



NEWSLETTER

VOL. 2 PT. 3

OCTOBER 1979

VACANCY GENERAL SECRETARY

As required by the Constitution the position of General Secretary of the Overseas Telecommunications Veterans' Association (Australia) is required to be declared vacant each year and nominations are therefore called for the vacancy for 1979-80.

Nominations closing 1st February, 1980, should be addressed to Charles Carthew, 7 Lantana Street, Clayton, 3168.

The present General Secretary, Charles Carthew, has indicated his willingness to continue in office for a further twelve months.

CONGRATULATIONS

Our congratulations to Veteran Randy Payne, Director (Marketing), OTC, on his election as Chairman of the Board of Governors of INTELSAT.

INTELSAT has now been operating for 15 years and Randy is the first Australian ever to be elected to this important post.

The Board of Governors is responsible for the overall management of the INTELSAT satellite system. Good work Randy.

REUNIONS

Victoria

The 23rd Annual Reunion will be held in OTC House Melbourne on Friday 9th November, 1979 - contact Charles Carthew, telephone 5442514.

New South Wales

The Annual Reunion will be held in the Staff Cafeteria on Friday 7th December commencing at 6 p.m. - contact Gordon Cupit, telephone 2305840.

South Australia

The Annual Reunion will be held at the Public Service Club on Friday 22nd November, 1979 commencing 7.30 p.m. - contact Brax Horrocks or Bert Dudley, telephone 2282867.

Queensland

The Annual Reunion will be held on Thursday, 29th November, 1979 commencing midday. Venue Manager's office, OTC - contact Jim Banks, telephone 2216250.

LOST

We have had enquiries as to the whereabouts of Dick North-Smith and Cyril Urquhart. Anyone knowing of their whereabouts or any news of them since retirement could they please contact Gordon Cupit, OTC, Box 7000 G.P.O., Sydney.

TELEGLOBE CANADA QUARTER CENTURY CLUB

A recent copy of a membership list for the above association reveals the following names of Australian and New Zealand people.

Aussies

L. P. Crakanthorp, B.C.J. Fisk, R. B. Fletcher, H.T.E. Houghton, J. Knight, H. H. LeQuesne, D. L. Schultz, K. L. Spark, H.F.S. St. Julian, A. L. Leslie, A. W. Quirk, E. O. Wilkinson, E.F.J. Woodall, C. W. Woods, H. L. Baxendale, W. R. Fleming, R. W. Garred, A. D. Hawkins, R.R.Y. Hill.

Norfolk Island

P. H. Bailey

New Zealand

R. G. Gordon, E. F. Beehan, C. H. Forder.

News has also come to hand from the Western Chapter of the organisation that they have recommended the bestowing of honorary membership to our General Secretary, Charles Carthew for his continued interest in telecommunications Veterans clubs and associations throughout the world and for his interest in the welfare and understanding of members. Congratulations Charles.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

Queensland Annual General Meeting

The Queensland Annual General Meeting was held in the OTC Manager's Office, Queen Street, Brisbane on the 30th May, 1979 chaired by President George Scott. Those in attendance were George Scott, Jim Banks, John Clendinning, Eric Cramp, Alan Jones, Jock Kellie, John Marshall, Denis Moorhouse, Vince Sim, Fabian Sutherland, Bob Webster, John Ponsonby, Hans Groenhuijzen and visitors Bruce Sutherland (NZ), Dick Christoffersen (Sydney) and Gordon Cupit (Sydney). One of the matters brought up for consideration was invitation to wives to General Meetings and Reunions and it was decided that a social gathering or barbeque held later in the year would be more appropriate.

Existing President and office bearers were re-elected unopposed.

South Australian Annual General Meeting

The Adelaide Branch held their winter gathering at the Public Service Club on May 24. Appreciation to Ken Collett who arranged for us to have the privilege of using these club rooms; so much more pleasant than a hotel and a lot less expensive. Present were Bert Dudley, Jerrold Shaw, Ralph Matthews, George Rowe, Ron Ward, Longun Evans, Cliff Birks, Graham Little, Ken Springbett, Brax Horrocks, Max Lang, Fred Reeve, Keith Parker, Hugh Taylor and Claude Waite. Apologies were received from Charles Smith, Keith Roberts (hospital), Rocky Gordon, Geoff Cox, Keith Cox, Eric Symes, Harold Oates, Ken Collett and Claude Whitford.

