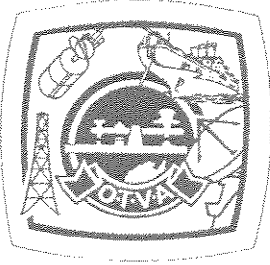


JIM ANDERSON
Editor:



Newsletter

Overseas Telecommunications Veterans Association (Australia)

VOL. 4 PT 1 PAGE 228 - NOVEMBER 1991

MEETINGS AND REUNIONS

VICTORIA

To be Advised by Letter to Members

NEW SOUTH

Reunion - Friday 29th November 1991
12 Noon - 3.00 pm

Conference Room
15th Floor, OTC House
231 Elizabeth Street
Sydney

WALES

QUEENSLAND

Reunion - Tuesday 19th November 1991
12 Noon - 3.00 pm

Maritime Comms. Stn
Caboolture, Queensland

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Reunion - Friday 29th November 1991
12.30 pm - 3.00 pm

Level 22
25 Grenfell Street
Adelaide Office

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

AGM - Tuesday 26th November 1991
12.30 pm - 3.00 pm

OTC Office
26 St. Georges Tce
Perth, WA

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.

Oscar

Tango

Victor

Alpha



FROM OUR SOUTH AUSTRALIAN VETERANS.

Firstly, our congratulations go to Tony Richardson on his election to the position of N.S.W. Secretary. Please pass on our deepest appreciation to retiring Secretary, ALAN ARNDT for his sterling efforts for us all over the past years. We wish him all the best in his retirement from the job and look forward to seeing him again if he can possibly make it to any of our functions here in South Aussie, in the future. Alan will be a hard act to follow, but knowing you personally over the years, Tony, and being well aware of your capabilities, I'm sure you will fill the bill, especially as you will have Alan's assistance over the next few years before he retires from O.T.C.A. or O.T.C. Ltd, or whatever the organisation will be re-titled in the future.

Following is a report of the annual general meeting of the O.T.V.A Sth. Australian Branch, held on 6th May, 1991 at the OTC Maritime Radio Centre, McLaren Vale, and commencing at 12.30pm.

A total of fifteen members were in attendance namely: Geoff Cox (Pres.), Ted Gunning (visitor ex Sydney), Dave Herbert, Dick Inwood, Gary & Debbie Kelly (Manager State), Dennis Springbett, Garry Stone (Secretary), Dudley Treliving and Paddy Wilkinson. Apologies were received from Ken Collet and George Rowe were unable to attend because of health reasons.

Elections for the position of President and Secretary/Treasurer resulted in the unanimous re-election of Geoff Cox as President and Harry Stone as Secretary/Treasurer.

The minutes of the previous A.G.M. and Annual Reunion for 1990 were available in the last two Veterans NEWSLETTERS and were taken as read and adopted by the meeting.

The only correspondence was the latest Vets mailing list as received from Alan Arndt on 3rd June, 1991, and which also contained the news of his retirement from the position of N.S.W. Secretary and Tony Richardson's election to the position. A letter was also received from the Veteran Cablemens' Association of Canada intimating that they were contemplating a visit to Australia in the near future and that they would make further contact as to a suitable venue and date.

Treasurer's report showed a balance of \$152.75 in our account with the State Bank Noarlunga and after payment of \$18.00 to President Geoff as reimbursement for purchases of "Thank You" gifts to Rhonda Hunt, the balance now stands at \$134.75. The report was duly passed and adopted.

The date and venue of the Annual Reunion (Christmas 1991) was set at the 5th Friday in November 1991, 29th, and commencing at 12:30pm, and it was proposed by the State Manager, Gary Kelly, that it be held in his Adelaide office in the Grenfell Centre. This is a departure from the normal generous hospitality of Maritime Manager, Fred Reeve, which has always been greatly appreciated by our members.

General Business resulted in a possible new member, Klaus Hagedorn, staff member at the Maritime Centre pending supply of communications history. Max Lang also pointed out that his brother, Tom Lang, should have been included in the "Out of the Past" list of Melbourne Operating Room during 1927.

Appreciation was offered by our President, Geoff Cox, to Fred Reeve (Manager) and Rhonda Hunt (Staff) for their generous and much appreciated hospitality.

Cheers,
Harry Stone (Secretary/Treasurer)

THANK YOU FROM JOHN R. MCGREGOR TO SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SECRETARY
HARRY STONE

Mr Harry Stone
Hon. Sec. OTCVA (S.A.)
10 Sussex Cresc.
Morphett Vale S.A. 5162

Dear Harry,

Thanks again for the no fuss entry into membership of the South Australian Division of OTCVA on 22/11/90. It was indeed a wonderful, personal feeling to be accepted into such a friendly group, all with common interests.

Herewith somewhat of a resume of my various positions etc held in telecommunications over the years.

1953 - 54: Attended Room 19 - Radio Electronics Centre, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. After 18 months received 2nd Class Certificate.

1954 - ?: Holiday relief at many Coast Stations on the BC coast, one of which was VAD, Pachena Point Radio which is out from the old Bamfield cable station (and for those that know the area) I have walked the trail from VAD to Bamfield because when I desired to come out, the lifeboat from Bamfield was not available. After this spell of relief duty, Marine and Aeradio combined and I did a short course in Ottawa on Aeradio procedures etc. My last station in BC was Williams Lake where I did approximately 12 months duty.

1963: Joined OTC in Sydney and from that date to the present have served at VIS, VID and last and most importantly VIA where I have now been for 21 years.

In the late 50s I did approximately 12 months duty as Marine Radio Officer on a passenger/cargo vessel plying between Canada and Australia. Our cargo was mainly oregon timber from Canada, general cargo from Australia to Fiji and raw sugar from Fiji back to Canada.

It was an especially interesting experience while at VAD (Pachena Point) as this station, at that time was the only coast station on the Canadian West coast able to supply DF bearings to ships requesting same. This being so because the station is on the Canadian side of the entrance to Juan de Fuca Strait which is renowned for being fogbound. I was fortunate enough to be on duty once or twice while stationed there and performed the duty of supplying bearings for vessels.

Hoping this resume is of some interest to some, especially those who have been in the Cable section and any interested readers in Canada.

Best regards

John R. McGregor

VALE

A letter from Harry Stone, Secretary/Treasurer of the Crow-Eaters Branch, South Australia, advises us that one of their elder members, HUGH TAYLOR, passed away on July 16th. The funeral service was held at Holy Trinity Church, North Terrace, Adelaide, with the ensuing interment at the Anglican Section, Enfield General cemetery.

O.T.C. Ltd and the O.T.V. Association, South Australia were represented by Fred Reeve, Manager Maritime Centre, McLaren Vale at the service. As there was a "no flowers" request, a donation of \$25 was sent by the South Australian Branch to the World Vision of Australia in honour of Hugh's memory in accordance with his family's wishes.

A sympathy card and information regarding the donation were onpassed to Hugh's widow, Mrs Marion Taylor.

Once again, we do not appear to have much information on Hugh's history and Harry is still trying to glean any information available from his friends and acquaintances. One item supplied by "Blue" Easterling is to the effect that Hugh was the O.I.C. Manus Island at the time of the Japanese invasion, and sailed by launch to Madang and thence travelled on foot in company with Cyril Urquhart up to the Finisterre Mountains to Mount Hagen, and then flown out to Moresby. Perhaps other vets can supply more information about Hugh and his early operating days.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS ANNUAL MEETING

Harry Stone advised that this function is confirmed as being held on the fifth (5th) Thursday in November (29th) commencing at 12:30pm, the venue being the O.T.C. office, Grenfell Centre, Adelaide. Invitation is by O.T.C. State Manager, Mr Gary Kelly.

FROM THE EDITOR

It's a weird thing running the NEWSLETTER. One moment I'm wringing my hands in despair over an empty desk, and the next minute I'm up to my ears in contributions.

NOW DON'T GET ME WRONG!!

This is not a complaint by any means. Keep the contributions coming, boys and girls. Some articles will have to be deferred because of lack of space and because I don't wish to rupture the good graces of the people who prepare and print the final copy. I am ever grateful for the assistance given to me by the O.T.C. administration and staff without whom we would be unable to function.

The main problem is what to print in the current edition, and what to defer. The quality of copy I receive is pretty high and I agonise over each item, changing my mind many times before the final decision is made.

So while I'm at it, let me acknowledge the contributions I have received, and a heartfelt vote to thanks to the contributors.

HARRY STONE

VINCE GIBSON

GORDON CUPIT

TONY RICHARDSON

J S FOLLETT (C&W Retired Staff Society)

HAROLD H. LE QUESNE

KEITH AND SADIE VINCENT

R INWOOD

DEREK WALKER

GUYE RUSSELL

MARGOT DATE (Sydney Morning Herald)

BRIAN WALLACE

(Veterans' Cabledmens' Ass. Auckland)

"MICK" WOOD

And please, keep those contributions coming.

APOLOGY

To my old mate. VINCE GIBSON, an abject apology. The continuing story of COMMUNICATIONS IN ANTARCTICA should have been printed in our April NEWSLETTER this year so that it would have preserved its continuity. The second part of your article follows immediately, and readers are advised that the first part appears in our November 1990 NEWSLETTER. Please read on.

COMMUNICATIONS IN ANTARCTICA (continuing)

Continuing on our journey, we were all impressed by the magnificent grandeur of the icebergs, the beauty of the delicate colouring, each one of a differing shape, the most spectacular being the older bergs that had turned over, like giant teeth sticking up into the sky. We measured the height of one of these by trigonometry with instruments on the boat and found it to be 306 feet above the water line. This was Saturday 20th January and we were in an ice jungle. One iceberg we saw in the distance was 12 miles long. We were now entering pack ice, not too thick at the outer edges, but as we progressed it gradually became thicker until quite large floes were encountered. The sea in the pack is dead calm, not the slightest wave action visible, just like a mirror reflecting the icebergs, only the ripples from the boat disturbing the reflections. Evening came and with the sun low on the horizon and later setting for a short time, the colouring in the ice was something to behold. I tried to capture it on film as did everyone else on board, but looking at it later I realised that it was impossible to capture the vast beauty of the ice. During the night we were disturbed by the ship continually grinding through the pack ice, making very slow progress. The ship was built to travel through light pack, the keel towards the front of the boat was rounded, so that when it encountered a floe, or ice, it could not avoid, the ship climbed up on to the floe and with the weight of the ship the floe cracked apart making a passage way for the ship. It was slow progress and our time for landfall had to be revised.

