



# NEWSLETTER

## NATIONAL SECRETARY

As you will remember, a proposal was brought up at the 1971 Annual General Meeting for the appointment of a National Secretary and the Management of O.T.C. had advised that they were prepared to give assistance with their facilities to this Secretary to sponsor and promote the Veterans' Association.

Unfortunately, the intention of the Commission to help the Veterans was misinterpreted by the Victorian Association in that they thought that the Commission was endeavouring to take control of our organization and appoint a Sydney member as the National Secretary.

The New South Wales Secretary, through the generosity of the General Manager of O.T.C. Veteran Mr. Harold White, was able to attend the 1972 Annual General Meeting of the Victorian branch. The visit allowed a great deal of fruitful discussion on many matters, particularly that of the National Secretary. He was able to point out O.T.C's intention to assist the Veterans and also the fact that any thought of control was far from their minds. As a result, a Notice of Motion has been received from members of the Victorian Association for consideration at the 1973 Annual General Meetings, which reads as follows:-

"That this Meeting of the Overseas Telecommunications Veterans' Association (Victoria) respectfully submit that the Overseas Telecommunications Commission be reapproached on their offer of sponsoring a National Secretary. Should a favourable response from the Commission be received to go ahead, we recommend that consideration be given to the appointment of Charles Carthew as National Secretary."

On receipt of this Notice of Motion, the New South Wales Secretary contacted Management of the Commission and was pleased to find that the General Manager was still prepared to offer a National Secretary assistance as previously.

A recent meeting of the New South Wales Committee fully considered the Notice of Motion and are prepared to recommend its adoption to members of all Associations. It is realised that the Constitution will need to be altered and details of the alterations will be advised in the Newsletter immediately prior to the next Annual General Meeting. It is thought that a title of General Secretary may be more appropriate than that of National Secretary.

It is usual in organizations who are National bodies and have a Federal or General Secretary, for the Committees of the various State Branches to consider the nominations and make the appointment rather than have an election where all members of the Association vote. As New South Wales has far greater numbers than the other States, a vote by all members could always sway in their favour and therefore the suggestion that the appointment be made by the Committees is strongly recommended.

It is also recommended that nominations be called in this Newsletter closing on the 31st March, 1973 and the nominations to be notified in the April Newsletter. It is pointed out that nominations must be accompanied by a signed declaration that the nominee is in fact prepared to undertake the duties of the position.

It has been suggested that the functions of the General Secretary should be:- responsible to the State Secretaries for liaison and co-ordination with State Secretaries, promoting the Association nationally, issue a regular Newsletter, contact with kindred overseas organizations and for the operation of and accounting for the General Secretary's expense account.

Your Committees in each State have considered these proposals and a suggestion has been made that as Mr. Carthew has been nominated in the Notice of Motion as National Secretary, that the Committees immediately appoint him as Acting General Secretary between now and the next General Meetings so that the concept of a General Secretary can be operated on a trial basis.

#### VALE

It is regretted to advise that during the year the following pioneers passed to greener fields:- V.J. Claxton (N.S.W.); W.G. MacGregor (VIC); C.T. McNamara (N.S.W.); J.C. Ewing (S.A.); H. Grinter (S.A.); A.Y. Pringle (VIC).

#### SOUTH AUSTRALIAN NEWS

"The Adelaide Branch of the OTC Veteran's Association held their "Winter" meeting at the Breckneck Hotel on the evening of May 25th 1972. This time we had an attendance of only 13, partly because of the cold weather and the "Winter ailments" of some of our older members, and partly because of our sadly decreasing numbers. Those present were:- Longun Evans; Ken Springbett; Leo Gleeson; Brax Horrocks; Bert Dudley; Graham Little; George Rowe; Ken Collett; Cliff Birks; Ralph Matthews; Gerald Shaw; Eric Story; and Norman Giles.

Since our last meeting two of our members, Jack Ewing, and Harry Grinter, passed on to happier hunting grounds. We shall miss them.

Interstate Veterans may be interested in the following regarding some of the other Adelaide members:- Eric Syme our President has been admitted to the Royal Adelaide Hospital with heart trouble. We all wish Eric a quick and complete recovery. Rocky Gordon is still at Mannum but is not at all well - certainly quite unable attend our meetings in Adelaide. Harry Naylor is at the "Aldersgate" Home at Klemzig, Harry is well, but unfortunately quite blind - some of us go out to see him and yarn over old times. Charlie Smith Still goes backwards and forwards to Broken Hill where he has some mining interests, when in Adelaide he resides on his property near Balhannah. Bill Lemon We haven't seen recently but we hear he is well and that he now lives at Belair. Harold Oats as young as ever, plays a lot of golf, he usually comes to our meetings but was away on the last occasion. Cecil Shortt, keeps very fit in mind and body. He always comes to our meetings, but was unable on this occasion. "Muhlie" Muhlhan. Not very well these days, has had a lot of sickness over the last couple of years. Unable attend our meetings. Harry Chinner Has only just given up playing tennis. He rarely misses one of our meetings. Harry Crawley We never seem to see Harry these days - we know he goes to the races fairly regularly, and of course still plays bowls.