Victorian Annual General Meeting

The Victorian meeting was held in OTC House Melbourne on 25th May, 1979 with 57 in attendance. Bill Uwins was elected President with the remaining office bearers elected unopposed. Vic Molineux was elected as a new Committee member.

NSW Annual General Meeting

The NSW Annual General Meeting was held in the Amenities Room, OTC House on the 11th May, 1979 and the following were in attendance:

Jack Whittaker, Joe Collister, Gordon Cupit, Charlie Raecke, Harry Stone, Edgar Harcourt, Joe Holmes, Ron Smith, Charles Carthew, Ted O'Donnell, Lou Brown, Trevor Thatcher, Gray MacDonald, Roy Doohan, Harry Cook, Tony Ebert, Norm Harris, John Lennon, Bernie White, Bruce Sutherland (NZ), Fabian Sutherland (Qld.), Joe Patiniott, Bill Luke, Joe Hawkins, John Lee, Des Woods, Bill Jenvey, Brian Woods, Len Rourke, Tom Hughes, Eileen Haran, George Schulze, Matt Jobson, Orm Cooper, Albert Sheppherd, Keith Burbury, Jack Davis, Philip Geeves, Alec Griffiths, John Edwards, Ces Watson, George Maltby, Dick Christoffersen, Charlie Swinney, Mick Wood, Jack Burgess, Claire Brophy, John Toland, Randy Payne, Ron Beecham, Max Dwyer, Elsie Thornley, Albyn Gregory, Noel Martin, Norm Alderson, Ken Walker, Fred Doolette, Betty Leweniec, Graham Gosewinckel, Charlie Hale, Jack Hansson, Tom Heatley, Reg Towner, Kath Morgan and Ron Turnbull.

It was the sad duty of acting Chairman, Trevor Thatcher, to report the death 2 weeks earlier of our President Jack Guthrie. Special guests were brothers Fabian Sutherland (Queensland) and Bruce Sutherland (New Zealand). Philip Geeves was elected President and the remainder of the present Committee and office bearers re-elected.

HAM BROADCAST

Sydney Veteran Brian Woods, an ardent amateur radio enthusiast, organised greetings from "hams" on the Veterans network to send a message which was recorded for playing at the Sydney Annual General Meeting. Everything went fine but unfortunately there were power failures and problems with the tape recorder in the actual meeting. This was a great pity and disappointing to those attending particularly Brian after all his work. The following is a transcript of the tape which is thought better late than never.

From Keith Parker, South Australia

"Greetings to the Sydney Veterans. I hope you have a very pleasant and enjoyable reunion. This is Keith Parker speaking from Port Elliot. This place is a little out of the way but if any Veterans happen to find themselves in the area, we would be very pleased to see them at 3 Pioneer Avenue."

From Brax Horrocks, Adelaide

"This is Brax Horrocks, President of the South Australian Veterans Association bringing you greetings from our South Australian members. Our next meeting is on Thursday 24th May at the Public Service Club. Any of you who are here at that time will be made very welcome if you care to come along. Ours is a very small Branch compared with Sydney and Melbourne but we enjoy our evenings together and it is certainly a wonderful way to keep in touch with one another. I saw Cecil Shorrt last week who will be 97 this year and he sends chins to all of those who remember him. Geoff Cox is enjoying his retirement and his bowls at Port Alungra. In that area too is Max Lang who recently retired as Manager (Coast Radio) McLarenvale. Longun Evans appears to spend most of his time tripping around the world. When he is at home he plays a lot of bowls. Full of life and a running is Longun. We hear regularly from Pat Sykes, Western Australia and Bruce Sutherland, New Zealand. They are taking a trip to the UK this year so we hope to see both of them on their way through Adelaide. We were sad to hear that our good friend Tufty Baker has passed on. Wonderful fellow Tufty and most capable. I was fortunate enough to be stationed with him for over a year at Cocos, when it was off the map in World War 2. When any of you chaps pass through Adelaide please do get in touch with me Brax Horrocks (telephone 717524) or our Secretary Bert Dudley (telephone 2986337). Good wishes and fraternal greetings to you all."

