



# NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER

1977

## VACANCY - GENERAL SECRETARY

As required by the Constitution, the position of General Secretary of the Veterans' Associations is required to be declared vacant each year and nominations are therefore called for the vacancy for 1978/79. Nominations closing 1st February, 1978 should be addressed to Mr. Charles Carthew, 7 Lantana Street, Clayton 3168.

The present General Secretary is Mr. Carthew who has indicated his willingness to continue in this important office for a further twelve months.

## HONOURS

All members will congratulate Randy Payne, Tom Hughes, Phil Chapman, Edgar Appleton, Eileen Bowker and Bill Henderson on being awarded the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal.

Friends of Eileen Bowker will be delighted to hear that she was also honoured with the British Empire Medal when the Queen's Birthday Honours were announced in June. "Bowkey" will be remembered as that unruffled super secretary of O.T.C.'s General Manager.

## VICTORIAN REUNION

The Victorian Association Reunion will be held on Friday, 11th November, 1977, commencing at 5.00 p.m. Again, with the kind permission of O.T.C.'s Management, the usual venue will be O.T.C. House, 382 Lonsdale Street.

The subscription to attend this Reunion is \$3.00 and an early R.S.V.P. to Charles Carthew, 7 Lantana Street, Clayton 3168, or telephone 544-2514 is essential to facilitate catering arrangements.

## H U M O U R !

ELLIS SMELLIE is very appreciative of the articles in the Newsletter, but suggests that there are many humorous anecdotes that could well appear in our pages. Many of our members in general conversation relate these tales so why not put them to pen and paper and forward to Gordon Cupit, O.T.C., Box 7000, G.P.O., Sydney, 2001.

## RANDOM NOTES FROM THE DIARY OF A WIRELESS OPERATOR

In the early 1920's Sydney based Marine Superintendent Hugo Phillips used a morse key and buzzer to call waiting radio operators by name to enter his office and there receive assignments. Another popular

personality in those far off days was Marine Inspector Tom Jones. Among the operating elite chaps who were known for their expertise in setting such a high standard of efficiency was Jack Chesterfield.

During the 1930's Beam Wireless came into focus with Jim Lamb, affectionately known and highly respected as "White Jim", the Superintendent. Lou Sherburn stood out as a gellist supreme with his uncanny rhythm, speed and accuracy. Tim O'Leary was then in charge of the beam messengers. From M.O.R. staff as a whole emerged personalities recalled even today at Veteran Reunions.

Charlie Sparks, the tobacconist, whose shop was situated just across the road from "Wireless House - Melbourne", never knew that his initials "CS", scrawled on traffic, earned many unaccounted-for "major A's"! The introduction of the name stamp put a stop to that little caper!

One particular memory left indelible imprint and relates to the courage and devotion to duty of operating personnel on the London end of the circuit during the "Blitz" period of World War II when, on the "alert", traffic would just stop suddenly and resume at the "all clear"... no fuss, no bother, just pure and simple stoicism and proof positive of high morale. The sending of food parcels to our colleagues "over there" was one obvious gesture of appreciation.

Manpower regulations bound all overseas telecommunicators to stay on the job throughout World War II and when made to work eight hours a day seven days a week, with overtime on top of that, it sure was pretty grim but it had to be done....sometimes you kind of met yourself going to the office coming home!

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#### WORLDWIDE BROADCASTING

Much has been said about the jubilee of the Beam Wireless Service that one tends to forget that we have another very important jubilee, that of the first worldwide broadcast from Australia. This great event took place on 5th September, 1927, the transmission being through 2ME, the experimental broadcasting station of A.W.A., the signals being transmitted from the Radio Centre at Pennant Hills. Old timers will remember at the time that radio station 2FC was owned and operated by Farmers & Co. The programme was arranged by 2FC with the Sydney Morning Herald co-operating in the historic occasion.

The reception in Great Britain was remarkably successful with the programme being re-broadcast by the BBC to over one million British crystal set users.

The first empire broadcast was a serious attempt to test in actual operation the result of four years of experiments carried out in the A.W.A. laboratories. No attempt was made to put the broadcast to air until actual tests had been carried out with Engineers in Britain, Canada, Africa and America.

From his home at Frankston in Victoria the Prime Minister, S.M. Bruce, delivered an empire message. This was carried over six hundred miles of landline to 2FC studios, then to Pennant Hills for the broadcast. This was followed by a programme in which a number of the top artists of the day took part. During the broadcast short greeting messages were passed by the Governor of N.S.W., leading Politicians and senior A.W.A. Board and Management members.

Newspapers from all parts of the empire gave the broadcast front-page treatment with glowing reports.

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Six weeks later a second empire broadcast took place, this also via 2ME and arranged by 2FC. The second broadcast was the first occasion on which a similar programme was transmitted on dual wave length - 422 metres, 2FC's normal frequency for local reception and 28.5 metres for overseas reception by 2ME.

The second broadcast also being successful, it was decided to experiment further and on 31st October a third empire broadcast on dual wave length was transmitted on 2ME and 2FC. On this occasion it was decided to attempt a relay through Great Britain to the United States and Canada.

The reception in Great Britain was excellent, with the exception of fade for a short period, and the programme was picked up in New York and re-transmitted by station WGY and its associated stations. Reception reports indicated that the programme was received in all parts of the U.S. with clarity and volume and remarkably free from serious fade. Unfortunately at times there was considerable QRM.

An interesting feature of the third broadcast was that station G-2NM in London received the Australian programme direct and relayed it back to Australia. This relay was heard in Sydney and a number of different parts of Australia. This provided a record accomplishment in radio science with the broadcast completely encircling the globe.

The programme commenced with the laugh of the kookaburra followed by calls of "Coo-ee" and the striking of the G.P.O. clock. These noises were something new to England listeners but sent the hearts of all Australians in Great Britain leaping. It was transmitted from Australia during the early morning hours so that those in England could listen prior to bedtime.

Two further broadcasts were made that year, one being on 26th December which comprised a special Christmas broadcast.

#### SICKIES

A number of our members have had illnesses and periods in hospital in the last six months. These we wish complete and speedy recoveries. We apologise to any member who has been ill and is not included in our list but this is only because your editor has not heard of the illness.

Al Boord	(Victoria)	Suffered a slight stroke which needed a period of convalescence.
Gerry Tacey	(W. Aust.)	In hospital with gall trouble.
Roy Tully	(N.S.W.)	Hospitalised following a heart attack.
Tom Hughes	(N.S.W.)	Hospitalised with massive heart attack which resulted in repair of arteries within the heart.
Claude Waite	(Victoria)	Underwent operation and now satisfactorily recovered.
Russ Welbourn	(N.S.W.)	Suffered a stroke just before Christmas.
Elsie Thornley	(N.S.W.)	Went to hospital for gall operation.
Edgar Appleton	(N.S.W.)	Operation for gallstones.

Charlie Swinney	(N.S.W.)	Hospitalised and in the same ward with Tiny Greenlees.
Tom Molloy	(N.S.W.)	Extended sick leave with hypertension resulting in his retirement.
Hedley Tyler	(Victoria)	Hospitalised for operation and now back home.
Eddy Trezise	(Victoria)	Hospitalised for operation and now back home.
Peter Finlayson	(Victoria)	Abdominal operation and back home.
Bill Jenvey	(N.S.W.)	Pneumonia but now okay.
Jim Taylor	(Victoria)	Ill at home and visited by Charles Carthew.
Bill Buchan	(Victoria)	Very ill at home.

#### BELATED THANK YOU

Jim Davis (ex S.O.R.) spent a number of months, including the Christmas/New Year period, in the St. George Hospital where he had a massive operation. He is now progressing well and has asked the editor to publish the following in the Newsletter.

"As I have little chance of replying personally to all those kind friends throughout the 'Commission' who either sent cards, telephoned and those who visited me during my stay in St. George Hospital and during my convalescing period at home - with the courtesy of 'Newsletter' I wish to thank all concerned of my well-being.

At present doing fine and hope to make a 'soonest' complete recovery, currently unable to pick up bricks, etc.; including keeping my 'Cue' in the rack (cuss it). However, as the months roll by, hope to renew acquaintances with friends at the O.T.C. who have helped out during the last few torrid months."

#### THANKS FOR THE MEMORY

Over in Western Australia, donations are contributed towards a "jar for the boys" and, in a like manner, Veterans in the U.K. "take wine" with old colleagues.

Different customs motivated by an identical spirit of good fellowship. If you have similar habits in your association, please let us know.

#### VICTORIAN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Victorian Association held their Annual General Meeting in the Amenities Room of O.T.C. House on Friday, 27th May, 1977. Sixty-five attended the meeting and included among the visitors were O.T.C.'s Chairman, Mr. Somervaille; O.T.C. Commissioner, Jack Curtis; Retired Commissioner, Ron Turnbull; O.T.C.'s Director (Administration), Tom Molloy; Bill Jenvey from the South Coast of N.S.W.; and Tom Connolly from afar Canberra.

Mark Wilton was elected President, Alan Vagg replaced Alex Stewart (immediate past President) on the Committee along with Bill Shea - vice Eddy Trezise, who did not stand. All other office bearers were re-elected unopposed.

A.W.A.'s marine manager, John Milton, was welcomed as a new member.

The ladies Noreen Gosney, Jean Edwards and Pearl Pete, together with young and willing veterans, again helped make the "get together" so enjoyable with the ready supply of ample food and refreshments. The signatures of those in attendance are published on another page of the Newsletter.

### OUR MELBOURNE HULLABALOO

(by ye oldest there)

After signing the attendance book and carefully putting a little extra into the subscription envelope for which Charlie, clever lad, never fails to thank me - I drank some beer. Then charging down like a rudderless tramp in a gale came popular, garrulous, gregarious, "old sea-dog" Oscar Ashe. (His name is Fred.)

An ex-Pommie, Oscar, shrewd enough to choose Melbourne above all others to live in, has four British pensions to keep him from starving. Ancient likeable Oscar was one much travelled sailor and a teller of tall tales of far-flung ports, ships and oceans. He was waving a cigar the size of the torch the Queen lit the bonfire with and yelling "DID YOU READ MY PAR?". I was on sticky ground as I did not remember his par. "What par?", I asked. "In the Newsletter", he roared. I had to gain time. "What Newsletter?" "The Veterans' Newsletter, the last one". I was cornered, my 'no' had staggered him, he reeled back and his cigar went out.

Oscar grabbed Matt Tracey who was passing and asked him the same question. Matt's answers were similar to mine which really made Oscar yell. Matt, six weeks my junior in age, is still a 'top dog' in a factory and was not going to say anything he could not prove in court. Oscar calmed down, he was dealing with these damned Colonials. "In the Veterans' Newsletter", he softly said. "From Sydney", persisted the morse man. Oscar was really down, he could only nod his head. Oscar with his head in his hands moaned, "Oh God, I sweat blood writing pars and no-one reads them". Matt and I looked at each other. "What next?"

But the British backbone stiffened, he came upright and with one mighty swallow he drained his glass and as only an Englishman can signalled for more.

Next day I rang Oscar, whose name is actually Fred. Oscar Ashe was a famous actor, therefore the nickname of Fred. His loving wife was joyous at getting him from under her feet, talking to another old gaffer on the phone. She probably brought the old fellow a chair. I told Oscar that I had read his pars - yes, there were two, and I had looked at the bottom for the author. None was there, however I found it at the top. To kid him to write more I told him the usual half truths and part lies. "Keep writing", I told him, "our Newsletter, unlike 'Transit', is short on laughs".

Anyway, pars being published do not matter much, it is the writing of them which is rewarding. More of the veterans should give it a whirl. My first burst of talk had been quickly stopped by Oscar butting in with, "Wait a bit Ellis, my cigar has an inch of ash on it". "Have you ever seen a cigar with ash at both ends?" That's good enough for the

Newsletter I laughed, which gave me the inspiration for this epistole.

#### WESTERN AUSTRALIAN REUNION

The Western Australian Association will be holding their 1977 gathering at the Imperial Hotel on Thursday, 24th November, 1977 commencing around 1700 hours. Full particulars can be obtained from Brian Morrell on telephone 23 7241 during business hours. Interstate Veterans welcome but suggest clear with Brian beforehand.

#### NEW SOUTH WALES REUNION

The New South Wales Association will be holding their reunion on Friday, 25th November, 1977 in the O.T.C. Staff Cafeteria. Doors will open at 5 p.m. and interstate visitors welcome, but as catering is most important, please get in touch with Gordon Cupit on 230 5840 as early as possible.

#### SOUTH AUSTRALIAN REUNION

The South Australian Association will be holding their reunion on the same night as the West Australian Association, that is 24th November, 1977. Full details can be obtained from Brax Horrocks or Bert Dudley.

#### O.T.C. STAFF CAFETERIA

Approval has been given for Veterans and O.T.C. Retired Officers to use the O.T.C. Staff Cafeteria in Hosking Place for lunch should they be in town at that hour. It is regretted that due to the large numbers of staff using the Cafeteria, it is not possible for Veterans and Retired Officers to bring their wives for lunch.

The Cafeteria has been operating now for 12 months and has proved a highly successful amenity for O.T.C. staff. It is open from noon to 2 p.m. on week-days, however for faster service it is best to be there between 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. The menu gives a number of choices and the quality is excellent with very reasonable prices. Members are required to wear their Veterans Badge to gain entry, and it is hoped to see Veterans making the Cafeteria a regular meeting place to see old friends.

Further particulars can be obtained from Gordon Cupit on telephone 230 5840.

#### TO PASTURE

##### ALF GOEBY

Alf has decided to retire after 38 years in communications. From 1939 to 1945, Alf was posted to the Army Signals Experimental Establishment at Monegeeta in Victoria where he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. His duties included experimental and testing work of radio transmitting and receiving equipment for the Army.

Alf joined O.T.C. in 1950 and was posted to M.O.R. where during the years until his retirement he worked in the various grades of Traffic Assistant and finally on Counter duties.

ALAN RITCHIE

Alan joined A.W.A. at the Ashfield Works in 1934 where he remained until 1939 when transferred for a one-year term at Lord Howe Island. His next posting was to Rabaul where he spent another year and then transferred to the Marine Service in 1941.

Alan's first ship was the "Lady Isobel" which plied between Melbourne and Townsville. He later joined the "Barwon" on which he was torpedoed. She limped back to port and was later bombed by Japanese aircraft in port at Darwin. He received the "Burma (Pacific) Star" whilst serving on the "Merkur".

During 1943 A.W.A. considered Alan had taken enough war risks and transferred him to the A.W.A. Laboratory at Leichhardt. After approximately one year he was transferred to the Transmitting Centre at Pennant Hills and was there for the O.T.C. takeover. In 1954 Alan volunteered for service at Port Moresby and remained at Moresby for the next six years. His last posting of seventeen years was to the Doonside Transmitting Station where he remained until his retirement. During Alan's forty-three years in the service he saw many changes in the radio communications sphere.

Alan has not been in the best of health of late and we trust this improves during retirement.

LES ILIFFE

Les Iliffe, for many years the Maintenance Man at Bringelly, a keen sportsman and function attender, unfortunately misses out on membership of the Veterans by a mere two years. He retired in June and a party was held at Bringelly to celebrate his retirement. Les made many friends in the service and I am sure we will still hear a great deal of him.

JOE MCGOWAN

Joe McGowan, P.R.E.I., retired on 29th July. During his thirty odd years with the Institute Joe with his brother, Laurie, was a great fighter for improving the conditions of the P.R.E.I. members and a number of excellent conditions we now enjoy are the result of his efforts.

KATH MORGAN

Kath retired from the services of the Commission after forty-three years in communications. She joined the Eastern Extension Cable Company in June, 1934 and was immediately educated in the mystery of communications by being allotted to clerical duties in the Abstracts Section. Six years later under Cable and Wireless she was transferred from Abstracts to general duties where she remained until the takeover by O.T.C. in 1946. She was then posted to the General Accounts Section and took up as Cashier in 1962. 1963 was an important year for Kath as she

was granted full Third Division clerical status and promoted to Clerk in the General Accounts Section on C.R.S. pay duties. Kathy being versatile only lasted in the Pay Section for three years and transferred back to Traffic Accounts. Three years again saw another move when she was promoted to the Clients Accounts Section where she remained until her retirement.

Being of a very personal nature, Kath made many friends and a great number of these were present at her farewell functions and dinner. She will be missing from the scene for a while as she intends an extensive overseas tour.

#### EARLY RETIREMENTS

The following members of O.T.C. recently retired due to ill health and we wish them well in retirement and big improvements in health.

##### EDGAR APPLETON

Edgar commenced his communications career in 1942 as a Radar Officer in the R.A.A.F. During the last couple of years of the war he was Officer-in-Charge of a unit serving in Pacific areas where he set up point-to-point communications with the Australian mainland and VHF circuits to aircraft. In 1949 he joined DCA as a higher level Senior Communications Officer training other officers in aeradio work and prepared monthly publications of frequencies for aircraft operators on Pacific and Asian flights. After two years in this work Edgar was promoted to Senior Engineer where he developed and controlled all the Department's Technician Training Schools. In 1956 Edgar applied for and won a job with O.T.C. in the Operations Branch and on retirement was the Director of all O.T.C.'s operations.

##### TOM MOLLOY

Tom initially started his working career with EMMCO as a Purchasing Officer where he progressed to the Senior Purchasing Officer of that organisation (now Email) and was responsible for all materials for their huge manufacturing establishments. During the war Tom served with the Artillery and on demobilisation was a Warrant Officer. In 1947 we saw Tom in O.T.C. in the position of Stores Superintendent; later, his job expanded and he became Administrative Officer (General Services) followed by Director (Administration), a position which he gallantly filled for many years prior to retirement.

##### CYRIL MANNING

Like Tom Molloy, Cyril Manning served in the army prior to joining O.T.C. where he was initially employed in the Accounts Branch. Later he was promoted to Senior Clerk, Stores. Cyril progressed to Administrative Officer (General Services) and subsequently Manager (Supply). Cyril is a registered bookmaker and was known to take a bet on practically any subject. Trusting he is well enough to still field at the racetrack.

#### SYDNEY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The N.S.W. Association held their Annual General Meeting on 20th May, 1977 in the Amenities Room at O.T.C. House. Unfortunately a number of O.T.C.'s senior officers could not attend as they were attending a Conference in Auckland. Those in attendance were:

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Charles Carthew; Joe Collister; Gordon Cupit; Ted O'Donnell;  
 Tony Ebert; Eric Cockle; Keith Oxley; Trevor Thatcher; Bernie White;  
 Ray Baty; Keith Burbury; Athol Brown; Eileen Haran; Kath Morgan;  
 Joe Patiniott; George Maltby; Norm Harris; John Toland; Horrie  
 McInnes; Bert Waugh; John Mulholland; Bill Luke; Matt Jobson;  
 Ken Walker; Charlie Swinney; Joe Hawkins; Brian Woods; Cec Watson;  
 Jack Guthrie; Alf Culloden; Philip Geeves; George Schultz;  
 Randy Payne; Reg Towner; Jack Whittaker; Des Woods; Roy Doohan;  
 Bill Day; Ray Moyes; Ron Smith; Jack Davis; Arthur Purtill; Max Dwyer;  
 Gray MacDonald; Fred Doolette; Ken Erickson; Keith Bondfield;  
 Val Moore; John Hodgson; Marie Casey; Audrey Keenan; Betty Leweniec;  
 Charlie Raecke; Tom Molloy; Cyril Vahtrick; Orme Cooper; Nick Hassou.

All previous office bearers were re-elected and it was agreed due to the success of the last Reunion that wives, spouses, etc. be invited to future Reunions.

#### MEMO TO OLD "BRAYBROOKIANS"

(by Ron Smith)

Does anyone know the fate of a scrapbook kept originally by the various Managers of Braybrook Transmitting Centre? This book contained members' cuttings and comments on various items of interest regarding the services operated from Braybrook, i.e. Coastal Radio Service, 3LO, VK3ME, etc.

The writer recalls one cutting from a London Road Magazine commenting that at a certain hour G.M.T. listeners on a thirty-one metre band could hear "the booming noise of a clock from the antipodes as VK3ME commenced transmission from Melbourne, Australia". Comment from Heck Johnston, erstwhile, O.I.C. was "that was me in the Workshop hitting a suspended crow-bar with a hammer!!"

Another cutting reported the use of a recording of the laughing jackass, was illustrated with a sketch of a mule.

There were many such snippets of the history of radio in this book which the writer last saw late in 1945 when stationed at Braybrook. Hopefully the value of this book has been recognised and is still in existence.

#### -INTERESTING-

Septuaginerian Frank Patrick recently asked to take a Greek ship across to New Zealand via ports ... good marse men evidently a rarity now ... and our old colleague was suitably reimbursed far and above the twelve pounds a month years and years ago! Which then was considered adequate payment for service rendered. Frank thought it strange that after a cup of coffee the steward brought a glass of water - what for, ever? ... to take the taste of coffee away! A continental custom, believe it or not!

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### QUEENSLAND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Queensland Association held their Annual General Meeting in the O.T.C.'s Manager's office on Thursday, 12th May, 1977 with fifteen in attendance, a good turn-up for such a small Association. As people retire to the sunshine State we expect the Association to grow. Those in attendance were Jim Banks, John Clendinning, Eric Cramp, Allen Cox, Paddy Garrett, Alan Jones, John Marshall, Denis Moorhouse, John Norris, George Scott, Perc Sellar, Vince Sim, John Stubbs, Fabian Sutherland and Harry Sutherland.

General Secretary, Charles Carthew, was to attend but this was unfortunately prevented by an air strike. The existing office bearers were returned unopposed and an important item on the agenda was the possibility of ladies attending the 1978 reunion.

### OLD PUBLICATIONS

We find many very interesting articles in old publications. One in a 1934 issue of A.W.A.'s Staff Magazine "Radiogram" refers to wireless pictures (facsimile). It quotes -

"Mr. Fisk (President of the Institution of Radio Engineers, Australia) in address to members of that body recently said that the ultimate aim of Communication Engineers was Facsimile Transmission of all telegram messages".

Old Beam-ites have always had this threat over their heads and even 43 years later there is still talk of this coming about. Who knows, the way technical changes are fast taking place, it could be quite near.

### VALE

The following members have passed on since the last Newsletter:

#### HEDLEY CASWELL (N.S.W.)

Hedley died on 23rd June after a short illness, and unfortunately only a few months before he was due to retire. He joined A.W.A. as a boy in 1927 (the year that the Beam Wireless Service commenced). He was initially posted to the Central Radio Office in 47 York Street, Sydney where he trained as a Telegraphist. He remained in C.R.O. until a transfer to Wireless House, Melbourne took him to our southern city. Hedley showed an aptitude for technical work and spent some time at Rockbank where he was initiated into the Receiving Centre. During the war years, Management decided that Hedley's services were required at Sydney, so back to C.R.O., where he undertook both telegraph and technical work (mainly on the R.C.A. Mux).

In 1945, just before the O.T.C. takeover, Hedley returned to Victoria as Senior Technician at Rockbank. During the following eighteen years at Rockbank, he was promoted to positions of Supervising Technician and finally Manager. He also spent a short time as Acting Manager at the Fiskville Transmitting Centre.

On the transfer of Vince Joiner to Paddington, Hedley was selected to take over from him as Technical Superintendent, Melbourne where he was in charge of all Victorian Technical Operations. In 1966 Hedley

was promoted to Senior Technical Officer and later to the top sub-professional position of Principal Technical Officer.

Hedley, due to his benevolent nature and his operational technical ability, was selected on numerous occasions to various welfare, staff and worker participation committees. A highlight of Hedley's career was the honour of the British Empire Medal bestowed on him by the Queen for his meritorious service to communications.

HUGH CLARK (W. Aust.)

Hugh, fondly known as "Herkus", passed away at the age of seventy-four. He was born in the canal zone of America where his father was employed. On the death of his father his mother moved to Fiji and Herk joined the Pacific Cable Board in Suva in 1921. He saw service at Fanning Island and Bamfield and was at Cottesloe at the time of the takeover by O.T.C. He remained at Cottesloe until his retirement.

E.W. COLDWELL (S. Aust.)

Ernie passed away in May at his home in Adelaide where he did not enjoy the best of health over the last few years. He commenced his communications career in 1921 when he joined A.W.A. Marine. After five years at sea he transferred to the Coastal Radio Service where he remained until his retirement in 1962. Like a number of the old 'sea dogs' he went back to sea after his retirement as a Wireless Operator with a ship trading between South Australia and Hobart. This allowed him plenty of home-port life.

AUCKLAND

From New Zealand comes the news of the passing of William Lampen-Smith (Eastern and C. & W.), Gilbert Reeves (Eastern and C. & W.) and Colin Smyth (P.C.B. and C. & W.). We also offer our sympathy to President, Bill Craig, on the passing of his wife Anna.

CHARLES GREENLEES (N.S.W.)

Tiny joined the Pacific Cable Board in 1921 and served on most stations on the Pacific Chain including Bamfield and Canada. He was always a very popular figure who commanded respect and served the last twenty years of his career in the Sydney Operating Room where he progressed to the position of Supervisor. In private life Tiny took a great interest in community affairs and was a foundation member of the Handicapped Children's Association. He was also a member of the Hospital Board and served on a number of other charitable organisations. Unfortunately about seven years ago Tiny developed a tumour on the brain and whilst in hospital had a number of operations. At the same time he suffered a heart attack, pneumonia and a stroke. Due to his iron constitution he survived all these but unfortunately for a couple of years the brain damage resulted in severe loss of memory and affected a number of motive parts of the body. Later the surgeons severed a nerve in the brain which resulted in a miraculous cure - Tiny's memory returned and although not in perfect health, he was able to attend our reunions, play bowls, tend his garden, etc.

KEITH GREENHILL (N.S.W.)

Keith joined the P.C.B. in 1915 and like Tiny Greenlees served on the Pacific Chain. He also spent most of his O.T.C. service in the Sydney Operating Room and on retirement in 1964 was a Traffic Controller.

Keith was a very quiet, modest individual and not much is known of his non-working life.

#### COL GREEN (N.S.W.)

Col joined the Eastern Extension Company in 1921 and was employed in Stores and Telegraph Workshop areas. Later on the takeover by O.T.C. he was promoted to the Engineering Branch where he undertook clerical duties associated with job and project control and costing. Under the Eastern Pension Scheme in 1961 he was able to retire early and still being active served with the Maritime Services Board for many years in their Stores Section. On final retirement Col moved out of the city to Lake Cathie where he remained until his recent passing. Unfortunately Col was a very sick man in the last twelve months.

#### JEFF MARTIN

W.J. (Jeff) Martin died on 15th October and will be remembered for two famous firsts.

Firstly, he holds Marine Certificate of Proficiency Number 1 and, secondly, he was the first editor of Ocean Newspapers. Jeff started his career as a Marine Operator and served on a number of ships. A.W.A. recognised his journalistic potential and on the advent of Ocean Newspapers he was selected as the first editor.

He was well known because of his activities and on retirement had completed many years of successful and active employment.

Jeff and Mrs. Martin had quite a long period of retirement and although not well enough in later years to attend our functions, Jeff kept in touch with the editor and his numerous colleagues per telephone.

#### MEMORIAL PARK

Friends of the late Bill Stevenson will be pleased that the Drummoyne Municipal Council have named a new small reserve in Five Dock the 'Stevenson Reserve' in honour of Bill. Bill was always a very civic-minded individual and served as an Alderman for many years on the Drummoyne Council. Our members will always remember Bill for the many years he served as President of the P.R.E.I. and his liberal attitude to industrial matters. Many privileges were gained for our members by Bill's direct approach to management, thereby saving hours in the Arbitration Court with its resultant great saving in members' fees. The Stevenson Reserve contains seats and shrubbery and is located on the corner of Ramsay Road and Fairlight Street which is only one block from the centre of the Five Dock shopping centre.

#### LYRICS

Veteran Jack Bassett, living on the North Coast of N.S.W., is famed for a number of reasons, one of them being the seven lyrics which he has written and which have been used by Rolf Harris in his recordings. He now has a thing called "Oodnadatta" just about ready for a tune writer. Jack has flown over Oodnadatta several times but has never landed so is asking if any of our members can give him some up-to-date local knowledge about this outpost so that he does not make any "boo-boos". He has quoted a couple of the verses which he feels may be exaggerated and would like them confirmed together with any other information.

Jack's address is NASHUA, Via BANGALOW, 2479 and some of his verse goes as follows:

"Out thar the men grow straight and tall,  
The wimmin all get fatter ...  
And metho was my favourite drink  
Out thar at Oodnadatta.

If I should die away-out-thar,  
At least my bones won't scatter ...  
They bury men in petrol-drums  
Out thar at Oodnadatta." (etc.)

#### BEAM WIRELESS JUBILEE

The following extract from the 'Sun' on 9th April, 1927 will bring nostalgic memories to many of our members.

"With the inauguration of the Beam Wireless System between England and Canada, and England and Australia, Britain definitely leads the world in radio development.

For the Beam is a striking departure from the general method of sending wireless messages of any kind, and it has been consummated on a world-wide scale. From the point of view of scope, it could not very well be bigger than it is.

Yet, paradoxically, the Beam system is old - 30 years old. The singing of the high speed signals between Ballan and England may be likened to the murmur of history repeating itself.

In November, 1924, the Amalgamated Wireless Company accepted the Marconi Company's tender to erect two receiving and two transmitting stations in Australia, capable of communicating with England and Canada respectively. The purchase price was £119,000, the amount allocated to the stations to communicate with England being £75,000, and the amount for the stations to work with Canada being £44,000. The sites for the stations were provisionally selected in March, 1925, but possession was not given to the Marconi Company as contractors until the following month. The contract date of completion was fixed as January, 1926.

The transmitting site was chosen about six miles from Ballan and about 50 miles north-west of Melbourne. This comprises 450 acres, and is 1450ft. above sea level, well clear of neighboring hills. There are two transmitting stations here - one for work with England and the other for Canadian working.

Similarly, two receiving stations were erected at Rockbank, 15 miles north-west of Melbourne. This site also comprises 450 acres and is 400ft. above sea level. The two sites are 25 miles apart, sufficiently distant for technical purposes, but easily accessible for management.

The stations working with England are capable of communicating in two directions across the globe - north-west by way of Malaya, India, Russia and Northern Europe, a distance of 9381 miles, and south-east by way of Tasmania, the southern Pacific, the northern part of South America and across the Atlantic, a distance of 12,219 miles.

Each transmitting and receiving station has three masts, 250ft. high and 650ft. apart. There will, consequently, be a total of 12 masts for the four stations, the total weight being 600 tons. They are constructed of lattice steel.

The aerial and reflector for each station consists of two separate identical systems of insulated vertical wires, supported from other wires, which are stretched between the horizontal cross-arms of one

mast to another. The height of each aerial and reflector is 200ft., and 50 wires are attached to each.

The system for communicating with Canada will be put into operation shortly.

While the sending and receiving stations are in Victoria, a "feeder station" has been established in Sydney, and others will shortly be operated in the other capitals. The Sydney station is connected by land line, hired from the Post Office with Ballan and Rockbank. Messages are sent to and from Sydney by high speed automatic telegraphy.

The use of short waves, an integral part of the Beam system, is as old as wireless itself. Hertz, who discovered wireless waves, used them in his epoch-making experiments, and Marconi, in his early experiments in Italy and England, employed them in conjunction with metallic reflectors. That combination in its essence is the Beam method.

But Marconi, like other experimenters, was led away by the glamor of the shortwave-high power system. The spectacular results that followed this method, which sent the message in all directions, relegated directional signalling into the background for many years. It was spectacular to send messages from anywhere which might be heard in New York or Moscow or Potts Point but squandered the spectrum and wasted power. However, the broadcast method had, and still has, important advantages and for communication at sea it is vital but it was only lately properly realised that there was no sense in sending a message all over the world when it was intended for one particular place. So Marconi gradually came back to his old love - directional signalling by means of reflectors and short waves.

In 1916 he commenced experiments at Genoa and later at Livorno. With the assistance of Mr. C.S. Franklin he carried out further tests between Italy and Ireland and between London and Birmingham on a wave length of about 100 metres. Then he successfully communicated between Poldhu and Marconi's yacht, the Elettra, in the Atlantic, a distance of 2230 nautical miles. The power used at Poldhu was 12 kilowatts, and the reflector so concentrated the energy that the strength of signals received was such that 120 kilowatts would have been necessary to achieve the same results without reflectors. When the power was reduced to 1 1/3 kilowatts the strength was still sufficient for commercial work at night. More tests were made at different times up till 1924.

Then the wireless wizard was forced to meet the problem of telegraphing over alternate bands of darkness and light. Short waves show a preference for travelling over areas not illuminated by sunlight. Tests with Australia showed that during the morning the waves travelled from England over the Atlantic and the South Pacific, while in the evening they took the shorter distance across Europe and Asia. Signals from Poldhu could be heard well in Australia in the evening and early morning (Greenwich times), but this limited period did not satisfy Marconi.

He commenced further tests between Poldhu and his yacht in the Mediterranean. In his endeavour to pierce the daylight he reduced the wave length from 92 metres to 60, to 47, and finally to 37 metres. With each reduction an improvement in daylight transmission was effected.

The importance of short waves in relation to daylight work may be gathered from the fact that signals sent on 92 metres could not be heard 1000 miles away, although only the sea intervened, while 32-metre waves were continuously received all day at a distance of 2200 miles, practically over mountainous country.

The results so obtained were confirmed by further experiments towards the end of 1924, when, with 12 kilowatts of power, signals from Poldhu were received in New York, Rio de Janeiro and Buenos Aires, when the whole of the track separating these places from England was in daylight. Poldhu, too, was able to work with Sydney for 23½ hours daily.

Having put his theories to the test and established them to the satisfaction of a hard commercial world, Senatore Marconi is entitled to indulge in prophecy, Eighteen months ago he made this forecast in the "Wireless Magazine":-

"I have no doubt that the development of short wave beam stations will be more rapid than that of the old super-power stations, and it is my firm personal opinion that these latter will, sooner or later, be found to be uneconomical and comparatively inefficient.

We may be on the threshold of a day when broadcasting, that application of radio which interests the whole of the civilised world, will have its range enormously increased.

Within a year or two, for example, the voice of the King of England may be easily and clearly heard by millions of his subjects in places as far apart as India, Australia, Canada and South Africa. A service in Westminster Abbey, with its sermon, choral and organ music, may be clearly heard in Capetown. It may become as easy to listen-in for the Metropolitan Opera of New York in London as it would be in Philadelphia."

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#### CANADIAN (TELEGLOBE) QUARTER CENTURY CLUB

The West Coast Division of the Quarter Century Club held their Annual General Meeting and dinner on 23rd April, 1977 at Esquimalt. This Association has 180 odd members who are kept together by a very active publicity officer in Bob Scott. Bob is renowned as a Journalist and not only has he produced articles for magazines, etc. but has written a couple of very informative documentary type books on British Columbia. In July the club chartered a bus trip to Bamfield Cable Station and a number were shocked when they saw that the old quarters building had been demolished.

#### HOBART RADIO AND MARIA ISLAND IN LOVE!

Ellis Smellie is always good for an interesting tale, and this is Philip Geeves' account of one which Ellis related to him.

If you go due east and keep swimming, Maria Island is not far from Hobart. There you will find a quiet, serene group of people, with a big hand and a smile for all those seeking rest in an idyllic backwater. It's a good spot for writers and painters. Left alone on their island, these folk have achieved a "oneness", which often happens in remote places, especially islands.

The "Outstation" on Maria Island was in voice contact with Hobart Radio. A dear old lady, Mrs. Hunt, had this Outstation in the front room of her house. She had been a nurse and, later, a matron in charge of a Home, devoting herself and her love to the care of the old and feeble. But on Maria Island she found a true haven - a place with people of her own warm nature. Everyone she served, by passing messages to and fro, was her friend. Fishing boat crews, new faces in town, all came to her home and enriched her life.

Enter the villain of the piece - a bad man on the make. He had an office and he demanded that the Outstation be moved to his workshop:

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"far better there", he said, and so did his few mates. This was the situation when I took over Hobart Radio in 1955 and met Mrs. Hunt - voice to voice - twice a week when I gave each of my two men a weekly day off.

How could Mrs. Hunt have known that I was a sucker for a woman's anguish and dismay? She poured out her heart to me - by radio. How the bad man was all set to grab her gear, leaving her lonely and forlorn, like a wounded bird on a rock. "No one is on my side", she moaned and her melancholy got right through to me. Like a silly old goat I bleated "I am on your side". After I shut down the gear I got to thinking...what could I do and what the hell had this dilemma of Mrs. Hunt to do with me?

One thing was certain. If I got into the fray, I had a lot going for me - the mood of Hobart Town. It was an odd place. In Darwin, Broome, Geraldton, Adelaide, Melbourne or Thursday Island, whenever I rang them to say that Captain Scratchitt had sent a Radio message saying he would be at the wharf at 10 a.m. with the good ship Hitchcock, they would just say "thanks". But not at Hobart. The social chit-chat took priority. My "Hobart Radio here" would be cut short. If I mentioned that I wanted a quarter mile of 40lb. soft fishing line, I would be told "wait till you hear from us". A week later a man rang to say "Jim said that Arthur asked him to oblige Alex by telling Frank where you could get the line: I'll run it up to you now. How much do you need?" The same with a car battery. The third man would say "factory price; it's in the office now. Come and get it". I got scared to mention that I needed anything.

So when I became involved in the tug-of-war on Maria Island, we won out. When I wormed my way to the core of the problem, lamenting "it will kill her", the openhearted goodwill of the town surfaced and won the day. On Thursday Island our motto was "In this hard place it is better to be a bastard than a fool", but my motto at Hobart was put up on the board for all to read - "Reciprocate. Reciprocate - only do it first!" Bill Watson mulled over that for the whole time I was at Hobart Radio. On my last day, when I handed the job over to him, he looked me straight in the eye and said "It can't be done".

And so, between Mrs. Hunt on Maria Island and myself on Domain Hill, next to the ill-fated Tasman Bridge, began an innocent, artless and muddle-headed love affair. She went flat out to repay me for what I had done and I, having done it, attempted to reciprocate by making her life happy. I'll never know what the other outstations thought about us.

A geologist, who spent some time on Maria Island, said that the rocks were notable but not nearly as worthy of study as the local people. They were positively unique. Over the radio, I got all the snippets of island news and was asked many questions. It was nice to be treated as a sage. My wife and I had to refuse Mrs. Hunt's pleadings for us to visit the island and stay a while. But she kept at it and I disliked being relentless. Being able to ring a Hobart doctor and pass his advice to her was one of the few good turns I could do. But we had a lot of common ground and often had a good laugh together. In all, our "affair" lasted three years, although we never met.

When I told her I was leaving Hobart, I was wet-eyed - "love lives on what it gives, not on what it receives". Mrs. Hunt had helped me a lot. No one minds being told he is a good bloke. It made my halo grow and was a tonic for my ego ... not that mine needs much fertilising! As a parting gift, she sent me a wallet with a five-pound note in it. My wife received a sachet and many other things.

On our daily table we use salt and pepper shakers made from Maria Island wood. As I salt my food, I often feel bad about not having reciprocated in any way. But I heard that Mrs. Hunt was happy to relinquish her outstation work soon after I left.

#### OCEAN NEWSPAPERS

Jeff Martin (holder of Ticket No. 1), just before his death, told this story of the early days of the ocean newspaper service of which he was the first editor. Ocean newspapers were conceived to give passengers at sea an up-to-date news service. It was not popular with many of the Operators as it not only required them to receive the rather lengthy press messages but required them to type up a stencil and roneo the news sheet for the benefit of passengers. On the other hand, many of the Radio Officers were very enthusiastic and Jeff relates the story on George Pow, father of present Shift Controller, S.O.R., Jimmy Pow. It appears that the First Officer confronted George and remarked that he looked tired and must not have slept very well. George replied that he had not been to bed yet having the task of printing the news sheet.

#### MARCONI VETERANS

If proof were needed to refute the hoary old rumour that prolonged exposure to radio frequency radiation shortens one's life span, the following list of Australia's most senior Marconi Veterans should speak for itself. The names are taken from an audited Roll of Veterans in the A.W.A. Archives:-

John Francis Wilson	entered radio on 6. 5.1910
(former Secretary of AWA, now living at Mosman)	
John Leonard Mulholland	28. 8.1911
Ellis Henry Smellie	29. 8.1912
Joseph Murray Johnson	25.11.1912
Harry Tuson	25. 7.1914
Edward John Giles	7. 8.1914
Harry Alphonse de Dassel	8. 8.1914
Joseph Henry Hawkins	31. 8.1916
Richard Oliver Bettison (Woy Woy)	3. 9.1917
Eric Gordon Bailey (New York, U.S.A.)	21. 9.1918
David Burke Lee Fleming	28.10.1919
Edward Frederick Bishton	1. 4.1920

- Philip Geeves -  
(comparative youngster among  
Marconi Veterans)

#### NEAR AND FAR

Great to see Keith Wilmot back at work after his rail accident.

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Earmuffs supplied to S.O.R. staff on the return of John Lennon to the big smoke following many years at outstations and Papua New Guinea.

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Dave Fleming just back from another world trip. It will be necessary to tie Dave down to keep him at home.

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Les Doubleday (C.R.S., Rockhampton) was in Sydney on recreation leave and looking up old friends.

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Vin and Doreen Duignan had overseas trip and visited England and France.

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Nick and Florence Macredies left Perth for a visit to Greece and the Continent.

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Geoff Whitmore back after a long holiday touring the U.K.

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Peter Dennis back from a long sojourn in Spain.

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Eric Cramp recently retired from Brisbane Radio, has settled at Bribie Island and spends much of his time dragging in huge tuna from the beach.

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Paddy Garrett (Queensland Association) finds he now suffers from insect bites. This, he claims, is due to his low blood alcohol content these days and therefore he has lost most of his natural immunity.

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Perc Sellar in between busy rounds of travelling keeps in shape by surfing at 7.00 a.m. every morning, winter and summer, at Burleigh Heads. Any of his old friends up that way can find him on the beach at that hour.

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Item in the Sydney Morning Herald on 11th August from Washington reports that, "Mr. Edward E. Kleinschmidt, Inventor of the teletype printers which carry news to all corners of the world, died yesterday in Canaan, Connecticut. He was 101".

How many of you remember the old 'kleins' in C.R.O. and M.R.O. and the abuse from Jim Blemings when they broke down.

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Congratulations to Guy Russell on his promotion to Supervisor 3rd Division, State Government Service. Guy is now resident on the premises of the National Art Gallery in Melbourne.

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### THE YEARLY RIOT - MELBOURNE REUNION

(by Ellis Smellie)

Like a tug towing a ship, our host Charlie Carthew came dragging a man my way. Having once, when I killed a motion of his at a meeting, told me "You talk too much", Charlie knew I could cope and left after introducing "Mr. Somervaille". The bloke's face was new to me so I asked him who he was and where he had worked and when? In other words, "who had let him in and why?".

His soft reply was drowned by some galah who had come half sozzled to the party and was loudly laughing at one of his own corny jokes. I asked for a repeat, which was also lost in the din. Someone else came and claimed this fellow and he left. I get very tired of this taking place so often when I meet someone new - (perhaps I should get the wax washed out of my ears again). When I looked for him after the noise had dropped a lot of decibels, Mr. Somervaille had departed and I did not blame him. He was a nice guy, a decent sort but not nearly tough and brash enough for the melee and racket of our annual bull fight going full ball. Who was he?

#### Editor's Note:

Mr. Somervaille is the Chairman of O.T.C., and as Ellis says, is a great guy.

### KNOW YOUR COLLEAGUES

The recent article in the Adelaide News on Veteran Cecil Shott showed a picture of Cecil wearing his old school cap. It goes on to say that back in 1892, Cecil turned up for his first day at Prince Alfred College with his cap in his hand and was told it should be on his head. More than 85 years later, Cecil now 94 is getting ready to return to Prince Alfred but this time he expects to be greeted with a smile, not a scowl.

As one of the Colleg's oldest "old boys", Cecil will join other well known South Australians at a special Old Boys' Assembly. Cecil's father, Henry Shott, was a Master at Prince Alfred for more than 50 years and gave young Cecil a few anxious moments. He quotes that he "always seemed to get more discipline than the other boys when he was in one of his father's classes".

Cecil is well known to and highly respected by "Eastern Extension" Cable staff and veterans. He is so much a gentleman and indeed is a gentle person, and always pleasant - and somehow the roughness of so many of his cable contemporaries never seemed to rub off on to Cecil, a truly remarkable fellow.

South Australian President Brax Horrocks recently had the opportunity of having a yarn to Cecil about his early days in the Company and he had much to say that would have been of interest to those who know him. He talked of his time at Cable Bay near Nelson, N.Z., where he was stationed for about 4 years at the same time as R.R. Black, who was Superintendent. It was Black who became so well known for his development of methods of testing for faults and breaks in submarine cables. These were the First World War days and there was an army garrison at Cable Bay during all of that time protecting the cable station.

Cecil joined the Australian Extension Company in Adelaide and after a few years was transferred to Darwin where he remained for almost 4 years, 1904-1908. The next transfer was to Singapore and he was stationed there and at other Straits Settlement stations for another 5 years.

Returning to Australia, he was posted to Cottesloe for about 4 years before returning to his home station at Adelaide.

Cecil spoke with considerable nostalgia of former colleagues, of good times and of hard times in those early days. He mentioned some of the old Adelaide Superintendents, Webster, Scottowe, Cuthbert Wells, Jim Mercer (Cecil did his Supervisor's examinations under him), Maleski, Moss Hart, Biven, Pop Wilson, and Stumpy Hargraves.

Cecil spoke at some length of his good friend Jack Finlayson, that so unpredictable and unusual character - tremendously strong and so likeable. Others Cecil remembered, and he laughed as he told stories about them, were Harry Teague, Bob Moore, Leo Gleeson, Stewart Ringwood, Malcolm Tregenza, Smacker Manning, Joe Thornborough and John Hallifax.

#### FROM THE OLD DART

Many of our members will know Chris Fox, ex Cable and Wireless, now residing at 23A Chanctonbury Road, Rustington, West Sussex, England, BN16 2LH. Chris and his good wife paid a visit to Australia during a period of furlough with a view to determining a place for retirement. He finally settled down in Melbourne but found living in Australia, with its rising inflation, too hard on his pension and therefore returned to England. Chris has kept in touch with us and a recent letter to the Editor contained some interesting information and points which we feel well worthy of reproducing.

"Just recently I've received the Veterans' Newsletter, a real beaut bit of information too and I would like to add my vote of appreciation to the Commission for regularly sending me Transit and the Veterans publications. These are very much appreciated and are passed around the Cable and Wireless Veterans in the Worthing circuit who, like me, gather more information on the business we once earned our bread and butter in, than any we receive from the successors of the U.K. end of the circuits. The British Post Office in their staff paper 'Courier' never mention the overseas telegraphs, in fact I doubt if they know they exist! So you can imagine how refreshing it is to learn what your old line of work is now doing. Our dear hard-working General Secretary Charles Carthew also keeps me well informed in our personal correspondence, what a fellow he is. Then I also receive exceedingly well here in Britain, Radio Australia from the ABC Melb., if I didn't tune to Melb once in a while I should never hear or read anything in the UK press of what you people are doing 'down under' other than through our many friends who keep us very busy with mail. Now that we are back 'home' once more, (we think of Australia as much of home as we do the UK these days) friends and the children of friends in Australia are now regularly visiting us and it's great to have them. I'm pleased to read that you publicise the Exiles Club in London and how welcome members of the Commission staff are to use it, it's good I can assure you all and they even have some beer on ice!!! At this juncture may I offer hospitality to anyone visiting Britain or their families? We can and do have quite a lot of young Aussies come and stay a couple of nights, leave their excess baggage here then go off touring the country and the Continent and call in again later on. Anyone wishing any help in planning a trip over here is most welcome to contact us either before they book or when they have firm arrangements, for I'm sure we may be able to help them save a few dollars in planning

etc. It's just about a decade ago that my wife and I came into the City from Manly to attend a Reunion Meeting of the NSW Veterans, on a Friday night it was and at midday the railways went out on strike and stranded all the Friday shoppers in town. We were fortunate that the Ferries continued to run, but it messed up the Meeting and only about a dozen were able to get in, the result being disappointing for everyone. I often wonder where your railway-men learned the gentle art of 'wild-cat striking' from? I'd bet a level cent some dissident Pom was their teacher! In the last letter Charlie Carthew wrote me he mentioned that a few ex Eastern ties had arrived for the meeting and they were snapped up almost as soon as they were taken out of their wrappings. If there are any ex Eastern veterans who would like an old company tie I'll try and obtain some and ship them out. I might add that my OTC tie is often admired at local get-togethers here and I'm pretty certain there are not many being worn in this part of the world. One more word on anyone coming to visit Britain, please mates don't rubbish Australia when you come here. Far too many folks still think that everything outside Australia is absolutely superior to anything at home and really it's not. Once up at Cairns in '66 a Qld Govt Tourist bus drew in at Lake Placid where we had stopped off with our car still bearing UK plates and sticker. The Tourist Guide spoke to me and at once went in the deep end on the, as he called them, B awful roads in Qld. At that time the road was sealed for about 9 foot in the middle with rough sides. When we discussed the situation fully I pointed out to him certain features of Australia, i.e. the size of the population of a country is it's wealth. To have roads of a divided style cost then about 250,000 dollars a mile. If the govt were to put 50c tax on each gallon of gas then you might be able to improve the roads, but, how many vehicles used that stretch of road in an hour I ask him. We agreed about 5 or 6, so, I pointed out, Australia was a young country still, less than 250 years in the building and to look around and see what they (or you) had done in that time, remembering the fact that the cream of the manhood had given their lives in two major wars in the last 50 years. He was taken aback still further when I suggested that instead of rubbishing Australia he started blowing the bugle loud and telling everyone what they had done in such a short time and with such a small population. So, fellows, if you come here, please tell everyone you meet what a great land and a great crowd you are, don't let the 'old-new' land down. Well, it's a load off my mind to get a note in to you, it's been such a time since we left Sydney and we called in to say farewell. My kind regards to the 'few' in Sydney and Melb who may have remembered my wife and I during our sojourn in Australia."