In fact, it was 5:30pm on Monday 22nd January, before we finally anchored off Casey and we had our first view of the continent. A large white mass of ice rising up from the sea, a continent half as large again as Australia, rising up sharply to a plateau about 12 or 13 thousand feet above sea level for the greater part of the area. We looked with interest at the buildings that were to be our home for the next 12 months or so, a line of buildings stretching 200 odd yards, built on scaffolding so that they would not drift up in the snow.

There were about twelve or thirteen buildings in the block each separated from each other with iron grating between, for safety reasons due to the fire hazard. A corridor built of half round galvanised iron ran along one side of the building connecting all the buildings and making it possible to enter any building without going outside. We met the men who had been down there

for a year or so, they all had such long hair and were unshaven, in fact that is what most of us did, did not cut our hair nor shave for the whole time we were in Antarctica, most of us chickened out before getting off the boat on our return and walked off the boat looking respectable. It was a busy time for everyone, up at 5:30am and the evening meal was at 8:00pm, everything had to be manhandled on to army landing craft and taken ashore. This was some years ago and I think it may now be much more mechanised.

The radio room at this time of the year, with all the extra men and communications, also with all the extra men and ships coming and going from the other Australian bases, was like a proverbial beehive. At first visit one wondered about the ability to learn and cope, thinking that in about a weeks time it would be your responsibility. So much to quickly learn, with panels of meters and instruments, various frequencies and schedules, new procedures etc. Casey was the main communications station on the continent for Australian bases, handling all the traffic from Mawson and Davis to and from Melbourne Head Office, also working the French base at Dumon d'Urville, the American base at McMurdo, working ships during the summer changeover period during their voyages to and from Antarctica, handling mainly weather and scientific data from the French and American bases, and other Australian bases, but also large quantities of administrative and personal traffic from the other two Australian bases.

It was a busy and demanding job, challenging but I must say enjoyable. The first sked in the morning was at the respectable hour of 8:00am and I still remember from where I slept it was 13 steps to the radio room. The morning hours were hectic, tight schedules and a lot of work to prepare and it was 11:00 am when the Radphone sked came up with Sydney that one could relax a little. A quick cup of tea down in the kitchen then back to work until lunch at 12:30. After lunch it was steady work until later afternoon when another busy period began, and the shift ended at 6:00pm after another half hour Radphone sked with Sydney, then it was time for the evening meal and relaxation. The next shift began at 7:00pm and went through to about 3:00am, a much quieter shift in regards to workload. We had old Collins receivers and two Collins transmitters of 10KW output, there was another old U.S. navy receiver which I liked to use for the Radphone skeds, and there was another transmitter of 1KW output. The transmitters were located about a mile distant, and the receivers were say a mile and a half in another direction, both connected to our base by landline and remotely controlled. The receiving aerials at the time I was there was a curtain array, with two similar aerials about two hundred yards apart, the theory being that it would help overcome the fade and flutter that we experienced.

Sun spot activity was a bug bear in the region, the particles from the sun stream in at the magnetic poles and the slightest change in sun spot activity is very quickly noticed in difficult radio conditions, which generally means chasing around quickly for suitable frequencies. On many occasions there was a complete blackout, nothing receivable on any frequency. We called it a hole in the sky, sometimes lasting for a day or two.

The Auroras were another spectacular display, like curtains of light moving slowly across the sky, they also were closely related to sun spot activity, and our radio blackouts. It was only possible to see the auroras during the darker part of the year, they were still there in the summer but there was no darkness to view them.

Another feature of the place was the large amount of static electricity, especially when a blizzard was blowing, everything we touched in radio room gave us a zap and at the end of the day the tips of the fingers were sore from being continually zapped by electrical discharges.

However, getting back to unloading the boat, in about a week of hard work all the supplies had been unloaded and the small amount of return goods had been loaded and we were given a deadline for the takeover of the station. The old crew were anxious for their departure and the day

came for the changeover, with a party, after which the old crew departed and the boat sailed slowly out of sight. We were so busy in the radio room that we hardly had time to notice apart from the three pips the boat gave on the siren as it finally got under way. The next couple of weeks were hectic, learning all the intricacies of the communication network, unpacking all the supplies and putting them in the correct places, and in any spare time we could find, out exploring the surroundings of this vast unfamiliar land. The evenings were long and after dinner most men were outside walking until ten o'clock or later, familiarising themselves with the surroundings. During the summer we were restricted in the areas where we could walk, with melt lakes, soft snow and dangerous ice cliffs. One unusual event was walking on the ice across a melt lake, it must have been the pressure of the foot steps on the ice as occasionally a loud noise like a pistol shot would erupt almost making one jump with fright.

February passed quickly and March came with gradually cooler temperatures and the freezing of the sea. I have never experienced very cold temperatures before maybe -2 or -3 degrees celcius, so it was interesting when the temperature one day dropped to -10C. The air was so clear and dry, filled with small particles of ice like diamond dust in the sunlight and it felt invigorating. Everything was frozen, no mud or slush or moisture of any kind.

Gradually the sea froze, just a skim of soft ice at first, breaking up into small masses, forming what was called pancake ice, small pieces of ice maybe a couple of feet across with turned up edges due to the action of the movement of the water. After a while we had lower temperatures, maybe -20C and that hardened the ice, then some snow which gave a covering to the ice. It was with some trepidation that we first walked on the sea ice but after gaining confidence we found it was a short cut to many more places of interest. The old base of Wilkes was only about a mile or so away across the sea ice so we spent many hours exploring the old base. It was now completely covered over with snow and ice. The new base at Casey was built on a different principle so that it could never be iced over as Wilkes had become.

Another feature of the area was the high winds or blizzards which we first experienced during March of this particular year. The wind always came from the same direction, about 114 degrees sometimes beginning slowly and other times very abruptly, winds that would rise to 100 knots or more, lasting for varying periods from a day to eleven days, days of nil visibility, the air full of drift snow racing across the sky with a cutting effect similar to sand. The building began to vibrate at about 80 knots and if a blizzard came up during the night, one would wake when the building began to vibrate and just mentally remember where ones clothing and heavy boots were in the dark if it became necessary to dress. However, the buildings withstood all winds, they were built to withstand 150 knots, some winds over the years came close to that figure, the noise was like an express train passing. The sea ice suffered during these winds, generally breaking up with the pressure of the wind, but during most of the year it was not long before new ice formed and it was fit to walk on again.

I will finish this episode as before with an extract from the diary.

Sunday 1st April

Another day dawned with high winds, whipping up spray on the sea making rainbows where they caught the light of the sun filtering through the drift. It has been around the sixty knot mark all day and some of the aerals have broken in the wind. About 3 in the afternoon with the Tech. I went up to the receiver hut in a tracked vehicle to repair them. The wind was around fifty knots gusting to seventy. We were appropriately dressed, even though it was comparatively warm at -6C. The face or what was left of the face uncovered got very cold and it was the first time I have been able to lean backwards and practically run up a hill covered in snow. Travelling in the opposite direction was a different story, a real struggle. It was invigorating being able to go

outside for the first time for almost a week. Pictures on again this evening together with our weekly chocolate ration handout. The wind dropped later in the evening and the sea has begun to freeze again. Another month has begun and everything going well. The days will really be short at the end of this month, I am looking forward to the experience of winter down here".

APPLECROSS RADIO MUSEUM

The announcement in the last Newsletter of the passing of Eric Smith, the Curator of the Applecross radio museum, brought back memories of my last visit to Perth. Eric, whom I had not previously met, knew of me from our Newsletters and correspondence when the museum was being set up and made us very welcome. Even though the museum was not open at the particular hour of our visit, he opened up and gave us a tour of the museum.

When the station was no longer needed by OTC, it was taken over by the local council, who loaned the building to the Perth Society of Radio Engineers, who have been responsible for establishing the museum. And a good job has been done; the exhibits are many and varied with radio as the main theme, from a range of domestic receivers to marine installation, aerodrome transmitter and pedal radio.

The local council must also be complimented with the way they have converted the site into a picnic and tourist spot. Should one visit in spring they will find most varieties of West Australian wild flowers growing in profusion. Other outstanding features are good parking areas, picnic tables and chairs and a number of marked bush walking tracks taking from 10 minutes up to 30 minutes. The huge concrete antenna anchorages make excellent vantage points for views of the Swan River and the City. No matter the season, I would strongly recommend that visitors to Perth not miss Applecross, which is known locally and on the maps as 'Wireless Hill'.

By Gordon Cupit

RADIO AUSTRALIA

In a recent Sunday Comic appeared the following question, "What was Radio Australia originally known?" The answer appearing the following week was "Radio Australia was named "Australia Calling" when it started in 1939."

This brought to mind that when I was a messenger in 1934, that the Beam walking boy messenger on the 4-11 shift on a Sunday evening shift and the boy on the 11pm - 6am shift on Monday morning were required to report to Perc Farmer at radio station VK 2ME for duty to wind up the gramophones and put the records on whilst the station was on the air. Perc started the programme with the call of the kookaburra followed by, if I remember rightly, "This is the Voice of Australia, experimental shortwave station VK 2ME broadcasting from Sydney Australia on a frequency of metres". Surely this was the original Radio Australia. Can anyone give any further information?

SYDNEY OPERATING ROOM 1933/34

Further to previous article names brought to our attention that were omitted are Laurie Sanders, John Olle and Bill Stevenson. Incidentally, the Beam room in those days was known as the Sydney Central Radio Office.

FAR AND WIDE

Looking through the Newsletter distribution list, it is surprising as to how many of our members have moved out of the cities and can now be found at places all over Australia. Should any of these members like to see any of their touring old buddies, we could list their addresses in the Newsletter.

Many of our members living in the cities attend the meetings and reunions, but on a pro rata basis Sydney falls far behind the other Associations and many we have not seen for some years and are missed by their old workmates. So come along to our next meeting and see our terrific venue, with its outstanding harbour views.

FROM OUR WESTERN AUSTRALIAN VETERANS

VALE TED KEMP

JOSEPH EDWARD (TED) KEMP died suddenly at his Mandurah home in June. He was 72. Ted went to sea as an AWA radio operator before the Second World War, sailing out of Cairns on trawlers. When the Japanese bombed Darwin on 19 February, 1942 Ted was an operator on board the hospital ship MANUNDA which was in the harbour at the time. When AWA handed over control of the Coast Radio Service to the newly-formed O.T.C.A. in 1946, Ted came ashore for the following 32 years and served on such varied stations as Sydney Radio, Port Moresby, Cooktown, Wyndham, Esperance and Perth, retiring from the latter in 1978. Ted's wife, Norma, died a few years ago and he lived by himself in their retirement home in Mandurah, where he could indulge in his favourite pastime of fishing. Although he suffered a stroke about a year ago and had admitted to not feeling too good for a few months, his sudden death came as a great shock to his many friends. His cheerful nature and good humour will be sadly missed.

