

VETERANS NEWSLETTER

Dear Veteran,

It has been realised for some time that there is a lack of news information being sent to our Veterans and it is thought that the publication of a regular Newsletter would be welcomed and would help create an interest amongst members in various States. The General Manager of the Commission, who is a Veteran, has agreed to extend the Commission's typing and duplicating facilities for this purpose. For these facilities we are very grateful.

The names of Veterans are on the distribution list of the Commission's house magazine "Contact" but unfortunately, due to pressure of work and staff shortages, this magazine has not been produced for some months. As soon as an edition is published you should receive your copy.

To allow us to publish the Newsletter we will need material and any items of interest to other Veterans would be appreciated. It is the intention that the Newsletter will be sent to members in all States, with copies to our kindred organisations in New Zealand, Canada and United Kingdom.

Any Veterans who have contact with other old timers, particularly those in Queensland, where there is no branch of our association, please send their names and addresses to the Sydney Secretary, Gordon Cupit, O.T.C. Box 7000, G.P.O. Sydney, 2001, so that we can send an invitation for him or her to join one of the branches and to send the Newsletter.

From time to time Secretaries are asked about Veterans who have unfortunately passed on and in this first newsletter we are including a list of the names on the Sydney and Auckland "In Memorium" boards.

One of our members had a copy of the 1938 "Institute Journal". An item in this journal was a list of the Marine Coastal and Island Radio Services members. This list is attached and will bring back many memories.

For the cable people, Sydney Veteran Tufty Baker wrote an article on a voyage on a Cable ship which was printed in "Zodiac", a copy of that article is also attached and should give pleasure to many of you.

Any members visiting Melbourne should take the opportunity to call and see Victorian secretary Charles Carthew, who can be found at 7 Lantana Street, Clayton (telephone 544.2514) and have a look at his Veterans Scrap Book. Make certain you leave a couple of hours for this purpose.

At the Sydney reunion the Association was presented with a cup and 2 shields from Fanning Island. The cup was the Claude Dalley Tennis Trophy and the shields were for the relay race and tug-o-war. Unfortunately, no names are listed on the cup but the shields show old timers as follows:-

Relay Shield

W. Craig, P. McCombie, S. Neville, H. Williams, H.B. Freeman, M.O. Butler, E.E. Beehan, F.N. Harry, R.R. McCay, W.F. Forsyth, W.J. Stubbs.

Tug-O-War Shield

P.F. Bundle, M.W. Bramley, W. Craig, R.S. McCombie, R.K. Hosking, F.N. Harry, D. MacNeil, R.P. Heron, E.E. Beehan, C.W. Houston, A.O. Miller, A. Mortensen, R. Cuthbert, F. Yeomans, D.C. Holmes, J.P. Walker, T. Light, J.M. Croger.

Old C.R.S. Veteran Dave Fleming, who is still serving as a Radio Officer in the Marine Service, was selected to lead the Naval Communications Branch in the Sydney Anzac March - congratulations Dave!

