Les McClean, Doug and Grace McNally, John Shoebridge, Eric and Eve Webb. We were

also pleased to welcome Professor John Mack (former Chair / Academic Board of Sydney University), two visitors from Queensland University of Technology – Professor Bill Caelli (Head of School, School of Software Engineering and Data Communications), and Mr Les Smith (Lecturer School of Software Engineering and Data Communications), also Lt Col John Dwyer AM (retired), Executive Officer, General Douglas Macarthur Brisbane Memorial Trust.

It was good to see you all and I hope you DID enjoy yourselves despite the circumstances separating our group. Helen will tell you more about that.

Other matters: The History Grant saga continues – as you will learn elsewhere in the Newsletter.

The Annual General meeting will be held on Monday, 3 February 2003 – 2.00 pm at the Combined Services Club, Barrack St, Sydney. Try hard to come, Please refer to the final page of this newsletter and send your completed form to me as indicated (still at War Vets but we now have a postal delivery instead of sorting and delivering it ourselves.)

Lastly and sadly, VALE Lester Truex

My good wishes go to everyone for a peaceful Christmas and good health in 2003.

Joy Granger,
2/5 Endeavour Drive,

NARRABEEN 2101

02 9981 2397

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HON TREASURER'S REPORT

Thanks to the expertise of Neurologists and nurses at Royal North Shore Hospital, where I spent a week in September undergoing scans, x-rays and several other tests I find with medication my eye and muscular problems much improved and have been able to resume the Treasurer's function.

With advancing years a number of members are experiencing health problems. Two who are or have been in hospital are Madeline Chidgey and Betty Murray. Let us hope they and others not so well are on the road to recovery.

For the past few years we have managed to keep subscriptions at \$10 per annum. However, with increasing costs and an endeavour to maintain a quarterly newsletter (Helen has no trouble with articles) the committee proposes to increase subscriptions as follows:

Members	\$15.00 PA
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Associates	\$10.00 PA
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We are aware some members have paid in advance therefore they should not pay the increase until their renewals are due.

Bruce Bentwitch

Hon Treasurer

7 Holly Street

Castle Cove NSW 2069

(02) 9417 1427

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THE CANBERRA MEETING

On Monday, 21st October, Frank Hughes, Bill Rogers and I attended a meeting at the War Memorial in Canberra. Also present were the Chairman of the War Memorial, Major-General Adrian Clunies-Ross, Dr Chris Coulthard-Clark, Arthur Skimin and the War Memorial's chief historian Dr Peter Stanley. It was our intention to confirm General Clunies-Ross's proposal that donations to the Memorial supporting the

publication of the CB History would be tax deductible.

Very early in the discussion, it became apparent that General Clunies-Ross had considerable doubts as to whether donations directed to the publication of the C.B. History would be tax deductible. He said he had advice from the auditor of the War Memorial and discussion then developed along the lines of possible ways that the War Memorial could be involved and at the same time have a tax deduction for potential donors.

After about an hour's discussion, it seemed unlikely that any immediate solution to the problem would be found. However, Major-General Steve Gower then arrived. He is the Director of the Australian War Memorial. With him was Mr Mark Dawes, Assistant Director. After listening to a brief description of the problem, Major-General Gower said he could see no difficulty with the Memorial sponsoring the History and thereby allowing tax deductions for donors. He then had a further discussion with the historians present and advised that he would need a donation or donations amounting to \$50,000 before the project could proceed. Frank Hughes and Bill Rogers had already offered to make a preliminary donation and had actually handed cheques to General Clunies-Ross which he then returned.

We left the meeting with the understanding that the War Memorial would write confirming the arrangements and we would then look at the possibilities of raising the necessary funds which Frank Hughes and Bill Rogers thought would be possible in the immediate future.

Helen Kenny

(* President Gordon Gibson, who planned to attend the meeting was absent because of illness.)

