



Newsletter

VOL. 4 PT.1 PAGE 94 - NOVEMBER 1989

MEETINGS AND REUNIONS

VICTORIA

Friday 10th November, 1989
12Noon - 3.00pm

OTC Office
3rd Floor
382 Lonsdale Street
Melbourne

NEW SOUTH WALES

Friday 1st December, 1989
12Noon - 3.00pm

Conference Room
15th Floor
Elizabeth Street
Sydney

QUEENSLAND

Tuesday 14th November, 1989
12Noon - 3.00pm

Maritime Comms. Stn
Caboolture

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Thursday 23rd November, 1989
12Noon - 3.00pm

Maritime Comms. Stn
McLaren Vale

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Tuesday 28th November, 1989
Commences at 5.30pm

OTC Office
26 St. George Terrace
Perth

INTERSTATE MEMBERS AND VISITORS WILL BE WELCOMED AT THESE
FUNCTIONS, BUT PRIOR ADVICE OF INTENTION TO ATTEND WOULD BE
APPRECIATED BY THE ORGANISATIONS, NOT ONLY FOR CATERING
PURPOSES, BUT TO GET CONFIRMATION OF TIMES AND VENUES.



A MESSAGE FROM THE N.S.W. PRESIDENT

In early July the "From Settlement to Satellite" exhibition at Paddington closed and has been transported to Melbourne. During the 12 months that the Exhibition was open in Sydney 20,000 persons visited, and in most cases were given guided tours by exhibition staff and Veterans. The majority of those attending were schoolchildren, mostly from the higher classes. I would like to thank those Veterans who helped.

In Melbourne, the exhibition has been set up in the main vestibule of the Museum, and all visitors to the Museum must pass through our show, in order to see other parts of the Museum. It is estimated that one and a half million persons will see the exhibition in the 12 months that it is in Melbourne. In addition there is a large notice, billboard, placard or what ever, across the giant columns up the front of the Museum. This must be one of the largest advertisements in Melbourne, and should give the exhibition a boost. The Victorian Veterans are helping out also down there. Good work fellas. I can personally recommend the exhibition, and trust that all the Victorian members will take their families to see it.

In early July, the new Managing Director, Steve Burdon, took up his post. I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of us all, to congratulate him on his position, and to wish him well for the future. He has a hard act to follow, and trust that he is just as successful as his predecessors, and that OTC continues to go from strength to strength.

I recently attended a meeting of the OTC Archives Committee, and it was evident that Kimberley O'Sullivan, the OTC Archivist, has well and truly settled in, and doing a remarkable job. A lot of the records and photographs are now on a data base, and she is pushing ahead with the compilation of an Oral History. To do this she will need to talk to as many Veterans as possible and record on tape their history and experiences. I have taken the liberty to supply her with a list of, initially, the more aged of you, together with a few details of your past - only good, of course - and she will be progressively contacting you to make a date for a talk.

See you at the reunion!

33RD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING O.T.V.A.

NSW BRANCH 19TH MAY 1989

MINUTES

PRESENT: Norman Alderson, Roger Allen, Jim Anderson, Earnie Anthony, Alan Arndt, Arch Barrie, Ted Bastow, Ron Beecham, David Bourne, Claire Brophy, Lou Brown, William Brown, Brian Callaghan, Bill Chant Jnr, Eric Cockle, Bruce Collett, Ron Connolly, Kevin Conaghan, Martin Cresswell, Jack Creswick, John Creswick, Gordon Cupit, Claude Dalley, Brian Darragh, Bill Day, Geoff Day, Percy Day, Peter Dean, Margaret Dobson, Jack Edwards, Peter Feely, Reg Fernando, Bob Fisher, Ron Flood, Vince Gibson, Ted Gunning, Jack Hansson, Edgar Harcourt, Allan Hennessy, Bill Hickling, Len Hingley, Jeff Hinwood, Brian Hoschke, Tom Hughes, Neville Huntington, Charles Hurndell, Mike Hutchinson, Harold Jones, Fred Kannard, Fred Keen, John Lee, Bill Luke, Gray Macdonald, George Madren, Charlie Maiden, George Maltby, Noel Martin, Keith McCredde, Ron McDonald, Horrie McInnes, Margaret Miller, Kevin Minogue, Thomas Molloy, Barry Mortimer, Ken Mullen, Bryan Nell, Kimberley O'Sullivan, Keith Oxley, Jim Pow, Arthur Purtill, David Richardson, Peter Roberts, Sandy Sandilands, George Schulze, Ron Smith, Gordon Stewart, Ken Stone, Charlie Swinney, Annette Taylor, John Taylor, Richard Taylor, Stewart Taylor, Gareth Thompson, Elsie Thornley, Roy Tully, Ron Waugh, Tony White, Mick Wilden, Mick Wood, Des Woods

APOLOGIES: Alfred Agius, Ray Baty, Keith Bondfield, Tony Bradney, Athol Brown, Horst Bulka, Jack Bullen, Jack Burgess, Ulo Kampus, Bill Chant Snr, Phil Chapman, Ray Collins, Mollie Condon, Orm Cooper, Jim Davis, John Eades, Tony Ebert, Walter Ewins, Peter Frost, Graham Gosewinckel, Lyle Gowanlock, Alex Griffiths, Charles Halton, Eileen Haran, Norm Harris, Jack Heath, John Hodgson, Les Hunt, Harry Kellerman, Ted Knowles, Albert Lane, Cyril Manning, Bill Martin, Chedwell Meynert, Kathleen Morgan, Martin Nemeyer, John Newlyn, Maarie O'Connor, Marie O'Hanlon, Arthur Oliver, Dick Osborne, Joseph Pattiniott, Claude Pickford, Marjorie Reed, John Salloway, Bob Scherf, Albert Sheppherd, Ray Stewart, Clive Tresidder, Cyril Vahtrick, Joe Vassallo, John Wallis, Russ Welbourne, Frank White, Helen Williams, Howard Wilson

1.

The President, Gordon Cupit, opened this meeting and welcomed our official guests, Mike Hutchinson, a/g Managing Director of OTC Limited, Len Hingley, a Director of OTC Limited, Kimberley O'Sullivan, OTC Archivist and her assistant Margaret Miller, and Bryan Nell and all members present. New members attending their first meeting were; Ken Mullen, Reg Fernando, Peter Dean and Martin Cresswell.

2.

Apologies were received from OTC Limited Board of Directors members, Ms Helen Williams, Mr Charles Halton and members Marjorie Reed and Athol Brown. All others are recorded in the attendance book.

3.

Fraternal greetings were read as received from the Quarter Century Club of Teleglobe Canada, the Veteran Cablemen's Association of New Zealand, Presidents and members of our Victorian, Queensland, South Australian and Western Australian Branches on this, the occasion of our 33rd Annual General Meeting. Chas Carthew, our National Secretary, also sent us his good wishes and asked to be remembered to everyone present today. A cordial invitation has been extended from our Branches, to any of us who are interested in attending their next meetings.

4.

One minutes silence was observed to mark the passing of the following members' during the past six months:

Noreen Gosney, Bob Campbell, Bill (Sandy) Sanders, John Marshall, A.H. (Horrie) Brown and Jack Conaghan.

5. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of our previous meeting were distributed to members in our October 1988 Newsletter (copies were also available at this meeting) and were declared open for discussion. There being no discussion it was moved by Jim Anderson and seconded by Des Woods, that the minutes of the 32nd Annual General Meeting be confirmed.

Carried unanimously.

6. Balance Sheet and Annual Discounts

The Balance Sheet was presented to all members present and opened for discussion. There being no discussion, it was moved by Jack Hansson and seconded by Alf Ricketts, that the Balance Sheet and Auditors report be accepted.