Greetings and good health to all

DECEASED MEMBERS

SYDNEY

A. S. MacDonald	H. Kirkpatrick	R. B. Beattie
D. P. Caldwell	W.T.S. Crawford	B. W. Black
D. W. McMillan	R. Monteith	W. J. Bookham
A. N. G. White	L.G. Priestley	T. E. Brown
N.E. Duggan	E.J. Camilleri	P. F. Bundle
C. de C. Montague	E.C. Kerr	R. Cuthbert
J.B. Vella	L.J. Thorndike	F. G. Eastwood
J. H. Leverett	W.P. D'Arcy	A. J. F. Ellison
T.P. Brugman	W.J. Jenkins	J. Goudie
K. McLennan	F.A. Noar	C. P. Greenfield
F. Marsden	Sir Ernest T. Fisk	B. S. Gribben
J. E. Breakwell	R.N. Russell	C. R. Haines
J. M. Grant	C. Swinborune	R. C. Henry
T. Sweeney	E. Taylor	R. P. Heron
J. W. Ellis	J. Elmore	C. W. Houston
J. V. Binley	G.E. Forrest	R. A. Hunt
J. A. Guy	R.V. Cotter	R. M. Johnson
H. W. Parkinson	F.R. Hales	O. F. Johns
J. Cameron	J.G. Reed	G. A. Keys
F. A. J. Newlyn	T.F. Flaherty	A. E. Kilworth
A. R. Catford	L.G. Palmer	E. M. Laird
H. E. Palmer	R.S. Baxendale	W. F. Lawson
W. J. Peell	G.K. Shepherd	J. A. Leary
R. J. Baird	J.C. Draffin	E. Leggatt
C. J. Farrelly	A.P. Hosking	P. Lewis
G. A. Knoblanche	C.O. Wallace	G. D. McNeil
H. M. Lamb	H. Johnston	E. H. Martin
H. H. Clinch	W.F. Forsyth	R. Moir
H. Stubbs	A.E. Shepherd	C. H. Moore
H. W. Barnfield	H.J. Hutchinson	S. H. Morris
A. W. Hooper	M.O. Butler	A. R. Morris
E. J. Parkinson	L. Leak	W. P. Oliver
A. F. Borg	W.J. Stevenson	W.A.R. Pearce
D. R. U. Huntley	C.W. Drew	M. W. Pees
A. Shingleton	M.C. Clarke	J. Salthouse
G. Apperley	G.P. O'Hare	J. Sherlock
J. G. Cookson		A. Tribble
C. W. Moss	<u>NEW ZEALAND</u>	G.R.H. Webb
B. D. Nixon	R.S.H. Baxendale	H.H. Wilson
L. E. Ternes	R. Banister	
L. L. Lickley	J.R. Baird	
S. Bouttell	E.H. Beauchamp	
	A. Beatty	

LIST OF WIRELESS OFFICERS ATTACHED TO SHIPS OF THE
 AUSTRALIAN MERCANTILE MARINE,
 1st SEPTEMBER, 1938.

Adelong			
Aeon	J. R. DAVISON	Kanimbla	F. G. DAVIES
Age	W. L. MYERS	Katoomba	A. W. SHACKLOCK
Akuna		Koolama	R. WILLIAMS
Abinga	A. C. TORRENS	Kooliga	W. O. KINANE
Allara	E. D. GREEN	Koolinda	G. B. O'SULLIVAN
Arkaba	L. DOEL	Koomilya	R. THOMPSON
Aroona	K. B. BROWN	Kooringa	J. FUGE
Baralaba	R. T. HAMILTON	Koonda	R. G. TAYLOR
Barossa	N. J. GROSE	Kooyong	M. H. EWAN
Beltana	F. D. DOCKRAY	Kowarra	A. L. BATTEN
Bidelia	T. SWARBRICK	Kybra	G. I. GUPPY
Bungaree	H. A. KING	Lady Isobel	J. H. LOOKER
Bingera	E. C. DELMAR	Lanena	W. J. CROFT
Burwah		Lowana	L. G. MEEK
Caledon	W. G. MILLER	Lorinna	E. J. GLAISHER
Canberra	H. A. GREER	Lutana	R. Y PACE
Caradale	K. W. DOWNEY	Maedhui	S. H. J. GOVER
Carlisle	H. R. DARLING	Macedon	L. RUSSACK
Cardross	C. E. BARDWELL	Mackarra	T. R. DAVISON
Changte	R. McNAMARA (Sr.)	Macumba	
	H. WAUGH (Jr.)	Malaita	C. WILLIAMSON
Colac	C. E. WATTS	Mangola	G. MAXWELL
Coolana	S. STAFFORD	Manoora	M. G. CROCKETT
Corinda		Manunda	H. F. HARTLEY
Corio	R. S. GLENN	Mareeba	S. V. FRANKS
Dilga	A. K. McENTYRE	Marella	J. E. CLEARY
Dumosa	J. H. PULLAN		J. HUGHES
Dundula	R. J. SWAN	Merkur	P. J. QUILL
Duntroon	J. K. OVERBURY	Mernoo	L. C. ROGERS
Echunga	W. D. JOHNSTON	Mildura	J. A. COLWELL
Ellaroo	F. N. TOOHEY	Momba	F. B. FREER
Era	H. J. FULLER	Montoro	G. E. DAVIES
Goulburn	L. F. O'DONNELL	Morinda	A. OLIVER
Iron Baron	W. BRUCE	Mulera	R. C. OAKLEY
Iron Chieftain	C. BRITCHER	Mundalla	E. J. WHITEHOUSE
Iron Crown	R. M. E. REES	Mungana	M. McPHERSON
Iron King	W. W. SWANSON	Murada	E. POLLOCK
Iron Knight	F. LOGAN	Nairana	
Iron Knob	G. A. GLANVILLE	Nankin	E. C. BOUEL
Iron Master	P. J. CHAPMAN		R. H. CLARK
Iron Prince	D. BROOKS	Nellore	P. WHELAN
Iron Warrior	A. J. COSTS	Neptune	W. C. LUCAS
Kangaroo	S. KINGS		J. B. KEENAN