VALE TO A GRAND OLD MORSEMAN, ELLIS SMELLIE

The West Australian Branch's oldest Veteran, Ellis Henry Smellie, passed away on 8 March 1991 after a short illness. Ellis would have been well known to many veterans throughout Australia and even those who never met him will remember his life story being 'serialised' in the Newsletter some years ago. There is no doubt that, at 97 years of age, he had led a full and interesting life. He had been blind for some years, during which time he had been living in the Ida Mann Hostel for the Blind in Maylands, W.A., but accompanied by his daughter, he would front up at the OTVA (WA) annual reunion each year, where it was obvious that his mind was still as sharp as a tack. He eventually succumbed to pneumonia. Our sympathies are extended to his daughter, Mrs Barbara Hannay. Hannay Ellis will be buried in Victoria, his home state. The OTVA(WA) Branch has sent a donation to the Institution for the Blind in lieu of flowers.

It stands to reason that a man who has lived 97 years has had more experiences than you can poke a stick at. I'm sure that you have all read his personal life story in the serialised article - nay - let's say book - which was published in the back copies of our NEWSLETTER.

I am glad to say that Ellis did fill in the Particulars of Service which is available to all Veterans and did it in a way that makes it a delight to read. It is a great pity that those of you Veterans who have not filled in the form don't take a leaf out of Ellis's book.

How about this?

Born Mallacoota Inlet Victoria 14/6/1893.

Age 12-15 (6/6/1906 to 1908): PMG Telegraph messenger Bridgewater-on-Loddon Vic. at \$1 a week.

Age 15-17 (1908-1910): Victorian Railways Operating temporary Clerk Wycheproof, Maryborough, Wodonga 30c per day.

Age 17-18 (1910-1912): Victorian Railways Permanent telegraphist operator - Melbourne Ballarat Seymour.

Age 19-22 (1912-1915): Coastal Radio Service Engineer operator Thursday Island PMG's Dept.

Age 22-23 (1915-30.09.17): To Navy control 1/7/1916. Some time in charge. CRS Port Moresby \$432 per annum plus district allowance. Free medical, free uniforms, no taxation.

Age 24-26 (30.9.1917 to 21.5.1920): CRS Adelaide Warrant telegraphist.

Age 27 (26.5.1920 to 21.5.1922): Perth Radio telegraphist \$470 per annum plus \$60 cost of living to A.W.A. Control.

Age 29-31 (1922 to 1924): Perth Radio telegraphist.

Age 31-32 (1924 to 1925): In charge Darwin Radio.

Age 32-36 (1925 to 1929): Perth Radio radio telegraphist AWA.

Age 36-37 (1929 to 1930): EsperanceRadio.

Age 37-41 (1930 to 1934): Geraldton Radio OIC AWA.

Age 41-44 (1934 to 1937): BroomeRadio OIC AWA.

Age 44-48 (1937 to 1951): Melbourn Radio Radio telegraphist.

Age 58-61 (1951 to 1954): Thursday Island OIC.

Age 61-64 (1954 to 1957): Adelaide radio.

At this time he retired.

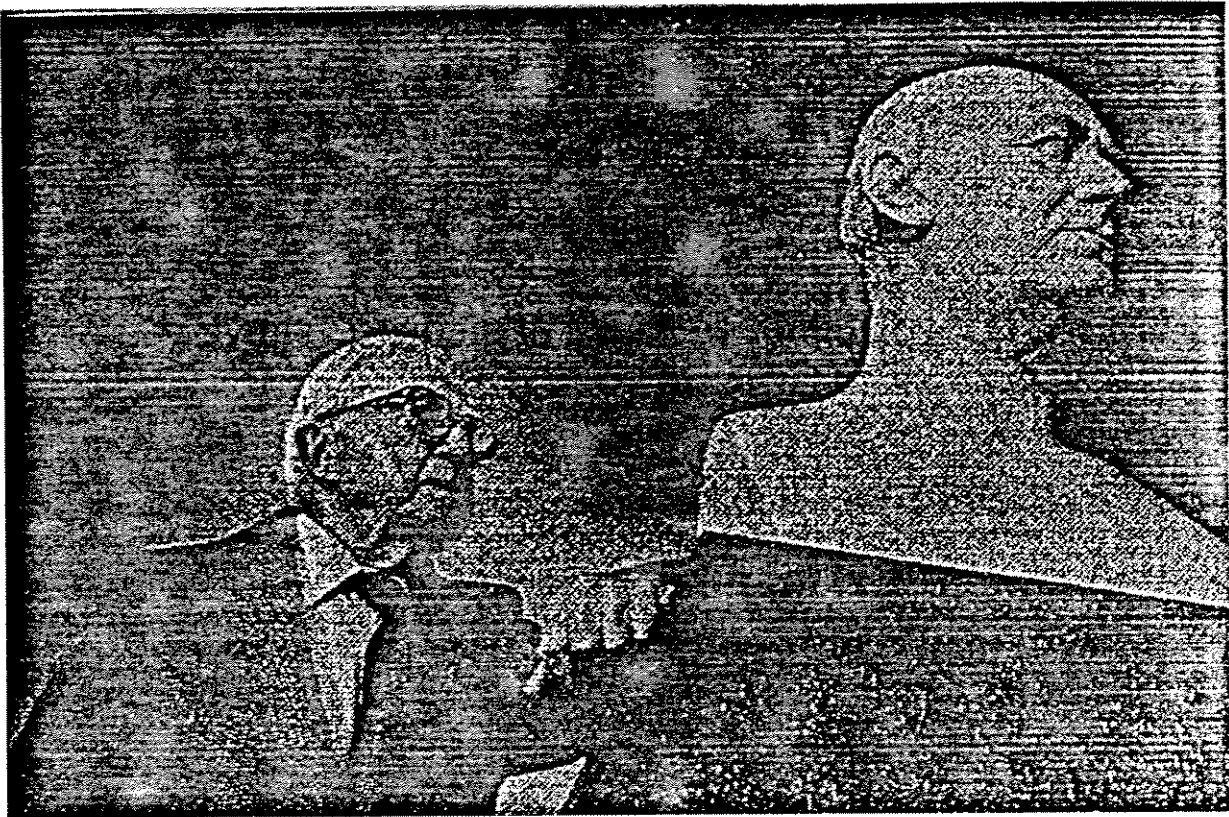
He served at sea on the following ships: TATANA, MINKAA, BARWON, DANDENONG, CRONULLA, BAROSSA, TALINGA, IRON MONARCH, TARINNA, BASSTRADER, MARRA, YANDERRA, LAMEMACQUARIE, ADELONG, NORTHESEK, LAKE BARRINE, LAKE ILLAWARRA, IRANDA, TIMBARRA, YARRINGA, YOLANDA, DISCOVERER 2, OIL RIG TO N.Z. MILLERS MACARTHUR, VICTORIA, THERMISTOCLES. HE ALSO SERVED SIX TIMES ON PILOT VESSELS WYUNA AND RESCUT TUGS.

In all he served on 30 ships until he was 75 years old. Total of 64 years with Morse code.

He has added a little note: After age 65, I earned about \$15,000. Where, oh where has it gone?

Good one, Ellis.

Sydney's tribute to a man of sound and vision



"I was really pleased to meet him, that is a day I remember." ... Mr Boccini with Marconi's bust.

By MARGOT DATE

Mr Joe Boccini last saw Guglielmo Marconi, the inventor of the wireless, on a ship in Port Said, Egypt, in 1935.

Yesterday, he saw him again - or rather a marble bust of the man - at the Sydney Maritime Communications Station at La Perouse.

Today, OTC will honour Marconi by unveiling the bust.

The restored statue had sat beside Parramatta Road at Ashfield since 1964. It was originally given by the Lions Club of Turin to the Lions Club of Sydney which asked the Marconi Company's Australian representative, AWA, to mind it.

Marconi's son, Marchese Giulio Marconi, unveiled the statue at the AWA Radio-Electric Works in Ashfield in 1964 and after the company moved, OTC took over its trusteeship.

Mr Boccini, now 86, was a telegraphist with the Eastern Telegraph Company when he delivered a confidential message to Marconi and received a message from him in return, but the years have erased the contents from his memory.

The meeting, which took place two years before Marconi's death, was a highlight for Mr Boccini. "I was really pleased to meet him, that is a day I remember," he said as he gazed at the bust yesterday.

OTC's general manager, maritime, Mr Warren Grace, said it was fitting that the bust be displayed at the communications station as "a tribute to Marconi's vision".

PUBLISHED IN THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD 17TH MAY, 1991.

THE MARCONI BUST

On 17 May 1991, the bust of Marconi, set up on a magnificent red granite plinth, was unveiled at the La Perouse Maritime Station by the Italian Vice Consul (The history of the bust appeared in a previous newsletter). The ceremony was conducted by Warren Grace, OTC's General Manager, Maritime and was attended by leaders of the Italian community, local dignitaries, members of the Sydney Lions Club, OTC Veterans, AWA Veterans and OTC staff. After refreshments, guests were given guided tours of the station.

After so many years in the open air at AWA Ashfield Works, the bust was a bit weatherworn. The management of OTC must be congratulated for arranging such a perfect restoration job, and supplying the base and landscaping around the base. I understand the whole memorial weighs 1 1/2 tons. Unfortunately, rabbits which appear to be in abundance, by the amount of droppings around the station grounds, made a fair job of demolishing the landscaping. Also, a very large bird, allegedly having fed on mulberries, splashed down Marconi's shoulder, the strain refusing to completely disappear despite hard work by the cleaning staff.

The memorial is in a commanding position at La Perouse and we trust that the future does not result in desecration by bird life and so spoil such a remarkable restoration job.

Incidentally, a lane just near the entrance gates has been named Marconi Lane by the local Council.

Whilst, on the subject of Marconi, a very good article appeared on the historical page of the Telegraph Mirror on 9 February under the title "How Marconi made waves". It gave me a run down of his life and some of his achievements from 1894 until his death in 1937. Some interesting quotes from part of the article are:

"In 1910, Marconi went to Buenos Aires to receive signals from Clifden, Ireland. Eight years later, he sent a message from England to Australia.