We had letters from Bruce Sutherland who has retired to Nelson N.Z. Bruce intends coming to see us next year, he reports that he is very fit - in fact better than he has been for many years: and from Pat Sykes who is a "semi retired" gentleman in Dalkeith W.A. he too keeps well and is enjoying life as is his want."

### WESTERN AUSTRALIA NEWS

The 5th annual gathering and reunion of the Ex Cottesloe cable staff was held at Ron Cocker's home at Myaree on the 14th December. Those who attended were:- R.P. Cocker; V.B. Gibson; H. Clark; P. Beebar; J.O. Thomas; T. McCarthy; H. Burdett; D. Else; A.J. Black; G. Tacey; B. Wells; B. Morrell; F. McKay and C. Watt.

The O.T.C. Chairman, Commissioners and General Manager visited Perth recently and invited a number of pioneers to a buffet dinner. Secretary, Brian Morrell, reports that Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Black; Mr. & Mrs. Herk Clark; Mr. & Mrs. Bill Wells; Mr. & Mrs. Tim McCarthy; Mr. & Mrs. Harry Rumble; Frank McKay; Vernon Gibson; Charlie Watt; Jack Thomas and Brian Morrell, attended. All had an excellent evening and were not only pleased to meet the O.T.C. executives, but were delighted to think that they were not forgotten.

### VICTORIAN NEWS

The Annual General Meeting held in May was a huge success with 56 members in attendance. Also in attendance was Sydney Secretary, Gordon Cupit, N.S.W. youngest veteran Tom Molloy and O.T.C. Public Relations Manager, Bob Adams. Our thanks to veteran Harold White for arranging for these gentlemen to be in the Melbourne office to coincide with our Annual General Meeting. The talks with Gordon Cupit helped in an understanding of the National Secretary proposal and it is hoped that the veterans will go national in the very near future.

Those attending the Annual General Meeting were:- F.C. Davis; E. Turner; H. Lake; M. Blain; C.B. Cutler; R. Lane; J.R. Hunter; C.R. Waite; E.A. Willington; H.B. Tyler; J.E. Reynolds; T. Lang; C. Purvis; E.M. Dennis; J. Hutchinson; J. R. Jordan; L. Brown; T. Read; E. Trezise; G. Magnus; F. Ash; L. Foley; A.W. Stewart; H.E. Rowe; V. Molineux; W. Bentley; C. Benson; G.J. Day; M. Hinneberg; M.J. Treacy; M. Fernando; F. Green; C.W. Carthew; K. Stockdale; W.J. Uwins; M. Wilton; F. Micallef; J. Heathershaw; F.B. Dunstall; D. Crabtree; A.R. Finch; T.M. Connolly; S.M. Bright; J. Chalkley; D.A. Tippet; W. Ferguson; G.E. McDonald; J. Cornish; J. McGrory; F.J. Handley; B. Starr; L. McCarthy; J. Robinson; G. Whitmore; D. Humphries; and D. Batten.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Veteran Gus Hart and family on the sad passing of Mrs. Hart. Gus is in Heidelberg Military Hospital after undergoing an operation for a leg amputation.

It was like the old days over again when Jack Chalkley and Tom Connolly paid a surprise visit to Wilf Atkin on the Gold Coast, they sure would have much to yarn about.

During September Thelma and Bill Uwins visited West Australia taking in Geraldton, Perth and Esperance. It was a pleasant surprise when Arthur Black joined them at Perth for the Geraldton section of the tour.

Geoff and Sybil Cox sent a card from London. They are now half way through their world tour and due to depart for Scotland by car. While in London they saw the Wimbledon tennis and the cricket test matches.

In 1940 the Beam Wireless Golf Club Trophy, which was donated by the late Roy Mancer, was won by Bert Pringle who died recently. Owing to the war the golf competition ceased and, during the intervening years, Bert held the cup. Previous winner's names engraved on the cup are the late Harry Neil, the late Fred Griffiths, the late Cliff Sproule and Al Boord. Mrs. Pringle has asked O.T.V.A. (Vic) to accept this memento of days gone by and perhaps revive the competition under veteran auspices. A kind and thoughtful gesture and much appreciated.

✓

9

Mr. & Mrs. Vin Joiner plan to motor at leisure in their new Torana 2250 leaving Melbourne 17th September for Coolangatta via Sydney town. From Coolangatta they leave the car and take the coach to Brisbane then fly to Cairns hoping to meet old friends and colleagues on the way. Vin telephoned to confirm the Annual Reunion date and plans to be back in Melbourne before the 10th November 1972.