Noora	W. J. HUDSON	On leave:	J. R. GILLESPIE
Oorama	C. SMITH		J. L. WALKER
Ormiston	V. B. RIPPINGALE		
Orungal	A. V. ZOPPI		<u>COLONIAL SUGAR REFINING COMPANY</u>
Paua	H. W. BACON	Rona	J. BOGIE
Period		Tambua	J. CLARKE
Taiping	G. A. PHILLIPS	Fiona	T. GUNDERSON
	J. W. FURNELL		<u>JOHN BURKE LIMITED</u>
Tanda	W. H. HARRIS	Tinana	W. E. SAWYER
	R. REDMAN	Wandana	D. S. OGG
Taroona	J. B. QUINN		<u>TRAWLERS</u>
Time	J. BOTO		<u>RED FUNNEL LIMITED</u>
Triaster	C. GREEN	T. BURNETT	N. ERICSSON
Triona	L. GREEN	F. CALDWELL	H. HORDERN
Uooloo	S. C. ABBOTT	T. CAREY	J. C. McCLURE
Victoria	N. E. GUNTER	G. J. EDWARDS	E. J. PICKLES
Wanganella	A. E. HOOPER		<u>CAM & SONS.</u>
Wear	T. E. GREENWOOD	W. F. BROWN	R. H. KING
Westralia	L. K. CONNOR	H. A. DAVIES	R. W. PAGE
Wm. McArthur	C. A. ROWLES	D. R. DUNCAN	W. F. POTTER
Wollongbar		G. R. HULBERT	L. T. YOUNG
Yarra	F. G. LEWIS		<u>MURRELLS LIMITED.</u>
Zealandia	G. VINCENT	H. F. LANGAN	
	<u>UNION STEAMSHIP COMPANY</u>		
Aorangi	C. F. TAYLOR		
	H. S. HARVEY		
	J. F. STENHOUSE		
	D. REID		
Awatea	L. H. JONES		
Kekerangu	E. A. MILLER		
Kini	J. PHILLIPS		
Kiwitea	R. J. JACKSON		
Koranui	T. CHALMERS		
Limerick	G. B. FULLWOOD		
Ngakuta	C. M. VINCENT		
Ngatoro	C. T. SCRIVENER		
Niagara	G. M. POWER		
	F. L. WHILLANS		
	W. E. DAVEY		
Omana	A. A. LINDSAY		
Talune	H. M. WILLIAMS		
Wairuna	S. J. WATERS		
Wanaka	J. B. WHITE		

COASTAL RADIO SERVICE STAFF

1st SEPTEMBER, 1938.

ADELAIDE RADIO
Stoyle, J.B.
Kempling, A.G.
Coldwell, E.W.
Reed, G.H.W.
Hutchinson, C.E.

BRISBANE RADIO
Mulligan, F.C.
Flood, A.G.
Smith, G.H.
Howlett, A.M.
Hodges, W.C.H.
Scott, F.L.

BROOME RADIO
Tymms, R.W.
Williams, C.
Rumble, H.W.M.
Lemmon, C.E.
Howe, J.J.

COOKTOWN RADIO
Phillips, G.G.
West, C.R.

DARWIN RADIO
Reynolds, G.D.
Shingleton, A.
Kyle, H.J.M.
Hardy, J.J.
Ward, J.
Curnock, L.
(Aviation)
Luscombe, L.
(Aeradio)

ESPERANCE RADIO
Bridges, F.J.C.
Chambers, W.S.
Grant, J.A.

FLINDERS ISLAND RADIO
Holloway, W.H.

GERALDTON RADIO
Christmas, F.H.
Wolfe, H.B.
Anderson, R.C.

HOBART RADIO
Weeks, M.L.
MacGoun, M.A.
Ponsonby, J.B.

KING ISLAND RADIO
Fernes, L.E.

LORD HOWE ISLAND RADIO
Fenton, S.

MELBOURNE RADIO
Hutchinson, J.E.
Smellie, E.H.
Inglis, R.J.
Hart, A.S.

MISIMA RADIO
Lee, F. H.

PORT MORESBY RADIO
Frank, K.T.
Sievers, E.W.
Odgers, N.F.
Warner, G. (Temp)

PERTH RADIO
Chapman, W.G.
Gornall, J.
Allinson, J.R.
Ambler, S.C.
Ouvrier, F.
Clifford, J.R.
Izett, E.C.
Bullen, J.P.

ROCKHAMPTON RADIO
Leverett, J.H.
Robertson, M.L.

SAMARAI RADIO
O'Donnell, E.J.

SYDNEY RADIO (La Perouse)
Brown, P.W.
Elmore, J.
Kennedy, J.R.
Dale, C.F.
Fleming, D.B.L.
McCollum, A.A.
Wallace, C.
Heavey, J.
Peell, J.
Bailey, R.W.
Marsden, F.

CENTRAL RADIO OFFICE
Park, J.
Plowman, A.F.
Sheppherd, A.
Sage, A. T.
Barnfield, H.W.
Bassett, J.
Burgess, H.S.
Bettison, R.O.

TOWNSVILLE RADIO
Cox, A.G.
Cusack, L.C.
Hamilton, S.
Stanfield, C.R.
Todd, M.B.

Gowlett, F.
Gillon, P.C.

THURSDAY ISLAND RADIO
Walters, G.
Sticpwich, H.A.
Oates, H.E.
Burke, A.H.
Scott, G.J.

WYNDHAM RADIO
Coley, C.L.J.

WILLIS ISLAND RADIO
Gollan, E.N.
Priestley, P.C.

PENNANT HILLS
TRANSMITTING CENTRE
Stanley, V.E.
Doggett, J.
Bale, G.F.O.
Ringrose, W.S.
(Temp at
Karumba)
Catford, A.F.
Glennie, J.
Flynn, G.J.
Kerr, A.A.
(Temp at
Kempsey)
Macaulay, A.E.
Groom, H.P.
Prentice, E.T.
Dawes, F.L.
Sim, W.V.
Hutchinson, J.V.
Robinson, W.
Thomson, L.J.
Wright, S.

DUNDAS (2CH)
Cottrell, J.
Binns, C.
Young, H. E.

BRAYBROOK
Forrest, F.G.
James, E.J.W.
Windsor, E.W.
Parer, A.S.
Allen, R.
Jenvey, W.W.
Richardson, W.H.

ISLAND RADIO
RABAU RADIO
Holland, H.D.
Thomas, W.R.B.
Thomson, T.W.
Monks, A.B.
Minogue, K.

Sturgeon, C.H.
Bardin, W.F.
Farnsworth, L.C.
Tracy, F.J.
Marlow, F.G.
Luke, W. A. P.

MANUS RADIO

Taylor, H.S.

KIETA RADIO
Widdup, J.

KAVIENG RADIO
Bishton, E. F.

WEWAK RADIO
McMillan, D. W.

SALAMAUA RADIO
Colquhoun, T.K.

WAU RADIO
Beckett, C. C.
Doherty, H. F.
ON LEAVE
CARE SUPT. C.R.S.
Coleman, L.C.A.
Alexander, C.B.

SAILING DOWN TO COCOS

(H.C.BAKER, a former director of the Company who left in 1963 to live in Australia, recalls some memorable trips to the Cocos Islands.)

At the Cocos Island Cable Station, fifty years ago, there were many songs which were traditional to mess dinners and other festive occasions. But there was one great favourite which was always sung with tremendous gusto, to the tune of "Riding down to Bangor".