In 1916, Marconi turned his attention to short-wave transmission, beginning extensive experiments to confine wireless impulses to a directed path, an idea he had worked on in his earliest days.

Now he used a parabolic reflector behind the aerial to focus wireless waves into a beam. 'Beam Transmission' was perfected in 1922 and is now one of the basic parts of all radio transmissions.

Marconi developed many applications of the Beam. he invented a Beam lighthouse to help save lives at sea by directing signals through heavy fog to give ships their shore bearings.

In 1934, he produced the first equipment to make the 'blind' navigation of ships and aircraft possible."

On the basis that the article appeared in the Australian press, it is a pity that no mention was made of the part that our own Eric Burbury and Syd Newman played in Marconi's experiments in 1924. This story appeared in our April 1977 Newsletter. Should any member be interested, I am sure archivist Kimberley O'Sullivan would supply a photocopy.

By Gordon Cupit

OTC/TELECOM MERGER

Last year there was talk of the Government selling off our beloved OTC, a proposal which was unbelievable and an insult to management, staff and to our members, bearing in mind the excellent results not only financially but in service and growth in facilities to the public. A record to be proud of.

Fortunately, the Government decided that more effective proposition would be the merger of Telecom and OTC. This is well on the way, with the appointment of an Interim Board of Directors headed by OTC Chairman, David Hoare. In the meantime, OTC is pressing on with a major restructuring programme which divides the organisation into nine Divisions, each headed by a General Manager. These Divisions are: Technology, Business Operations, Corporate, Finance, Human Resources, Services, OTC International, Maritime and OTC Enhanced. It is understood that in the near future that these Divisions will each be responsible for its own Administration and budgeting and that there will be some degree of decentralisation (an obnoxious word for one who has had the advantages of centralised systems bashed into his brains for some 30 years). This latter action will probably lead to some creation and abolition of positions and transfer of some staff to different duties.

OTC must be pleased, not only with its new developments, services and contracts as seen in Transit, but for its 1989/90 financial results. Total revenue rose by 18.5% realising a net profit of \$234.6 million after providing \$152.4 million for income tax. From the profit, \$104 million was paid to the Government as a dividend, making a total of \$256 million to Government coffers. Profit per employee being \$181,000. Total assets are now \$1,313 million. At the time of writing, the 1990/91 figures have not been published, but I believe, they are down slightly on the previous year, but this is only to be expected with the recession.

The Governments action for the Telecom/OTC merger and the selling of Aussat, is an endeavour to improve the alleged poor showing of Telecom. One can see a few faults with Telecom, but the reason for the action is hard to substantiate when one looks at Telecom's recent performance and statistics. In 1975, they had 335,000 new connections with 60% of households having phones. STD maximum distance cost was \$2.70 for 3 minutes. In 1990 they had 706,000 new connections, 94% of households having a phone and STD cost down to \$1.72. Net profit for the year was \$1,300 million. During the year, they spent \$3 billion on capital works taking their assets to over \$20 billion. Telecom have ceased using Treasury Loans and its entire operation is now funded through its internal cash flow and supplemented by borrowing at competitive market interest rates. Like OTC they are already successfully competing on the open market with a number of their services. The first year of operation as a merged body and against the new proposed opposition, will be looked for with interest.

Telecom have had some poor media with its recent announcement of higher charges, but it has been pointed out by one media editorial, and I quote:

"Part of the increased charges will go to meet the organisation's inaugural tax bill - \$650 million in 1991/92.

At the same time Telecom officials have identified 'total payments to Government of some \$2.4 billion.

Is this the hidden cost of Telecom's absorbing OTC?

Mr Beazley makes a point of saying the increases are less than Telecom sought.

Perhaps he can explain what proportion of the extra revenue will go to the Federal Government".

British Telecom, on the other hand, went down the road of privatisation and make a net annual profit of \$6.8 billion (Aust.). This record was made at the expense of the loss of 18,000 jobs and a considerable rise in charges. The new rates now take them well above those of Western European, United States and Australian carriers. The Chairman, who is paid \$855,000 per annum, in announcing the profits, stated that another 10,000 jobs would be slashed. Well done, Mr Chairman? ...

By Gordon Cupit

FROM OUR VICTORIAN BRANCH OTVA

MELBOURNE VETS 34th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 34th Annual General Meeting of the Melbourne Vets took place on the second floor of O.T.C. House, Lonsdale Street, Melbourne on Friday May 10, 1991.

On declaring the Annual General Meeting open President Sam Bright called for one minute's silence in respect of Judy Robinson who passed away on Thursday May 2, 1991.

Before handing over the reins to the new President, Sam said he had thoroughly enjoyed his two year's stint and would like to place on record his appreciation of the work done by ladies in the preparation of the food.

Due to the resignation of /Guye Russell, Secretary for eight years, the meeting decided to revert back to the old system of a Secretary/Treasurer and this was agreed upon.

Office bearers for 1991/92 are -

President - Jim Kennedy
Secretary/Treasurer - Bob Hall
Auditors - Ian Reed and Jim Gowans

Vets around Australia will be sorry to learn that our Foundation Secretary/Treasurer Charles Carthew is now a patient at Centennial House, Raleigh Street, Windsor, 3181.

In closing the Annual General Meeting, newly elected President Jim said that as this would be the last time we would be able to meet in this building he would like to place on record the Melbourne Vets appreciation to O.T.C. for the use of building for meetings and facilities for duplicating etc.

Jim then declared the meeting closed and invited all present to partake of the hospitality of the Vets.

There were 48 members present with 15 apologoies registered as hereunder -

Present - Sam Bright, Arthur Green, Jack White, Cliff Allison, Denis Chambers, Bill Bentley, Vin Gibson, Doug Crabtree, Gwen Hill, Guye Russell, Page Barrow, Chris Tancheff, Bill O'Donnell, Mark Wilton, Howard Newsome, Brian Williams, Jim Fes, Jim Kennedy, Dave Gault, Alec Stewart, Audrey Bright, Frank Patrick, Vance Findlay, Geoff Whitmore, Doug Richards,

Alan McLean, Gerard McCarthy, Norm Stubbs, Robert Conchie, Les Foley, Ted Read, Stan Davies, Jim Robinson, Jim Gowans, Bob Hall, C. Micallef, Don MacGillivray, Pearl Peat, Merv Couper, Joyce Nicholson, Eddie Trezise, John Coxhead, Jean Russell, Norm Green, Marie Crabtree, Alan Vagg, John Davey, Ian Reed.

Apologies - Tom Bryant, Cyril Martin, Vi Harrison, Peter Dennis, Jack Curtis, Len Hingley, Terry Payne, Tom Lang, John Bennett, Betty Prentice, Doug Battern, Bruce Starr, Vic Carboon, Steve Burdon, Geo. Maltby.

GUYE RUSSELL
Secretary (Retiring)

WHILST WE ARE ON VICTORIAN MATTERS

The summary of the 34th Annual General Meeting of the Melbourne O.T.V.A. Association was forwarded to us by GUYE RUSSELL.

Guye congratulates TONY RICHARDSON in taking on the job as Secretary of the N.S.W. Branch, "I know how much work it involves, but there is a great deal of satisfaction to be gained", he says.

He also advises that the O.T.C. Melbourne office will be moving shortly which means that the Victorian Veterans will have to find a new venue for their meetings, mainly because O.T.C. in its new form will be accommodated in two floors of office space only.

Guye is resigning his post as Secretary which means that Bob Hall will be taking on the combined job as Secretary/Treasurer. He points out that Bob's service goes back to 1957 so he has quite a few years service under his belt.

Firstly, let me congratulate Bob Hall taking over and incorporating the jobs of Secretary and treasurer under the same roof. To you, Guye, my personal thanks for your contributions to the NEWLETTER in the past and the best luck in your future endeavours.

VALE MARIE CASEY

News has reached us that MARIE CASEY, (Case, as I used to call her) died on 23 March, 1991 in hospital after a long illness.

Marie joined the Sydney Beam Radio Office on 21 March 1927. She resigned shortly after that but was re-appointed on 6 May 1929 as a Counter Clerk. From July 1942 to December 1944, Marie served in Brisbane. After a further period in Sydney, until August 1952 she was transferred to Port Moresby until April 1955. During this period she performed relief duties at Lae for over three months in 1954.

On her return to Sydney, Marie resumed as a Counter Officer in the S.O.R. Accepting Office and was promoted as Overseer (Printergrams) on March 7, 1962. She continued in this position until January 15, 1969.

Marie was greatly liked by all her colleagues for her helpful attitude and was respected by her staff as a firm, but fair, supervisor. She was aged 82.

EDITOR'S NOTE

I had alot of time for Marie. She had an effervescent personality and was good company at any event. She was a beautiful woman in every sense of the word.

This is one Farewell I hoped I would never have had to make.

MINUTES

35TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING O.T.V.A.

NSW BRANCH HELD ON 10TH MAY 1991

PRESENT: E Anthoney, A Arndt, H Anthonisz, S Ayres, A Aziz, A Barrie, R Beaumont, R Beecham, D Bourne, C Brophy, S Burdon, B Callaghan, B Chant, D Charrett, B Collett, R Connolly, O Cooper, M Cresswell, J Creswick, W Creswick, A Culloden, B Darragh, J Davis, B Day, G Day, P Day, P Dean, M Dobson, L Dooley, A Dulihanty, T Ebert, J Edwards, B Fisher, L Endre, P Feeley, P Gorman, L Gowanlock, W Grace, T Gunning, N Harris, P Helps, A Hennessy, B Henson, R Hookway, B Hoschke, J Howe, K Howe, T Hughes, N Huntington, F Kannard, F Keen, B Luke, S Luxton, G Madren, G Maltby, N Martin, M Matthyitz, T Molloy, J Morrison, B Mortimer, G MacDonald, K McCredde, R McDonald, H McInnes, P Nagger, B Nell, I Nelson, A Oakford, K O'Sullivan, K Oxley, A Peacock, J Peridis, J Pow, A Purtill, K Quinn, D Richardson, T Richardson, A Ricketts, P Roberts, P Ryan, G Schulze, J Simmons, D Smith, R Smith, M Subramany, A Taylor, G Taylor, J Taylor, S Taylor, M Thatcher, G Thompson, E Thornley, J Thwaites, R Turnbull, T White, M Wilden, D Wills, M Wood, L Wylde.