We give a warm welcome to new member Lindsay Shepherd.

Old Cable & Wireless pioneer Chris Fox and his good wife Barbara who attended the 1966 Annual Reunion have decided to leave Falmouth and settle in Australia - probably Victoria - early in 1973. A warm welcome awaits our friends.

The amendment to the constitution to allow ladies to join after 20 years resulted in Merle Short; Joan Miller; Lillian McCarthy; Mrs. Mary Lane and Mrs. Jean Edwards to join our ranks. To these ladies we offer a warm welcome, but due to their very good work over the years in assisting the veterans at their functions, they are not really newcomers. Another very active worker, Mr. Gosney, and several other ladies will now become eligible within the next two years.

Congratulations to Veteran E.M. Dennis on celebrating not only his Golden Wedding but being elected as President of the Victorian Association for 1972/73. Ernie joined the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company in 1904 and served at Sydney, La Perouse, Adelaide, Darwin, Wellington, Melbourne, Cottersloe, Fanning Island and finally retired from the service in 1946.

Appreciation to O.T.C. Melbourne Manager, veteran Jim Robinson, and the Commercial Section, for making available the excellent colour documentary film shown at the Annual General Meeting and very special thanks to Mrs. Gosney, Mrs. Lane and Mrs. Wileman for again preparing the tables in so an attractive and appetising manner.

We are indebted to O.T.C. for sending copies of "TRANSIT" and the coverage given to veteran activity each month.

Roley Lane retires November 1st and Vi Molineux December 29th ... Very best wishes to both.

Since our last "Get Together" two old friends and highly esteemed colleagues, Bill MacGregor and Bert Pringle, have passed on . . . We mourn their loss.

Remember the 16th annual reunion to be held on Friday, 10th November, 1972 at O.T.C. House, 382 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne, commencing at 5.30 p.m. Venue by courtesy of Management. Subscription if \$2.00.

Greetings to Jack Guthrie (N.S.W.); Bert Dudley (S.A.); Brian Morrell (W.A.); Bill Craig (New Zealand) and kindred veteran associations in Canada, U.S.A. and U.K.

#### NEW SOUTH WALES NEWS

The Annual General Meeting of the New South Wales Association was held in the Dining room of the Sydney G.P.O. on the 24th May, 1972. It was a very successful meeting, highlighted by the attendance of our lady members. Those who attended are: H. Waugh; H.W. McInnes; W.E. Zihrul; T.J. Molloy; R.H. Welbourn; C. Maiden; R.J. Christoffersen; C. Tressider; V.S. Litchfield; A.E. Sheppherd; L.C. King; J. Hodgson; D.B. Treliving; L. Vella; B.W. Collett; R.M.D. Towner; W.W. Jenvey; F.J. Hinds; H. Sharpe; G. Johnston; E.J. Cockle; R.H. Payne; R. Carragher; R.J. McDonald; G. Gosewinckel; C. Watson; G. Maltby; K.L. Erickson; F.C. Hickling;

✓

D.A. Bourne; B. Woods; R. Baty; M.J. Casey; A.T. Purtill;  
W. Anthoney; R.P. Doohan; W. Ellershaw; G.O. Cupit; A.L. Batten;  
W.N. Cowie; B. White; R.S. Moyes; M. Dwyer; H. Stone; H.S. Burgess;  
J. Grosbard; J.G. Guthrie; D. Fleming; R. Smith; R.R. Davis;  
A.B. Sharland; C.R. Stanfield; D. McIntosh; A. Oliver; K.E. Vincent;  
H. Cook; A. Ebert; C.W. Swinney; J.H. Collister; W.A.P. Luke;  
C.R. Dalley; G.R. Weston; R. Godfrey; D. Montgomery; L. Rourke;  
G.J. Wheeler; K. Wilmot; F. Doolette; G.T. Hughes; A.H. Wells; Mr.  
K. Bondfield; J.N. Edwards; E.B. Gunning; K.R. Banks; C.A. Barden;  
A.H. Griffiths; D. Woods; A.W. Culloden; J. Rowley; H.A. de Dassel;  
H.K. Greenhill; J. Lee; G. Broadbent; R. Adams; and A. Keenan.

### Barbecue

We will be holding a barbecue at Bringelly on Sunday 29th October 1972 for veterans, wives, families and friends.

We would like to make this occasion a special back to Bringelly day and have those veterans who have been on the staff at Bringelly to specially attend. Veterans living in the Eastern Suburbs with cars may care to pick up old Bringellians such as Jack Heavey and Ray Bailey. A call to the Secretary will find their addresses.