VALE**MAJOR LESTER TRUEX*****His life secret – do right, fear nothing***

US - born cryptanalysis officer and Australian Neighbourhood Watch pioneer.

Born: July 1, 1921

Died: October 19, 2002

“CHARMING, strong willed and passionate, Lester Truex displayed an aptitude for many things during his life.

He was a skilled cryptanalysis officer, a Neighbourhood Watch pioneer an actor and an enthusiast of the performing arts.

Lester lived his life true to the Truex family motto – Do right, fear nothing.

Lester Stanley Truex was born in rural New Jersey, United States. Among his youthful memories he recalled his father Leslie, a butcher and a horse trainer, supporting a family of seven children through the Depression; walking to school with hessian sacks tied around his ankles to keep the snow out; attending a Tommy Dorsey concert and witnessing the Hindenburg Disaster.

In 1941, just before the attack on Pearl Harbour, he enlisted with the US Army Signal Corps.

His skills at lateral thinking and problem solving were recognised and he was assigned to General Douglas MacArthur's staff as a cryptanalysis officer, one of the first US servicemen to arrive in Australia as part of the joint war effort in May 1942.

He served with distinction with the Signals Intelligence Organisation, known as Central Bureau, until August 1945. He served first in Melbourne and later in Brisbane, where he met and married Melbourne girl, Kathleen McClelland, a dancer with the Borovansky Ballet.

He was a foundation member of the Central Bureau Melbourne in May, 1942, and worked on cracking the code that led to the interception of the Japanese fleet in the Battle of the Coral Sea, following which he was commissioned as a lieutenant.

He also served in New Guinea and the Philippines until the end of the war as part of a large joint Australian-US team. After World War II he served in Korea as an intelligence officer in 1951-1952 and later in Japan, Germany and France. In 1962, after 21 years in service, he retired with the rank of

major and moved to Melbourne with Kath and their family of five children – David, Helen, Bronwyn, Yvonne and Anne.

Throughout his life Lester Truex was involved in the performing arts, including a stint with St Martin's theatre during the 1940s.

Living in Caulfield after his retirement from a civilian career in management, he was active in many community organisations including a period as chairman of Caulfield Neighbourhood Watch.

Three years after Kath died in 1997, Lester married Celia Rowley Dutton, a former concert and BBC/ABC pianist.

Lester is remembered by loved ones as a true family man – he was never more content than when he was surrounded by members of his family.”

(From the Herald Sun (Melbourne) November 25, 2002)

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Newsletter thanks those Victorians who telephoned, sent clippings or wrote letters telling of Lester's death. They included Roy Ward, Bill Rogers, Jack Bleakley, Geoff Patience, and Sylvia Paris. He will be missed greatly by those who worked with him, or knew him through CBICA. For years he attended Anzac Day marches in Sydney, standing tall in the vehicle when walking became difficult. At the lunches, at DSD's fiftieth birthday when he spoke about CB, we had a chance to talk to him. He spoke of early days in Brisbane when he bought a horse, and rode it across country from Indooroopilly to tether it in the grounds of 21 Henry Street. Over the years, we met members of his family, his wife Kath, and then his wife Celia. Deep sympathy to them all for the loss of a fine man.

Sylvia Paris, who was invited to a Christmas Eve dinner two years ago at the home of Lester's daughter Bronwyn, remembers this gathering of many generations. “It was a very loving family,) she writes. “Lester was the most polite man I ever met, incapable of saying a bad word about anyone. He was proud of his children, encouraged everyone, and his spirit was strong.”

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The Melbourne Age headed its obituary with “Under two flags – he made Australia his own neighbourhood.”

Farewell Lester – good neighbour, good comrade.

EDITORIAL

Some of those who turned up for the mini-reunion lunch at Kirribilli must have been baffled when a “mini-conference” of committee members and others developed at a separate table.

This was impromptu, very much spur-of-the-moment, and President Gordon Gibson and the rest of our committee do apologise for what happened and hope you’ll accept the explanation. The result of the “mini-conference” may benefit CBers and our history.