Carried Unanimously.

7. Election of Officers

The President declared all offices vacant, and called for nominations for a Returning Officer to conduct the annual elections.

Mr Geoff Day was nominated by Alan Arndt and seconded by Jim Anderson. There being no further nominations, Mr Geoff Day was duly elected as Returning Officer.

The Returning Officer called for nominations for the office of President. Mr G Cupit was nominated by Des Woods and seconded by Tom Molloy. There being no further nominations, Mr Gordon Cupit was declared President.

Mr Alan Arndt was nominated as Honorary Secretary by Jim Anderson, and seconded by Mick Wood. There being no further nominations, Mr Alan Arndt was declared Honorary Secretary.

Mr M Wilden was nominated as Treasurer by Charlie Swinney, and seconded by Des Woods. There being no further nominations, Mr Mick Wilden was declared Treasurer.

Messrs R Connolly and P Roberts were nominated as Auditors by Alan Arndt, and seconded by Gordon Cupit. There being no further nominations, Messrs Ron Connolly and Peter Roberts were declared Auditors.

The following members indicated their willingness to accept a twelve months term of office on the Committee. Mick Wood nominated the new Committee in toto, and this was seconded by Tony White. Duly elected to the new Committee were:

Jim Anderson, Peter Skinner, Ron Connolly, Alf Ricketts, Peter Roberts, Keith McCredden and Ted Bastow.

8. Sick List

No one we are aware of at the moment.

9. 33RD Annual Reunion

The Secretary recommended we endeavour to secure the OTC Conference Centre located at Head Office, 231 Elizabeth Street Sydney, for Friday 1 December 1989 as the venue for our next reunion. This recommendation was supported unanimously, with a suggestion that final arrangements be left in the hands of our Committee.

10. Business Arising from Previous Meeting

Nil.

II. General Business

- (a) Miss Kimberley O'Sullivan, the OTC Archivist, addressed the meeting and advised us the Aims and Objectives of the Archive, Document, Record, Artefact and Photographic collections. Kimberley introduced her assistant Ms Margaret Miller, who is here to seek Veterans' assistance in identifying people in some of the collection of old photographs.
- (b) Kath Morgan who was unable to be in attendance today, asked Jim Anderson to move a motion on her behalf, to have our Annual Reunion Meeting time changed from 6 P.M. - 9 P.M. to 12 Noon - 3 P.M. The motion was seconded by President Gordon Cupit, and was carried unanimously.
- (c) President Gordon asked all present to give some thought to reducing the number of years service from 25 to 20, to qualify for membership of our Association. If this proves unacceptable at next years AGM, then perhaps we should consider starting a "Retired Officers Club", which could meet with us, but remain separate. Jack Hansson suggested that qualifications to join such a club could be that a person with say, 10 years service in communications, and has been retired for 10 years, would be eligible to join such a club.
- (d) Jack Hansson requested we record here, congratulations to Jim Anderson, Editor of our Newsletter, for the fine job he does in compiling such a comprehensive document.
- (e) President Gordon mentioned that the OTC Transit magazine runs very good articles, but it is a shame they use initials for places and new products, which is confusing for Veterans.
- (f) President Gordon quoted from a letter he received from the President of the Quarter Century Club of Teleglobe Canada, saying they received financial assistance from Teleglobe of \$7,000 per annum.
- (g) The President expressed our appreciation and thanks to OTC, for its continuing and generous support to our Association, especially for the \$100 donation towards expenses at our last AGM.
- (h) It was moved by Alf Ricketts, on behalf of our Committee, that the annual fee be increased to \$5.00. This motion was seconded by Jim Anderson, and was carried unanimously.
- (i) There being no further business to discuss, the President closed the meeting after inviting all present to adjourn to the lounge area for some light refreshments and fraternisation with old friends.

ALAN ARNDT
Honorary Secretary

FROM OUR PRESIDENT - GORDON CUPIT

The Archives News forwarded with the Newsletter is of great interest and should be appreciated by all Vets.

The information contained therein confirms the action taken by George Maltby to make official the archives and museum and we now know that the material that we have collected and donated in the past has found a valuable home.

The Automated Management Information Exchange is of particular interest as it provides a readily accessible data base, so that the best use can be made of the records and information held.

The request for oral history is most important as many of the Vets have stories that will be lost if not recorded in some way. After all, where would the aboriginal culture and dream time be if it was not for the oral history passed down from generation to generation. Think of things that have happened over the years and the part you took. We have plenty of time to record the more recent events, projects and achievements, but those involved in the early cable services, early Beam days, Marine and CRS are fast disappearing and their stories with them. Come on fellas! make the equipment that is being purchased earn its keep.

DEATH OF A KING

How many remember the passing of King George V? I was working in the Beam Room at that time employed on the duties of Adrema Clerk. One of the duties of this position was to make up the press forms. That is stamping the pages of the forms with the respective press organization and putting the carbons between the sheets. Newswire for example had 10 pages and 9 carbons. The Press filing that day was so heavy and the demand for press forms so great that I was kept on for 2.5 shifts. Remember?

THE EXHIBITION

Many of the Veterans were able to see the Exhibition, and a number took part in the planning, with others helping out as guides. To all these we say thank you. However for those who did not see it, I will try to give a comprehensive description of it. Mention must also be made of Kathy Jones, who did such a wonderful job of managing the exhibition and organizing all those parties of school children.

Most of the exhibits are housed in cabinets, which are set up in banks, these banks representing various period themes/or subjects. Each theme has an extensive printed story, supplemented by photos, diagrams and cartoons. The lighting was well set up and some of these sections had an audio description which was actuated by standing on a certain point on the carpet in front of the display.

The contents of the cabinets from the start of the Exhibition:

1. Time of Isolation. This gives a story of the Colony's dependence on mails, which often took up to three years for a letter to the UK and return reply. Exhibits consisted of early postage stamps (blown up in size), and old clay pipe, old inkwell and quill pen, old spectacles, ship compass and sextant, and some ship charts.
2. Cable Equipment (circa 1860). Numerous wheatstone signalling systems of the same era, Engineers report Java/Darwin May 1872, pieces of cable of that period, staff regulation booklet, paper knife with calendar and map of cable routes which was given to clients as an advertising medium, knife made from steel from "Emden" donated by Brax Horrocks.
3. Cable Services (Pacific). Numerous cabinets in order:-
(a) Copy of Morse Code, Morse key, Morse sounder, Keys connected to Mirror Galvanometer in cabinet. (b) Two mirror Galvo's, first uncovered to show components and the other covered with spotlight through window reflecting on to a graduated scale and operated by already referred to keys. (c) Hand punches, samples of both cable and wheatstone tapes, siphon recorder, sheet of gummed cable inward tapes, cable transmitter. (d) Siphon recorder showing cable code tape, cable relay. (e) Regenerator and synterpelator.
4. Early Radio. Two cabinets containing equipment used in the Bass Strait experimental link in 1906, morse key of period, spark transmitter, siphon recorder (wheatstone tape), aerial switching equipment.
5. Next group of cabinets consisted of general pieces of equipment and documentary material including Counter Code books, Ship/Shore regulations, Q Codes, Service Code, C&W Private Code Book, First Class Radio Certificate No. 1, Crystal sets, Valve Set (circa 1926) various crystals, microphones, cone speakers, meters, keys, and stories of Marconi and Australia's radio pioneers.
6. Beam Wireless. This group tells story of Beam and its impact on cables at that time. Photos of Bam stations, operating rooms, advertising material, story of first radiotelephone and picturegram services, copy of first picturegrams send on UK/Australia circuit, first coloured picturegram, terminal equipment such as undulators, Great Northern and Creed transmitters, memorabilia such as a telephone, fountain pen, box camera, mantel radio, teleprinter etc.