### Annual Reunion

Will be held in the Dining Room of the G.P.O. (9th floor) on Friday 17th ~~December~~ **17 NOV 1972** commencing 6 p.m.

Interstate pioneers welcome to both the Reunion and Barbecue.

Veterans Val Litchfield and Trev Hughes retired from O.T.C. recently; Val has gone to Dora Creek (Lot 58 Cowell Street) on the shores of Lake Macquarie; Trev will be going overseas and on return will be taking up residence at Crescent Head on the north coast, the Post Office or general store will show you where he lives. Both gents would be pleased at any time to see old friends and colleagues.

We welcome Victorian veteran W.M. Cartwright to Sydney, no doubt he has moved up here for the better weather.

Harry de Dassel got tired of that magnificent view at Nambucca. He can now be found at 5 Balcolyn Street, Balcolyn which is via Morriset and like Val Litchfield is on the shores of Lake Macquarie. He is getting tired of talking to the birds and would be pleased to see any of his friends.

Vince Joiner called in to Sydney on his way through recently. We were pleased to see him looking so well and wish him a happy trip.

Sydney friends of Gus Hart were very sorry to hear of the death of his life partner. Good fortune has certainly not passed Gus's way as he has been in hospital for some months and the doctors amputated his leg only 5 days before Mrs. Hart's death. We trust Gus that you will have no further problems with the leg and that you will be able to get around as well as fellow Sydney veteran, Jack Bassett.

18 months ago Norm Foxcroft whilst on a trip to Melbourne suffered an illness and has been living down there with his sister ever since. He can be found at 71 Severn Street, Box Hill and would like to see any of his old friends.

Had a letter from fellow member Bruce Sutherland who is living in Nelson, New Zealand. His address is 96a Princes Drive, should his old friends wish to contact him.

A letter from Harry Oates reports that he is just back from a six months holiday with his wife in Bermuda where they stayed with their daughter and son-in-law. Harry recommends Bermuda to anyone who has the time and money for a holiday there. A few points of interest are: that Bermuda is only 700 sea miles from New York. Although the greatest length of the Island is only 23 miles and less than 3 miles in width at its widest part, it has a population of 53,000. It is an extremely pretty island with houses painted in the brightest of colours. Casuarina trees (imported from Australia) abound throughout the island. Prior to 1940 all the trees on the island were cedar but these were destroyed by a pest during the war years resulting in the importation of the Casuarina. There are some beautiful hotels particularly near the capital (Hamilton) with accommodation for up to 1,000 guests in each motel. All types of water sports are available, including water skiing with plenty of good fishing in clear crystal waters. There are a number of small golf courses. There is colour TV and all hotels are excellent but the tariff is colossal.

We are pleased to advise that another one of our lady members, Lydia King, has been honoured by the Queen with the Imperial Service Medal. This is to be presented to her by the Governor and she will be a very proud lady on that day.

Sydney was surprised by the recent visit of Tom Pattinson and Mrs. Pattinson from South Australia. Tom will be well remembered for his many years as Cable and Wireless and O.T.C. O.I.C. Counter, and Traffic Representative. When Tom left Aarons closed down and O.T.C. inaugurated a Commercial Branch. Surprising what effect one man retiring can have. It was nice seeing you Tom.

We have received a letter from Mrs. Joe Reed and she has advised that Joe had quite a collection of photographs, books, press cuttings, diaries, etc. concerning wireless activities from the time he first entered the Industry in 1910, until his death in 1969.

Included in the collection is a photograph of the first office staff of the Coastal Radio Service at Collins House, Melbourne in 1922. The staff at that time numbered only about 30. Mrs. Reed was appointed there as a shorthand-typist soon after the Coastal Radio Service was formed after the First World War. During the War the Stations were administered by the Navy. Mrs. Reed was junior to Veteran Mrs. Edwards (formerly Miss Jean Constable) and they did most of the correspondence for members of the Engineering staff, which included Cliff Outler, A.S. McDonald, George Weston, George Apperley and Bill Conry. The Radio Inspector, J. Martin, was also there and it was there that Mrs. Reed first met Joe, where he was working in the Test room conducting telephony experiments with Bill Conry. This was 1921. Joe and George Apperley conducted the first experiments in wireless telephony when communication was established between Sorrento on the mainland and Tasmania.

A great deal of Joe's literature and historical relics have been given to the Sydney Technical College and Wireless Institute, and a lot of his equipment has been distributed to Youth Radio Clubs. Harold Burtoft of the Wireless Institute has quite a large Museum at his home of antique radio equipment. The Museum includes old Telefunken transmitters and some of Joe's equipment has now been incorporated.

Mrs. Reed, through Joe's fanatical interest in radio, has kept in touch with Joe's old friends, particularly Bill Jenvey, and she would no doubt be pleased to hear from any others.