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Professor William (Bill) Caelli and Les Smith, both from the Queensland University of Technology, had flown down from Brisbane for the day. Bill’s title at QUT is Head of School, School of Software Engineering and Data Communications, Faculty of Information Technology. Les lectures at the School of Data Communications. Both have done concentrated research into the war time role of Central Bureau, its technology and people. They have met – and entertained – Mac Jamieson and members of the Queensland Wireless Units.

In March, when the Queensland Government and WIT (Women in Information Technology), through the Hon. Paul Lucas, Minister for Innovation and Information Economy presented certificates to 10 Queensland women who had served with CB and ASWG and Wireless Units, this was only the start. In the end certificates were sent out, Australia-wide, to 175 women.

Both Professor Caelli and Les Smith were involved in this, and its thanks to Les Smith and QUT that our Newsletter is prepared for the printers.

This was our chance to meet both men. There were other visitors too: Lieutenant-Colonel John Dwyer, AM (retired), Executive Officer, General Douglas MacArthur Memorial Trust, also down from Brisbane, and Associate Professor John Mack,

former chair of the Academic Board, University of Sydney, who recently delivered a lecture there on academic code-breakers at that University.

Just before the meal, Professor Caelli began offering suggestions about possible grants for our history and the thought of co-operation between his institution, the AWM and the historian.

Professor Mack also had some ideas about grants, as had Dr Peter Donovan (who could not come to the lunch.)

At this stage, Gordon Gibson thought we’d better sit down and talk it over. Which is what happened, and which is why – over the fish and chips – plans were discussed. “Will Santa come early for CB?” someone asked. We’re not sure yet, but hope.

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Meanwhile our Central Bureau Fund opens NOW. You’ll see its address and details in Newsletter. Do donate to it if you can – whether you’re rich, or whether you can put in just a widow’s or widower’s mite, or a pensioner’s portion. The amount won’t be mentioned, but you can give it to honour those with whom you served, so that their work will not go unrecorded.

Meanwhile to all, Christmas wishes, and hopes that 2003 will be an improvement on 2002. May the New Year bring you comfort and friendship.

Helen Kenny

Other Newsletters

Mac Jamieson, Secretary of the Wireless Units Association, Queensland, says that their next reunion will be on July 19, 2003. (Details to come). This year’s reunion on July 20 was enjoyable. “Copies of the Kana Code were handed around,” writes Mac. “Not so much for the old hands, but some grand kids may want one for a scrap book!”

Mac says he and the Jamieson clan are spending Christmas in Cairns, and Mac is greasing, washing and provisioning the caravan for the trip. Happy Christmas, Mac, and safe travel.

CBer Betty (Brynmor) Murray, edits the Newsletter of the AWAS Association, Victoria. This compact Newsletter, printed on bright yellow paper, is most readable with its information and quotes. There was one from the travel writer, Freya Stark, who lived to be over 100. On her 95th birthday when asked how she coped with old age, she said: “I breathe, I bite, and I hope for the best.”

Thanks for that, Betty.

Ink Emma Ink, the journal of ASWG, has Steve Mason as editor. He’s also the Association’s president. Their Newsletter runs to 24 pages, stapled together, with the recipient’s address on the outside. (Ours, of eight pages, must fit into an envelope, so space is tight.) To Steve and Aswegians – regards from CBICA and Season’s wishes.

IN BRIEF

Our future historian, Dr Chris Coulthard-Clark, author of more than 20 books, is the son of a kana interceptor. His mother, then Anne (Alvie) Johanson, served with 45th Special Wireless Group at Queens’s Park, in Perth. She still lives in the West, and has been a friend since wartime of Jean Hillier, who wrote “No Medals in This Unit”, recollections of her time with ASWG. Chris, some time ago, recorded his mother’s oral history.