APOLOGIES: R Allen, T Bastow, R Baty, R Boyden, J Bragg, L Brown, B Brown, A Cabrera, G Calais, W Chant (SNR), P Chapman, H Cook, M Condon, H Cranfield, C Dale, K Erickson, R Farrell, R Fernando, V Gibson, E Haran, E Harcourt, J Harte, L Hingley (DIR), J Hinwood, D Hoare (DIR), C Hurndell, M Hutchinson (DIR), R Imrie, N Jackson, F James, H Jones, T Knowles, B Leweniec, L McIlree, C Maiden, C Manning, B Martin, J Menadue (DIR), S Meynert, R Mobbs, V Moore, K Morgan, C Motbey, K Mullen, A McConnachie, M Nemeyer, J Newlyn, E Norris, M O'Hanlon, J Orton, S Peck, T Perrett, C Pickford, T Pike, M Reed, D Reynolds, J Rolley, S Sandilands, D Savage, B Scherf, R Spray, K Stone, C Swinnery, C Tresidder, C Vahtrick, J Vassallo, J Vossen, E Wan, T Wasfi, R Waugh, B Waugh, M Wells (DIR), P Whisson, F White.

1. The President, Gordon Cupit, opened this meeting and welcomed our official guests, Steve Burdon MD of OTC Limited, Warren Grace GM of OTC Maritime Group, Margaret Miller who is working on the OTC Archival Project, Kimberley O'Sullivan OTC Archivist and Kevin Quinn ex AWA who is here today with Jack Edwards and all members present in our total of 104 attendees today, at this our 35th Annual General Meeting. New members attending their first meeting were:

Harris Anthonisz, John Crowe, Len Dooley, Laurie Endre, Peter Gorman, Ken Howe, Ike Nelson, Greg Taylor and Jeff Thwaites.

2. Apologies were received from OTC Limited Board of Director's members, Messrs David Hoare (Chairman), Mike Hutchinson, John Menadue, Len Hingley and Prof. Murray Wells. Other apologies are recorded in the attendance book.

3. Fraternal greetings were read as received from the Quarter Century Club of Teleglobe Canada, the Veteran Cablemens Association of New Zealand, Presidents and members of our Victorian, Queensland, South Australian and Western Australian Branches on this, the occasion of our 35th Annual General Meeting. A cordial invitation has been extended from our Branches, to any of us who are interested in attending their next meetings.

4. One minute's silence was observed to mark the passing of the following member's during the past six months:-

Marie Casey, Horst Bulka, Ellis Smellie, Eric Smith, Alex Robinson, Dick Osborne, Joe Pattiniott and Jack Money.

5. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of our previous meeting were distributed to members in our October 1990 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 Geoff Day, that the minutes of the 34th Annual General Meeting be confirmed.

Carried Unanimously.

6. Balance Sheet and Annual Accounts

The Balance Sheet was presented to all members present and opened for discussion. There being no discussion, it was moved by Alf Ricketts and seconded by Bruce Collett, that the Balance Sheet and Auditor's report be accepted.

Carried Unanimously.

7. Election of Officers

The President declared all office's vacant and called for nominations for a Returning Officer to conduct the annual election.

Mr Geoff Day was nominated by Alan Arndt and seconded by Des Woods. 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 Gordon Cupit was nominated by Alf Ricketts and seconded by Norm Harris. There being no further nominations, Mr Gordon Cupit was declared President.

Mr Tony Richardson was nominated as Honorary Secretary by Alan Arndt and seconded by George Maltby. There being no further nominations, Mr Tony Richardson was declared Honorary Secretary.

Mr Mick Wilden was nominated as Treasurer by Keith McCredde and seconded by Alf Ricketts. There being no further nominations, Mr Mick Wilden was declared Treasurer.

Messrs Ron Connolly and Peter Roberts were nominated as Auditors by Jim Anderson and seconded by Alan Arndt. 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 Brian Darragh. Duly elected to the new Committee were:

Jim Anderson, Peter Skinner, Ron Connolly, Alf Ricketts, Peter Roberts, Keith McCredden, Martin Ratia and Alan Arndt.

8. Sick List

President Gordon read the following details and wished all concerned a speedy recovery:-

Kath Morgan is recovering from a broken wrist.

Ken Erickson is very ill at home, a phone call first would be appreciated before visiting him.

Charles Carthew is now in the Centennial Nursing Home in Prahran Melbourne, suffering a complete loss of memory - he is in his 90th year!

9. 35th Annual Reunion

The Secretary recommended we endeavour to secure the OTC Conference Centre located at Head Office, 231 Elizabeth Street Sydney, for Friday 29 November 1991 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

11. General Business

- a) President Gordon then called on Warren Grace, General Manager OTC Maritime to address our meeting on the proposed unveiling of the Marconi Bust.

"Thank you for being kind enough to ask me along today as your guest and to issue an invitation to all members of your Association, to attend the unveiling ceremony of the Marconi Bust, scheduled for 11.30am on Friday 17th May next, at Sydney Radio, La Perouse. Most of you know that thanks to the efforts of Gordon Cupit, President of O.T.V.A, AWA Veteran George Schultz, the Lions Club of Sydney, OTC Archivist Kimberley O'Sullivan and several other people, including Steve Burdon, Managing Director of OTC Limited, OTC has agreed to "adopt" the bust of that great Italian inventor and father of Wireless communications, Guglielmo Marconi. The bust has now been fully restored and located in what I believe to be an entirely appropriate place - OTC's Sydney Maritime Communications Station at La Perouse.

On behalf of OTC Limited, I am extending an invitation to all O.T.V.A. members to attend this unveiling next Friday and an acceptance sheet has been placed near the bar for you to indicate your intention to attend. Light refreshments will be served and tours of the station have been arranged. The Italian Consul General, some OTC Staff, AWA Veterans and the Lions Club of Sydney have also been

invited to attend. Thank you for this opportunity to speak to you here today - talk to Secretary Tony when you have the chance to see what arrangements are required in the form of buses to travel from here down to La Perouse next Friday, where I hope to see many of you in attendance!"

- b) President Gordon called on Steve Burdon, Managing Director of OTC Limited, to address the meeting:

"Thank you for allowing me to talk on a number of projects OTC has on the boil, that will be of interest to the O.T.V.A. Warren Grace has already mentioned the restored Marconi Bust. Something else I would like to mention is our Archival Display Program which was highlighted in your last Newsletter. The reason I asked that this project be implemented, was to put some of the more interesting items in our archives to good use and add some character and tradition to OTC Buildings.

Another project we have going is to produce several coffee table books that will photographically record the history of Australia's Telecommunications. Margaret Miller has been invited along here today because she is researching and writing the books for our Public Affairs people to produce. The first book on submarine cables from the 1870s to 1930s has been finished and she has now started to record the history of radio communications, both Maritime and non-Maritime. I'm sure it would help Margaret if anyone here today, could provide her with information or photographs etc.

As you will be aware, the bulk of OTC's revenue comes from our International Telephone business. I'm very pleased to tell you that on the 6th of March, at precisely 9.25 and 53 seconds in fact, OTC handled one billion paid minutes of bothway international telephone traffic in a single financial year, for the first time in its nearly 45 years history. Only half a dozen or so carriers in the world have ever reached the magic one billion, even though they all have much larger customer bases than OTC. We are so proud of the achievement we produced Tee Shirts to record the event and because you have all helped in some way towards OTC's performance over the years, I have arranged to give you all one of these Tee Shirts today.

I wish you all a successful meeting and I hope to see many of you again either next week at the Marconi Bust unveiling or later this year at your Annual Reunion Meeting.

- c) Alan Arndt thanked the members for their endorsement of our newly elected Secretary, Tony Richardson. Alan went on to advise the meeting, that with his retirement looming on the horizon, he felt it was time to step down and let a new Secretary take up the reins while Alan was still in the background to offer assistance to Tony.

Alan thanked past Presidents, current President Gordon, past and present Committee members, for their support during his eight years in office, where he helped steer our association in the direction of making some controversial constitutional changes, which he felt have been essential in ensuring the ongoing strength of the O.T.V.A. in future years.

- d) Debbie Cramer, the consultant who is working on the OTC Archives display cabinets project, has asked if any of our members have any items relating to Wagga Week-ends such as:-

Itineraries, smoko programmes, newspaper clippings etc, to please pass them onto our Secretary, who will ensure she receives them.

- e) Keith McCredden moved and Geoff Day seconded a vote of thanks to Alan on behalf of all members of our Association for his dedication to the onerous task of Secretary, which he carried out so efficiently during his term of office. President Gordon also added that Alan had made his job all the easiers, by the way in which Alan organised everything so well, right down to the last detail. These votes of thanks were accepted by all present.
- f) President Gordon expressed our appreciation and thanks to OTC Limited for its continuing and generous support to our Association.
- g) There being no further business to discuss, President Gordon closed this meeting after inviting all present to adjourn to the adjoining lounge area for refreshments.

Tony Richardson
Honorary Secretary

A BIT MORE INFORMATION ON DICK OSBORN

Dick joined the Eastern Extension Cable Company as a youth on 9 February 1925. He was initially employed on junior operating room duties and later became a Counter Officer. His next promotion was to an Abstracts Clerk and headed Abstracts in OTC on the Takeover. With the installation of Message Relay Switching, Dick was selected to head a small band to learn computer operating and programming to take care of Computer Traffic Accounting. On the retirement of Wilf Ellershaw in 1967, he was promoted to Traffic Accountant.

He took an active role in social and welfare activities and served on a number of Committees.

He suffered a heart attack which resulted in his retirement on 4 September 1970. Dick's charming daughter Ann worked for a few years in OTC.

During his retirement years he did not have the best of health having to take particular care of his heart condition.

AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Mrs R. Patiniott has sent along a letter expressing her thanks for the eulogy given her husband Joe in our last NEWSLETTER. She has particularly asked us to convey to all those who knew Joe well her warmest thanks for the words of sympathy as expressed by the wreaths received from O.T.C. Staff members.

Thanks, Mrs Patiniott. It was the least we could do to honour such a gentleman and a good friend.

VALE, STAN WRIGHT

Alan Arndt tells me that he received the news that one of our colleagues, Stan Wright passed away some time around April/May last year.

Once again, it is a case of having no particulars relating to his service and I would be obliged if someone who knew Stan can give us a few details.

CABLE AND WIRELESS RETIRED STAFF SOCIETY

c/o Byfield Bell Vale,
Haslemere, Surrey.
GU27 3DH

17 May 1991

Mr Alan Arndt
Hon. Secretary O.T.V.A. Sydney
Australia

Dear Mr Arndt,

For several years now you have kindly sent me copies of your Newsletter and Transit in my capacity as Hon. Secretary of CWRSS. They make interesting reading but I feel I should now put you in the picture regarding changes for pensioners in the UK.

Because of the very changed position in the UK with Mercury, etc. the Cable and Wireless Group now has many more staff and hence future pensioners, in the UK and they have decided to greatly improve their services to pensioners.

A new Cable and Wireless Pensioners Association (CAWPA) has been formed with a full time member of staff in Head Office to deal with administration and Regional Co-ordinators (part-time) throughout the UK. The new association will be fully financed by the Company and they will no longer subsidise CWRSS or CWROA.

CAWPA will be holding their inaugural luncheon for pensioners and their wives in London on 14th September this year and in future years they hope to have several luncheons in various locations in the UK. The new association also intend to produce a quarterly newsletter for pensioners and I suggest that it would be more appropriate if you could send you newsletter and Transit to the editor of CAWPANEWS who is, Mr R. Weldron, Boundary House, Graveney Road, Northleach, Glos. GL54 3RM, England.

I know he would be most grateful for any ideas which might be included in the UK newsletter and perhaps we can build up an exchange of articles.

Best wishes and greetings to all ex C&W and associated company veterans.

Yours sincerely

J.S. Follett

Hon. Secretary CWRSS

VETERAN CABLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

AUCKLAND

2/41A Ronaki Road
Mission Bay
AUCKLAND 5

30th April 1991

Herewith the, again late, report of the A.G.M. and reunion held in Auckland before Xmas. You will see that it contains information already given to you along with last year's report. Regrettably, our organisation is, these days, of a size that hardly warrants regular newsletters and so the year's happenings tend to wait until our A.G.M. for comment.

In the report you will see that one of our members, Richard Michaels, was anticipating a move to Australia. This has come about and he now lives in Brisbane. The great N.Z. exodus across the Tasman seems to have infected our veterans as another, Harry Verrall, has moved with his son and daughter-in-law to Perth. Harry (ex Eastern), who may be remembered by some of your members, reports that, with his family, he spent last August-September in U.K. While there he celebrated his 94th birthday with three of his sisters whom he had seen for over 20 years. What an occasion it must have been!

Regrettably, the Australian - New Zealand Telecom reunion planned for this year has fallen through but it is hoped that it can be held in 1992.

The 35th Annual General Meeting of the Veteran Cablemens Association was held on 30th November 1990 in Auckland at the Parnell Rose Garden Lounge at 11 a.m.

After opening the meeting, Chairman, Denis Erson, welcomed the 19 members attending and asked them to stand in silence in remembrance of those who had passed on during the year. They were, Bill Craig, Huia Evetts and staff widow, Ellen Jacobs.

Present were: Frank Blakely, Grant Campbell, Ken Clarke, Ray Connolly, Denis Erson, Keith Faulkner, Mike Fulton, Graeme Hawken, Ken Healy, Bob Martin, Les Martin, Sandy Miller, Mick Milne, Syd Murray, Colin Nielsen, Fred Studman, David Thompson, John Walker and Brian Wallace.

Apologies were received from Peter Cowlshaw, Les Gladding, Norman Jones, Jack Potter and Len Sedman.

The Minutes of the last A.G.M. were read and confirmed and the Balance Sheet adopted.

Correspondence received included a Newsletter from Alan Arndt with news from N.S.W., S.A., W.A., Queensland and Victorian branches of O.T.V.A. The usual copies of Recorder and Zodiac were received from London and forwarded to interested members. Richard Michaels had written from Wellington advising that he still enjoyed reasonable health but was unable to get about much and so thoroughly enjoyed receiving news of our reunions and any other information about old colleagues. He expected to move to Australia with his family in the near future. Letters of condolence were sent to the next-of-kin of those deceased during the year and Xmas cards were sent, as usual, to the widows of ex members. A report of last year's meeting was sent to Alan Arndt and Harol LeQuesne, in Canada.

The Secretary mentioned how much Bill Craig had contributed to the Veterans Association since its inaugural meeting in December 1956, when he was appointed Chairman. He held this position for the next 32 years until failing health forced his retirement. At that same meeting, in 1956, Sandy Miller was appointed secretary and he is now the sole surviving attendant at that initial meeting.

David Thompson proposed that Telecom staff who had worked in the Auckland cable office should be invited to join this association and this was discussed. Apropos the reunion of Australian and New Zealand Telecoms scheduled for 1991, Denis Erson suggested that a "Return to Malaysia", where so many had served together, could be a very popular idea. He tabled a sample itinerary including stays in Singapore, Kuala Lumpur and Penang.

After this Mick Milne gave a history of the development cables and the astounding increase in their efficiency from their beginning to the introduction of the fibre optic cable. The Chairman thanked Mick for his most interesting address and closed the meeting after which, the annual reunion luncheon was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

By Brian Wallace

VALE HORST BULKE

Those Veterans who worked in the old S.O.R. Spring Street and Paddo, would have known Horst pretty well. It is with regret that we learn of his death on 5th March, 1991. Horst was in hospital at the time recovering from a car accident he had suffered in February last, which left him with a broken neck and paralysed from the neck down. He died from the effects of heart failure. Horst served as a technician in the S.O.R. workshops Repair and Maintenance Section from 1960 until 1976. In 1977, he became Plant Officer at Moree, returning to Paddington in 1978 where he was Plant Controller, Plant Supervisor and became Plant S.T.O. 1 in 1985 looking after the Paddington Building Services. As he was born on 28th October, 1938 it is a tragic end to a bloke who was known and liked by his mates.

To our family and friends go our deepest sympathy.

FROM OUR CANADIAN VETERANS

Harold H Le Quesne, who is the Immediate Past President of the Quarter Century Club of Teleglobe Canada (Western Chapter) writes to advise us that the Club held its eighteenth Annual Meeting & Dinner on June 15, 1991 at The Royal Oak Inn, Victoria, Vancouver Island at which a motion was unanimously passed conveying Fraternal greetings, continuing good health and best wishes to our president and all Aussie veterans, wives and lady members.

Harold expresses his personal thanks for continuing to send him our bulletins, which he says are not only interesting but in which he still finds the names of people he remembers.

He regrets that he and his wife could not attend our function during 1990, but he looks forward to seeing us all at our Reunion in 1993, which he thinks may be his last opportunity to come back to Australia.

He advises that there are still a few Australians left over there which includes himself, Johnnie Fisk, Bart Fletcher, Jack Knight, Donald Schutz, Robert Scott who are all in reasonable good health.

Good luck to you and all your members there, Harold, with the best wishes to your good wife.

GOODBYE A.J. JACKO MONEY

We received a letter from his daughter that Jack died suddenly on 1st April, 1991. Once again we have no service particulars on our colleague and I would be obliged if one of his workmates could do the honours in this regard.

To his daughter and family and friends we extend sincerest sympathy.

MORE OF THE NEVER ENDING JARGON

ACC	Australian CCITT Committee
ALCATEL TCC	Tasman Cable Mfg Co.
ALTS	Automated Land Titles Service
ASCOT	Australian Securities Commission Data Base
ATME	Automatic Transmission Measuring Equipment
ATUG	Australian Telecommunications Users Group
AXB	Telex Exchange
AXBTERM	Software Package providing Intelligent Exchange Interface
AXE	Automatic Telephone Exchange
BERT	Bit Error Rate Test
BIG Mak	OTC Kodak Duplicator
BOD	Business Operations Division
CAD	Computer Aided Drafting System
CBT	Computer Based Training
CCITT	ITUs International Telegraph & Telephone Consultative Committee
CITEC	Information Technology & Communications Centre (Qld Govt.)
CIU	Customer Interface Unit
COMSAT	Communications Satellite Corporation
COSCLO	Cocos/Cottesloe Cable
CTRA	Cash Transaction Reports Agency
DCMS	Digital Circuit Multiplication System
DMS	Digital Multiplex System
DMS 300	OTCs New International Digital Telephone Exchange
DOT	Department of Transport
DPT Cambodia	Directorate Posts & Telecoms Cambodia
DTMF	Dual Tone Multi Frequency Signalling
DTX 240	Circuit Multiplication Equipment System
EASIFAX	Fax Programming & Storage Facility
ECI	Electronics Corporation of Israel
ECOC	Enhanced Communications Operation Centre
EFIC	Austrade - Export Finance and Insurance Corporation
EMC	Electronic Maintenance Centre
EWIS	Head Office Fire Alarm System

FSC	Food Service Committee
GPS	Global Positioning Satellite
HAW 4	U.S. Mainland/Hawaii Optic Fibre Cable
HKTA	Hong Kong Telecom Authority
HPA	High Powered Amplifier
HRD	Human Resources Division
ICSC	Interim Communications Satellite Committee
INMARSAT	International Telecom Maritime Satellite Organisation
INTELSAT	International Telecom Satellite Organisation
ITDC	Taiwan Communications Authority
IVI	Interactive Video Instruction
IVPN	International Virtual Private Network
KEYLINK	OTC/Telecom Direct Mail Joint Service
KP & TC	Kenya P&T Corporation
KTA	Korean Communication Authority
LCCS	Fault Location Catalogue System on AXB Exchange
LSU	Lone Signal Unit
MOR	Melbourne Operating Room
MOP-1	Meteorological Satellite Operational Programme No. 1
MITEC	Microwave Development Organisation (7 1/2% OTC owned)
MOS-1	Marine Observation Satellite
MPT	Chinese P&T
MRS	Message Relay System
NEAX-2000	New Head Office Telephone Exchange
NEIS	National Engineering Information Service
NIU	Network Interface Unit
NMC	Network Management Centre
NSSA	National Space Society of Aust.
NZOI	N.Z. Oceanographic Institute
ODS	OTC on line Telex Directories
OTCOM	OTC Telex Identification Code
OTS SRI	Sri Lanka's Overseas Telecom Service
PITC	Perth International Telecom Centre
PLDT	Philippine Communication Authority
RMS	Yacht Race Monitoring System
RSS	Route Status Surveys
S & SC	OTC Social & Sports Club
SCANTS	Supplementary Capabilities Node for Telephony Services
SDN	Software Defined Network US
SDR	Statutory Drawing Rights
SOR	Sydney Operating Room

SRC	Staff Relations Committee
TAT 8	Transatlantic Optical Fibre Cable
TCQM	Telephone Call Quality Monitor
TNI	NZ Telecom Network and International
TPC 3	Japan/Guam Optic Fibre Cable
TQM	Total Quality Management
TRANSCOMS	Special Services for Import/Export/Transport Business
TSKL	Kiribati Telecom Services
TUANZ	Telecommunications Users Association of N.Z.
UPS	Uninterruptible Power Supplies
VAN	Value Added Network
VAX	OTC Enhanced Host Computer
VIP	Call Sign for Perth radio
VISTA	Antarctic Satellite Service
VMM	Voice Mail Module
VPN	Virtual Private Network
VSAT	Very small Aperture terminal
VTI	Vietnam Telecom International
WATTC	World Administrative Telephone & Telegraph Conference
WORLDNET	On line Information Services

MY THANKS TO A.H. (MICK) WOOD

Mick, me ole son, I received the lists forwarded to you by "PANCHO" and his good wife, SADIE VINCENT which shows "where they were in the various Services", but doesn't tell me when.