#### DO YOU REMEMBER?

The day Mick Taylor wore "bombay bloomers" and 'Baldy' Stone crawled under the table.

The time Melbourne President, Ernie Dennis, went hunting ducks at Fanning. He went hunting often but this particular day he swung the shot-gun and the recoil knocked out some of daughter Patty's teeth.

Also at Fanning, the day a Manta-ray collected Ernie's anchor rope.

Dave Quinn and the strip shows at the "Occidental".

The night "give him K" was locked in the Technician's workshop.

The first meeting of the A.W.A. Welfare Board in early 1930.

Members were: H.R. Allen; J.F. McGinely; G.D. Reynolds;

T.J. O'Leary; V. Brecker; G.H. Chilton; O.A. Jarman;

E.M. Bain; M.G. Pope; R.R. Freeman; Harry Lamb; A.R. Mancer;

W.C.H. Hodges; F.C. Davis; C. Carthew; W.P. Atkin; H. Selfe;

J. Shore; F.T. McGrath; J.J.W. Lamb; F. Stuart.

Does Jack Davis remember the 6" bands?

#### LOST

Mail to following has been returned and the Sydney Secretary would appreciate their new address:

Frank Forrest - W.A.

Bill Lemon - S.A.

Harry Naylor - S.A.

#### GENERAL

We are pleased to see some ladies joining our ranks. It is also interesting to note that our Marconi Colleagues in the United Kingdom have elected a lady as their first ever President - and why not?

It has been suggested that we should include veterans ages and or years of service in communications on lapel badges at our functions. Your views on this would be appreciated.

#### FINAL EPISODE OF THE EPIC BIKE RIDE

Once more at a critical moment things went right. September 18th was a lovely day and improved roads enabled Macdonald to reach Wilmington (107 m) by nightfall. On the morning of the 19th fortune really smiled on the intrepid cyclist. Before the day was far advanced a strong north wind rose and increased to gale force, driving the overlander before it at such a rate that on every down grade his only difficulty was to avoid going too fast.

The run from Wilmington to Adelaide, 187 miles by his cyclometer, in one day, placed the ultimate success of the undertaking beyond all doubt and occasioned a remarkable degree of astonishment and delight amongst the overlander's friends and admirers, as well as the public generally, which found eloquent expression in the enthusiastic cheers of the immense crowd which waited at the G.P.O. to witness his arrival at 9.45 p.m. No sooner had he passed round the corner of the G.P.O. into Victoria Square than the bells in the tower rang out their welcome by chiming the three-quarters. Promptly, as if this had been the signal, the crowd burst into the wildest cheering and when he dismounted from his bike his old friends lost no time in hoisting him shoulder high. As he was carried round the office where, years ago, he had performed his daily duties as an operator, amidst the cheering and friendly greetings shouted to him he felt that no hardship or privation would be too severe to undergo in order to win such enthusiastic applause.

Of the remainder of the journey to Melbourne the kindness and attention shown him by all with whom he came in contact and the warm reception given him at the end of his long journey by the Victorian people, Macdonald speaks with pleasure and gratitude. His testimonial to the sponsor says that the "Swift" No. 1 Light Roadster fitted with Dunlop tyres & gave me complete satisfaction...the excellent order in which the machine arrived in Melbourne is a more eloquent testimony in its favor than anything I can pen.

Port Darwin to Adelaide (2066 miles) 28 days 15 hours 30 minutes.  
 Port Darwin to Melbourne (2596 miles) 33 days 5 hours 30 minutes.  
 Daily average including total 2 days stop - 78 miles  
 Actual riding time 8 miles per hour.

### FLASH BACK

During the 2nd world war work on the London Beam Wireless Circuit in M.O.R. was not without incident. Signals exchanged both ways at 120 to 150 W-P-M ZSO and a break now and then for paper, ink, retune or what have you with traffic flowing smoothly....no fuss, no bother, just pure routine to be suddenly interrupted by ZAN...absolutely nothing. The muted morse sounder meant that enemy planes were overhead and an air raid in progress. Minutes ticked by and we waited patiently until our colleagues "over there" received the "all clear" and resumed where the break occurred. Just like that. The unassuming nonchalance of it all inspired admiration for the "Dunkirk Spirit" of organised effort and no wonder we Aussies were eager to send food parcels "home" in token of admiration and esteem. Yes, that surely was a time to remember.

Looking through an old copy of a P.R.E.I. Circular dated 1930, the following notes on shortwave were found. Many of you old-timers should be interested and it is assumed that the J.A.H. is Jack Heavey.

### Short Wave Notes

(By J.A.H.)