Ron Bonighton, former director of DSD, has moved to another post, becoming Deputy Secretary of Intelligence and Security, Department of Defence. We wish him well in the new job, and thank him for his interest in our organisation. Mr Steve Merchant becomes Acting Director of DSD.

Jean (McLennan) Robertson, of Toowoomba, wrote on October 27 of bushfires blazing around her city, of water bombers trying to drench the flames, of intense 36 degree heat. “I’d never have imagined that we would have such dreadful fires like you have (in Sydney)” she wrote, referring to the Christmas fires of 2001. In a PS Jean said that within a day the Toowoomba temperature had dropped from 36 to 16C, she was wrapped in a rug and 90 points of rain had fallen!

Talk of fires. Jack and Melba Douglass, of South Maroota, NSW came to Kirribilli for the mini-reunion, and went back to their 18 acre farm on the outskirts of Sydney. Suddenly, in December, that area was in the news and on TV. “We had a horrible day on Friday (Dec 6)” said Melba. “Fires came at us from two directions, right up to a shed at the back. The men and women of the bushfire brigades were wonderful, fantastically well trained. Jack had fire-proofed our place as much as possible, but the fire engine came in and made it nice and safe. The big helicopters were magic. They could turn on a sixpence. They dropped three lots of water and flattened the fire.”

Nearby properties were ablaze, and the Douglasses were without power for more than a day. Jack and Melba, who celebrate their fiftieth wedding anniversary next September, have lived on the farm for more than 40 years. Jack, a kana interceptor with 5WU, became a field officer at Hawkesbury Agricultural College after the war, specialising in tomato growing. In the past, Jack has helped to fight fires, and Melba was on duty in emergency canteens. She praises the canteen workers of the recent fires who fed the fire fighters.

(Melba and Jack – it’s raining in Sydney. Steadily. Smoke has gone from the air. It’s cool. I’m writing this on December 10, and hope that this means the drought has broken for you and others, and that the fires are out...H K)

Hugh Dunn, of Toowong, sends regards to CBers, and reminds Frank Hughes, Bill Rogers and Gordon Gibson to look him up if they’re in Queensland. He once shared a tent with Bill Rogers, and remembers the time in Dutch New Guinea when Frank Hughes set off to climb Mt. Cyclops. Darkness fell. Frank was missing and a search party set out, providing more drama when Bill Rogers nearly went over a waterfall.

(Both survived, and should write their account of this.)

Eve Scott, of Carindale, posted us a fine colour photograph of the Henry Street mansion some time ago. The photographer, whose name then was unknown to us, had taken a separate shot of the

plaque placed near the doorway by Dr Abe Sinkov in 1988, then made a montage of the two. In the finished photograph the plaque appears near the Henry Street gate, and the wording is clearly shown. It reads: "Central Bureau, an organisation comprising service personnel of Australia, USA, Britain, Canada and New Zealand, both men and women, functioned in this house from 1942 until 1946. From intercepted enemy radio messages, the organisation provided intelligence which made a decisive contribution to the Allied Victory in the Pacific War."

Eve has just told us that Brian Lovett, former kana operator with CB, took this photograph in 1996. Frank Hughes has had copies made and laminated, and one was presented to officials of the Australian War Memorial. Brian lives at Tuncurry, NSW.

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Still on the subject. Who was the Henry of Henry Street? Answer: Henry P. Abbott, general manager of the Australian Joint Stock Bank. According to the Brisbane City Council Heritage Unit's Citation, the bank built the "large ornate mansion" for its general manager in 1885-86 to the design of architect, James Cowlishaw. The house stood on about 40 acres of land. A 1932 article in the "Queenslander" notes that the Abbotts were "members of the New South Wales squattocracy and that Nyrambla was named after a station owned by the family of Henry Abbott's wife." Now all we need to find out is the meaning of "Nyrambla" and where the property was.