7. The New Wave. Several cabinets housing, equipment used in Beam Room i.e., relay, transmitters, tapes - 1956 commercial model T.V. with a tape continually running with film "80 channels under the sea" - copy of service message, circuit logs, ship/shore logs, 5 unit codes.
8. Radio valves through the ages, transisters, intergrated circuits, micro circuitry and silicon chips. Also contained photos of early model computer containing 18,000 valves to be compared with the modern day chip. A large transmitting valve and a wave guide used on satellite stations.
9. This exhibit was not in cabinets and consists of an 80 channel submarine repeater taken up off Bondi from Compac and showing where barnacles were cleaned off, a cut away amplifier from a Compac repeater, a cut away model of an optic fibre repeater (100,000 telephone channels) which is being manufactured in Australia for laying across Tasman - Pieces of 80 channel, 120 channel, 1580 channel coax cables and a piece of the new optic fibre 100,000 channel cable (the actual optic cable being about as thick as a human hair).
10. Global Village. Another open exhibit, consisting of (a) a video telephone connected to another unit at the other end of the room. Telecom internal phone system does not have the circuit capacity to market this facility, but at the opening ceremony George Maltby spoke to the President of KDD Tokyo via Satellite. (This has proved a very popular exhibit with all ages.) (b) Working Fax connected to Head Office by phone line and operated by dialling. (c) This is a computer display whereby one can read overseas newspapers, order from overseas stores, correspond etc. from ones home. (expected to be in operation within 5 years.)
11. Satellites. This exhibit displays scale models of all Intelsat satellites giving specifications, expected life, capacity, weight, cost etc of each. There is also in another larger cabinet and actual prototype of EARly Bird, the first commercial satellite.
12. Modern Cable & Satellite Circuits. By means of buttons and different coloured lights, one can see the various combinations of routes used from Australia to the U.K. This is explained by a background description triggered by a carpet switch.
13. OTC Present and Future Services. This is a large complicated display showing by means of lights; various routes, cable systems, satellite coverage etc. of all cable and satellite circuits around the world. Operated by means of a number of buttons and an outstanding exhibit.

14. Maritime Communications. This exhibit depicts the Coastal Radio Service and is mainly a coast station console taken out from Thursday Island quite recently. A good Audio description of the overall ship shore service and safety of life at sea and in the air. Adjacent is a small amateur display.
15. Maze. This is a large computer game featuring a maze and the operator must get the mouse from the start to the cheese at the finish. It is entirely controlled by voice. Firstly, one has to speak a few designated words such as stop, start, up, down, right, left etc into the telephone handpiece. From then on the game is played by using those words. The words can be spoken in a number of languages. A person standing near to the one playing the game and speaking the words will have no control, only the person who spoke the original commands is in control. At the conclusion of the game the computer tells the player how long he or she took. The whole display is to demonstrate the use of voice control in future equipment, and how it can be used for various tasks such as opening doors to secure areas, or operating communications equipments. (very popular with school children.)
16. Story of OTC and International Communications. This consists of an excellent four hour video show which on completion automatically rewinds and restarts.
17. International Telephones. There are three telephones, one connected to London, one to New York and the other to Tokyo. They are not continuously on line, but by pressing one of the dial buttons, one automatically sets in motion a dialling sequence which rings a number in one of the above cities where taped message gives topical information on that City.

Each person attending the exhibition is given a detailed story of background history which we will possibly reproduce in the Newsletter in serial form. In addition there are school projects, Posters and games provided for the children.

NEW VENUE FOR "SETTLEMENT TO SATELLITE EXHIBITION"

MELBOURNE VETERANS PLEASE NOTE that the "Settlement to Satellite Exhibition" has moved to the Museum of Victoria in Melbourne. It will have opened there on 4th August, 1989 and will remain there for 12 months.

We ask all you Southerners to pop along and have a dekko at it as it is well worth a visit!

If any Veteran feels he could assist in manning this Exhibition please contact Guye Russell, Secretary of the O.T.V.A. Victorian Branch on Tel (03) 380 5249.

AS A MATTER OF INTEREST

One of the keenest persons I have met with regard the collection of items and history of our Communication system is our young archivist, Ms. KIMBERLY O'SULLIVAN. Kimberely has sent me along a copy of an article she has written for the next edition of "Archives and Manuscripts" and which she hopes will be published in the "News Notes" section of that publication.

Amongst other things she writes:

"I would like the Veterans to know how much I appreciate the work they have done over the years, rescuing priceless records artefacts from the dustbin. I also appreciate that so many of them have donated their collections to the Archive. They have given generously of their personal time, providing back ground information to the archival material that we hold, suggesting suitable candidates for the Oral History Project and identifying photographs at the OTVA General Meeting.

I am sending you my copy of the article rather than the final printed version as the next edition of ARCHIVES AND MANUSCRIPTS appears in November, at the same time as your Newsletter, and I would therefore miss your deadline.

Thanks,

Kimberely" (OUR PLEASURE)

ARCHIVES AND MANUSCRIPTS - NEWS NOTES SECTION

OTC LIMITED ARCHIVE

Correspondent: Kimberly O'Sullivan

The Overseas Telecommunications Commission was set up by an Act of Parliament in 1946 to operate Australia's worldwide telecommunications service. On its formation OTC inherited the records, artefacts and memorabilia of its predecessors, the cable and radio companies which had carried Australia's international telecommunications services since the nineteenth century. This year OTC Limited became a Commonwealth government owned incorporated company.

OTC's official concern about their records and archives began in 1983, following the passing of the Archives Act. OTC, then a statutory government authority, established an Archives records which would be exempt under the provisions of the Act. In 1986 a consultant advised establishment of a permanent collection and the next year an Archive was established at OTC's Paddington terminal. In 1988 the first professional Archivist was appointed.

The Archive collection consists of official OTC administrative and policy records, internal publications, early cable and beam wireless records, telecommunication systems documentation, maps from late nineteenth century to the present, records of our Cable Board and the private papers of ex-staff. The Archive also has a substantial photograph collection and a large artefact collection which includes radio, cable and satellite equipment. The artefact collection is stored at our Broadway terminal building and is under the control of the Artefact Co-ordinator.

The Archive's holdings are on an information management software package known as AMIE (Automated Management Information Exchange). This system stores, arranges and retrieves data and is available to OTC staff through the office automation network. Staff are able to search the Archive database on AMIE and have access to our holdings. AMIE also allows users to search the Library's on-line catalogue and provides information on the movement of current files and the file register.

The Archive benefits greatly from the support of the Overseas Telecommunications Veterans Association. This Association comprises staff of any company who have completed twenty-five years service in the overseas telecommunications field. These Veterans were the first to call attention, in the 1950's to the valuable nature of many of the records and artefacts held by OTC. These consisted not only of early OTC records but also the records of companies and individuals who pioneered Australia's global telecommunications services. The Veterans and other dedicated individuals saved most of these records from destruction and they have now been donated to the Archive.

While the Archive's Users and researchers are predominantly OTC staff, we also provide a public reference service. Monday to Friday, 9.30am to 4.30pm. Personal visits can be arranged by appointment with the Archives Co-ordinator.

ARCHIVE NEWS

Volume 2, No. 1.

CURRENT PROJECTS

Arrangement and description of the Archive holdings continues to be a priority for the Archive staff. There are currently 326 series of records in the Archive. These range from a video covering the 1988 OTC pay dispute to Pacific Cable Board records from 1902-1932.