The volume of business on the transatlantic telephony circuit has opened a further channel, there now being two short wave stations in America - one at Lawrenceville and the other at Netcong. On the English side there is one at New Scuthgate and another Deal. In addition to the short wave routes a long wave station operates on 5,000 metres on the same service. A very good list of short wave broadcasting stations of the world was published in "Wireless World" of November 27th. 1929, and it is generally accurate. Stations are arranged in order of wavelength and with usual times of transmission. This is a list worth having on hand. The bands allocated for short wave broadcasts under the Washington Conference are as follows:-

13.9	14	metres
16.85	16.9	"
19.55	19.85	"
25.2	25.6	"
31.2	31.6	"
48.8	50	"

Several transatlantic liners have now been equipped with wireless telephony short wave apparatus and the land stations may be heard carrying out tests with them on wavelengths ranging from 14 metres to 35 metres. Nauen on 14.83 metres testing with "Bremen", English stations on about 22 metres testing with R.M.S. "Majestic" (call sign G2IV), "Olympic" (call sign GLSQ) and "Berengaria" (call sign GBZW) and an American Station WOO testing with the "Leviathan".

- KIXR      KZRM Manila program lately on 26.3 metres testing with a view of getting right wavelength suitable for reception in both Australia and California. This station may be found either on 31.3, 26.3 or 49 metres.
- G5SW      25.53 metres. 2 L.O. Program heard nightly from 10.30 p.m. to 11.30 p.m. except Saturday and Sunday.
- RA97      70.2 metres. Still broadcasting nightly. Maximum strength and so is the static on this band.



- W6XN      Oakland, Cal. KGO program still very weak in the afternoon and date and times of transmission irregular.
- There is a Station broadcasting nightly just above 5SW wave heard in Sydney from 8 p.m. onwards. Announcements are made in foreign language. If you are a countryman of this announcer please forward the station name.
- GBX      27.86 metres two way with 2ME nightly except Saturday and Sunday.
- GBX      15.8. metres tests with 2ME nightly except Saturday and Sunday.
- G5DH      Testing on 12 and 13.5 usually from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. We would welcome reports from anyone hearing these tests.
- PHI      16.80 metres Huizen Holland has been on the air quite a number of times lately usually from 10.30p.m. onwards. Reception very good.

I am at present using a Marconi 2 Volt Screen Grid Valve S225 type for all short wave work. This Valve is without a doubt something worth anchoring in any receiver.

Also in the same Circular is an article on a Marine Log of Claims. The following comparison between the pre-1916 Marine rates of pay and those of the 1916 Agreement are worth noting. It is also interesting to find out that the first activities of the Institute were in 1916, very soon after it was first formed.

#### 1916 Agreement Rates

1st year	6.10.0 per month	1st year	9
2nd year	7.11.8 " "	2nd year	10
3rd year	8.13.4 " "	3rd year	11
4th year	9.15.0 " "	4th year	12
5th year	10.16.8 " "	5th year	13
6th year	11.1.8 " "	6th year	14
Sub Inspector	13.0.0 " "	7th year	15
		8th year	16
		Sub Inspector	2 above his ordinary rate.

#### Rabaul Volcanic Eruption 1937

Recently a story appeared in Transit on the Rabaul eruption and the Author, Jack Burgess, thought that Veterans may care to have an expanded version.

From time to time over a long period of years I have been asked by many colleagues of A.W.A. and O.T.C. for the story of the Rabaul Volcano Eruption in 1937 regarding the Wireless facilities available from the Rabaul Station.

So after 35 years I cast my mind back to those 14 days from 27th May to 10th June 1937 when disaster struck the residents of Rabaul, resulting in 2 european and some natives deaths..plus a large number suffering from injuries..Mrs. Thomas, wife of one of the A.W.A. staff members suffered a broken leg when boarding the relief ship Montoro of the Burns Philp Line..

Just prior to the Eruption, the Rabaul Wireless Station had been transferred from the original German Station at Bitapaka (Approx 30 miles up on the mountains from Rabaul) to Rabaul where it was split up into two distinct units viz: Transmitting Station situated at the Kokopo end of Malaguna Avenue and approx 1½ miles from Rabaul. The receiving Station was situated almost in the centre of the town and in addition to the receiving facilities this building also had an accepting office plus a Radio Telephone Booth, where Radio Telephone calls were available from noon to 1 p.m. Mondays to Fridays..to Australia and beyond..

The Transmitting Station was open from 7a.m. to approx 6p.m. Mondays to Friday and 7a.m. to 5p.m. Saturday.. The Station was open on Sunday to cover the 11a.m. schedule..when clear of traffic was closed..

The station was staffed by Messrs. Chas Sturgeon and C. Alexander.. The equipment for the station was built by A.W.A. and installed by Jack Doggett from the A.W.A. wireless station at Pennant Hills.