If you are "listening out", Keith, please let me know the approximate year to which the extracts refer an I will whack them into the next NEWSLETTER. better still, come down from Bogga for the Annual Reunion and Bash this year, which, according to my spies, could be in late November and you can give me the drum personally.

AND YES I WILL REMIND ALL VETERANS. ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO WERE INVOLVED IN THE WAGGA WEEKEND THAT THE 1992 YEAR WILL BE THE 45TH ANNIVERSARY

Mick says (and I agree with him), why 45 is such a significant number of years passage is a mystery to him. The only thing I can think of, Mick, is that 45 years since the first one was such a long time ago and could be significant to us all when you consider that we will be going some to attend another 45th Anniversary.

I am sorry that it took you such a long time to track down my address. I can assure you that I am well despite my 70th birthday party at the Homebush Bowling Club. Sorry about the phone to, but I gave up waiting for "call-ons" when I retired in 1981.

Keep abreast (if you'll pardon the expression) with Anthony (Tony) Richardson, our brand new Secretary who sees me when I surface with copy for the NEWSLETTER. He generally has a fair idea where I am even though I don't owe him money.

You will notice that I have used a lot of Strine terms so that this conversation can not be understood by our overseas veterans. Regards to Mum.

ANDO.

TRIBUTE TO TED BISHTON (Continued)

Before Tom Westley arrived in Lorengau, the medical assistant was a chap named Stanton. I used to visit him occassionally. He used to amuse himself lying on his back on his stretcher, shooting ghekkos (a small lizard) on the ceiling of his house. The roof was made of sago palm leaf (Sac Sac) so the hole the .22 long bullet made was nil. One day when I went to see Stanton he was as usual lying on his stretcher with his .22 long rifle. We were enjoying a few beers when his Mary walked in, grinning like a Chaehire cat, wearing one of Stanton's shirts. Stanton said to her "What are you doing wearing one of my shirts?" She only grinned at him and sat down on the hardwood (Kwila) floor. He picked up his rifle and said "If you don't take that shirt off I'll shoot you". She still grinned at him, so he let fire at her. He aimed in front of her, thinking the bullet would go through the floor, but being made of hardwood, it caused the bullet to ricochet into the gin's bottom. There was a hell of a yell from the gin and Stanton grabbed her as she was flying out the door. He asked me to go the native hospital and help him extract the bullet. I had never done anything like this, but he was a pretty smart medical assistant. He showed me how to administer the anaesthetic, which stood me in good stead later on. However, the operation was a great success and the Mary was soon up and about again. He went from Lorengau to Madang, where he died. Someone from Madang told me that when Stanton died, the natives dug his grave, but during the night it rained heavily and when the mourners wen to the cemetry to bury Stanton, the grave was full of water and the coffin would not sink, so one of the bright boys got a brain wave and went and got an auger and bored holes in the coffin until poor old Stanton sank.

The Ketch attached to Lorengau Government Station was a beautiful racing yacht named the "Hurrica". She used to race on Sydney Harbour, was about 40 feet long, had 5 tons of lead in her keel and also boasted a centreboard. She was fitted with very light racing canvas and could sail practically into the wind. She had no engine, which was a handicap getting into small inlets and through passages in the reefs, so the Government decided to get rid of her and she was replaced by another ketch named the "Anzac". The "Anzac" had a good engine and a Chinese engineer who also acted as captain when the District Officer of myself was not on board. One night about midnight when I was enjoying my night's sleep, I was awakened by a police boy with a note from the District Officer, Fred Linacre. In the note he said from Lorengau, saying that Herman Mirow, the German manager for HERNSHEIM Company was seriously ill and needed medical attention. I was instructed to contact the medical assistant, Tom Westley, the police master Elliott and tell the Chinese engineer to have the Anzac ready to sail at midnight. We all arrived at the jetty as arranged, but Fred Linacre was very drunk. He immediately took charge of the boat an the pantomine commenced. He ordered the boys to pull up the anchor. As soon as the anchor appeared out of the water he instructed the Chinese engineer to start the engine. The engine, of course, was a benzine engine, which had to be cranked to start. They generally had to be cranked a few times before they kicked off. Naturally, the engine did not kick off with the first cranking, so Fred roared out the order to let go the anchor, with a few adjectives thrown in. No sooner had the anchor hit the bottom when the engine started. Fred then roared out to stop the engine. He then ordered the anchor to be pulled up again. As soon as the anchor appeared out of the water he shouted to the Chinese to start the engine. Again it failed to start at first go and again the order was given to let go the so and so anchor. No sooner had the anchor hit the bottom when the

engine started. Again the order was given to stop the engine. This routine went on for hours, but to vary the procedure at times, Fred would order the sails to be set. The Anzac carried two jib sails, a mainsail and a mizzen sail. At one stage of this pantomime, Fred had two anchors down, all sails set and the engine going full astern. Fred was drinking whisky all the time and was in a bad mood so Westley, Elliott and myself kept out of his way. It was now 4 am. We had been messing around trying to get away for four hours. We three were sitting up forward discussing the night's happenings when we heard a noise behind us. Someone had left one of the hatch coverings off and Fred had staggered up on the deck and was possibly making toward us when he fell. He had fallen backwards and his body had fallen through the hatch, but he was lucky enough to have caught each side of the open hatch with his hands and legs. We pulled him out of this predicament and he threw his arms around me saying I had saved his life. By this time we were practically at our destination. We all went ashore. It was now about 5:30 am and things were beginning to move at Mokerang. There were 4 or 5 Germans there and we went along to their mess for drinks and breakfast. We started back to Lorengau sometime in the morning but thank goodness Fred slept all the way and we arrived back without further incident. Whatever Tom Westley did for Herman Mirow I don't know, only that he did not die.

On another occasion, three or four of us from Lorengau paid a visit to Mokerang to see Bill Southcott, an Englishman - the rest of the staff there being Germans. Soon the drinks were flowing freely and all our crowd were returned soldiers and naturally the Germans were at a disadvantage. They were all very fine fellows and I am certain they would have served their country as we did ours. Naturally, as the night wore on and the liquor still continued to flow, the inevitable happened. Bill Southcott and the German medical assistant Lange, got into a fight. It was a real rough and tumble affair, all in sort of business. The Miller lamp went flying, the tablecloth was pulled off the table; crockery, cutlery, glasses and bottles went crashing and the two gladiators were rolling round the floor with blood flowing freely from both. When the boys brought more lights and we separated the antagonists, it was found that Bill Southcott had a gash about 8 inches long in his buttock. Some of us took him to the dispensary and of course, Lange, his adversary, had to do the stitching. By this time they had shaken hands and a veiled truce existed, but it was seen that Lange was deriving great satisfaction from his work. After Lange had done his work we returned to the mess and continued the evening well into the morning, when we returned to Lorengau. Nearly every time I went to Mokerang, either Bill Southcott or Lange would be sporting black eyes or cuts of some sort - they were always fighting. Poor old Bill was later electrocuted at Wau, N.G., whilst tinkering with a wireless set.

Early in 1921, the Government were concentrating all the Germans in Rabaul preparatory to sending them back to Germany. About this time there were quite a few Germans absconding from various plantations throughout the Territory and working their way to Dutch New Guinea in various schooners. One such schooner passed Sea Adler Hafen, so Fred Linacre took me with him, accompanied by some police boys, to Mokerang with the intention of commandeering their schooner Malaguna and sending me in pursuit of the absconding schooner. It was blowing a howling norwester and Mirow, the manager of Mokerang said it would be suicidal to attempt to go outside the harbour in the Malaguna in such weather. So Captain Linacre decided to wait until morning. During that night the weather worsened and four of the small craft anchored at Mokerang sank that night. That decided Captain Linacre and next day we returned to Lorengau in the Malaguna which took her all her time to make Lorengau. We heard later that that particular absconding schooner eventually arrived at Humbolt Bay in Dutch New Guinea. Another interesting character who passed through Lorengau at this period was Lieutenant Winston. He was Assistant District Officer to Captain Linacre. He was a very good conscientious office man, but not much good on outside work. On one occasion word came from Rabaul to Captain Linacre to procure 30 or 40 boys to be sent into Rabaul to be trained as police boys. I was disputed to go with Lt. Winston on this trip. We called in at Pitilil island and lined up all the men and Winston walked along the line and picked out about ten of the best looking boys. They were picked for

their good looks, intelligence and physique. Their names were taken and they were told to be ready when we returned in three or four days time. We then proceeded to Hus island and the same procedure was carried out here. Then we went to Andra island and then on to Ponam island. We then started on our return trip. We took 8 or 10 boys from Ponam. There was a lot of crying by the women and children, even the men who were going away and the men who were remaining were also crying and wailing. We then went to Andra where the same scene was enacted after we took 8 or 10 boys from there. It was the same at Hus and Pityilu. Eventually we arrived back at Lorengau with about 40 boys who were eventually sent to Rabaul for training. Manus boys made very good police boys and always look good. All police boys were recruited in this manner and it was some years after that the police force had to rely on volunteers. Lieut. Winston continued on in the civil administration and in 1928 was sent out to the Bainings district outside Rabaul to endeavour to apprehend the murderers of Collins, Marley, Nichols and a fourth man I cannot remember. During this expedition, the party was jumped by the hostile natives and Winston's force suffered some casualties. One police boy, in Winston's opinion, was past medical aid, so he shot him to prevent him falling into enemy hands. Winston was tried for this offence and dismissed the service. He then migrated to the British Solomon Islands, where he committed suicide by undressing and walking out into the water and blowing his brains out.