It was almost the Cocos theme song and was popular for twenty years or more. It went:

"Sailing down to Cocos
We stopped at Christmas Isle
We saw the phosphates working
A monumental pile
We said to our Conductor
This phosphate what is it?"

and so on, until the final punch line.

Over the years I made six trips to Cocos Island, including one strange war-time journey by sea and two post-war visits by air from Singapore. But on one occasion I did literally sail down to Cocos.

This was when the Company, to save steamer charter costs, was using the cable ship "The Cable" as a supply ship for Cocos.

Once through Java Heads and out into the wide Indian Ocean, with a strong trade wind and a big ocean swell running, wails were hoisted on the ship. This, the deck officers explained, would give more stability in the big seas and give her half a knot or so extra speed. The engineer officers were openly sceptical and scornful and said the deck officers just liked to play at being sailors.

If it did give some extra stability, and I think that it really did, CS "The Cable" certainly could do with it. To a land-lubber passenger, with a detachable stomach, the journey from Java Heads to Cocos was not a pleasure cruise and I took little interest in life until we entered the calm waters of the lovely Cocos Lagoon.

CS "The Cable" was not a lucky ship. Her stern had been shortened, so the story went, for economy reasons. Whether this was true or not she was certainly an ugly duckling, and to make matters worse, she was cursed with what must be the worst name ever given a cable ship; she was facetiously known as "The Cable" and the name was heartily disliked by marine and shore staff in the Far East where she was stationed.

Poor little ship, she eventually srecked herself on the coast of South Vietnam, no doubt in protest.

Apart from the cable ship interlude, Cocos was serviced by ships chartered from the Christmas Island Phosphate Company. The first "Islander", in the twenties, was a very small ship with limited passenger accommodation.

An overflow of passengers could only be accommodated in steerage bunks right aft, over the propellor, and I have a vivid memory of one horror trip when I had one of these steerage bunks and we ran into a gale leaving Cocos, taking three

days and four nights to do the 500 miles to Christmas Island.

MONUMENTAL

The second "Islander" in the thirties, was a fine little ship, with excellent passenger accommodation. On these "Islander" trips we did stop at Christmas Isle, we did see the phosphates working, a monumental pile indeed, the deposit of sea birds over millions of years.

Christmas Island is quite different from Cocos. The latter is a typical atoll, a ring of low coral islands enclosing a lagoon, whereas Christmas Island rises almost sheer from the sea to a height of several hundred feet. It is about 17 miles long and has a heavily wooded plateau on top, along which a train ran to the phosphate deposits.

Besides its phosphate, the island is remarkable for the vast number of sea birds, and land crabs which make an annual migration to the sea in a dead straight line, through, over or under any obstacle, such as a house, in the way.

During World War II, after the fall of Singapore, Cocos cable station continued to function with a small staff, who were supplied with stores sent down from Colombo. Transportation of staff and stores was by a Navy sloop which every four months or so made a dash into the Japanese-controlled waters of the Indian Ocean.

SITTING TARGET

She offloaded at Cocos and got away again within the one day, with the ever present fear that she would be spotted in the lagoon, a sitting target, by the Japanese aircraft which came over Cocos every ten days or so.

The sloop was lucky and got away with it; the Japanese came over the day she was due on one occasion but fortunately she was running a day or two late at that time.

When I went to Cocos on the sloop in 1943, there was no accommodation for the civilian passengers. She was a crowded ship and Cocos relief staff had to live, eat and sleep on deck. When it rained we got very wet. Naturally the war-time journey was a bit scary; we were going deep into Japanese-controlled waters, with no friends nearer than Colombo on one side and Australia on the other.

After the war, the re-establishment of Singapore Branch, supply ships for Cocos were once again chartered in Singapore. In addition, civil air services between Singapore, South Africa and Australia, used Cocos as a refuelling point, so there was no lack of transportation and, to a large extent, the isolation of Cocos became a thing of the past.

In the fifties the cable station was taken over by O.T.C. of Australia and later, in the sixties, closed down, after the Seacom coaxial cable system was established.

So no longer do C and W staff go sailing down to Cocos, but I am sure that the old song must linger on in the memory of many old-timers like myself.