A number of reference enquiries have also been answered ranging from information on the exact location of early twentieth century cables at Southport Queensland to the opening of Australia's Radio and Electrical Exhibition by Marconi in 1930.

The Archival photographic collection is being established, arranged and described by a consultant Archivist, Ms Margaret Miller. The project is to last for the next six months on a part-time basis and any assistance current OTC staff or veterans can give in photograph identification will be greatly appreciated. Ms Miller can be contacted on Extn. 3952 on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday.

ACCESSIONS/DONATIONS TO THE COLLECTION

1. The following records were recently transferred to the Archive collection.
 - * Copy of the final telex message from Fanning Island station, January 1964, donated by Bob Crawford, telegraphist, Fanning Island.
 - * Tenders for a study on the human aspects of telemeetings 1987.
 - * Reports and briefs for world wide conferences on Pacific cable planning 1974-1983.
 - * Hydrographic charts of the area between Australia and Papua-New Guinea 1961-1984 from Cable Systems Engineering.
2. The following objects were recently transferred to the Museum/Artefact Collection:
 - * From Coast Radio Station, Cape Schanck, Victoria a defunct AWA transmission measuring unit 1950 model.
 - * Several items of equipment from AKE telephone exchange Broadway, including a code bar switch and a core memory module.
3. The following photographs were recently transferred to the Photographic Collection.
 - * Photographs of early OTC staff and OTC staff member Dick Hoseason. Dick Hoseason drowned rescuing a fellow OTC employee while both were stationed at Heard Island, Antarctica in 1952.
 - * Photographs of the aftermath of 1956 AWA head office fire.

AMIE - AUTOMATED MANAGEMENT INFORMATION EXCHANGE

AMIE, an information management software package, was launched to OTC staff on 12 December 1988 when a demonstration of the Archive database was given to a large audience. The AMIE system provides on-line access to the holdings of the OTC Archive including: files, records, museum/artefact objects, photographs, maps and plans. It also allows users to view OTC records and those of its predecessors, eg AWA, which are held in external libraries and archival institutions. In order to access the Archive database you must be registered as an AMIE user. To register contact Sandra Hinchey, Manager, Corporate Information on Extn 5059 or complete an OA Systems Access Form requesting access to AMIE (previously Libman/Recman).

VISITORS TO THE ARCHIVE

The Archive has had the following visitors:

- * Miss Lily Wong, Chief Records Supervisor, Reserve Bank of Fiji, inspected the Archive in December, 1988 during her visit to Sydney. The Reserve Bank of Fiji is presently setting up its own Archive and was most impressed by the OTC Archive facility.
- * The Sydney Branch of the Australian Society of Archivists held its general business meeting at the OTC Exhibition, Paddington, on 15 February 1989. Following the meeting, Sandra Hinchey, Manager, Corporate Information spoke on the history of the OTC Archive and its relationship to the organization wide information needs of OTC. A tour of the Archive and the Settlement to Satellites exhibition was provided by Archive Staff.
- * Students from the Diploma of Information Management course, University of New South Wales and the Bachelor of Applied Science (Information) course, Kuringai College of Advanced Education visited the OTC Archive and the OTC Exhibition. A talk was given to the students on the establishment of the Archive and the inception and operation of AMIE which generated great interest amongst the students.

ARCHIVE POLICY AND PROJECTS

The Archive Policy was approved by the Archive Advisory Committee and supported by the Managing Director in November 1988. This has resulted in the recognition of the role of a part-time position of Artefact Co-ordinator, whose function is to preserve, arrange and store all museum objects and to set the conditions for their release to individuals, organisations and other bodies.

Projects for the coming year include:

Oral History Project

The Human Resources Division is providing the Archives Co-ordinator with regular information on prospective retirees so that suitable Oral History interviews can be scheduled. Any suggestions on suitable people to interview or relevant issues and topics would be welcomed by the Archives Co-ordinator. Appropriate equipment for the project is currently being investigated so that the best medium is utilised for the recording of the interviews.

Disposal

In conjunction with the Records Section disposal schedules are to be developed for Head Office divisions. This will allow the systematic allocation of disposal sentences to all OTC records. The disposal schedules will identify archives and determine the life-span of all official records created for or by OTC employees. The records will then easily be transferred into either secondary storage, the Archive or be scheduled for destruction. Destruction is done in accordance with Australian Archives guidelines.

STAFF

Kimberly O'Sullivan was appointed Archive Co-ordinator in February 1989 and joins OTC from ACI Australia Limited. If you have any enquiries regarding the Archive do not hesitate to contact her on Extn. 3954.

Will Whyte accepted the part-time role of Artefact Co-ordinator in December 1988. He is responsible for the preservation and storage of all museum objects and for setting the conditions for their release to individuals, organisations and other bodies. If you have any enquiries regarding museum objects contact him on Extn. 4847.

THANKS

The Archive staff wish to thank the Overseas Telecommunications Veterans Association (Australia) for their support and assistance over the past three months, especially Gordon Cupit, Alan Arndt, Jack Burgess and Peter Whisson.

FROM OUR CANADIAN VETERANS AND COLLEAGUES

Dear Alan,

The Quarter Century Club of Teleglobe Canada (Western Chapter) held its 16th Annual Meeting and Dinner on Saturday June 3, 1989 at The Bayside Inn Resort Hotel, Parksville, Vancouver Island, British Columbia.

A unanimous motion was passed conveying Fraternal Greetings, continuing good health and happiness to all Members and Wives of the Overseas Telecommunications Veterans' Association (NSW). The same greetings will be extended to our Honorary Life Member, Charles W. Carthew (Australia).

My Wife Katherine joins me in extending the same greetings to you and yours.

My Wife and I plan to revisit Sydney and parts of Australia in 1990 but details have not at this time been finalised, possibly October or November 1990.

Wish to convey additional thanks to you for the Annual Bulletins and kindnesses of you President, Mr Gordon Cupit, in sending us "Settlement to Satellites", a most interesting document.

With very best wishes
Fraternally yours,

HAROLD H. LE QUESNE

VALE BERT LAKE

We believe Herbert Gordon Lake (aged 91 years) passed away on 13th October, 1989. We have no details of his service or personal background, so we would appreciate any information from his former associates thanks.

VALE RAY CARRAGHER

Ray Carragher died on Monday 2nd October, 1989, and was buried on 6th October. The funeral was attended by many of his friends, one of whom was Mick Wilden who has given us the details.

Ray joined A.W.A. in February, 1936. He saw service with the Army in Northern Australia and was a Returned from Active Service medalist. He had lost his wife only two years prior and is survived by four children, three daughters and a son. He was 68 years of age.

It is my intention to contact Eric Cockle, a good friend of Ray's, in order to get more information on his career in communications.

VALE LES DOUBLEDAY

It is with profound regret I announce the death of Les Doubleday who died in St. Anthony's Ward, Mater hospital, Rockhampton on Thursday, 24th August, 1989 aged 75 years.

Les had been suffering from emphysema for many years and the last four years of his life saw him mainly confined to his home. It was around 22nd/23rd August that he suffered a fall at home, breaking the third vertebrae in his spine. Treatment for a break of this kind necessitates the patient lying on his stomach which he could not do because of his lung condition, and was the prime factor in his eventual death.

His wife, Hilda, is going to send me details of his service career. The few facts I do know are that he served in the Merchant Marine during the war as a ship's operator and returned to service with the Beam Wireless after the war. He joined A.W.A. in 1938 and had a varied career in the Beam, Island Room the Sydney Operating Room and other areas. In true Doubleday fashion he remained cheerful to the last.

Hilda said that when he realised that the end was inevitable he said, "Tell Jim to thank all the blokes I had the pleasure of working with in the Service. It was a pleasure to have known so many great fellows".