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Wendy Clarke is back in her Manly, NSW, home again, after a journey that took her to Ireland (home of Nobby's forebears), France and England – including Bletchley Park. In Gloucester, she stayed with Jack Lane and his wife Coula. Jack (ex-RAF) served at Inopacan in the Philippines under the command of Captain "Nobby" Clarke, and wrote of this time in the June 2002 Newsletter. In their group was a Canadian, Warren Miller, a man Jack liked and admired. Warren Miller has died, but his son Geoff, of Vancouver, Canada, has been trying to make contact with his father's old comrades. Thanks to Peggy Moore and e-mails she has sent to Wendy, and Geoff Miller, there'll be a meeting in March when Geoff goes to England to meet the Lanes.

Again, it's through Peggy Moore's e-mail skills that we learn of the death of Ted Cook. In the last Newsletter we greeted 92 - year old Ted as our newest member, and printed an account of his service in Darwin. He was one of the original seven with No 1 Wireless Unit. Until practically the day of his death (caused as the result of a fall) Ted Cook was busy keeping in touch by e-mail. His daughter, Kathryn Joslin, whose address is <kjoslin@airnet.com.au> advised Peter Dunn, who passed on the news. Vale Edward Frederick Cook, and our condolences to members of his family.

Vale John Downing

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Most interesting lecture by Professor John Mack on the University of Sydney's involvement in code-breaking in World War II. Held on October 26, it told of Professor T.G. Room, (Professor of Mathematics), Professor Dale Trendall (Professor of Greek) and of Athanasius Treweek, lecturer in Ancient Greek, and of others, who in 1940, became involved in cryptography, meeting Commander Eric Nave in May 1941. CBers at the lecture included Judy (Roe) Carson, a cryptographer who worked with Professor Room at CB, Alan Langdon and his wife Pamela, and Helen Kenny.

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Dr Peter Donovan's bibliography is growing. He's come across an interesting book, "Yank Down Under: From America's Heartland to Australia's Outback" by Ray A. Wyatt. Published by Sunflower University Press in 1999, it describes Wyatt's service here in 1942. Ray Wyatt, the Kansas farm boy, became a katakana interceptor attached to MacArthur's headquarters in Melbourne, then served with the Signal Intelligence Service in the Northern Territory and New Guinea. Many good anecdotes and interesting photographs. Even after all these years, the author misses Australia and opens his book with this ditty:

*"I love the Land Down Under
'Ah-stril-ya' and its clime.
Where the Outback is far out
And livin' is so sublime."*

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CENTRAL BUREAU INTELLIGENCE CORPS ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held on Monday, 3 February, 2003, at 2.00pm at the Combined Services Club, 5 Barrack St., Sydney.

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Confirmation of Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 4 February, 2002.
3. President's Report
4. Hon. Treasurer's Report
5. Election of Officers. (All positions will be declared vacant. Any member wishing to nominate a member for the Executive Committee should complete the nomination form below, and forward it to the Hon. Secretary, Joy Granger, at 2/5 Endeavour Drive, NARRABEEN NSW 2101. Both nominator and nominee must be financial members).
6. Hon. Auditor
7. General Business

At the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting, a Special General Meeting will be held to consider the proposal that the Annual Subscription be raised from \$10 to \$15.

The annual membership fee of \$10 for 2003 is now due and should be forwarded to Bruce Bentwitch, Hon. Treasurer, 7 Holly St., CASTLE COVE NSW 2069.

Joy Granger, Hon. Secretary.

CENTRAL BUREAU INTELLIGENCE CORPS ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT: G. GIBSON

VICE-PRESIDENTS: (2) F. Hughes

..... J. Shoebridge

HON. SECRETARY: J. Grangertuppence

HON. TREASURER B. Bentwitch

PUBLICITY OFFICER: H. Kenny

EXECUTIVE: (3) L. McClean

..... A. Norton

..... N. Benn

SIGNED: G. Gibson DATE 3-2-03

PLEASE PRINT: