



Editor:

Editor: Jim Anderson

Newsletter

Overseas Telecommunications Veterans Association (Australia)

VOL. 4 PT 1 PAGE 262 - April 1992

MEETINGS AND REUNIONS

VICTORIA	AGM - Wed 3 June From 2 pm	TBA
	Reunion	TBA
NEW SOUTH WALES	AGM - Friday 15 May 1992 12 Noon - 3.00pm	2nd Floor Paddington
	Reunion - 27 November 1992 12 Noon - 3.00 pm	TBA
QUEENSLAND	AGM - Tuesday 19 May 1992 12 Noon - 3.00 pm	4th Floor OTC Office Comalco Place Eagle St. Brisbane
	Reunion - Tuesday 17 November 1992	Maritime Comms.Stn Caboolture Qld
SOUTH AUSTRALIA	AGM-Thursday 28 May 1992 12 Noon-3.00pm	Maritime Comms.Stn McLaren Vale, SA
	Reunion - Thurs 26 Nov 1992	" "
WESTERN AUSTRALIA	AGM - Tues 24 Nov 1992 12.30pm - 3.00pm	OTC Office 26 St Georges Tce Perth

Interstate members and visitors will be welcomed at these functions, but prior advice of intention to attend would be appreciated by the organisations not only for catering purposes, but to get confirmation of time and venues.

Oscar

Tango

Victor

Alpha



O.T.V.A. WESTERN AUSTRALIA

MINUTES OF 17TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 26 NOVEMBER 1991

Held in OTC's city office, 26 St George's Terrace, Perth.

The meeting was declared open at 2.11pm by Present Fred James. (We won't go into why the start was delayed, will we Fred!).

Western Australian Veterans attending were Jim Bairstow, Colin Benporath, Ron Cocker, John Coles, Paul Hooper, Harry Devine, Des Else, Heb Farrar, Barry Field, Fred James, Norm Johnstone, Des Kinnersley, John Knight, Sean Leahy, Doug Mason, Max Miller, Derek Moore, Brian Morrell, Barry O'Keefe, Val Parker, Rod Pernich, Brent Schofield, Pat Sykes, Gerry Tacey, Jack Thomas, Trig Trigwell, Derek Walker, Graham Watts, and Barry Whittle.

Apologies had been received from Jim Devlin, John Eales, Ron Fisher, Allan Headley, Doug Lancaster, Norm Odgers, Jack Olsen, Les Owen and Roger Pugsley.

In welcoming all at the meeting, President Fred gave a special welcome to our guest of the day, OTC's State manager for Western Australia, Ross Fenton and to Ex- Western Australian and now Victorian visitor Phil Priestley.

One minute's silence was observed for two of our members who had passed away during the year, Ellis Smellie, and Ted Kemp.

The minutes of the 16th A.G.M. having been circulated, it was moved Ron Cocker seconded by Des Kinnersley, that they be adopted as a true and correct record. The motion was put and carried.

Reports: It was moved Heb Farrar, seconded Jim Bairstow, that the Hon. Secretary/Treasurer's Financial Statement and Report be received and endorsed. The motion was put and carried.

A letter to the President from OTC's Managing Director, Steve Burdon was read to the meeting by the Hon. Secretary. Steve apologised for being unable to attend due to business commitments, but assured the Veterans of his and OTC's continuing support of the Veterans' Association after the amalgamation of OTC and Telecom.

W.A.'s State Manager, Ross Fenton, reiterated Steve Burdon's remarks, saying that for the foreseeable future the only thing that would change would be probably the venue.

Election of office bearers: The President declared open the positions of President and Secretary/Treasurer, and called for nominations. After a long pause of approximately half a second, Fred James and Derek Walker were respectively nominated and elected unanimously to the two positions.

Further Business: Brian Morrell passed on fraternal greetings from South Australian, George Rowe. There being no further business the President closed the meeting at 2.23 pm.

Derek Walker

KIETA - 1921 1922 1923

We left Rabaul bound for Kieta in the Government ship called the STAR of about 150 tons. We called at Buka Passage which was a sub-station controlled from Kieta. We had on board several new arrivals from Australia and mostly all returned soldiers employed by the Expropriation Board. They were to take over the plantations from the Germans who were to return to Rabaul to be repatriated back to Germany. We called at several plantations along the coast, namely Raua, Arigua, Iwi, Numa Numa. Iwi plantation was run by a chap named Alan Walsh, I believe he was a remittance man. I got to know him pretty well because when he came to Kieta, which was about every three months, he used to stay with me. The first thing he would do would be to go to the District Office, draw his money, then go to the Chinese store, buy a case of whisky, have it delivered to my house, then proceed to get rid of it. This would generally take about a week, after which he would return to Iwi, with another case of whisky.

Numa Numa was run by a chap named Booth, an ex-missionary, a young chap named Drummond Thompson and a Japanese who used to run the schooner, called Tosh. We arrived at Kieta which has a nice harbour with very high hills surrounding it. There were two Chinese Stores in Kieta, one was owned by Wong Yu, but I never knew the other owner's name. There was also another store there run by a chap named Valentine, a South African, for an old chap called Squeaker Hamilton. The Government staff consisted of the District Officer, McAdam, Dr Calav, medical assistant Horsley, policemaster Syd Birkenshaw, clerk Rajah Pascall and assistant clerk Woods. My house was situated halfway up the hill to the wireless station; there were several hundred steps up to it. The house was very big with very wide verandahs all round, built of sawn timber with galvanised iron roof. It was formerly the house occupied by the German manager for Hemsheim and Company. This house was about a mile away from the other Administration houses and owing to the number of steps to climb to it, I was never worried by too many visitors.

There were still a few Germans waiting to be relieved of their plantations and some of these used to congregate at Valentine's store which was on the beach at the foot of the hill on which my house stood. I can only think of two by name, Byer and Schanckenburg, the rest I have forgotten. They would set in a room at the back of the store drinking beer, the sessions going on for three or four days at a time. When one case of beer was finished, another would be opened. Each one shouted in turn and each shout was a case of beer. I used to join in with them and we carried on our conversation in Pidgin English. Occasionally when the beer was flowing a bit too freely, the Germans would start arguing in which case they would turn to me and say "excuse please", then carry on their argument in German. Eventually all the Germans were replaced by Australians on the plantations.

Some months after my arrival at Kieta, Valentine left and the store was closed down. There was a large bulk store alongside Valentine's owned by Hemsheim & Co. This was taken over the Expropriation Board and when the steamer used to arrive with stores for the various plantations around Kieta, three stores were put into the Hemsheim Store. There was an Expropriation Board Inspector called Clem Hendry whose duty it was to travel up and down the coast inspecting the various plantations and giving instructions to the managers. Clem Hendry gave me the key of his store and I had it right up to the time I left. Nearly every plantation has a small cutter of about 25 ft. attached to it and the managers of the various plantations would send their cutters in to me with a note asking if there were any stores for them, would I please see the cutter was loaded and returned to the plantation.

Whenever the inspector called he would ask me to open up the store and then he would take any stores for the plantation he was about to visit. There were a couple of characters up around Buka Passage. One was Jim Campbell who planted up Soraken plantation for Burns Philp before the first world war, and Charlie Huson. They were always at loggerheads and always trying to outsmart each other. Jim Campbell was for a short time an inspector for the Board and knew all the workings of that organisation. The distance from Kieta to Buka Passage was approximately 90 miles and along this coast Jim Campbell had several trading stations. One day the government steamer, Siar, called at Buka Passage, but only stayed long enough to drop the mail and proceeded to Kieta. Clem Hendry, the Inspector was over at Soraken, which is only a couple of miles from Buka Passage. He saw the Siar and immediately made for the Passage, but by the time he arrived, the Siar had left. Jim Campbell was at the Passage and he told Clem Hendry that the Captain of the Siar was very annoyed because no representative of the Board was there to receive the cargo and he was taking it all down to Kieta.

Poor Clem Hendry was in a bit of a stew so Jim Campbell suggested that he collect all the cutters around Buka and send them down to Kieta for the stores. This, Clem Hendry did and eventually about seven or eight cutters arrived in Kieta with notes for me to Clem Hendry telling me to load the cutters with any stores for Buka Passage plantations. There were no stores for Buka Passage and I sent the cutters back empty-handed. But Jim Campbell in the meantime had stopped all the cutters as they were going through the Passage and said he has spoken to Mr. Hendry and Mr. Hendry had agreed that if there was not cargo to bring back to Kieta, it would be all right for the cutters to call in to Mr. Campbell's trading stations along the coast and collect any cargo they had for Mr. Campbell and deliver it to his Buka Passage plantation.

The cutters eventually arrived back at Buka, Jim Campbell had all his trading stations cleared of cargo and delivered to him and the only one upset was Clem Hendry. When he realised that Jim Campbell had put a swiftie over him he went to Jim and told him he was going to write to the Expropriation Board in Rabaul and tell them what happened. Jim told me the story later. He said he told Clem Hendry that if he wrote into Jolly, who was Chairman of the Board, Jolly would say "what a bloody fool that Hendry is" and he told Clem that he would possibly get his marching orders. However Clem must have thought Jim's advice was good because he let the matter drop.

Another time I received a note from Jim Campbell. He said he was sending three tons of trochus shell which he wanted put in the Expropriation Board store and when the Burns Philp ship Melusia arrives in Kieta to ship it to Sydney for him. He said he had been over to Rabaul and paid the Royalty for same to the Customs Office there and all I had to do was to get it on board. The trochus shell was in the store awaiting the arrival of the Melusia, when along came Clem Hendry. He called up to see me and said he was going on to various plantations and he would take any cargo that was in the store. We went to the store and when I opened it up the first thing Clem saw was the trochus. He asked where it came from and I said it belonged to Jim Campbell who said Hendry had given him permission to store it till the Melusia arrived. He was very wild and said he knew nothing about it and hadn't seen Jim Campbell for months. I had kept Jim's note to show it to Clem, but it only made him rave the more. He was all for tossing it out of the store, but I told him the boat was due at any time now and he might as well leave it where it was.

Clem continued on his way and the Melusia eventually arrived. I rounded up some natives and got Jim Campbell's shell on board, when the District Officer McAdam came to me and asked whose shell it was I was shipping. I said I was shipping it for Jim Campbell. McAdam asked about the royalty (I think it was about \$6 a ton). I said that Jim had paid it into the Customs at Rabaul. McAdam would not believe it and was still adamant even after I show him Jim's letter that he would not let the shell go unless the royalty was paid. I said I would pay it and did. McAdam said I was a bloody fool, but I said it would be worth that small amount to find out if he were right. I saw Jim some months later and he explained that he had not paid any royalty, but when he wrote to me he had fully intended going in to Rabaul and was going to pay it, but something happened and he did not get to Rabaul. However, he paid me whatever it had cost me.

I used to look forward to Jim Campbell's visits. He was a good talker and used to tell me of his experiences in earlier days. He told me of a fight he had with a German named Schultze or Schmidt on Tinputz plantation. He said they fought for hours and eventually when the German could go no further he went and got a revolver and shot himself and Jim had to get some of the plantation boys and bury him. He said another time he came to Kieta with Bill Stower just when the First World War broke out. We were sitting on the front verandah of my house at the time. He said Bill and I came up those steps and there in that room sat the manager of Hemsheim's and three or four other Germans with the German flat on the table. He said they were hocking the Kaiser and all that sort of thing so Jim just swiped everything off the table. The German manager had a very big dog which made a rush at Jim, but Bill Stower was still standing there with a hurricane lamp in his hand, so he let go and hit the dog on the head and knocked it out cold. I never heard who won that little war, even Bill Stower could not remember the climax.

Jim Campbell arrived at my place from his plantation at Buka Passage and informed me he was in Kieta to await the arrival of the Helusia. On board was his wife-to-be. She was a nurse whom he had met in England during the war. The bride duly arrived and they were married by the District Officer McAdam. The happy couple left Kieta immediately after the wedding ceremony to return to Jim's Plantation. Their means of transport for the 90 mile trip was an open cutter about 20 ft long. Whether Jim was getting too old, or whether married life had a sobering effect on him, I don't know, but he seemed to mellow a lot after his marriage and I heard very little of him. Mrs Campbell was a lovely woman and had a hard life on the plantation. Him died and she carried on the plantation which was still not bearing, on own. The chaps around Buka Passage were very good to her and helped her quite a lot.

Soon after my arrival in Kieta, I got to know Albert Richards, who was managing Arawa plantation for the Expropriation Board; he came from Ballarat in Victoria. Arawa was across the Bay behind Kieta and about 7 miles away by canoe. One weekend I would go over to Ritchie and the other weekend he would come over and stay with me at Kieta. This arrangement lasted all the time I was in the Solomons. When I would go over to Arawa, Ritchie and I often went out prospecting. We found lots of traces of gold, but nothing big. We prospected all over the area where Conzinc Rio Tinto Aust. (CRA) now have their copper mine. We knew there was plenty of copper there, but copper was of very little value at that time and copper mining was in the doldrums. Bootless Inlet out from Port Moresby had closed down, so also had Cobar in NSW. About 1928 or 1929 Jack Coombe and Bob Palmer worked this area for a couple of years and got fair gold but nothing to write home about.

Ritchie eventually became senior inspector for the Expropriation Board. He became very well known throughout the whole of the territory. He married Nell Garrett, wide (widow?) of Tom Garrett who was captured by the Japs. Tom Garrett's father represented Australia against England in the first cricket Test Match. Ritchie died in Rabaul in 1967.

One day I went down to one of the Chinese stores to make some purchases. This store was built up on piles about 10 ft high and had a verandah in front of the store. All the flooring boards were made from meat and fish cases or any other cases which were available. As I was walking along the verandah, one of the planks broke and my foot went through and I broke my ankle. The Chinese got some boys to carry me back to my bungalow where I was laid up for 6 weeks. The boys used to cart me up to the wireless station on a stretcher, then when my work was finished they would carry me back again. At this time I had the medical assistant, Paddy Nolan, staying with me. He used to visit the Chinese store and naturally the Chinese would ask after my health. Paddy used to tell them that I was making steady progress, but I was very cross and was talking about taking legal action. The Chinamen would load Paddy up with goods of all descriptions which were meant for me but I saw very little of the gifts.

A couple of characters around the Solomons at that time were Bob Cruickshank and Jack Shaw. Bob Cruickshank had been a Commander in the British Navy and had brought the destroyer Anzac back to Australia after the 1914-18 war and took his discharge from the navy and migrated to New Guinea. Jack Shaw had been a Petty Officer in the Royal Navy was discharged after the war and also came to New Guinea. They had a small schooner about 30 ft. long and a trading station at Buin about 60 miles down the coast from Kieta. Bob very often came into Kieta and always stayed with me; he was good entertainment. He called everyone Senuel and was about the most untidy man I ever met. His short trousers always looked as though they had been cut down with a knife, the seat was generally out of his pants, he wore sandshoes tied round the instep with rope and no socks.

Their schooner was called the limau; she had no engine and was a very poor sailing craft. I have got out of bed at six in the morning and seen the Limau just outside the heads, but it had been two days before she anchored at Kieta. I always went down to meet old Bob who always greeted me with "good day Senuel", come and have a spot. I remember I went on board one day at his invitation. It was a boiling hot day as we sat in the little cabin aft. His only supply of water was from an iron tank of about 160 gallons capacity which stood on the deck in the open sun. He produced a bottle of Spay Royal whisky and 2 pint enamel mugs and told the boy to bring the water. I don't ever remember drinking Spay Royal since. I've been told it's good whisky, but drinking it out of enamel pannikins with very hot water was awful; anyway, we finished the bottle under very poor conditions.

On another occasion both Bob and Jack came into Kieta. There was a lot of drink consumed the couple of days they stayed. They were both pretty well under the weather when they left and the next time I saw Jack Shaw he told me what happened on the way back to Buin. You must know that Jack was about 15 stone and Bob was only small, about 10 stone at most. Jack said that as they got outside Kieta Harbour Bob said we will change our bookkeeping system by turning over a new leaf and start all over again. Jack said you leave the book alone but Bob was adamant and said they would have to fight it out. Jack said they sparred around on the little deck of their little schooner and eventually Jack knocked Bob down. Bob lay on the deck for some time then said, I'm not finished yet Jack, give me a hand up old man. Jack lifted Bob up and the next time he hit him he went over the side into the water. According to Jack, they were sailing along nicely when this happened and he looked back there was Bob waving his arms about and bobbing up and down. Jack was so wild with the little bugger he felt like leaving him to drown, but his better nature prevailed, so he turned the boat around and pick the little bugger up. When he pulled Bob on board the first thing he said was - we're too cramped here Jack, let's go ashore and finish it. He insisted so much they eventually made for a small beach, where they dropped anchor and went ashore and finished the fight. Bob was no match for Jack, but he had tons of guts. It was not long after this that Jack Shaw left Buin for Faisi in the British Solomons in the Limau and they were never heard of again. Bob Cruickshank went to Rabaul and was for many years after captain of the schooner Navanora for the Expropriation Board.

A SNIPPET FROM FRED STUDMAN IN AUCKLAND N.Z.

As always I found your last Newsletter very interesting. In the N.S.W. minutes of their annual report the names of Mollie Raecke and Thelma Guthries brought back happy memories. I worked with their husbands in Suva 1945-47 after the war. Likewise Addie Lee whose name appeared in another report.

I was particularly interested in an article by Mary Hughes (nee Rockingham) concerning Cedric Pegler with whom I worked both in Auckland and Bamfield. W.E. Rockingham was Station Manager at Bamfield part of the time I was there. Both of them sometimes played in the station orchestra which I took over as pianist from Bill Rutherford.

I have just read a library book entitled "German raiders of the South Seas" by Robin Bromby and published by Doubleday Aust. Ltd which gives an excellent account of the destruction of Cocos Island Cable Station in Nov 1914. There is also a very good account of the recapture of Count von Luckner. Captain of the German raider Seadler. He escaped from an internment camp on an island in Auckland Harbour to be later apprehended by the cable ship "Iris" near the Kermadecs. No doubt your historians have seen these accounts.

I am enclosing an envelope celebrating the inaugural first day of issue at Fanning Island of Gilbert and Ellice Islands postage 14th Feb 1939 which I hope will be interest of your historic section, now that Fanning Island is no longer part of our communications setup.

My wife and I are keeping reasonably well. Our next reunion will be at end of November.

I trust you yourself are keeping well.

Kind regards and best wishes.

OUT OF THE PAST

For those Melbournites and others who have served in the A.W.A. Beam Wireless Service in the Melbourne Operating Room, here is the state affairs with regarding staffing in 1927.

Superintendent: Jim Lamb (2) Julian Leslie (1) (to Sydney)	Traffic Manager George Apperley Assistant "Snoopy" Newman
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Supervisors

Frank McGrath
 Roy (Dogger) Mancer
 Fred (Hungry) Davis
 Glen Pope (Holy)

Senior Telegraphists

Roy Symons
 Robert Reuben Freeman
 Harry Selfe
 Ossie Jarman
 Horrie Brown
 Fred Griffiths

Telegraphists

Jim Taylor
 Arthur Stewart
 Frank Stuart
 Matt Treacy
 Lyle Gowanlock (J)

Tels. (later)

W P Atkin
 Chas (Atlas) Carthew
 Tim O'Leary
 C Waite (later tech)
 Bill Stevenson
 (Later Sydney)

Despatch Clerks

Tim O'Leary
 J McGowan
 Hedley B Tyler

Eric Wickham (J)
 J Chalkley
 Chas Featherstone
 George (Fatty) Woods
 Ted Turner
 Jack (Knobby) Newlyn
 Norm Laws
 J McGinley
 A Charlton
 Dick North-Smith
 (Later Techn)
 Alex Eichstadt
 W Bertram
 Bob Scott
 Harold Tye
 Lou Sherbern
 (Poli World's best
 machine telegraphist)
 Jim Shore

Service Clerks
 Ed Bain
 C Waite

Messengers April '27

L Heggie
 W. Annand
 N Seabrook
 G Gordon (General)
 D Crabtree
 "Wakka" Weston
 Arthur Harris (Aggie - Vic welterweight
 champ boxer)
 Jack Russell
 "Mad" McGibbon
 G Dowd
 "Snowy" Parker
 "Basher" Leonard
 Neill Ross
 Ron Trevlin
 Herb Godden
 J Hunter
 Perc Day

Later in 1927 we saw:

Reg Green
I Mathieson
A Houseman

Alex Shepherd
J Jordan
Bill (Bung) Bentley

Stan Nimbs
J James
W A Grubb

The spelling of some of the names may not be "tiggerty boo", and if this is so then I will probably hear about it.

**WHERE THEY WERE IN THE CABLE SERVICE
AS AT JUNE 1949/50**

FANNING ISLAND

H.B. Freeman, L.N. James, W.J. Jenkins,
J. Marshall, G. deC. Montague, K.H.
Springbett, G.E. Thompson, C. Tresidder,
W.G. Uwins.

SUVA

W.A. Coslett, K.R. Banks, J.H. Collister,
R.E. Gordon, E.B. Gunning, L.L. Lickley,
S.A. MacDonald, L.K. Michell, G.G.
McKittrick, C. Nielson, K.J. Oxley, R.H.
Payne, H.I.C. Raecke, D.B. Treliving,
R.G. Wright

NORFOLK ISLAND

W.J. Stubbs, H.K. Grunhill, M.P. Hart,
R.K. Macmillan, R.W.M. Taylor

SOUTHPORT

F. McCay, R. Connolly, H.J. Edwards,
R.R. McCay, F.S. Sutherland, C.A. Lassau

SYDNEY

H.J. Hutchinson, M. O'D. Butler, C.A.J.
Barden, E.R.J. Baldacchino, D.P. Caldwell,
J.R. Cameron, J.D. Chant, W.J. Chant,
W.H.J. Chant, V.J. Claxton, J.V. Comber,
H. Cook, J.H. Creswick, C.R. Dalley,
S. Dennison, R.P. Doohan, N.E. Duggan,
J.W. Ellis, S.G. Ellis, J.J. Ewart, D.A.
Fairweather, P. Frankland, J.O. Gaffney,
N.F. Giles, C.K. Green, C.R. Greenlees,
J.F. Groshard, J.G. Guthrie, L.B. Heffernan,
A.A. Henkel, W.J. Hosking, W.J.S. Hudson,
L.L.F. Hutchinson, W.R. Hyde, E.L.
Johnson, B.J. Kelly, M.S. Lane,

L.W. Leak, V.S. Litchfield, C.P. Cove,
O.P. Lynch, V. Molineux, R. Monteith,
Miss H. McHugh, S.E. Natham, M.C.
Paskin, T. Pattinson, J. Patinott, F.J. Reitz,
J. Rawlin, M.W. Romans, R.N. Russell,
G.K. Shepherd, D. Sibert, R. Straker,
C.W. Swiney, E. Taylor, W.R. Tulley,
R.H. Welbourn, G.R. Weston, A. de V.
Wynne, A.B. Williams, H.F.J. Williams

MELBOURNE

J.E. Down, G.B.R. Cole, J.H. Coulson,
G.W. Cox, E.J. Crossley, K.E. Crossley,
J.P.J. Curran, V.J. Duigan, L.E.R. Jacobs,
W.H. Kilby, R.L. Lane, H.R. Little,
N. Macrides, F.G. McCormack, J. McGrory,
F.J. O'Callaghan, W.H. Shea, A.E.
Shepherd, W.E. Spargo, W.J. Uwins,
E.A. Wellington

ADELAIDE

J.R. Duncan, Miss E.L. Ellershaw, L.G.
Mackay, A.R. Matthews, A.K. Roberts

PERTH-COTTESLOE

M.C. Tregenza, H.N. Burdett, Miss B.M.
Griffith, Miss R.P. Rennie, G.E. McDonald,
H. Clark, R.P. Cocker, D.A. Else,
B.B. Fletcher, V.B. Gibson, J. Lee, B.D.
Morrell, C.E.N. Pegler, G.R.L. Rowe,
N.W. Samson, C. Swinbourne, A.N. Wells

ON LEAVE

R.W.D. Towser (ex-Suva), H.B. Sutherland
(ex-Suva), J.C. Ewing (ex-Fanning Island),
H.A. Colliver (ex-Suva)

STAFF CHANGES

Appointments:

F.J. Carey, Radio Telegraphist, La Perouse
R.G. Flood, Cadet Engineer

J.H. Wilson, Radio Telegraphist, Broome

Transfers:

C.A. Lassue, Spring St, Operating Room
to Southport,

W.M.F. Wattleworth, Radio Telegraphist,
from La Perouse to Darwin

Retirement:

R.G. Lawrie, Operator, Cottesloe, from
30.4.50

Resignations:

K.E. Wolinski, Radio Telegraphist, La
Perouse, from 14/3/50

C.R. Stephenson, Radio Telegraphist,
La Perouse, from 11/3/50

A.M. Fletcher, Clerk, Abstracts Accounts,
from 21/4/50

A.E. Abbey, Radio Telegraphist, Broome,
from 5/5/50

G.R. Saunders, Circulation Clerk, C.O.R.,
Sydney, from 20/4/50

R.J. McLachlan, Circulation Clerk, C.O.R.
Sydney, from 20/4/50

WHERE THEY WERE IN THE CABLE SERVICE (ctd)

FANNING ISLAND:

H.B. Freeman
G. de C. Montague
W.J. Jenkins
J.C. Ewing
R.E. Gordon
G.E. Thompson
C. Nielsen
R.J.W. Christoffersen
J. Marshall
C.W. Brent
V.S. Litchfield

NORFOLK ISLAND:

W.J. Stubbs
M.P. Hart
H.K. Greenhill
R.W.M. Taylor
R.K. Macmillan
R.S.H. Baxendale

SUVA:

H.A. Colliver
W.A. Coslett
H.B. Sutherland
L.L. Lickley
D.B.V. Treliving
L.N. James
S.A. Macdonald
R.M.D. Towner
N.W. Samson
R.G. Wright
K.J. Oxley
K.R. Banks
R.H. Payne
E.B. Gunning
K.R. Clark
H.I.C. Raecke
J.G. Guthrie
L.K. Michell
M.M. Morrison (Miss)
P.M. Macdonald (Miss)
L.R. McGeady (Miss)
T.M. Ragg (Miss)
N.E. Macdonald (Miss)

M.C. Smith (Miss)
J.M. Patton (Miss)

PERTH:

G.E. McDonald
H.N.M. Burdett
W.G. Uwins
B. Griffiths (Miss)
R.P. Rennie (Miss)

COTTESLOE:

A.J. Black
K.H. Springbett
J. Lee
H. Clark
C.E.N. Pegler
V.B. Gibson
R.G. Lawrie
C. Swinbourne
B.B. Fletcher
G.R.L. Rowe
B.D. Morrell
R.H. Bardwell
R.P. Cocker
D.A. Else

MELBOURNE:

G.H. Cox
A.E. Shepherd
J.E. Bown
C.B.R. Cole
J.P.J. Curran
E.J. Crossley
K. Crossley
G.W. Cox
J.H. Coulson
V.J. Duignan
F.P.G. Fitzgerald
J.H. Heathershaw
R.L. Hayes
W. Hoyes
L.E.R. Jacobs
L.M. Johnstone
W.H.A. Kilby
R.L. Lane
M. Lalor

H.R. Little
J. McGrory
N. Macrides
C.J. Moore
F.G. McCormack
A. Malcolm
W.G. McGregor
J. O'Callaghan
J. Oliver
H. Oliver
L.M. Johnstone (Mrs)
W.E. Spargo
W.H. Shea
J.A. Snowden (Miss)
J.E. Stanton (Miss)
E.E. Trezise
D.H. Tippet
W.J. Uwins
E.A. Willington
L.G. Waters

ON LEAVE:

Pending transfer:
J.G. Guthrie
M.C. Tregenza
Pre-retirement:
W.R. Drew
W.J. Henderson
A. McPhee
H.S. Crawley
H.W. Chinner

ADELAIDE

(previous list incomplete)
D. Mitchell
H. Teague
K.R. Goode
H.A. Hallifax
J.R. Duncan
S.M. Richardson
A.K. Roberts
A.R. Matthews
N.G. Mackay
H.M. Grinter
E.L. Ellershaw (Miss)

WHERE THEY WERE IN OTC ACCOUNTS AUGUST 1949

MELBOURNE

J. Burbury (Miss)
 G.A.L. Dowd
 J.F. Hogan
 J.R. Hunter
 T.P. Miller (Miss)
 A.E. Watson
 D.A. Williams
 J. Wilson (Mrs)
 B.V. Boyce (Mrs)
 F.P. Bristow
 I.F. Hibbs (Miss)
 E.M. Hunter (Miss)
 J.M. Miller (Miss)
 G.W. Muller
 T.J. O'Leary
 J.A. Robinson
 W.J. Symons (Miss)
 P. Smith (Miss)
 S.M. Stelling (Mrs)
 E.V. Stewart (Mrs)
 V.M. Swanson (Miss)
 B.H. Wallens (Miss)
 E.T. Wong Yen (Miss)
 A. Boren (Miss)
 R.M. Foot (Miss)
 M.M. Forster (Miss)
 M.G. Gee
 R.E. Gillies (Miss)
 H.S. Harvey
 C.R. Howship (Miss)
 J. McMurray (Mrs)
 A.J. Merton (Miss)
 S.J. Parker (Mrs)

W.A.R. Parker
 L.M. Reeve (Mrs)

SYDNEY

O.P. Asher
 B. Bradley (Miss)
 K. Connors (Miss)
 J. Dunn
 R.W. Godfrey
 B. Heiron (Miss)
 F.J. Hinds
 C.B. Banning
 A. Robinson (Miss)
 I.B.J. Taylor (Miss)
 N.H. Trotman
 C.V. Brophy (Miss)
 R.M. Carragher
 E.J. Cockle
 W.M. Donnelly (Miss)
 M.A. Driver (Miss)
 N.M. Fleming (Miss)
 A. Gersting (Miss)
 R.A. Harris
 J.D. Hudson (Miss)
 F.L. Keen
 H.M. Manuel (Miss)
 E.W. Northwood
 S.J. Thorburn (Miss)
 E.D. Thornley (Miss)
 E.M. Todd (Miss)
 K.J. Wheeler (Miss)
 E.F. Biddolph (Miss)
 K.D. Bondfield
 P.L. Bush (Miss)
 G.D. Drew (Miss)

E.C. Evans
 P. Gibson
 D.J. Hallahan
 A.J. Hickey
 N.R. Hoff (Miss)
 M.W. Kerr (Mrs)
 J. Mann (Miss)
 D. Montgomery
 M.B. McCarthy (Miss)
 J.E. McIntosh (Miss)
 C. O'Sullivan
 J.E.M. Ryan (Mrs)
 H. Sutherland
 M.M. Urquhart (Miss)
 M.L. Watson (Miss)
 B.E. Wellfare (Miss)
 M.L. Gillman (Miss)
 V.J. Matthews (Miss)
 G.K. O'Donnell
 R.J. Rivett-Carnac
 M.T. Weeks (Miss)
 O.M. White
 R.S. Davidson
 K.L. Erickson
 N.R.K. Harris
 G.J. Johnston
 D.J. Lipscombe (Miss)
 A.J. Mealey
 J.E. Rogerson (Miss)
 M.A.G. Watt (Miss)
 A.P. Whittaker (Miss)
 R.D. Woodhams (Miss)

WHERE THEY WERE AT CHRISTMAS 1949 IN THE COASTAL RADIO SERVICE

ADELAIDE

F C Mulligan (O.I.C.), R W Tymms, E W
Coldwell, J E Fuge, H S Taylor,
J K Overbury.

BRISBANE

A G Cox (O.I.C.), J Ward, A H Burke,
H Sutherland, E W Sievers.

BROOME

L T J Allinson (O.I.C.), R S Glenn,
J A Grant, S Hamilton, E A Abbey.

DARWIN

A S Hart (O.I.C.), A T Sage, A A McCollum,
C J Frazier, W Wells.

ESPERANCE

F J C Bridges (O.I.C.), S C Ambler,
L W K Wilson

GERALDTON

F H Christmas (O.I.C.), C E Lemmon,
H B Wolfe.

HOBART

M L Weeks (O.I.C.), B F Hirst,
J B Ponsonby.

KAVIENG

E I Hyde.

LAE

C C Beckett, Mrs S M Bingham.

MADANG

G E Davies.

MELBOURNE

H B Tyler, L C Farnsworth, L G Reynolds,
E H Smellie, L E Ternes

PERTH

W G Chapman (O.I.C.), J B Bullen, W H
Richardson, H W M Rumble, J R Clifford,
R C Anderson, W A Chambers, J E Kemp,
M A McGoun, P C Priestly, A Mitchell,
F W Blewett, J J Roberts.

PORT MORESBY

K T Frank (O.I.C., New Guinea-Papua
District.)
N F Odgers (O.I.C.), M S Lang, A B Bunting,
F K Minogue, W K Webster, G A Warner,
H Stewart, Miss M J McCubbery,
Miss R M Wardrop.

RABAUL

D W McMillan (O.I.C.), P J Chapman,
L G Palmer, A Barrie, W A P Luke,
Miss E M Richards.

ROCKHAMPTON

G Walters, (O.I.C.), F L Scott.

THURSDAY ISLAND

G J Scott (O.I.C.), V R Birks, G Madren,
E C Sawyer, B D Woods.

TOWNSVILLE

G D Reynolds (O.I.C.), M B Todd, F W Bond,
F G Marlow, N R Seymour.

WEWAK

W W Watson.

WILLIS ISLAND

H J Hicks (O.I.C.), T Sexton.

WYNDHAM

J R Pell.

LA PEROUSE

P W Brown (O.I.C.), D B L Fleming, C F
Dale, J T Buckland, C L J Coley, L C Cusack,
W Day, J Elmore, F J Gowlett, J R Harrison,
H F Hartley, P C Gillon, J Gornall, A W
Hooper, H L Jones, W D Johnston,
N Johnstone, C T F Northam, H E Oates,
J B Parsonage, V J Richards, A E
Shepherd, A Shingleton, C R Stephenson,
T Swarbrick, T W Thomson, F Turville,
C M Urquhart, C R West, K E Wolonski,
W J Peell, R W S, Vailey, O E Cooper,
C Drew, J A Heavey, F Marsden,
C R Stanfield, R Brogan, E M Hopwood

ON LEAVE

J W Furnell, F C James, H W Brown.

Who's Who at HEAD OFFICE and MELBOURNE

(as at 8th September, 1950)

Excluding names which have appeared in previous lists under the headings of C.R.S,
Radio Services, Cable Services and Accounts

General Manager: J E S Stevens
Private Secretary to G.M: Mrs D Creighton

Assistant General Manager: J L Mulholland
Private Secretary to A G M: Miss E M Bowker

TRAFFIC BRANCH

Chief Traffic Superintendent: A D Gregory
Traffic Superintendent: M Mortimer
Superintendent, C R S: H I Moore
Superintendent, C O R:
F C Davis (York Street)
H J Hutchinson (Spring Street)
Traffic Inspector: K McLennan
Inspector, C R S: J H Leverett
Supervisor, Accepting Office:
T A Jones (York Street)
T Pattinson (Spring Street)
Typists: Misses V J Budd, M C Clarke,
T H McHugh, D M Wellfare

ADMINISTRATIVE BRANCH

Chief Administrative Officer: G Wallish
Staff Superintendent: F R Hales
Senior Clerk: A W F Brown
Internal Auditor: J W Emmett
Staff Clerk: A L Donnelly
Welfare Officer: E F D Jones
Training Officer: G M Morrison
Junior Clerk: J B Walsh
Typist: Miss D N Vitnell
Records: Miss N Johnson, Miss B Rule-Taylor
Telephonists: Misses L M Haggett, N M Stuart,
S P Robinson
Messengers: S Grahame, G W Meek
Cleaners (York Street): W C Hodgson,
T R Russell, F Berry, A E Rodda,
Mrs H M Pargett, Mrs A Hessian
Caretaker (Spring Street): C Pollendine
Lift Driver (Spring Street): R H J McKeown
Cleaners (Spring Street): H Brown, J Walsh
R J Foster, J B Matthews,
Mrs A Edwards

SECRETARY'S BRANCH

Secretary: P C Greenland
Senior Research Officer: E C Harcourt
Research Officer: R O Heiser
Rates Officer: C W Moss
Clerk: G T Hughes
Publications Assistant: Mrs M H Studdert

ENGINEERING BRANCH

Chief Engineer: A S McDonald
Supervising Engineer: W R Baird
Sectional Engineer (Research): Dr E R Dalziel
Sectional Engineer (Cables and General Works): A J Black
Sectional Engineer (Traffic Plant): W W Jenvey
Sectional Engineer (Radio): J G Reed
Engineer: R J S McDonald
Senior Technical Officer: C R Dalley
(C O R, Spring Street)
Senior Technical Officer: J G Cookson
(C O R, York Street)
Supervising Technician: J Doggett (H Q, Sydney)
Supervising Technician: F G Forrest (H Q, Perth)
Clerks: R T Hughes, C G Carey
Tracer: Miss B M Johnson
Typist: Miss D J Fizell

ACCOUNTS BRANCH

Chief Accountant: H Steel
Sydney Accountant: J M Hansson
Traffic Accountant: W Ellershaw
Typist: D H Wallis

STORES BRANCH

Stores Superintendent: T J Molloy
Senior Clerk: W G Miller
Clerk: R A N Pegrum
Typist: Miss W N Shindorfer
Storemen (Glebe Store): R H Stewart,
O L Brazier, N M Hudson
Drivers: J B Maloney, C W Gray

MELBOURNE BRANCH

Manager: T B D Edwards
Assistant Manager: H A de Dassel
Melbourne Accountant: G H Cox
Superintendent, C O R: A R Mancer
Senior Technical Officer: J D Wood
Supervisor Accepting Office: F P Fitzgerald
Senior Clerk: J H Williams
Equipment Officer: F W Wigg

Typists: Mrs L C King, Misses N E Fieldus,
J H Matthew
Messenger: J R Milican

Typists: Misses J A Lindsay, M Short,
B Knight, Mrs L Dodson

FROM OUR O.T.V.A. MATES IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The following is a report of the Annual Christmas reunion of the South Australian Branch of the OTVA held on Friday 29 November 1991 on Level 22 of the Grenfell Centre Adelaide at the invitation of the OTC Ltd Manager, Gary Kelly who not only provided an excellent luncheon with a goodly range of refreshments, but also waved the magic wand and provided a video hook-up between Adelaide and the Sydney Vets Reunion, being held at the same time.

The eye-ball contact (or QSO) was a first for the Veterans Associations and proved to be extremely successful, with many pleasant surprises, badinage and nostalgia references to past events and happenings. It was such a success that we unfortunately eventually ran over the allotted time and had to release the system for its normal use, with many Sydney Veterans still waiting to have a shot at their SA mates. All in all, t'was a great success and we are truly obligated to Gary Kelly and his capable and lovely assistant Linda. We would like to register our hearty thanks to them both for putting on such a wonderful show for us. Thanks, Gary and Linda.

A welcome to members and visitors was extended by our President Geoff Cox.

Minutes of previous AGM were accepted as reported in OTVA newsletter.

Those present were Geoff Cox, President, Harry Stone, Secretary/Treasurer, Fred Reeve (Manager OTC Maritime Station VIA), Max Lang, Denis Maher, Dick Inwood, Paddy Wilkinson, David Herbert, John McGregor, Rhonda Hunt, Bob Imrie. Apologies were received from Dudley Treliving, Kam Springbett, Keith Parker and George Rowe mainly due to health reasons.

The only correspondence during the previous six months was the OTVA Newsletter which is always eagerly awaited (keep up the good work Ando!).

Treasurer's report mainly concerned the correction of the forwarding address of the State Bank's statement from our previous Secretary, Bert Dudley (deceased) to that of Harry Stone (present Secretary/Treasurer). Our bank balance stands at \$102.96 as at 22 January 1992.

General business concerned that of inviting members' wives to the annual Christmas gathering at the OTC Maritime Centre, whilst the date of the AGM was set at the 4th Thursday in May 1992 12.30 pm with the venue being VIA Centre McLaren Vale. It was unanimously voted that our wives be invited to the Xmas reunion.

Our President Geoff Cox proffered an appreciation to our Host Gary Kelly and Linda for their efforts, this was confirmed by our acclamation.

That's the lot, Tony, hope to see you at Wagga.

Cheers

Harry Stone

A Contribution by VINCE SIM - Received with Thanks

VINCE WRITES:

Having read in November, 1991 Newsletter that Stan Wright had passed away and you mentioning you had no particulars of his service, I am forwarding a resume that appeared in the AWA Radiogram, September 1932 of Stan's early days.

I was posted to Pennant Hills in 1933 and Stan was Station Mechanic until 1955 when Pennant Hills closed down and Stan went to Marrickville workshops.

Enclosed is a group photo of the staff at Pennant Hills in 1932.

Sadly, not one of those fellows is alive today - in our trade, "Silent Keys".

Thanks Vince. I will submit the photostat copy of the group hoping that it comes out as well as yours has done. In the meantime here is that resume you speak about.

S WRIGHT

Mr S Wright entered AWA in August 1918 as an apprentice in Works.

In his first three years he assisted in the manufacture of spark transmitters and the never-to-be forgotten 101 and 103 P.I. receivers.

In 1921, when AWA commenced to manufacture X-ray and electro-medical apparatus, Mr Wright turned out the first Australian-made transformer apparatus. This machine was closely followed by others and he was kept fully occupied until the expiration of his apprenticeship. He was some time at the Military Hospital at Randwick as relieving radiographer and he also installed X-ray equipment in the Goulburn Hospital.

We find him next employed at the Works as a fitter. He had a trip to Queensland to assist in a demonstration of receivers for the Queensland Government and was next engaged in the manufacture of broadcast transmitters and was later appointed to take charge of the X-ray manufacture, in which his capacity, his experience enabled him to offer numerous suggestions for improvement of design and simplification of manufacture.

When the X-ray Department was discontinued in 1922, Mr Wright had the duty of winding up the Department.

In 1929 he was appointed Mechanic at Sydney Radio Centre.



STAFF OF RADIO CENTRE, PENNANT HILLS.

Standing: S. Wright, J. L. Maher, R. Campton, E. T. Prentice, A. R. Finch, W. S. Ringrose, A. A. Kerr.

Seated: R. W. S. Bailey, J. Dogget, J. G. Cookson, V. E. Stanley, A. R. Catford.

Note: Messrs. T. Redfern & J. Tullen, whose photos appear elsewhere, were on leave when this photo was taken.

OVERSEAS TELECOMMUNICATIONS VETERANS' ASSOCIATION (QUEENSLAND)

And a Happy New Year to you! This is just a brief report on our last reunion and a reminder about the get-together at President Keith Vincent's home at Bogangar on Sunday, 25th January, 'Bogga' gathering.

A small but very pleasant gathering was admirably hosted by John Taylor at Brisbane Radio on Tuesday, 19th November last. Only ten members attended, eight of them with their wives, but an excellent time was had by all. The barbeque was professionally cooked by John Burdinat, Technical Officer at the station, who used the occasion to formally join our Veterans group, as did John Taylor himself.

Present were: Jim and Beryl Banks; Eric and Elaine Baxter (another new member, ex MOR); Kevin and Anna Bobridge; Laz Eliou; Sid Gill; Alf and Heather Goeby; Kevin and Vi Hiscock; Bob and Margaret Hooper; Alan and Colleen Jones and Jack and Lisa Silcock, plus our two new members from VIB.

Apologies were received from President Keith, who was overseas, Wilf Atkin, Denis Bloudani, Blue Easterling, Pat Gray, Denis Humphries, Jock Kellie, Rowley Lane, Dean Laws, Doug Lloyd, John Norris, Stan Silver, Vince Sim and John Toland. Secretary Jim Banks, on behalf of President Keith, also read apologies from OTC Managing Director, Steve Burdon; State Manager John Blewett and Glenys Baldwin, all of whom sent their best wishes for the gathering and for the festive season.

Please note that Keith and Sadie Vincent invite all of us to their home at 7 Kurrajong Avenue, Bogangar (NSW, a few kms south of Kingscliff) on Sunday 25th January, our version of the 'Wagga Weekend'. Take your barbeque meat and drinks - Keith and Sadie will provide the salads etc; it should be another great day. Keith's number is 066 761152. An indication of whether or not you are going would be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Jim Banks

The Merger

It now appears to be official that the new name for the merged Telecom/OTC merger is Australian and Overseas Telecommunications Corporation (A.O.T.C.) The initials AOTC is certainly a brainwave and capitalising on OTC's good name. Congratulations to whoever pushed it through. The subject of the merger brings back memories of a similar proposal in 1974, which was defeated in Parliament by the OTC's support by the Telecommunications User's Association and the Sydney Chamber of Commerce. This support was due to Harold White's politicking of these bodies. Times and circumstances have changed and the merger should be very successful.

Tradition

In the old days we read about the good work done by the C.R.S. in rescues at sea. Today, this service is still carrying out its good work, but we now see another section coming into the news with the rescue of a satellite by the Perth lads. Well done, fellas!

Radio Australia

Further to the story of radio station VK2ME, a story by Philip Geeves, which appeared in an early edition of NEWSLETTER, might interest some of the more junior veterans.

The first worldwide broadcast from Australia took place on 5th September 1927, the transmission being through 2ME, the experimental broadcasting station of A.W.A., the signals being transmitted from Pennant Hills. Old timers will remember that at the time radio station 2FC was owned by Farmer & Company. The programme for transmission by 2ME was arranged by 2FC with Sydney Morning Herald co-operating in the historic occasion.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MORE ABOUT VK2ME

BY DOUG BISBY

In response to Gordon Cupit's query about VK2ME, I can advise that Australia's first official short-wave broadcast station was Lyndhurst Radio, situated in the Dandenong Ranges south-east of Melbourne. It is possible that data collected from VK2ME's operations assisted in the establishment of "Australia Calling" at Lyndhurst.

Using call-signs of VLI, VLR, etc, Lyndhurst transmitted ABC regional programs to the interior and Australia's dependencies. Following the outbreak of the Second World War, some of the facilities were taken over by the Department of Information and "Australia Calling" commenced transmission in 1939, as Gordon has noted. Prime Minister Menzies made the inaugural broadcast, the service being eventually used as an information source for Australian troops stationed abroad.

In 1944 a new transmitting station was completed at Shepparton, Victoria, using transmitters of greatly increased power, the title of "Radio Australia" being officially adopted. Lyndhurst reverted to its former role as a regional shortwave station for the ABC.

In 1952 the PMG's Dept assumed responsibility for technical operations at "RA", as the service is known internally, the ABC provided studio and production facilities from Melbourne, as it does now.

A relay station was opened in the late 1960's at Cox's Peninsula, Darwin; here the Shepparton broadcasts were received and retransmitted to South-East Asia. Darwin "RA" fell victim to Cyclone Tracey, resulting in the construction of a new station at Camarvon, W.A.

Time has taken its toll of Australia's pioneer shortwave broadcast stations. Although the transmitter building still survives as a hall, the Pennant Hills VK2ME site is now a well established residential area, while Lyndhurst Radio closed in 1990, a casualty of satellites and modern technology. Shepparton has survived and continues as a popular broadcaster to South-East Asia and the Pacific Islands.

OUT OF THE PAST - DARWIN

Seeing that this year is the 50th anniversary of the bombing of Darwin, we have decided to reproduce two articles dealing with the raid. These articles have already appeared in Vol. 1 of our NEWSLETTER dated April, 1973.

It deserves a mention on two counts; firstly, it was the first time in the history of this country that we had ever come under direct attack from a would-be invader, and secondly, because some of our veterans were there to record a moment in history.

The first is a reprint of Phil Chapman's log and the second article is a reproduction of a snippet by Bill Hosking.

DARWIN CYCLONE

The Darwin Cyclone has been well covered in the special issue of "Transit" and we do not intend to give much space to this subject in the newsletter. It is interesting however, to amateur members that during part of the time when we had no commercial links, that Manager, Bob Hooper, a mobile "Ham" contacted another "Ham" in Cairns and requested he get hold of Keith Parker, Cairns Manager, also "Ham" and get him on the air.

As a result Bob and Keith ran a "Ham" circuit between Darwin and Cairns and Keith followed through to Head Office per telephone.

OTC had workmen, riggers etc in the area fairly quickly and as a result four of the houses were reconstructed and four of the staff were able to be reunited with their families on 21st February. Whereas other organisations only patched up houses. OTC practically rebuilt and the houses are as good as new. In summary, both OTC and the staff must be congratulated on their fine efforts during this emergency.

The cyclone devastation to Darwin on Christmas Day stirred memories of another great crisis in Australia's northernmost capital, the destructive Japanese air raid of February 1942. Below are some extracts from the logs of VID, Darwin Radio, which was then operated by AWA.

- 6.12.41 9 p.m. RAAF request message be passed to Batavia by any means possible, as they cannot do so. Message passed.
 - 11.1.42 12.37 pm. Intercept call ship PATRAS gunned 8.52 south 144.44 east . . . Naval authorities advised.
 - 19.1.42 12.49 a.m. Intercept call ship BANTAM. Submarine fired three torpedoes, all missed, 7.16 south 126.30 east . . . BANTAM replied to and Naval authorities advised.
 - 1.2.42 12.57 p.m. Intercept call ship BANTAM bombed by eight planes. Naval authorities advised.
 - 8.2.42 11.52 a.m. Ship, callsign unreadable, bombed 12.3 south 129.49 east (approx 50 miles from Darwin). Ship replied to and Naval authorities advised.
 - 16.2.42 1.02 p.m. Intercept call MAUNALOA attacked by 27 Jap bombers 12.55 south 125.48 east. Acknowledged and passed to Naval authorities.
(This ship was in convoy with the U.S. transports MEIGS, PORT MARR and TULAGI, escorted by cruiser HOUSTON. This convoy returned to Darwin within the next two days. During the air raid MEIGS, 12,560 tons, and MAUNA LOA, 5,436 tons, both caught fire and sank in Darwin Harbour).
 - 18.2.42 11.01 a.m. Intercept call ship DON ISIDRO attacked by bombers 60 miles north of Wessel Island (this ship 200 miles airline from Darwin). Acknowledged and passed to Naval authorities.
 - 19.2.42 9.35 a.m. 8SE ('X' frequency coast watching station on Bathurst Island) calls with HUGE FLIGHT OF BOMBERS PASSED OVER BOUND DARWIN. Call acknowledged but nil further from 8SE. (This message was acknowledged by Officer-in-Charge Lou Curnock and transmitted immediately to RAAF operations room, where it was received at 9.37 a.m. No general alarm was sounded until 9.58 a.m., almost at the exact moment when the first bombs fell on Darwin. The delay has never been satisfactorily explained).
- 9.59 a.m. AAAA de VID Air raid in progress. Jap fighter machine-gunned station and knocked down high frequency directional aerial to VKS (Sydney Radio). All power off and no phone communication due to lines being bombed. During next hour on emergency gear. Following message passed to Sydney Radio
DEVASTATING AIR RAID IN PROGRESS.
Whilst working Sydney, ship DON ISIDRO calls BEING ATTACKED BY LARGE NUMBER OF BOMBERS NEAR MELVILLE ISLAND, then "HIT" (DON ISIDRO was sunk).
- 12.00 approx. Further flight of bombers attack Darwin drome 6.00 p.m. 8SE (Bathurst Island) calls with AFTER I GAVE YOU WARNING SIX BOMBERS BROKE FORMATION AND BOMBED US, DAMAGED AIR FORCE INSTALLATIONS HERE AND PUT MY RADIO OFF AIR UNTIL NOW.

Acknowledged.

20.2.42 10.00 a.m. Message received via aeradio circuits manned at VID that fighters on way to Darwin and what drome will they land at. As no phone communication, this message delivered by hand to Naval Intelligence. (Delivered by Phil Chapman).

1.12 p.m. Intercept KOOLAMA BOMBED BY JAP FLYING BOATS, ALL MISSED
13.30 SOUTH 127.10 EAST. Acknowledged and Navy advised.

3.00 p.m. Intercept KOOLAMA STILL BEING ATTACKED.

3.06 p.m. Intercept KOOLAMA DIRECT HIT TRYING TO PUT SHIP ASHORE IF POSSIBLE. Acknowledged and passed to Navy.

7.05 p.m. 8SE (Bathurst Island) calls with HAVE CAPTURED JAPANESE AIRMAN HERE. Acknowledged and passed to Navy.

POSTSCRIPT

The Japanese aircraft which raided Darwin were launched from four aircraft carriers in the Timor Sea, some 220 miles north west of Darwin. Those same vessels, AKAGI, SORYU, HIRYU and KAGA were destined to be destroyed by the United States Navy at the Battle of Midway in June 1942.

The only casualties suffered of the Radio Station were dented steel helmets, but the Cable boys did get injuries. A story from one of the cable chaps would be welcomed.

DARWIN AIR RAID

BY BILL HOSKING

Further to our article on the radio station's activities during the Darwin air-raid, Melbourne member Bill Hosking has advised that there is a very good account of the cable stations activities in a book published by C. & W. "The Thin Red Lines".

Bill goes on to say that those on duty that interesting morning were Roley Lane and himself and he was the senior operator who "copped it" whilst sheltering on the cliff face. Roley and another gent parked in the hole that was to be a toilet (doesn't think it was ever completed). Roley escaped unhurt but Bill finished up in hospital as he was on the receiving end of all the rocks and debris from the bomb craters. After the event the boys on the station dubbed Bill "the official receiver of injuries". Although it happened thirty-three years ago he can remember it as if it happened yesterday and he is thankful to be alive.

As far as it is known Bill was the only communicator in Darwin who was wounded in enemy action. He has now been in retirement for twelve years and keeps himself active by continuing his lifetime musical interests. He is still a playing member of the Maroondah Symphony Orchestra and the Nunawading City Band. Good blowing Bill.

Where the others were (excluding C.R.S.) in

THE RADIO SERVICES BRANCH

as at February 1949

C.O.R. SYDNEY

Mr Mortimer (Superintendent), J. Anderson,
E.W.A. Anthony, W.P. Atkin, W.J. Blemings,
D.A. Bourne, S.G. Bouttell, J.E. Breakwell,
F.V. B. Briggs, A.H. Brown, G.D. Brown,
H.S. Burgess, E.J. Burke, Miss M.J. Casey,
H.H. Cladingboel, Miss L.J. Clark, J.M.
Connaghan, J.G. Cookson, W.G. Cowley,
R.D. Crawford, G.O. Cupit, W.G. D'Arcy,
G.J. Day, E. Devine, L. Doubleday, Miss
R.P. Doyle, L.A. Drewer, A. Dulihamy, A.E.
Ebert, J.N. Edwards, F.A. Elliott, J.R.
Fabris, A.J. Flood, P.K. Frost, V.C. Frost,
W.H. Gadd, C.S. Gibson, C.A. Gowanloch,
J.L. Greer, A.H. Griffiths, M.F. Hall, R.J.
Hector, R. Herrington, M.J. Hill, J.N.
Hodgson, R.E. Hookway, R.J. Hoseason,
J.S. Hoy, C.L. Hunt, N.V. Huntington, B.J.
Jackson, F.G. Jenkins, D.A. Jolly, A.P.
Jones, W.H. Jones, H.J.J.B. Kennedy, K.J.
Lawlor, S.W. Le Grand, J.B. Lennon, G.
Lynch, R.G.E. Mackenzie, C.G. Maiden,
Miss D.K. Marland, J.M.P. Meaney, I.N.
McBain, J.C. McFarlane, H.W. McInness, D.
McIntosh, I. McPhee, S.J. Nelson, F.A.J.
Newlyn, J. Neylon, J.R. Nielsen, M.
O'Callaghan, W.F. O'Donnell, N.S. Patfield,
C.H. Pearson, A.H. Phillips, J.H. Pow, A.T.
Purtill, K.P. Quinn, R.B. Reeks, H.J.
Robertson, J.A. Rodda, J.F. Rowley, J.D.
Sallaway, L.D.C. Sanders, W.S. Sandry,
J.J. Sheath, Miss K.V. Sheather, G.T.
Sheppard, J. Shore, F.J. Simmons, J.
Smith, K.T. Smith, W.J. Stevenson, P.
Stewart, H.A. Sticpwich, H.T.J. Stone, R.J.
Studd, A.J. Sutton, J. Swift, J.A. Tait, M.A.
Taylor, T.W. Thatcher, L.J. Thorndike, C.O.
Wallace, L.A. Walsh, G.L. Waterhouse, C.F.
Watson, R.K. Waugh, A.H. Wells, G.J.A.
Wheeler, F.R. White, C.E.S. Whittaker, E.R.
Wickham, F.D. Williams, D. Woods, K.
Woodward, L.T. Young, W.E. Zihrl.

PENNANT HILLS

V.E. Stanley (O.I.C.), W.F. Bardin, C.
Binns, S.R. Campton, A.R. Catford,
J.W.M. Cottrell, F.L. Dawes, G.J. Flynn,
A.A. Kerr, A.R. North-Smith, A.F.
Plowman, W.S. Ringrose, E.A. Ritchie,
W.V. Sim, R.E. Wood, A.A. Woodley,
S.W. Wright

ROCKBANK

J.V. Joiner (O.I.C.), C.B. Alexander, J.H. Camp, H.J. Caswell, J.J. Ferguson, G.J. Fraser, W.G. Gosewinckel, H. Jaeger, Miss C.D. Missen, L.C. Rogers, D.B. Shaw.

BRAYBROOK

T.L. Lang (O.I.C.), F.G. Lewis, L.E. Mahony, M.H. Stuart, A.C. Towers.

GIVING CREDIT WHERE IT DUE

The Editor wishes to thank the contributors to this edition of NEWSLETTER.

DEREK WALKER	GORDON CUPIT	FRED STUDMAN 9N.Z.O.
KEITH (Pancho) VINCENT	HARRY STONE	VINCE SIM
JIM BANKS	DOUG BISBY	VINCE GIBSON
PHIL CHAPMAN	HAROLD H. LE QUESNE (Canada)	

VALE JOHN EALES

In the early hours of the morning of 28th December 1991, John Eales, another Western Australian veteran passed away after a long fight against leukemia. He was 60 years of age.

John joined OTC Coastal Radio as a Radio officer, after leaving the Blue Funnel shipping line. After a short time at Sydney Radio, he was given a crash-course in diesels and transferred to Willis Islet, which at that time, was manned by C.R.S. as a cyclone warning station for the weather bureau.

After doing his 12 month stint there he was transferred to Perthradio, where he remained for six years until the end of 1963, doing occasional relieving duties at Esperance and Geraldton radios. A short period at Darwinradio followed, and he was sent to Thursday Island where he served a three-year term before transferring to Esperanceradio as O.I.C. (later Manager) in mid 1967. He stayed there until his retirement on medical grounds towards the end of 1985. John bore his illness with fortitude and will be sadly missed by his many friends, who knew him as a capable, conscientious and humane gentleman.

He is survived by wife Olga and adult sons, Michael and Geoffrey.

To his family go our deepest sympathy.

TOUGH NUTS

The inclusion of C&W on Optus will bring a smile to the faces of many of the old die-hard negotiators of OTC, and will also bring back memories of their bouts with reps of C&W, affectionately known as "The Poms". Over the years they have been a very hard nut to crack but OTC has nearly always been able to come out on top. I trust the new AOTC can just be as successful and hold their own in face of the new competition. AOTC should snap up some of the old guard as consultants, in the event that they have not already been taken up by Optus.

FROM OUR CANADIAN COLLEAGUES VIA HAROLD H. LeQUESNE

He writes,

I would like to add my congratulations to you on being elected to the position of NSW Secretary.

At the same time I would like to convey to Mr Alan Arndt, my appreciation for continuing to send me the OTVA NEWSLETTER, and also for keeping in touch with The Quarter Century Club of Teleglobe Canada (Western Chapter) over the years. Since I am not the President of our Association, I am unable to keep close ties with the O.T.V.A. (NSW), other than convey Fraternal Greetings from time to time. It is also my regret that we do not have a NEWSLETTER to send you. Since there are very few Australians left in the Canadian Association, a Newsletter may not be all that interesting. I still enjoy yours and in the November 1991 issue I regretted to learn of Mr Charles W. Carthew is now in a nursing home.

My wife, Katherine, and I will, all being well, be making our "swan song" visit to Australia, to N.S.W. for the month of November, 1992. We plan staying at the Manly Pacific Parkroyal, and possibly we may be able to meet with you at that time.

Congratulations must also go to your President, Mr Gordon Cupit. You are very fortunate to have such an active and interested President.

Thanking you again for the NEWSLETTER and at this time from the Teleglobe Canada Association and myself, a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 1992 to all OTVA members and their wives.

We were very sorry to learn that Kath Morgan has broken her wrist. We trust at that this time she is well on the way to full recovery.

Faternally yours

(Signed) H.H. Le Quesne
Immediate Past President
QCC of Teleglobe Canada (Western Chapter)

VALE ROBERT JAMES (JIM) DEVLIN, WESTERN AUSTRALIAN VETERAN

Robert James (Jim) Devlin passed away on 6th December 1991. Jim was 73. He went to sea as a Radio Officer with the British Merchant Service before World War 2, served throughout the war years and eventually emigrated to Australia in 1954, when he joined OTC. After a short spell at Sydney Radio Jim was transferred to Darwin, where he spent what he always considered to be the best eight years of his life. He was transferred to Perth in 1962 but resigned from OTC to go back to sea. This didn't work out as Jim had hoped, so he rejoined OTC and worked at Perth Radio until his retirement at the age of 65 in 1983. Jim's retirement was unfortunately dogged by ill health, which limited his appearances at our Annual Reunions, but he had been looking forward to attending our November meeting when he was suddenly taken ill again and had to go into hospital. Those who had the pleasure of working with Jim will always remember him as a gentleman and a true 'morse man' whose one dislike in life was incompetent ships' radio operators; otherwise his placid good nature was rarely ruffled. He leaves a wife, Doris, and son, Carl, to whom we offer our deepest sympathy.

TRIPPING AND TOURING WITH THE VINCENTS

"Pancho" and Sadie

Our latest venture was a tour of Greece and Turkey for 15 days with friend Heather from Sydney, then we met up with the Tweed Valley Friendship Force group of 30 and made an exchange to Israel and Egypt. We started off on 16th Oct with 2 days in Athens then off to Istanbul for a 10 day tour of Turkey. We enjoyed this very much - the first day in Istanbul was exciting as it was the final day of electioneering for the very first democratic election held in Turkey - all the noise and flag waving was sight to see - much better than having the security forces waving guns around. Sunday was voting day and all the flags and banners had to be taken down on this day. We then flew to Ankara and started on tour to Nevsehir for 2 nights, here we toured around the area called Cappadocia and visited many ancient sites where the people lived (and still do) in underground houses. The Turkish Government have tried to re-locate them but they prefer this style of living. We then went onto Isparta and on the way we went into a number of "caravansaray's" which were the resting places for caravans, each spaced about 20 kms, which was day's trip for a camel train. These old style "motels" gave security and food for the travellers along the "Silk Roads". One such place was called "Sultanhanı" and this was in operation during the days of Marco Polo. After 1 night in Isparta we then went to Kusadasi which is on the coast of the Aegean Sea and very close to the Island of Samos (Greek). Up the coast to Izmir which is in the Ionia area, on the way we called in at Ephesus, a place much steeped in history. Next day we went to Cannakkale via Troy where we saw a replica of the wooden horse and the seven cities of Troy. From Cannakkale we could see across the straits of the Dardanelles and the memorials of Gallipoli Peninsular. Next day we visited ANZAC Cove, Gaba Tepe, Quinns Outpost, Shrapnel Valley, Walkers Ridge, Lone Pine, Chunuk Bair war graves - these are so well kept by the Turks and for the Australians and New Zealanders in the group, a very moving experience. We also walked in the trenches that have been preserved, all of this peninsular is designated as a National Reserve and cannot be built upon. At this part of our tour Sadie tripped and broke her right arm - 2 hours away from nearest medical attention and after getting it set, another 6 hours to Istanbul. This put me in the position of looking after her from her teeth to toes for a while.

We then went back to Athens for a few more days and then met our F.F. group at the Israel border, we were hosted by a great family who looked after us so well. We had a terrific day on Nov 3 - it was our 40th wedding anniversary - the group had a tour of Arad, Jericho, a swim!! in the Dead Sea and a visit to Herod's palace at Massada. Whilst there we were driven off the mountain top by a fierce sand storm - very scary - at the next pit stop a couple of Anglican Priests in our group had us repeat our wedding vows - very touching. We visited the Holocaust and Children's Memorials which moved us all with the pictorial display and the reading of the 1.3 million children's names which goes on continually 24 hours daily.

We then said farewell to our hosts in Israel and we went by coach to Cairo - after leaving the border we were kept in a convoy of three tour coaches, each coach had 3 armed security men aboard and ahead was a police van and behind a military van - they certainly didn't want any incidents happening to tourists. What a change and what a culture shock to us all when we say Cairo - a city of 18 million; 10 million taxi drivers and 25 million car horns all blaring. We again were very lucky and had a terrific hostess looking after us. We visited the pyramids, Cairo Museum, the Sphinx, the markets and we were taken on a State visit to Tanta to meet and have morning tea with the Governor - police escort all the way - very impressive. After 6 days we left our hosts and then flew to Luxor taking a 5 day tour of the Nile up to Aswan - very relaxing for most part - we had to visit many ancient temples, so many after a while that we got to the stage of ... not A.B.R. (not another bloody ruin) ... we were saturated by this time. We did enjoy the many experiences that we encountered and even though the Peace Talks were in progress during our visit to both nations, we felt very secure and safe, we had lots of security people around us just to make sure that nothing eventuated to harm our group.

This is just a short version of our experiences - the best experience of all was
GETTING HOME !!!!!!!

Where are we heading for next year . . . who knows.

Best regards to all and sundry Jim,

Pancho Vincent

GETTING HOME You are right, Pancho. Everyone has to leave home at least once in their lifetime to realise that we are living in the best country in the world.

Haven't seen the TRANSITS or the medallions yet. Tony probably has them for safe-keeping. Straightened out the "Where Are They" sheets o.k. and thanks.

Ando.

TRAFFIC LOADS

BY Q.P.

I was told the other day that the new 100,000 telephone channel cable across the Tasman has spare capacity. This statement brought me back to 1934, when I was selected for training on a new high Tech invoice typewriter. Prior to this machine, details of all customer telegrams was written on a counter sheet, and when the day's lodgements were just about finished, the invoicer typed up invoices from the counter sheets. The new machine, which replaced the old manual continuous roll typewriter, had the latest technology of electric carriage return. A big thing at that time. By means of a front feed, it was possible to type up the counter sheet and the invoice in the one action. A revolutionary development by Remington. This machine was in use for the next 30 years.

At that time, the Beam Wireless service, which had taken over a great deal of the cable traffic from Eastern and Pacific to the U.K., was averaging about 450 telegrams per day over the counter in York Street, with approx 50 telegrams from each of the branch offices in Liverpool Street and Royal Exchange Pitt Street. On wool sale days this increased to approx 600 telegrams. These numbers must be mind boggling to the present day communicators. One must remember however, that at this time the Beam Wireless telegraphs has been in operation only 7 years, the telephone service 4 years, and Fax commenced that year.

Prior to the opening of Compac in 1963, the Pacific Cable consisted of four channels. Three channels one way, with the fourth in the opposite direction, according to traffic loads. With a maximum working speed of 78 words per minute, space on the cable was limited and telegraphists were required to save what was known as centre holes by reducing the number of service messages and control signals to a minimum and by using abbreviations wherever possible. Compac replaced the four slow speed telegraph channels with 80 telephone channels, each of which could be divided into 40 telegraph channels. What a revolution, and now we have 100,000 telephone channels at our disposal. WOW !

REFERENCE HUGH TAYLOR

We have received a bit more about Hugh Taylor.

He started his communication life by joining the RAN Naval Reserve, where he received his initial training. On 20 June 1917, he was posted to Pennant Hills Naval Radio station (VIS). At that time Pennant Hills was a Naval Emergency Station. Jim Lamb, a well-known A.W.A. personality was O.I.C. In November 1918 he was transferred to Garden Island Radio (VKQ). Bob Freeman was O.I.C.

In April 1919 he sailed on HMA Transport "BAKARA A41" bringing troops back to Australia.

He joined AWA in 1921 and in July 1929 served as Radio operator on SS Montoro.

He left the Marine Service and joined the island radio Service in 1936. He served as Counter officer at Rabaul in May/June 1937 when the volcano erupted. There is a detailed story of that on page 14 Newsletters Vol.1 dated Nov.1972 for those of you who have been collecting them. In 1938 he transferred to Manus Island (VJV) as OIC. He departed there when the Japanese invasion was nigh.

COMMISERATIONS, TONY EBERT AND FAMILY

It is with great regret that we have to report the death of Tony Ebert's daughter, Janice, who finally lost her battle with leukemia on 12 January this year, aged 32.

During the two and a half years of her illness, her brother, Alex, who also formerly worked with OTC, donated his bone marrow twice.

Janice is survived by her husband and 3 year-old son. To them, and all of Tony's family we offer our heartfelt sympathy.

THE OTC/TELECOM MERGER

By Gordon Cupit

At the kind invitation of Steve Burdon, I attended this function held for OTC staff to celebrate (??) the merger with Telecom. I was representing the Veterans.

Although the amber fluid flowed, there was an air of gloom among many of the staff, similar to that evidenced at the time of the takeover of AWA. I am sure that the majority of the staff will not be unduly affected, and will ultimately find that it is just another phase in life. The way the merger has been structured, they will find that there is just as much scope as before and in some cases even more, and I wish everyone well for the future. It is pleasing to note that Mr. David Hoare, Chairman of OTC, is to head the Board of AOTC, and that some of the OTC Executives have been selected to head some of the combined functions. There will be a lot of hard work required to fight the opposition of OPTUS. (For those who do not read the papers, the merged body is known as Australian and Overseas Telecommunications Corporation A.O.T.C.) and the new competitor is known as Optus, which among others, consists of Cable & Wireless, and Bell South - formidable opponents.

Because of the number of members attending the last day function, the whole thing was spread over two floors, and I was happy to see so many of my old colleagues, quite a lot of who I had recruited. Some from Telecom and the PMG felt that they were doing the full circle. The only dismal note was the number of my old staff who had been declared redundant. I was informed that it was not due to my poor selection and training, but to the

decentralisation of admin functions. Those, in particular, I wish well in any new ventures, and hope to see them at future veteran functions.

PRIVATISATION

By Gordon Cupit

It is fairly common knowledge that both political parties, Federal and State, are in favour of, and intend to follow, a policy of privatisation, and that Mr. Hewson has publicly announced that he intends to privatise OTC and Telecom, should he come to power.

It must be recognised that AOTC will lose some market share with opposition/competition by Optus, and future profitability is an unknown quantity at this point in time. However, on past performances I am sure OTC management will help overcome any difficulties. Whilst most businesses have declined dramatically over the last year, OTC, by opening new services, good marketing, and good management had a rise of 11.5% in revenue and 17.9% in nett profit: this in the face of reductions in some of its charges. \$177,000,000 was paid in income tax and \$145,000,000 paid to the government in dividend. OTC (International) is also earning good overseas export dollars with its contracts for supply and operation of services. It could only be a politician or someone wishing to buy in, who would wish to privatise a business with this record and potential.

Hereunder, I have made some comparison with a years trading of the National Australia Bank and OTC. It is interesting to note that N.A.B. won the award for the most successful banking organisation in Australia. Their operating profit was down 6.1%, operating revenue down 5.5%, and net profit down 2.4%.

	National Bank	O T C
Gross Profit	11,782 million	1,681 million
Net Profit	724 million	276 million
Income Tax paid	355 million	177 million
Dividend paid to Govt	-	145 million
Assets	2,243 million	1,510 million
Staff	43,776	2,385
Net profit per employee	1,653	\$11,606
Research & Development	No shown	14.5 million

(Note: This information taken from Annual Reports and errors, if any, would be due to my lack of accountancy experience.)

REMUNERATION OF DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVES

This particular item gave me quite a start and I thought worth including.

<u>Range (Thousands)</u>	<u>NATIONAL BANK</u>		<u>O.T.C.</u>	
	<u>Dir.</u>	<u>Exec.</u>	<u>Dir.</u>	<u>Exec.</u>
10 - 20			4	
20 - 30	1		1	
30 - 40	1			
40 - 50	5			
50 - 60	1			
80 - 90		4		7
90 - 100	1			
100-110		5		9
110-120	1	1		1
120-130	1	3		3
130-140				1
140-150		7		1

150-160		10		4
170-180		11		
180-190	1	4	1	1
190-200		6		
200-300		21		
300-400		5		
400-500		1		
500-600		2		
600-700	1	1		
700-800		1		
940	1	1		
TOTAL	14	90	6	27

In addition to the above remuneration, many N.A.B. directors have large share-holdings in the bank and other major organisations and also have directorships in other companies.

From the above, it is apparent that OTC gets its Board and Executive members very cheaply in comparison with Bank. I am not saying OTC people are underpaid, but if not, the Bank's top level are doing very well. It also defeats the common concept that the staff of Government organisations are top heavy and overpaid.

At the present time NATIONAL Bank \$1.00 par shares are selling at \$7.63 with the dividend for the year at 45%. On this basis, I am sure that if OTC ever goes private the shares would sell at about \$20.00 each. I am saving my money to buy up if it ever happens.

Another point of interest in the National Report is that Director's remunerations were increased during the year by the sum of \$69,750 per annum to a maximum of \$100,000 per annum. Quite amazing in times of recession and with an inflation rate of only 1.8%.

INFLATION

The National Bank Report and mention of inflation brings back memories of my time in the Industrial Section of OTC during the 1950s.

At that time salaries were based on three components:-

1. Basic Wage
2. Margin for skill (which included responsibility)
3. Cost of living.

Items 1 and 3 were the same for every salary earner. Item 2 took into account skills, qualifications, training, responsibility, staffing levels, etc.. When a cost of living adjustment was made due to inflationary trends, it was based on the assumption that a loaf of bread and other essential commodities cost the same whether one was rich or poor, therefore, everyone got the same rise. This method was altered to granting a cost of living adjustment on a percentage basis, which I consider entirely unfair as the cost of essentials principle still applies. I will agree that when I was working I could see no wrong in the percentage system as it suited me financially.

With a rise of 2% in inflation, the Chairman and also the Chief Executive of the Bank would get a rise of \$18,000. But what would you get??? It is apparent that using percentages for rises in the cost of living must send the next inflation rate up out of all proportion.

The percentage policy for inflation has resulted in cases for margin of skill practically non-existent, and it is time that the old system be reintroduced so that staff are actually paid what they are worth.

It may even give some Industrial Law work and experience for our over-populated legal profession.

(Good one QP. I don't know who said it but I remember the saying -- There are only three types of lies -- Lies -- Damned lies -- and statistics...Ed).

Vale Clive Tressidder

It is regretted that I have been informed that Clive Tressidder died on 1 February 1992.

Unfortunately, details of the funeral did not reach me until it was too late for me to go along and pay my respects to one of the truly great "characters" of the old S.O.R. days. Apart from some fond personal memories I have of Clive, all I knew of his past was that he was an old "eastern man". If any of you old Eastern men are out there I would appreciate parts of his service and general background.

A MATTER OF INTEREST

By Phil Chapman

In the November 1990 issue, Gordon Cupit gave a list of the Beam Boys that he remembered in 1933/34. Here is my recollection of 1932/33, which includes some mentioned by Gordon.

Ron Godfrey, Arthur Purtil, Lindsay Bird, Murray Todd, Ray Harris, Al Martin, Harry Stone, Tom Hughes, Jock Christie, Eric Andrews, Tommy Richmond, Sam Hobbs, Sammy Herman, Wally Louder, "Crim" Coleman, "Sailor" McPhee, "Sharky" Benson, (?) Andrewartha (?) MacPherson, (?) Alexander, and myself (Phil Chapman).

A year or two ahead of that group were those who had been promoted to the office or Beam staff i.e. Norm Harris, Bart and Chris Ritchie, Dick Drinkwater.

I feel sure that Harry Stone and Tom Hughes could add to the above.

As a matter of interest, I was the first ex-Beam Boy to go to sea as a Radio Officer. (Those days it was Wireless Officer).

REUNION

By Gordon Cupit

The 1991 NSW Reunion was an outstanding success, with a record attendance. One of the highlights of the day was a demonstration of video-conferencing put on by the management of OTC, to whom we are indebted. Even more surprising was the fact that we were connected to the South Australian Veterans' Reunion. It was great to talk to, and see, our old colleagues in that State, many of whom we had not seen for years. Stars of the show were President Geoff Cox and Secretary Harry Stone.

(AMEN TO THAT, GORDON - But why is it that I can never see a sheet of brown paper without thinking of Harry?) Ando

MINUTES OF 35TH ANNUAL REUNION MEETING

OTVA (NSW BRANCH)

This year's Annual Reunion was held in the 15th Floor Conference Centre, OTC House at 231 Elizabeth Street, Sydney, on the 29 November 1991 where 172 members, guests and visitors attended.

President Gordon Cupit opened the day's proceedings by welcoming all members and visitors and gave a special welcome to new members attending their first meeting. All apologies are recorded in the attendance book.

Secretary Tony read seasons greetings from all our Branch Presidents of W.A., S.A, Vic and Qld Associations.

Seasons greetings also came from Harold Le Quesne, past President of the Quarter Century Club of Teleglobe Canada and the Veteran Cablemens Association of New Zealand.

Sick List

President Gordon mentioned that Les Hunt was ill at home and Peter Whisson was on the mend after having open heart surgery. President Gordon then called on all present to join him in observing one minute's silence for the following members who have passed away since our last meeting:

Will Eldershaw, Cliff Standfield, Bill Luke and Denis Burroughs.

He also mentioned members present who had travelled down today from as far afield as Coffs Harbour, Sawtell, Stroud and Katoomba.

Secretary Tony asked Steve Burdon, Managing Director of OTC Limited, to say a few words.

He said how tremendous it was to see so many veterans in attendance and congratulated the committee on its good work as it was a record attendance. He went on to say that the OTVA was an autonomous organisation, and even though there was still a lot of detail surrounding the merger with Telecom to be worked out, he would like to think that it would continue as such, regardless of OTC's position and role under the terms of the merger. Steve also personally guaranteed a venue for the twice yearly functions and was confident that the OTVA would always have a role to play in the history of Australia's Telecommunications.

Steve also commented on the Archival Program and pointed out the eight display cabinets, specially moved to the 15th floor for today, which were on various floors of the building for staff to remember and learn about the history of Telecommunications in Australia. The archival material was also being utilised in a series of books to be distributed to all OTC offices and stations for the benefit of the general public.

In conclusion, Steve on behalf of his wife Suzanne, wished all present a wonderful time here today and he hoped we all have a Merry Christmas season and an extremely Happy New Year.

Secretary Tony, on behalf of President Gordon and OTVA members thanked OTC Limited and its Managing Director, Steve Burdon, for their continuing support and generosity to our Association. He then called on all present to enjoy themselves here today and have a very Merry Christmas followed by a healthy and prosperous New Year.

TONY RICHARDSON
(Honorary Secretary)
(NSW Branch)

THE OTC ARCHIVE PROGRAM

The OTC Archive Program was initiated by Steve Burdon, and has resulted in 13 display cabinets on different floors of the Head Office building; they contain material from the Archives covering a range of topics from early cables to the OTC sporting teams.

The intention is to rotate the cabinets around the building every 3-6 months, so all staff get the opportunity of seeing them. (The rotation will begin after everyone settles into their places following the merger and subsequent 'fine tuning' of positions, which is just about complete).

It's not practical to rotate cabinets around the stations and offices away from Head Office, so the second phase of the program has involved the production of five pictorial history books (several thousand of each). These are being distributed to all stations and offices for display to the general public and other visitors.

The books cover Early Cables; Coast Radio Part 1 (Australian mainland stations); Coast Radio Part 2 (Island stations); Beam Wireless; and The History of OTC (1946-1992). The first three books are being printed during March/April and, as a special 'treat', will be distributed one per person at the May Veterans' Reunions in each State.

The books were edited by Martin Ratia (Public Affairs) and Elizabeth Gray; they were researched and written by Margaret Miller, who also provided the bulk of material for the archive cabinets (Debbie Cramer researched the first four).

The purpose of this article is to not only advise vets of the existence of the books but, more importantly, to acknowledge the immense contribution by Margaret Miller towards documenting so much of Australia's telecommunications history. Margaret provided an enormous amount of material for the books - far more than could be used within the budget!

Margaret's work is not wasted, however, because her original manuscripts have also been edited and will be kept in the Archives by Kimberley O'Sullivan for use by future researchers.

Congratulations for the success of the Archive Program must also go to Graham Bennett, who organised the cabinet displays, and to Kimberley O'Sullivan, OTC's Archivist, for her unflagging support.

Martin Ratia.

DARWIN AIR RAIDS - 50TH ANNIVERSARY

In a recent documentary on Channel 2, titled "The Big Picture - When the War Came to Australia", Phil Chapman took a major role in a segment on the Darwin Air Raids. He described the day at Darwin Radio and the part taken by Lou Curnock who received that ill fated message from Bathurst Island, which appeared to be badly bungled by the RAAF hierarchy. How could a flight of 188 enemy aircraft be mistaken for 12 returning American planes? Phil's story was interspersed with some good old movie footage, and the ABC must be congratulated on the way it was presented.

This is the second time that we have seen Phil on TV and it seems he is following in the footsteps of Phil Geeves. Phil was also featured in an article in the Sunday paper, but to his disgust the journalist did not seem to get the story right. One got the opinion that he was a marine operator on a ship and not a member of Darwin Radio. In any case, well done Phil. Phil and Arthur Oliver are the only survivors of the station staff at that time. Tom Hughes served at a later date and went through a number of raids.

Whilst on the subject of World War II, we have produced a number of good stories in the Newsletter of members' experiences, especially those at the New Guinea Stations and their evacuation problems. Surely there must be others on duty in Australia, even working in major city establishments, or those who served in signal and communications units in the services, who must have stories yet to tell. Come on ladies and lads, trot them out.

PS: at the instigation of Tom Hughes, and with advice from Phil Chapman, OTC is negotiating with the Darwin Heritage Council to lay a plaque at the old station site in Frog's Hollow.

OTC JARGON

The list of OTC Abbreviations and Jargon grows longer and longer, and it was bound to happen - a duplication!!

NEIS has been nominated for National Electronic Interchange Services and also for National Engineering Information Services.

Communications in Antarctica

By Vince Gibson (contin)

As it is now early April, we have all settled down in the routine of work and living in our new environment. It often surprised me on returning home, when people asked me, "Whatever did you do to fill in time - read? - Play cards?". Others asked me about what shops were down there. Many people took hobbies down, but very few had time for them. Apart from work in the radio room we took it in turns to keep the building clean, to clean and empty the toilets and shower areas, and as the cook had every Sunday off, one of us had to cook for all the men.

The toilets were called "the Flaming Furies", because of the method of the manner of waste disposal. About twice a week it was set alight by adding fuel and a little wood, the end result being a dry ash.

As there were approximately 25 men at the base these jobs were of two weeks duration spread over the year.

One of the more pleasant jobs was water carting. Just outside the kitchen were two heated tanks of 1500 gallons each, used for kitchen use, washing clothes, and showering. Showering was only necessary once a week or every ten days in such a dry climate. In fact, the inland parties who were away from the base for three or four months could not shower due to the difficulty of obtaining water in temperatures of -35 to -45C. The water cart consisted of a square insulated box on tracks, with a tank holding 500 gallons, and a small petrol engine for pumping and circulating the water. This was pulled by a D4 tractor, one of two tractors which had been used in Vostok in 1962. This expedition was carried out by men stationed at Wilkes, a wonderful feat of endurance and planning, with practically no publicity.

Vostok is called the "coldest place on Earth", and if you ever look at the weather pages in the Sydney Morning Herald under Antarctic you will see why. The lowest temperature experienced at Vostok was below -89C.

Well, back to water-carting. There was a frozen lake about a mile from the base and this was our source of water. On arriving at this site we had to dig through the ice with a crowbar, which often took fifteen minutes or so initially, then putting the flexible hose into the hole and begin pumping until the tank filled, and then haul it back to the kitchen. The trip was generally uneventful, but once the water cart went down a small crevasse, or the tractor got bogged in the snow you had trouble.

We all enjoyed the water carting job, out in the challenging environment. During the winter time water often had to be rationed as there was very little daylight, and blizzards prevented us getting out for days at a time.

Toward the end of April an expedition set out to lay down supply lines for the main expedition which was to begin at the end of winter. They took as much fuel as they could carry to make a dump, as far as conditions would allow, along the proposed route. In the days before satellite navigation, when celestial navigation was used, many fuel dumps were made and never found again.

This expedition was the main scientific work for that particular year, the main aim being to study and document the movement of ice. The average depth of ice over the continent is 6,000 feet. In the interior the ice sheet moves about 2 metres a year, as it approaches the coast the velocity increases from 50 to 100 metres a year, whilst some of the glaciers have velocities of 1,000 metres a year.

It amazes me when some people speak glibly of mining in the Antarctic. Apart from oil I cannot see mining being feasible, economical, or technically possible at this stage.

Early in May, I found an unusual change in radio reception. Listening at random on the medium frequencies late one afternoon, I found I could pick up many Australian radio stations, Darwin and Tamworth being some of the first. Listening further over the next few days I discovered that stations could be picked up about two hours after sunset at the point of origin. It was not confined to Australian stations, but all countries along the Equator and north of the Equator. As the night progressed and the sun moved westward, the stations changed, firstly Singapore, India, the Arabic countries, Jerusalem, and lastly the BBC just before our sunrise, when all medium wave frequencies faded out. I remember listening to 2UW for hours at a time some evenings, seemingly as if it was from another world, the talk-back shows discussing things so alien to us that we seemed to be on another planet.

About this time, a few of us found some old skis and boots, so we got the idea of trying our hand (or feet) at skiing. We had a pretty comprehensive library and in it we found a "Do it Yourself" skiing. We read it thoroughly and then ventured out to ski.

Conditions were far from ideal for skiing, the surface being hard packed and full of sastrugi from the very high winds in most places. The only really suitable place we found was along the water cart tracks which had been turned into a mushy sort of ice. Three of us went out one morning, climbed up the first hill, and tentatively began a ski down the hill. For a while our falls were frequent, but gradually confidence built up, and once we had gained confidence we went further and further up the hill.

The first time I went down the track I found myself approaching a bend with some speed, whilst I racked my brains on what the book said about turns, I can't remember what I did, but I got around the bend OK. Automatic reflexes, I suppose.

We enthused about this new-found sport until one day when going down the hill at great speed, one of my skis became loose and when I hit a bump I was left on one ski. I could see the bend in the track coming up at a rate of knots but there was no way I could negotiate it on one ski. I hit the ground fairly hard seeing it was solid ice, and cut the back of my hand in doing so. It was a job for the doctor.

The doctor's eyes lit up when he saw me. A patient!!! Some work at last. He inserted a few stitches and hung my arm in a sling. Talk about over-servicing! I was his fair-haired boy for some days.

Did I mention our food supplies? Most of our dry food supplies like flour, sugar, breakfast foods, etc. were kept on decking down towards the sea, in the crates in which they were originally packed, which made for easy access. Bottled goods and liquids were kept in what was called a warm stove, probably about 10 to 15C. Our supplies of onions and potatoes were kept the same way, having been specially treated for long storage. Occasionally, a mistake was made with a crate of bottled sauces being left out on the ramp and the freezing conditions didn't take long to break the bottles.

Meat and other vegetables were kept in a freezing room. Surprisingly, the most popular beverages were the fruit juices. There were dozens of tins of all varieties on hand, and the first thing to do after arriving back from outside was to visit the kitchen for a long cool drink. The atmosphere was so dry that one was inclined to dehydrate.

Emergency rations were kept in case the ship could not get down to us and we were there for another year. There was a ration of beer and soft drink each week together with a block of chocolate, which was handy to take along when out walking for the restoration of quick energy.

Our fresh fruit, which consisted of apples and oranges, lasted only until May, but there was plenty of tinned fruit.

In order to supplement the diet I made a fish trap, cut a hole in the ice and caught some Antarctic cod, but the men lost interest when they were opened and proved to be full of parasites. The cook made bread every two or three weeks, and put it in the freezer to keep.

Most of us put on weight, especially during the winter, food being good and plentiful.

We had a daily newsletter transmitted from AAP for an hour each evening, but news did not interest us very much. It was the year of Watergate in America, and for months the news was nothing but Watergate. Now and again one of the radio operators inserted some tidbit that kept the men talking during dinner. The press finished just before dinner, and we made three copies for circulation.

The days were gradually getting shorter, restricting our walking. The periods of full moon were welcomed as we could travel in the moonlight when the skies were clear. Wintertime was descending upon us and it was about 11 am before we could venture outdoors, and dark again by 2.30 pm so outside work came almost to a standstill.

One usual phenomena was called a "white out", a condition difficult to comprehend; a day when sky and land merged completely into one shade. Out walking one day I can remember feeling my way along with a stick, step by step, even though it was completely light and one could see buildings and rocks in the distance. It was almost similar to complete blackness, not the slightest variation in colour, and a condition to which it was extremely hard to adjust one's mind. You could see everything, but not a yard in front of you. There could be an ice cliff a yard away and you would not see it. One of the men did go over a drop of fifteen to twenty feet, but fortunately fell onto soft snow. It was a frightening experience.

On clear days towards the middle of the day, it was like continual dawn, the most beautiful delicate colouring in the sky and ice. The sky was tinged pink, as were the tops of the hills covered in ice and snow and which then shaded off to a lovely shade of blue.

Pictures were a source of interest during this period. We had films about three times a week, and they were all appreciated. Being used to the white Antarctic scene, it was looking at scenes which were but a memory; scenes of colour, sound, trees and grass, whilst the wind howled outside at 100 knots, and the building shook and vibrated.

June came and the next big event to look forward to was mid-winter's day. On most days there was very little light, about three hours on a clear day. Preparations were made for mid-winter, which was the turning point of the year. We knew it would gradually get lighter, but we had many hard months ahead of us before we set foot aboard the ship and sailed home.

Mid-winter day came. We worked in the radio room until mid-afternoon as our celebratory feast would not begin until 4 pm. As it was an event of some note, we dressed in our uniform jacket with white shirt, tie and shoes. It all felt strangely unfamiliar as we made our way down the corridor to the dining room. We moved quickly, too, because of the cold, and it felt as if we had nothing on to protect us.

White table cloths were laid on the tables and the table was laden with food - smoked salmon, ham, turkey, chicken, sweets, wine, cordial and colourful decorations and lights. It seemed strange with all the men in unfamiliar dress, but still with long hair and beards.

The feast lasted until well into the night and for some, into the early hours of the morning, but for the radio men it was back to work as usual first thing in the morning.

Mid-winter's morning was an occasion for a social sked with McMurdo and the South Pole. South Pole recorded a temperature of -76C on that mid-winter's day. Earlier we had a talk with the New Zealand base.

Very gradually the days became a little longer, many days of blizzard and high winds, the sea ice breaking up and reforming. We were able to do more walking with a good firm surface under foot.

During the winter there is practically no bird life around the station, apart from a few skua gulls which feed on the kitchen refuse. The seals seem to have disappeared. The sea ice runs out a couple of hundred miles from the coast, so they could not approach the land. It is believed that the seals suffer their highest mortality rate during the winter. They get trapped under the sea ice, and the older ones do not have good enough teeth, or the strength, to cut a hole through.

Here is a short extract from my diary.

"A day of ferocious weather, vicious gusts of wind from dead calm to 101 knots. Everyone woke about six this morning when we first received this gust of wind which shook the building, the wind seeming to come from nowhere, then all of a sudden this sudden roaring, with the wind shaking everything. The wind has been around 70/80 knots for most of the day, the temperature -11C, and the day dull and dim. I have been preparing for my trip inland expecting to be away about a month. Looking forward to the break and the new experience.

(To be Continued)