His funeral was well attended by his many friends from all walks of life.

To Hilda and his family we send our sincerest condolences.

VALE H.S. (JACK) BURGESS

Jack, as we all knew him, Burgess passed away peacefully on Saturday, 10th June, 1989. It is ironic that this man who contributed so much to the NEWSLETTER and to communications never got around to completing a Personal History sheet which is available to all Veterans on request to our Secretary.

I have often made the remark that the cemetery is full of men who were indispensable, but he is a man I am personally sorry to see go. The amount of material Jack supplied to me which became subject to some of the most interesting pieces of "out of the past" is legend, and his passing stresses even more the need for you Veterans who hold the key to the history of communications to get it all down on record before it is lost forever.

His history is recorded in the back copies of NEWSLETTER and they will make a fitting epitaph to his memory.

Our sincerest sympathy goes to his wife, family and friends.

CAN YOU HELP?

We have received a letter from RITA DUNSTAN, a freelance journalist residing in McLaren Vale, South Australia. The letter was originally addressed for the attention of H.S. (Jack) Burgess, and because it seeks information which may be known by other Veterans I reproduce it here.

She writes:

"Some weeks ago I wrote to Kimberly O'Sullivan for information about cable services from Bandoeng at the end of the war. As a result I now have many helpful references from O.T.C. archives.

Your feature, with the words of the final message from Bandoeng beginning "Enemy nearing from north-east" gave me the information I was seeking for a proposed article on the discovery and recovery of Allied P.O.W.s and internees in September, 1945.

In a January 1940 Zodiac story, "We Were Sentenced to Death" by J.T.R. Ryder, the time of the Bandoeng surrender was given as noon on March 5th, 1942. Would it be reasonable, then, to assume that the date of the "Enemy nearing..." message would have been March 4th, 1942?

(Cont.)

In the February 1946 issue of the Zodiac, Mr C.V. Williams says he arrived in Batavia for the re-establishment of the Branch on October 20th, 1945.

This date was important to me as I have been researching such detail since reading in a book "Captives" (University of Queensland Press) an incorrect statement about my brother, the late Eddie Dunstan, War Correspondent and well-known Australian journalist. The offending message said that Dunstan "immediately telegraphed" on September 14, 1945, the names of Australian nurses who died in a P.O.W. camp at LoebockMinggau before next-of-kin had been informed. In vain have I pointed out to the publishers that Dunstan, who was in Lahat on the P.O.W. story, was in no position to "telegraph immediately" anything to anybody anywhere. (Summary of the facts is attached).

The actual date of the "enemy nearing" message is not vital but would add interest since I hope to refer to the last, sad letter written by Mr C.M.W. Joyce (Zodiac, January, 1946) who was evacuated from Singapore on February 13, 1942.

My enquiries through O.T.C. have provided leads for several personal stories of historic interest. I am keeping these in hand for later.

Meantime, if you can give me the date of the Bandoeng closing down message I'd be grateful. However it is not vital.

Do you know if the Sumatra stations were wholly owned by the Dutch and partly manned by Australians, or was Australia a part owner?"

Well, there it is. If anyone can assist Rita Dunstan with the answers to her questions I am sure she would be grateful.

SUMMARY OF DUNSTAN/LENNARD STORY
OF P.O.W. RECOVERY, 1945, SUMATRA
by Rita Dunstan

War correspondents A.E. (Eddie) Dunstan of the Daily Telegraph Sydney and Haydon Lennard of the A.B.C. and the B.B.C. were colleagues and close friends.

They were told of the plight of the Australian Nursing Sisters and Sister Bullwinkel during their first interviews with P.O.W.'s in Changi Jail. They were sworn to secrecy for fear that there may be reprisals against Sister Bullwinkel as witness to the infamous Banka Island massacre of nurses.

After racing from one authority to another they managed to organise a R.A.A.F. plane to fly them to Sumatra to search for the nurses whose whereabouts was unknown although they had been sighted at Sumatra during the course of the war.

Meanwhile the secret of the Bullwinkel story had become known to other correspondents but they agreed to put a blanket censorship on their stories until the nurses were in safe hands.

A plane was made available for the two correspondents, Lennard and Dunstan but only one was permitted to join the crew and medical officers when the plane left Singapore. It turned out to be Lennard. Dunstan stayed behind in Singapore to "cover" for them both. They had an arrangement to share the rescue story whoever was first on the scene.

Lennard, in Palembang, found the Japanese unwilling or unable to give the exact location of Loeboek Linggau camp where the nurses were P.O.W. but managed to obtain transport to begin a search when he was summoned back to the waiting aircraft on the strip. The Senior Medical Officer wanted to get back to Singapore with some sick P.O.W. for a camp in Palembang so Lennard decided to "go it alone". However the pilot insisted that the co-pilot accompany him. These two did a great job and when the rescue plane returned late the next day they had the sisters, frail but excited, waiting at Lahat.

There were more than anticipated and soon the plane was full and the pilot, anxious to get back to Singapore before nightfall. Once again Dunstan had to stay behind but confident that Lennard would file the dramatic story for them both - which he did, so that both the A.B.C. and the Telegraph had the story first in Australia but ALL correspondents were allowed quick interviews when the sisters were de-planed in Singapore.

In Lahat Dunstan made the same train trip as Lennard had, this trip to evacuate other P.O.W. and internees, some at the point of death. He worked all night and back in Lahat the following morning, supervised a meal for the terribly hungry ex-prisoners. Quite obviously he could not have got a cable, long or short, to ANYONE.

Meanwhile, Lennard sent cables and "went, exhausted, to bed".

Probably relatives heard or were told of the A.B.C. report first, then saw the written report under Dunstan's name in the Daily Telegraph. One Colonel Wallace Ross recorded in an Army minute that Dunstan "immediately telegraphed" the names of the girls who died in prison. He probably didn't even know the names but Lennard went, with Sister Bullwinkel, to the site where eight small crosses were engraved with the deceased Sisters' names.

The casualty lists had been issued to all correspondents but only Lennard could group them for his cable report. However the information was available to all other reporters once the R.A.A.F. plane had landed safely with the Sisters.

Lord Mountbatten approved and supported the plan by Dunstan and Lennard to get a R.A.A.F. Dakota for a search in Sumatra. It was not known for sure whether the Japanese knew of the surrender terms, and if they did, whether they would obey them.

NOTE: In addition to the OTC material I have Lennard's own personal account of the rescue venture, Dunstan's despatched, notes and letters home and their correspondence with one another. They were planning a jointly written feature on the R.A.A.F. rescue mission in 1984, but unfortunately my brother's health failed and he died in August of that year. Lennard died in 1987.

Army records could find no listing of Col. Wallace Ross, but the Department of Defence has undertaken to examine the matter and advise me when the research is done.

MELBOURNE VETS 32ND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Victorian Vets celebrated their 32nd Annual General Meeting in the Melbourne Manager's Suite, OTC House, Lonsdale Street, Melbourne on Friday 12 May, 1989 at 12 noon.

Our President Jim Robinson in declaring the Meeting open, called for one minute's silence in respect of colleagues who had passed on to the operating room above - Noreen Mary Gosney and Robert Brian Campbell - they will be sadly missed.

One point of discussion at the A.G.M. was the number of Vets who were unable to attend due to either illness or age. It must be remembered that many of them have service dating back to the 1920's as marine operators whilst others go back to the beginning of the beam service in 1927. Going back even further of course are the Vets of the cable service. Be it rain, hail, or sunshine those who are able, regularly attend our meetings and re-unions and to one and all we "dip our lids".