Corporal Culliford was the clerk at Lorengau. He went on furlough before me. I never saw him again. He was lost on the S.S. Sumatra off the N.S.W. coast about 1923, together with Captain Bell, Feutrell chief officer, Kennedy chief engineer, Ossie Egan the wireless operator, Captain Bell's mother and about 18 native crewmen. There were no survivors. Culliford was relieved by Charlie Kay. He and Alan Cobban didn't get on too well together and of course the inevitable happened when we were enjoying and celebrating the arrival of the boat with out stores. The fight started on the verandah of house soldier bungalow. Tom Westley was sleeping peacefully in a deck chair while someone else and myself watched the fight. It didn't last long and little blood was spilt, but it could be seen that Charlie Kay was no match for Cobban. Charlie also realised this and the next thing he did was to walk over to where Tom Westley was sleeping and hit him and knocked him out as cold as a cucumber. It was the best hit of the fight. Charlie straight away threw his hands into the air and said "finish fight, I've hit the wrong man". We soon had Tom on his feet again and the party continued on. We all used to eat together and at this time I was running the mess. I remembered we had a pig's head cooking and I enquired if anyone would like a cup of soup. Some said yes, so I proceeded to the cook house but the door with a hurricane lamp myself and noticed when I got into the cook house that the hurricane lamp had fallen off the door knob and was lying on the floor alongside the two sleeping natives. I went about the business of serving the soup out when I heard a scream and looking round one of the natives was screaming with his hair on fire. Manus boys were very proud of their hair; they used to let it grow long and wrap banana leaves around it to make it stand up. At times it would be two feet above their head. This fellow had a particularly good crop. When I saw what had happened, I grabbed a towel but the native shot out of the door with me after him. He ran round the bungalow and eventually came to one of the water tanks. He shoved his head under the tap and turned it on. By this time there was practically no hair left - he was bald. I took him into the kitchen, opened a tin of butter and placed it on his head. Next morning the native was none the worse for his experience; he had a few blisters on his head and was as bald as a billiard ball.

Another medical assistant to pass through Lorengau was a young chap named Giles. He had completed on year as a medical student when his father was killed whilst fighting in France. He told me could not afford to continue his studies and got a job with Nelson and Robertson who owned the Rabaul hotel. I think his job was supervising the native labourers. He was telling me that he got into conversation with the Principal Medical Officer (Doctor Brennan) who heard Giles story and asked him if he would like to join the medical public service. Giles accepted and was sent to Lorengau. He was very keen and rather good. He would do minor surgical operations such as taking a toe or finger off or a circumcision.

I generally assisted him in these operations. One day he asked me to assist him in a particular operation. I asked him what it was and he said one of the Marys had cancer of the breast and he was going to cut it off. He told me that when he cut the breast off, wherever I saw blood spurting I was to jab the forceps into the spot and clamp them. He seemed to do a very good job and was quite pleased with himself. A few days after I happened to ask him how the operation went. He said it was a huge success. I said, I thought you said the operation was a success. Yes, he said, the operation was a success, but she died of heart failure. I suppose she would have died in any case. Manus was a very bad place for malaria fever, that is why people were always coming and going. Quite a few people would arrive on one boat and get loaded up with fever and be sent back to Rabaul on the next boat. George Naess used to get very bad attacks, his temperature at times would go to 106 and more. To try and get his temperature down we used to put hurricane lamps under his canvas stretcher and pile all available blankets on him to try and make him perspire. I remember on one occasion we could not get his temperature down and we were soaking sheets in cold water and wringing them out and putting them on George who was singing out "a thousand pounds for a block of ice". Within a few minutes of putting these sheets on him they would be dry again as his body was so hot. Poor old George was shot by the Japs at Lindenhafen about 1943 with another medical assistant who passed through Lorengau when I was there. His name was Dick Squires and he fought in World War I in the British Army. He was a Cockney and like most Cockneys, full of humour. Bill Stower called into Lorengau on his schooner and stayed a few days and entertained we Europeans and the natives with his clowning, slight of hand tricks and his Punch and Judy show. Bill was a pretty successful recruiter and a good schooner skipper. His schooner was always a pleasure to go aboard, everything spic and span and the decks so clean one could eat one's meals off them.

I think Manus natives are the best sailors I've met in the Southwest Pacific. There were several days during the year when we had canoe racing. Canoes would come into Lorengau from near and far. I have seen canoes with five masts and to see 60 to 80 of these canoes sailing under a good breeze is really a magnificent sight. These big canoes under good conditions could travel 15 to 20 knots and carry up to five tons of cargo. After a little over 12 months at Lorengau, I returned to Sydney on furlough of one month. In the meantime, I had risen to the dizzy heights of Chief Petty Officer. Whilst on leave in Sydney, some of the new ratings would embarrass me by throwing me a salute. I had had no naval training and couldn't even return their salute in the orthodox naval fashion. I generally got over it by looking the other way. After a very pleasant month in Sydney, I found myself once again back in Rabaul. By this time, the military occupation of ex-German New Guinea had ceased (in May 1921) and civil administration had been introduced. All Germans had been expropriated and their properties taken over by the Expropriation Board with Captain Fred Jolley in charge. The Civil administration was headed by General Tom Griffiths. Most of the army personnel were taken over by the civil administration. Naturally there were a lot of misfits, but those were eventually sorted out and rectified. The Germans were given a chit on the German Government for the value of their plantations and this amount in turn was credited to the Australian War Damage fund. The Germans got practically nothing for their plantations because by the time they returned to Germany, the economy was in such a state the German mark was thousands to the pound sterling instead of the usual 20. Most of the Germans were repatriated to Germany, via Sydney, but a few that were brought into Rabaul from some of the outlying islands, were in Rabaul waiting to return to Germany via Dutch New Guinea and Java. The Government ship Sumatra was commissioned to take these people and I was the wireless operator for the trip. There was one German who had come into Rabaul from the Western Islands. He had a Mary and three children. He wanted to take the children back to Germany, but not the Mary. The Administration said he could not take the children without their mother, so he then agreed to take the mother also; then the Administration said he could not take the mother unless he married her, which he assented to, so we were now ready to sail. We had on board also about 150 Malays who were returning to their homeland. Most of them were clerks in the employ of the German Companies.

Quite a number of the Malays stayed on and worked for the Administration and the Expropriation Board. There was great excitement and crying as we pulled out from the wharf. The Malays were crying to each other and throwing money into the water - it's one their customs, I don't know what it means. We were bound for Hollandia in Humboldt Bay, Dutch New Guinea. We called into a few places and picked up a few Germans from various plantations; Wallis Island was one plantation I recall near Wewak on the New Guinea Coast. We also called at the government station at Aitape and landed some stores there. We eventually arrived at Hollandia in Humboldt Bay. The Dutch ship "Van Swol" was already anchored there. The captain of the Sumatra asked me to take some papers over to the captain of the Van Swol. When I arrived on board the Van Swol, I enquired from a Dutch engineer the whereabouts of the Captain. he directed me to the upper deck where I saw a very black man, as black as any Buka boy, dressed whites. I asked him where I could find the Captain; he said, "I am zee captain". I nearly fell over from shock. The Van Swol was a steamer of about 3,000 tons and I could not imagine a black man being the Captain, but I learned afterwards that that sort of thing was not uncommon in Java. We transported our expropriated Germans on to the Van Swol. I often wondered what happened to that German with his Mary and the three children. Up until the time we arrived at Hollandia, the Mary always wore a lap lap and blouse, but on transferring to the Van Swol she adopted European clothing, but the poor thing had no idea how to wear such things. On top of her woolly hair she had one of those white cotton hats such as cricketing umpires wear, a cotton dress which came to her knees, white cotton stockings, which I suspected without garters as the stockings were loose and twisted and high heeled shoes. The whole outfit looked ludicrous and out of place. We stayed in Hollandia a couple of days. The only Europeans there at the time were the Dutch District Officer, a Dutch Missionary and his wife and a Dutch wireless operator. Hollandia is set in a valley between two high mountains and is very hot. There were quite a number of trade stores there, run by Malays and Chinese. The surrounding country was very dry and what vegetation there was, was very poor. The only thing that seemed to keep the place going was birds of paradise. All the stores had all sorts of birds of paradise hanging around the place. The local natives and the Malays used to shoot the birds and sell them to the trade stores, who in turn exported them, mostly to America, where they brought good prices. I learned later that most of the birds were shot in our Territory (ex-German New Guinea). There was also one of the schooners anchored in Hollandia which he had been used by some of the Germans who had absconded in Hollandia which had been used by some of the Germans who had absconded form ex-German New Guinea. If I remember rightly, it was the schooner Matupi, which was later brought back to our territory and used by the Expropriation Board. During the voyage the Melbourne Cup was run and I picked up the result on the wireless and took it to Captain Richardson who said "Sister Olive, I've never heard of it". However, Sister Olive certainly won the cup. We called at several plantations on the way back to Rabaul picking up Copra. We called at Bogadjim and a few more places, then Alexishafen which was run by the Catholic Mission. They had a beautiful cathedral there and the mission was very well run. It was a pretty large plantation and there were small railway lines to all parts of the plantation. There seemed to be hundreds of half caste children, mostly or practically all of German descent. The schools were conducted by nuns and brothers, who seemed to be doing a good job. These half castes were unfortunate. As soon as they were old enough, the Germans sent them to the missions. They were unwanted by the whites and unacceptable to the natives and had the missions had not taken care of them, God knows what would have happened to them. We called at Madang where we stayed for a few days. It was a very pretty place and was the original capital of German New Guinea, but owing to so much malaria fever and so many deaths, the Germans transferred the capital to Kokopo and later to Rabaul. Most of the plantation in the Madang and Aitape districts were built from the proceeds of the bird of paradise. Madang seemed to be the dividing line for the bird of paradise. From Madang to Aitape and further to the Dutch border, it was all yellow birds and from Madang in the opposite direction to Morobe and further to the Papuan border, it was all red birds. I am only speaking of along the coast, it may be different inland. We left Madang for Witu in the French Islands to pick up more copra. The harbour at Witu is an extinct

volcano crater; the entrance is so narrow one could throw a stone on to the land on both sides. This group of islands at one time belonged to Peter Hanson who was very wealthy, but somehow Peter lost everything and when I knew him in Rabaul, he was very appreciative to those who would buy him a drink. Some of the best plantations were interplanted with cocoa trees. After leaving Witu we returned to Rabaul. My stay in Rabaul was very short and after a few days I was on my way to Kieta, the capital of Bougainville in the German Solomon Islands.