It consisted of:

- (a) Main transmitter of 200 watts, Xtal controlled with Buffer stage and final amplifier. A Modulator unit to modulate the main transmitter for the Radio Telephone Service was also available..This Transmitter was for direct communication to Australia through the A.W.A. receiving station at La Perouse.
- (b) 2nd transmitter of approx 500 watts self excited oscillator type for clearing traffic received from Australia and beyond to the outstations of Wau, Lae, Bulolo, Salamao, Aitape, Wewak, Kavieng, Kieta, Manus, Truk and two skeds daily with Samarai.
- (c) 2 Type R Transmitters of 20 watts as spares for the outstations..
- (d) 500 watt transmitter for ship to shore communication.
- (e) Power supply:- Main supply supplies by the local town supply..Emergency Supply..Ruston Hornsby Diesel driving an Alternator..

The Receiving Station consisted of two main receivers in use most of the time plus a rack unit for use on the Sydney/Rabaul radio telephone service.

The other receivers were used on the direct Sydney Rabaul service and the second one for receiving traffic from the outstations.

A 3rd receiver was in use when required for ship/shore service.

A Low Powered Transmitter of approx 200 watt for communicating with ships at sea on 500 Kc/s from 6p.m. to 11p.m. during the period the Transmitting station had closed.

The transmitting station was controlled from the town office by relays. Staffing at the receiving centre:- J. Twycross Radio Inspector and Manager.

#### Telegraphists

Messrs. E. Bishton, W.R. Thomas, T. Thompson, L. Coleman, Mr. Doherty, Staffing/L. Farnsworth and your truly..Counter Officer..H. Taylor.

The Receiving Station was open 7a.m. to 11p.m. daily. From 5p.m./ 11p.m. the watch was exclusive to the ship watch on 500 kc/s.

#### Eruption

A succession of severe earth tremors which commenced on Friday May 28th AND continued throughout the night with the frequency of the tremors increasing to approx one every two minutes with a duration from one to one and a half minute .. Not many of the locals slept that night..

At the Station, service continued normally with much difficulty with keen eyes scanning Blanche Bay as well as the typewriters..

The Management of A.W.A. had been kept fully informed of events throughout the morning..

At approximately 4.15p.m. on Saturday afternoon the local residents rushed to the fore shore where from Vulcan Island, across the bay looking towards Kokopo, a spectacle so colossal it held all spectators spell bound.. From Vulcan Island there arose a huge column of white cloud impregnated with rocks and Pumice in undulating folds rolling skywards, the picture resembling the pictures we are familiar with explosions from atom bombs..

I was a spectator at one of the cricket matches when this event happened. I proceeded to the station where Len Coleman was on duty plus another who I fail to remember.. they had just informed the management of A.W.A. the Station was now closing down indefinitely and staff being evacuated to Kokopo and Bitapaka.

From memory I think Jum Twycross had boarded the steamer Montoro in the hopes of keeping radio contact with Australia from there..

Len Coleman had gone aboard the American ship Golden Bear with the same idea.. both these ships were engaged in evacuating the local residents to Kokopo 25 miles away from Nodup waterfront..

Most of the station staff with wives and children had proceeded to Bitapaka where accommodation was provided..

By 5.15p.m. the column of steam, smoke, rocks and pumice dust having ascended some thousands of feet in the air started to spread out like a mushroom, gradually shutting off the sun and spreading all over Blanche Bay, it gradually got darker and darker until eventually it became black and all visibility was lost. The night grew fearsome with deafening detonations as each fresh explosion occurred, thunder pealed continuously, forked lightning lit the sky for a minute or two..

I with many others proceeded up Namanula heights and spent the night in Government House.. where the view of the eruption was tremendous.. No sleep that night and no way of getting out of the town as all water transport had gone and the road to Kokopo was blocked by the eruption..

Next morning (Sunday) I cautiously proceeded down town and was surprised to meet up with young C. Alexander who was on his first assignment with A.W.A. Although the velocity of the eruption continued the visibility was good as a wind had sprung up and the smoke and dust was being swept up the North Coast.

We proceeded to the transmitting station where, except for a deep coating of pumice dust on the roof, everything appeared OK..

We found that the town supply of electricity had been cut and not available, we then put the emergency power into operation and found the Diesel engine easy to start..

Our normal sked 11a.m. Sundays with Sydney was getting close and in order to get contact as soon as possible and not to waste time by closing down the transmitter to receive Sydney it was decided I go to the receiving site and work Sydney from there.. where a continuous service could be maintained..

It was with a degree of satisfaction I found our control lines to the transmitting site was intact, but to my dismay found Sydney was not looking for me but holding contact with Townsville Radio. I was keying our main transmitter beautifully and after some fruitless calls gave the CQ call in hopes some Amateur station might hear me, our frequency was very close to theirs..