In handing over the reins to President elect Sam Bright retiring President Jim recapped the past two years and wished Sam a happy and successful year.

Sam's first duty was to thank OTC and Melbourne Manager for the use of the Board room and catering facilities.

He also thanked the ladies for their assistance with the catering and invited all present to partake of the hospitality of the Melbourne Vets.

There were present 31 members with apologies from 24.

Present

S. Bright, A. Bright, P. Barrow, B. Bentley, D. Crabtree, J. Davey, J. Ferne, W. Ferguson, L. Foley, D. Gault, J. Gowans, R. Hall, D. Krisa, J. Kennedy, G. McCarthy, A. McLean, D. MacGillivray, J. Nicholson, H. Newsome, F. Patrick, B. Prentice, C. Purvis, J. Robinson, G. Russell, A. Stewart, N. Stubbs, C. Tancheff, A. Vagg, M. Wilton, E. Willingham, G. Whitmore.

Apologise

C. Allison, J. Bennett, T. Bryant, P. Burgess, C. Carthew, J. Caulfield, M. Fernando, G. Fraser, E. Hope, M. Jessop, R. Lane, C. Martin, G. McCarthy, J. Miller, J. O'Toole, T. Payne, P. Peat, R. Rogers, T. Read, I. Reed, B. Shea, T. Turner, E. Tresize, B. Williams.

Guye Russell
Secretary

OVERSEAS TELECOMMUNICATIONS VETERANS ASSOCIATION (QUEENSLAND)

Christmas is just around the corner and with it comes our own 15th Annual Reunion to be held at the Brisbane Maritime Coast Station (VIB) on Tuesday 14th November, commencing at 12 noon.

Richard Westwood will be hosting the day and we look forward to your company. Wives and friends are again very welcome.

As I am overseas at this moment, I would appreciate your letting Glenys (07 221 6250) know whether you are coming or not by Friday 10 November, to allow for catering.

Looking forward to seeing you there.

Sincerely

Jim Banks
Chairman

A few words from our President

It appears that Bogangar is now getting to be a known spot on the Far North NSW coast as the number of Veteran visitors that have called in during the year testify, Owen and Chas Maiden, Muriel and Dick Lovett, Irene and Des Woods, Ena and Bruce Collett, we also met up with Betty and Mick Wood, Alma and Dean Laws and Joan and Ray Baty on their annual pilgrimage to see the Sydney Swans play Brisbane Bears. Another meeting was with Joan and Alan Arndt, Irene and Des Woods and Joyce and Jimmy Rodda at the Kingscliff Bowls Club.

Also the very successful "Bogga Week-End" in January, this will again take place on the Sunday 28 January 1990, all cordially invited to attend, same place, ... same format, ... that is BYO drinks and eats for the BBQ.

Regretfully there are announcements about the passing of some of our Veteran members, ... Jack Jordan ex Melbourne, Les Doubleday ex Rockhampton and John Salloway ex Sydney. Whilst passing on this sad news to Wilf Attkin, it was refreshing to hear his cheerful voice and although not able to do any 100 yard dash's, his mind and memory are 100% ... he sends his best regards to all.

For those members who are not able to attend our Christmas Function at VIB, please accept Seasons Greetings and all the best for 1990 from Sadie and myself, we hope that you may be able to attend Bogangar on 28/1/90.

King regards

Keith Vincent

THE P.M.G.'S DEPARTMENT

This letter was forwarded to us by Martin Ratia who is the Managing Editor of the OTC staff magazine "TRANSIT". It is a letter from Bill Cockerell and ex-PCM man and he thought it might be of interest to you veterans who knew Bill.

Bill says,

Am writing to thank whoever is responsible for sending me a copy of TRANSIT, especially to my new address since shifting from Melbourne to the Gold Coast 18 months ago.

I have been on your mailing list for many years and look forward eagerly to receiving each issue.

I am very interested in the marvellous new technology, so ably illustrated by pictures printed by your contributors.

I was originally a Telegraphist with Telecom (PMG's Department in my time). Later I became Supervisor and the Traffic Officer in charge of the Melbourne C.T.O. It was during the change-over from manual to auto telex in 1966 that I had close contact with some of your staff in Sydney, such as Horrie McInnes, Alf Ricketts, Roly Cassar, etc.

I knew your Keith McCredde when he was a young bandsman with Box Hill city band. His dad was Mayor of that city and the head of a well-respected family. If possible please pass on my best regards to the aforementioned personnel. I have never met any of them, other than Keith, but felt I knew them well, as great men to work with. Jim Robinson, Viv Molyneux and Jim Kennedy of your Melbourne office were others I knew well by work association.

I reached 50 years with the P.M.G. 1926-1976 becoming a telegraphist in 1939. There were over 500 telegraphists employed there at that time in the Melbourne C.T.O. which makes me feel sad when I saw the reunion photos of your S.O.R. and to think that all C.T.O.'s nationally are now closed down.

What progress has been made during my career with the Post Office. When you remember that most telegraph circuits were of galvanised iron, later copper, then voice frequency, later microwave and coaxial cable, now optic fibres, and of course in your area, satellites.

I am proud to reflect that the first telegraph line in Australia was 1854 (Melbourne-Williamstown), 22 years before the telephone was invented. So like the railways I suppose one can say the Telegraph Service played a major role in the development of this country.

Thanks again, Mr Ratia. I mostly just wanted to convey my appreciation but at the same time thought you may like to know a little of my background.

Sincerely

Bill Cockerell

If anyone would like to contact Bill, our Secretary, Alan Arndt, has his address.

FROM OUR QUEENSLAND VETERANS

MINUTES OF 14TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD IN THE OTC OFFICE, BRISBANE
4 MAY 1989

Present

President Keith Vincent and Sadie, Les Ayres, Jim and Beryl Banks, Blue Easterling, Alf and Heather Goebey, Rowley and Pearl Lane, Denis and Eve Bloudani, Kevin Bobridge, Dean and Alma Laws, Doug Lloyd, John and Mildred Norris, Pat and Mrs Phipps-Ellis, David Rogers, Vince Sim, Peter and Del Starbuck and John and Betty Toland. Also present were the OTC Brisbane Office staff: Peter Cheleski, Jon Appleyard, John Purdy and Glenys Baldwin.

President Keith welcomed all present, particularly those attending for the first time, then called for a minutes silence in memory of John Marshall, who passed away in December.

Apologies were received from Wilf Atkin, Les Doubleday, Laz Eliou, Sid Gill, Kev Hiscock, Bob Hooper, Denis Humphries, Alan Jones, Alan Rees, Stan Silver and Dick Westwood.

Minutes of the 13th AGM held on 24 May, 1988, were read and adopted. Correspondence related to attendances, apologies and meeting notices. The Secretary/Treasurer then presented the Financial Report showing a current balance of \$279.55, a net increase of \$58.42 but including prepayments of \$6.00. The report was adopted.

President Keith then presented a written report (attached) and quoted highlights from it. He stressed that he intended to host another "Bogga Day" early in 1990, the inaugural one having been such a great success. He thanked Peter Cheleski for hosting this meeting and Glenys Baldwin for arranging the excellent catering.

All offices were then declared vacant but current office bearers were re-elected unanimously, viz:

President	Keith Vincent
Secretary/Treasurer	Jim Banks
Auditor	John Norris

There being no general business, it was agreed that the 15th Reunion be held again at 'Brisbane Radio' on a date in November (not to clash with the Melbourne Cup ...) to be agreed between the Secretary and the Manager of Brisbane MCS, Dick Westwood.

The meeting closed at 12.40pm and was followed by the usual fellowship.

NOTES FROM THE QUEENSLAND VETS 14TH AGM ON 4/5/89

Despite a considerable list of apologies for one reason or another, there were still 16 members present, plus 10 wives and friends and the 4 staff of the Brisbane Office, a gathering of 30, just comfortable in the very pleasant surroundings kindly made available by Peter Cheleski.

New faces included Les Ayers, Kevin Bobridge and Doug Lloyd, all of whom have moved north after the virtual closure of SOR, David Rogers who is seeking a change from the computer world, and Peter Starbuck who has swapped one island for another - he now dwells on Russell Island in Moreton Bay, with three boats and his good lady Del.

An old member in more ways than one, also made the meeting for the first time, Roley Lane, well remembered by many. Roley, now 81, lives just south of Bundaberg but for once was in Brisbane at the right time. He regaled us with tales of the Jap air-raid on Darwin, which he revisited not too long ago along with Ken Springbett, both of them telling something of their stories to the ABC to be recorded for posterity. Roley's wife Pearl, is no stranger to Brisbane, though, she was a volunteer worker at Expo last year.

Amongst the apologies were ones from Wilf Atkin, still rather confined on the Gold Coast, and from Les Doubleday. It was the first we've heard from Les for some time and all the better for that, though he tells us his health is not good at all. Hope it improves a bit, Les. Others on the 'sick list' for the meeting included Bob Hooper, and Kev Hiscock's cheery wife, Vi, whilst ex-President Alan Jones had to apologise at the last minute to go to Sydney to visit his sick sister. Stan Silver had hoped to join us but was 'on duty' baby-sitting for his daughter whilst she enjoyed an anniversary.

They must be busy out at Maritime these days, Dick Westwood, Laz Eliou and Alan Rees were all on duty and their only representative at the meeting was newish member paddy Phipps-Ellis who came in off nights with his mother, a very nice lady full of interesting tales about Japanese prison camps. With none of our usual Bribie Island visitors present, Sid Gill was unable to cadge a lift.

The election of new officers was a real "Queensland" job - all over in about 10 seconds! But re-elected President Keith Vincent seemed not to mind (of course, he comes from NSW, really) and is already planning to make the second 'Bogga' day at his home a worthy successor to the Wagga weekends. He claims there were almost as many people at the inaugural Bogga day as at the very first Wagga weekend!

A MESSAGE FOR THE PRESIDENT
QUEENSLAND VETERANS

The end of a year which seems to travel so fast these days!

All the things that were slated to be completed when one 'retires', in the main, remain on the slate, however, it stops one from becoming rusty, even if we have experienced three floods in the area over the past two months ... that is from Lismore to Gympie.

The Christmas function at VIB was again well attended and well hosted by the staff of the station, our grateful thanks for their attention to this annual event.

We were sad to discover the loss of John Marshall who passed away just before Christmas, unfortunately we were not aware of his funeral until after the event.

Australia Day week-end bought the birth of the first 'Bogga' function which was held at the Vincents at Bogangar, the attendance was great, almost as many as the first "Wagga". Three originals of Wagga were there, Jim Rodda, John Norris and Keith Vincent, much time was spent in reviewing old Transits, photo's and other memorabilia which had not seen the light of day for many years. There were Bob and Freda Crawford, John and Betty Toland, Vince Sim, Dennis and Pauline Humphries, John and Mildred Norris, Jim and Joyce Rodda, David and Patricia Rogers, Spike and Colleen Jones, Dennis and Eve Bloudini, Glenys Baldwin, Jon Appleyard and family, Blue Easterling, Alma Laws (Dean at sea) ... a total of 32. Wilf Atkin, also a Wagga original, sent his regards and apologies for not attending, ... "the mind being willing but the body not functioning well enough". We are looking forward to next year for a similar reunion.

Through our association with the Friendship Force, Sadie and I had the pleasure of being hosted by a Telephone Pioneer in Kelso WA, Laura Wheeler, who was a telephonist for 47 years with "Ma Bell". We had the chance to reciprocate by hosting Emma and Al Gentle from Atlanta GA, he was an Engineer with "Southern Bell" and involved with the Mercury Project, which was a fore-runner to the Apollo Space programme. Al was presented with a Vet's badge and a copy of Invisible Bridges for his chapter. We had much in common for discussion with both of our new found friends.

A quick visit from down south by the Ray Baty's and Mick Woods' for the annual VFL match, Sydney Swans vs Brisbane Bears, saw Humphries, Laws, Batys, Woods, Keith Vincent and Al Gentle at Carrara. The Swans were bashed by the Bears which bought the comment from Ray Baty, "I travelled 600 miles to see this debacle". Al Gentle responded by saying (in his slow Georgia drawl), "You haven't much to gripe about, I travelled 12,000 miles to see the same debacle!"

Here's looking forward to next year.

Keith Vincent

HERE AND THERE - ROUND AND ABOUT

Our NSW Secretary, Alan Arndt and his better half, Joan have recently returned from a bout of long service leave which they spent touring North Queensland in their caravan.

On their travels they managed to visit the following veterans:

Peter Beebar - who put them up (or should it read put up with them) for two nights on his property at Upper Kandangar, via Gympie.

Dennis Humphries and wife Pauline at Banora Point.

Keith and Sadie Vincent, Jim and Joyce Rodda along with Des and Irene Woods (who were also on a caravan safari), and spent an enjoyable afternoon at the Kingscliff Bowling Club.

Albert Lan in his "10 year challenge" home at Broomes Head.

Trevor "Scratchy" Thatcher and good wife, Phyllis entertained them, along with Bruce and Ena Collett (who were returning from a train trip to Cairns) at their small (but very delightful) holding just out of Wauchope.

Bob Crawford and his wife Freda shouted afternoon tea at Tinonee, which is just outside Taree.

Alec Griffiths and his wife, Betty, for morning tea at Smith's Lake.

They also attempted to look up Ray and Val Peacock at Surfers' Paradise, and Ken and Ailsa Mullen at Stroud, but found that Ray had recently moved leaving no forward address, and Ken was not home at the time they called.

Jim Anderson recently returned from a trip to Western Australia which was billed the "Great Western Wildflower Trip". The weather was wet, windy, and cool, which probably accounts for the flowers over there being so wild. I certainly was, said Ando.

IN APPRECIATION

John Lee, writing to Alan Arndt, says (Been meaning to write this since the recent Veterans Meeting.

It was one of the most enjoyable meetings that I can remember in over twenty five years. I am convinced that the bulk of the credit for the excellent meetings and the way the Vets Association is being run is rightly due to you. I have a fair idea who is putting in the work necessary to hold the show together.

My appreciation also to Gordon Cupit who is a splendid President, and I must support Jack Hansson's statement that Jim Anderson's last Newsletter was a beauty.

I cannot leave the Committee out - they appear to be doing a good job - hope they are giving you support when it is needed.

Many thanks, Alan, for a good luncheon and the opportunity to yarn with many old friends.

Hope to be with you again later in the year."

Well, John, we do appreciate your appreciation. Thank you muchly.

VALE, JACK SALLAWAY

It is with heavy heart and the deepest regret that I have to report the death of Jack Sallaway, or "Sal", as he was affectionately known by all of us. He was born on 18th July, 1928 and died on 30th September, 1989 after a valiant but vain fight against cancer. Jack joined the Beam Service A.W.A., 47 York Street, Sydney on 17.1.44. He became a Service Clerk in 1945 and a telegraphist in 1947. He rose up to the rank of Senior Telegraphist in 1950, Area Controller in 1970, Traffic Controller in 1980, and Shift Controller in 1983. His service was in the Sydney Operating Room.