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# FROM THE DIARY OF A PIONEER EASTERN VETERAN

Past President of the Overseas Telecommunication Veterans in South Australia, ERIC SYMES, now an inmate of the Home for Incurables, Fisher Street, Unley, 5061, has written an account of his life as an overseas telecommunicator, excerpts of which are fitting tribute to a dedicated and highly esteemed cable officer of the 'old school'.

Taking into account that Eric persevered hour on end using his left hand with incredible patience to compile his service history, his many colleagues will follow the experience set down with nostalgic interest.

Born Southsea, Hants, 27th October 1904....joined Eastern Telegraph Company....18 months at the Training School, thence to Gibraltar, Tangier, Alexandria, Suez, Aden, Colombo, followed by leave in U.K.....then Carcavelos, Vigo....Married in London....On the BEAM CIRCUITS Australia....Canada....Capetown....Bombay....also the CABLE ROOM.

Came the London blitz with change-over from MOORGATE to the EMBANKMENT.

1943 Ascension Island where Canteen Officer and Harbour Master. Appointment to Cable-ship NORSEMAR working Aden, Perim Island, Seychelles, Madagascar, Mauritius, Reunion, Mombasa, Port Said, Gibraltar where remarried. Off to Brazil after two days' honeymoon. St. Vincent... Cabo Verde....Madiera....Fayal....on to Azores....Ponta Delgada.... Santa Miguel and back to Red Sea for repairs then refit in Malta. Leave in U.K.

My wife, Noreen, playing with an Arts Council Ballet Company so I joined that Company as scene shifter, travelling round Yorks.... Lancs....Cumberland away down to London. Leave up appointed Staff Dept. Marine at Head Office then to Staff Manager Orleans Park. After that Singapore Cable Depot. My wife here appeared as a celebrity pianist at many concerts. After three years we go on leave to Capetown. Then back to Singapore for another three years. Return to my job as Manager's Assistant. Again U.K. leave. Our third transfer to Singapore....and there my time with Company is up. We decided to settle in Adelaide, Australia, where I start with South Australian State Bank in Bill Dept. and remained there twelve years.

Toured U.K. in 1970, also Holland and France. I collect post-cards and matchboxes. Have been in this Home for three years now. My wife continues an interest in music, working for the Adelaide School of Music Department of Further Education. I go home to 14 CHATSWOOD GROVE, TOORAK GARDENS, 5065 every week-end. I pass on "Transit", "Mercury" and OTVA (Australia) Newsletters to a fellow inmate, Mrs. Moss, whose husband was in the Eastern Extension Company.

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#### JUBILEES

1976 and 1977 appear to be high in the number of jubilees and what with the Queen's Silver Jubilee and the Golden Jubilee of Broadcasting in Australia, the Golden Jubilee of the Beam Wireless Service, we find we also have the Golden Jubilee of the Portuguese Marconi Company. For those members that were unaware of this company and its cable activity, the following is their history.

"As many other Telecommunications enterprises all over the world, also the COMPANHIA PORTUGUESA RADIO MARCONI was founded by the Marconi's Wireless Telegraph Company. The latter Company was founded at the end of the 19th century with the aim of the practical application, in the telecommunications field, of the scientific discoveries of the Italian scientist Guglielmo Marconi.

On the 15th December 1926, the Companhia Portuguesa Radio Marconi was officially inaugurated in Lisbon, Rua de S. Juliao, 131, with the establishment of the first direct circuits via radio, connecting Portugal Mainland with the Azores, Madeira and London. In 1927 further circuits were established with Berlin, Paris, Cape Verde, Angola and Mozambique. Thereafter, during the 40 following years, the CPRM developed its network via conventional radio communications all over the world.

The concession granted by the Portuguese Government to the CPRM was nearing its end, the cessation year being 1966. However, the two parties, the Portuguese Government and the CPRM, agreed to prorogate the Concession Contract for further 25 years and to extend its scope to other telecommunications means. It was thus agreed that the CPRM would have under its direct and sole responsibility the telecommunications

operation in the several territories under Portuguese jurisdiction scattered by the world, namely in Portugal Mainland, in the Adjacent Islands, and in the former Overseas Territories.

The new Concession Contract stipulated the principle whereby the Portuguese State should have an important position within the CPRM, holding a significant number of the Company's stocks.

In that same year, the CPRM signed a contract with the South Atlantic Cable Company for the landing in Sesimbra, Portugal, of a submarine cable Portugal/Republic of South Africa and in 1967 another contract was signed, this time with the British Post Office, for the landing in Sesimbra of the Portugal/UK cable.

In 1969, the Sesimbra Submarine Cables Station, owned by the CPRM, was inaugurated.

In 1970, another contract was signed with telecommunications enterprises of the United States of America, Spain and Italy for the installation of two Transatlantic/Mediterranean cables.

The CPRM installed in Portugal a submarine cable network that connects the country with points in Northern and Central Europe through the United Kingdom, with Southern Europe and the Middle East through Italy, with the American Continent and the Pacific Area through the United States of America and with Meridional Africa through the South African Republic.

In 1972, a great capacity telephone submarine cable linking the Mainland with Madeira Island was inaugurated.

In that same year, the Company had installed an electronic telex exchange, the first in Europe of its type, which significantly improved the operation conditions of this modality of the telegraph service.

In 1974, the CPRM started the simultaneous construction of three Earth Stations for telecommunications via satellite, namely in Sintra, near Lisbon, Cacucos (Angola) and Boane (Mozambique). This great undertaking entirely transformed the intercontinental telecommunications, much improving the quality and reliability of the service, and rendered possible the automatic operation of the telephone and telex services and the transmission of television programs.

In 1975, again, a new computer controlled telex exchange with a far greater capacity than the previous one was installed.

In 1976, an automatic message switching and an automatic telephone exchange with a 3,000 lines capacity were inaugurated, both controlled by computers.

In the course of this same year, the CPRM triggered off a project for the construction of two new coast stations working in medium wave, the coverage of the entire Portuguese Coast in VHF and the construction and installation of an Earth Station for communications via satellite in the Azores.

The constitution of the Company's joint stock underwent in 1972 an alteration of a particular meaning - the Portuguese entities purchased at the beginning of 1972 the part of the stocks owned until then by foreign stockholders. The Companhia Portuguesa Radio Marconi thus became a real national enterprise.

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**OVERSEAS TELECOMMUNICATIONS VETERANS' ASSOCIATION**

( VICTORIA )

M. Wilton.

PRESIDENT 1977-78.

20th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

O.T.C.HOUSE,  
382 LONSDALE STREET,  
MELBOURNE.

By courtesy of  
Management.

Friday-27th May, 1977.

Commencing 5.30pm.

**Secretary.**

**Charles Carthew,  
7 Lantana Street,  
CLAYTON. 3168**

**Telephone: 544 - 2514**

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 The Cross  
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 John R. Jordan  
 Marc Krell  
 Percy Lane  
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C. W. Canthrew  
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Dep Harvey  
R. P. Thornton  
D. Humphreys  
Frank Smith  
H. S. Searles  
W. E. Shaw  
R. B. Boyd  
Marie Orvaldree

[illegible]