After a long period of silence from Sydney they suddenly got on to me. It appears the late H. Moore then Coastal Radio Superintendent of A.W.A. had picked up my CQ call and promptly alerted La Perouse I was there..From there everything got busy. By this time Chas Sturgeon had come out of the bush and joined Alexander at the transmitter, there were now three of us..

The Administrator of New Guinea Brig. Gen McNicoll was absent from Rabaul at the time visiting Wau on the mainland, I immediately phoned Government House to inform them I had radio contact with Australia (This was one phone line in order) Mrs. McNicoll immediately asked if she could send a message to her son Mr. McNicoll at the Sydney telegraph. This was accepted and was the first public message to leave the town..

Everything was proceeding smoothly, answering all queries from Sydney that could be answered, getting all the batteries from the town shops that could be obtained for our receivers, and in this regard the acting Administrator Judge Phillips was a great help, with no electrical disturbance in the town and running our receivers off batteries (dry) the reception from all stations was almost perfect, the only snarl was from vulcan where the hot air and steam from the crater was mixing with the cold air in the upper atmosphere with the result the static electricity generated therefrom was vicious especially on the lower wavelengths..

After about two hours contact with Sydney we were called to lunch. I think it was in the Rabaul Club and the grand total that sat down was about 10 persons, it resembled a ghost town..

The afternoon, I think about 1.30 p.m. the position worsened when Matapui blew its head. We now had two volcanoes belching skywards, Matapui on the town side of the harbour and Vulcan directly across the Harbour.. I did not see Matapui explode but I think it was Charlie Sturgeon who called me to get out post haste which I did again climbing the heights towards Namanula..Things appeared to quieten down later in the afternoon and was again able to contact Sydney and pass on what information I could about Matapui..

Not much paid traffic passing outward for a couple of days due to the fact the Administration at a hasty convened meeting Sunday afternoon decided for health reasons the town be evacuated, and this was duly carried out. Only those residents carrying on essential services were allowed to remain and they totalled 20.. There was no electric power, no sewerage, and no fresh rain water, only tank water available and it was thought that this would be contaminated by pumice dust which covered the town from 6 to 24 inches... People desiring to visit the town had to obtain a permit from the District Officer at Kokopo..

A second meeting Administration officials later on Sunday and arrangements made for quartering rations and supervision..All stores were commandeered and Officials detailed to special duties..This arrangement ensured the Radio staff would have sufficient batteries for the receivers and diesel oil for the emergency Diesel engine..

Sunday afternoon also brought the Administrator Brig Gen. McNicoll from the mainland per Guinea Airways plane. A safe landing at the new airdrome at Taliligap and he proceeded to Rabaul by schooner..

He paid us a personal visit on Monday morning with a heap of traffic for Canberra and a pat on the back for us..

We carried on for another three or four days when the rest of the staff started drifting in.. In the meantime the boys at Bitu Paka were able to obtain a low power transmitter. It came from the Montoro (courtesy Norm Odgers) and a radio service was inaugurated from Kokopo to Rabaul on a frequency somewhere in the 40 metre band, it was then we got busy. Press correspondents were our greatest enemy..All traffic from Rabaul was sent

by hand morse.. No automatic transmitters those days and I fail to remember how many thousands of words were sent..Perhaps Jack Hansson would have a good idea..

The Australian Government dispatched a naval tanker to Rabaul with fresh water, and Radio contact was established with this vessel until it arrived at Rabaul..

Some concern was felt if this vessel could berth as it was thought the Rabaul Harbour had filled in..This was caused by the large volume of Pumice Dust which had settled on the harbour and refused to sink. It was so thick in parts you could walk on it.. Gradually with tides and winds it gradually sank and Rabaul harbour took on its normal appearance.

After about ten days things started to normalise. Electricity had been restored to our stations, phones being repaired and streets cleared of debris and our staff had returned. It was then that clearing up of our establishments got under way. From memory I think there were 5 new houses on the receiving site and 3 at the transmitter. The roofs of these cottages were heavily packed with pumice dust and had to be cleaned. ~~One photo which goes with this article shows Native labourers cleaning the cottage occupied by T. Thompson. This cottage was the one nearest our office..~~

With all our outstation schedules restored and everything functioning normally, my term of service in New Guinea had terminated. I had spent approximately 8 months at Bita Paka, six months at Madang and the rest of my two year stay at Rabaul. So in June 1937 just about 6 or 7 weeks after the eruption I returned to Sydney Radio from where I had been onloan to clear long service leave accumulated at Rabaul..My stay in New Guinea had been most enjoyable both socially and financially.

#### S T O P   P R E S S

It is with regret that we advise the death of Victorian Veteran Geoff Buckland on 13th October, 1972. Up till last week Geoff has been carrying out his duties of Manager, Melbourne Radio although he has been a very sick man for the last couple of years. Our deepest sympathy goes out to Mrs. Buckland.

-----