With O.T.C.A. being reshaped, John was given an early retirement and bought a place at Budgewoi, a popular retirement area in the Central Coast of New South Wales, and proceeded to give the fish a caning, fishing being one of his greatest and best-loved pastimes.

His greatest ambition in life was to make a journey (no - almost a pilgrimage) to Cape York, the very top of Australia. He and his son, Allen, decided to have a go, bought a four-wheel drive and the necessary equipment, and actually reached Weipa, an aluminium mining town on the east coast side of the Gulf of Carpentaria. It was here that the trouble started. Sal woke one morning to find that his leg had swollen painfully, and when the swelling persisted, and even moved to other parts of his leg, he and Allen decided to return home. Despite the good advice from son Allen that it would be better if his father was to hospitalise himself at Cairns, Jack insisted in making for home. Upon arrival back home the doctor shoved him into Gosford Hospital and gave treatment to dissolve the lump, but further tests showed that the main trouble was cancer in an advanced form and the only thing left to do was to treat the symptoms accordingly.

I went up to see him on three occasions, and the one thing that impressed him the most was the constant stream of Ex and O.T.C. blokes who came from far and wide to cheer him along. Despite the pain and discomfort that he must have been in he bore up well, right to the end.

His funeral was a big affair, and as one bloke said "we have enough traffic bods here to re-open the S.O.R." And he was spot on with that remark.

To his family goes our deepest sympathy. To his wife, Gwen, who bore the brunt of his suffering I give my heartfelt sympathy as one who has been there myself.

FROM OUR SOUTH AUSTRALIAN VETERANS

Herewith report on the A.G.M. of O.T.V.A (South Australia)

The meeting was held on Thursday 25th May at the Maritime Communications Centre at McLaren Vale, courtesy of Manager Fred Reeve.

President Jack Cox declared the meeting open at 12.45pm (15 minutes after the scheduled starting time) because of the late arrival of one member who lost his way from Adelaide. For very good reasons his name has been suppressed. No name - no pack drill.

The attendance was the best for some time due in no small measure to the venue and the culinary expertise of Fred's Jill-of-all-Trades, Rhonda Hunt. Only 3 of our total membership were absent. Ron Ward (apology), Cliff Birks (99 on 6th July), and Eric Symes who is confined to a wheel chair at the Julia Farr Centre. Both are remarkably mobile and mentally on the ball. Cliff would attend our gatherings were it not for a hearing deficiency and Eric because of his immobility. George Rowe and Bert Dudley visited them both recently and all parties enjoyed the time spent in reminiscing their respective roles in the communications field.

After welcoming the members and noting apologies, there being no correspondence, nominations were called for the positions of President and Secretary/Treasurer for the following year. After the usual long and heated discussions Geoff Cox and Bert Dudley were elected unopposed.

The Treasurer reported a balance of \$187 in a cheque account held in the State Bank of South Australia. Since we have been meeting at McLaren Vale we have no expenses for catering as was the case when we had to hire a room at a hotel.

The sole outlay during the previous 12 months was a donation to the Royal Nursing Society of South Australia for the devoted attention given to our late President, Brax Horrocks in the latter stages of the illness that finally took him from us. After some discussion it was agreed to retain the account and use the funds for similar occasions.

The meeting closed at 1.15pm, after which we were regaled with a wide range of delicacies served by the delectable Rhonda, with some assistance from Fred Reeve.

When all were seated, President Geoff thanked Fred for making us so welcome in such lovely surroundings and for making the facilities available for our next meeting on Thursday 23rd November, 1989. Geoff then thanked Rhonda on behalf of all members for her time and hard work in providing such a magnificent spread, and presented her with a token of our appreciation.

After more "chinwagging" members departed for their respective homes at 3.30pm.

Those present were Geoff Cox, Hugh Taylor, Dudley Treliving, Ken Springbett, Denis Maher, Harry Stone, Keith Parker, Dick Inwood, Max Lang, Frank (Bill) Brady, George Rowe, Fred Reeve, Bert Dudley.

NOTE Bill Brady, a new member, punched keys at VIA when the station was located on Grand Junction Road, Rosewater.

All the best.

Bert then went on saying that he hoped we could decipher his scrawl. If they wrote like Bert, this job would be a breeze.

Regards to all you Croweater Vets.

VALE ALBERT HENKEL

We regret to advise the passing of our Veteran Albert Henkel. "Henk" died on 16th September 1989, and once again it is a case of where we have no details concerning his service. I first met him when the Beam Wireless and Cable and Wireless services were merged to form the O.T.C.A. I had the greatest admiration for him, as he, along with Russ Welbourne, were the first two men to brave the job of delegates to the union, the P.R.E.I., C&W personnel never having been represented up until that time.

However I know that there are people out there who can give me a better personal obit and I would welcome any information that would make a fitting tribute to this Veteran.

To his family and friends we extend our deepest sympathy.

VALE BERT DUDLEY

Bert is reported to have died on 20th September, 1989, and once again we have no information on his service nor any personal background. I would appreciate it if his friends could give me a thumbnail sketch on him.

CORRECTION TO OUR APRIL 1989 NEWSLETTER, PAGE 57,
BOTTOM PARAGRAPH

Jack Bullen's wife "is still living with him".

We regret this omission, which was due to a misinterpretation of information supplied to the Editor.

W.H. SANDERS MEMORIAL SERVICE

Mrs. M Persson, daughter of the late W.H. (Sandy) Sanders wrote to advise us that the family was holding a short memorial service at the Ebenezer Uniting Church, Ebenezer on June 15th. Sandy and his family came from the Ebenezer area. Unfortunately our Secretary did not receive the letter dated June 8th until the 14th due to his business commitments and was not able to contact our Association President and interested members in time for the service.

VALE JOHN RAIT JORDAN

John Rait (Jack) Jordan died in the Hobart Hospital on 20th August, 1989 at the age of 76.

Jack joined AWA on 9/5/27 as a telegraph messenger at Aus.Pounds 1 per week then transferred to Beam floor in M.O.R. as bundler on 22.9.30

In May 1933 he enrolled as a correspondence student for the Radio Operators course with the Marconi School of Wireless, then in 1936 studied for the First Class Certificate and also taking a course in fitting and turning at Melbourne Technical College.

After completing duties with the sales service section in April 1938 joined the instrument repair section Beam Service C.R.O. Melbourne. On 6/3/39 he was awarded his fitting and turning certificate.

Jack resigned on 31/1/46 to form a partnership in business which did not work out and Jack applied for position as telegraph mechanic and recommenced duty with O.T.C. on 17th March, 1947.

Jack has relieved at Fiskville and served for 3 months at Cocos Island in 1966. The rest of Jack's career was served at the Melbourne Technical Workshop until retirement on 24/12/77. He then moved to Eagle Hawk Neck Tasmania where he lived in happy retirement until his death.

To his family and friends go our sincere condolences.

VALE A.H. (HORRIE) BROWN

We have been advised of the death of Horrie by his daughter, Valda. Horrie died on 3rd July, 1987. He is survived by two sons Theo and Marcus and daughter, Valda. Valda, whose married name is also Brown, has 5 children, 3 boys and 2 girls. This is another case of where we have no personal details of service but Valda has promised to send along an account of his career in communications which we will publish in the next edition of Newsletter.

To Theo, Marcus, Valda and his five grandchildren and many friends within the AWA Beam Service and Marine we extend our sincerest condolences.

GIVING CREDIT WHERE IT IS DUE

Newsletter wishes to thank the following contributors

Alan Arndt	Gordon Cupit	Kimberly O'Sullivan	Harold H. LeQuesne (Canada)
Guye Russell	Bill Cockerell	Jim Banks	Keith Vincent
John Lee	Bert Dudley	M Persson	Rita Dunstan

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