From Norm Odgers, Perth

"This is Norm Odgers in Perth. On behalf of the fellow members of OTVA in Western Australia greetings and best wishes to you all for a pleasant evening. We regret we cannot be there with you. Good luck to you all."

SICKIES

From time to time we have the bad news of Veterans either being sick and/or hospitalised and to these we send best wishes for either a fast and complete recovery or for better health. Also we know there must be others sick who have not been reported and to these also our best wishes.

Col Benson, Frank Dunstall, Roy Tully, Jack McGrory, Bill Jenvey, Keith Roberts, Allan McLean, Doug Batten, Eric Willington, Mark Wilton, Val Litchfield, Charles Carthew, Bernie Harrison, Claude Waite and Peter Whisson.

TO PASTURE

The following members have recently retired and we wish them a long, happy and healthy retirement. For those retired on the grounds of invalidity we trust that their health improves considerably.

Max Lang

Max retired from the Coastal Radio Service in August. He joined the teaching staff of the Marconi School of Wireless in Sydney in October 1940.

Prior to this time he had been in the building trade employed by a relative and wanting to get out of that business he attended the Marconi School of Wireless and obtained his First Class Certificate. During 1941 Max joined the Burns Philp Steamer "Malaita". After three trips on that vessel he signed off and took up duty at Port Moresby in June 1941. After two hectic war years in Moresby he was transferred to Broome where he spent two years followed by another two at Perth. Thence came 6 months at La Perouse, 7 years Port Moresby, 5 years Melbourne radio, 2 years Rabaul, 4 years Melbourne with a recreation leave relief at Lae, 4 years at Darwin and the last 11 at Adelaide. Max claims that he has not had a very colourful career but from the places served and at the times this had to be discounted.

Max has bought a home in the wine growing area of McLarenvale, Adelaide where he intends to do a bit of tasting between tours in his campervan.

Ted Kemp

Ted Kemp retired in July after 37 years the first 3 of which were spent at sea as a Radio Officer on ships. He left the sea in 1942 and in the next couple of years served at Broome, Port Moresby, Townsville and Cooktown. In the post war years he served at Sydney, Perth, Esperance and Wyndham the last 20 years being at Perth.

Noreen Gosney

Veteran Mrs. Noreen Gosney, Secretary to Manager OTC(A) Melbourne Branch, has retired after service with the Commission 1955-79. Best wishes are extended to Noreen for a long and happy retirement. OTVA (Vic.) is especially grateful for help given over the years in arranging the catering at annual "get together" functions by their highly esteemed colleague.

Bruce Starr

Veteran Bruce Standford Starr is retiring from the service through ill health. Bruce joined AWA Ltd. July 1946 at the age of 17 years. Appointed Telegraphist a year later. Transferred OTC(A) June 1947. Passed 1st Class Commercial Wireless Operator Certificate 1948. Granted 12 months leave without pay April 1949 then re-employed by AWA Ltd. Marine Department and assigned to several ships as O.I.C. Returned to Commission April 1950. Served Nauru 1968-69 and returned Melbourne as S.I.T.O. February 1969. Acting Shift Controller March 1969. Promoted Shift Controller July 1969. Whilst with OTC(A) Bruce had experience as Training Instructor, relieving officer in Coastal Radio Service and completed technical training in Facsimile Department and Griffith E.M.U. Bruce keeps his 1st Class Wireless Certificate endorsed from year to year.

Norm Harris

Norm joined AWA as a Beam Messenger on the 11th February, 1929. At the age of 16 he was promoted from the Messenger service to the Purchasing Department and between that time and the commencement of World War 2 was employed in the Sundry Credits Section and the Customs and Shipping Section.

In the early war years Norm entered the services and on rejoining AWA on demobilisation he was employed in the CRS and Traffic Accounts area. He was not one of those selected to transfer to the Commission but was fortunate enough to find another man who would prefer to remain with AWA and therefore made a lucky swap. His early days with the Commission he was employed in CRS Accounts followed by a long period as Accounts Checking Officer. In 1962 he won an appeal

as Properties Officer and subsequently rose to Senior Properties Officer and Manager (Properties).

As a youth Norm was brought up in a Salvation Army environment where he became very proficient on the cornet this resulting in a very keen interest in music and he became the principal solo cornet in the Manly District Band. At the outbreak of war Norm enlisted in the 17th Battalion where he quickly got promoted to Band Sergeant. Norm later transferred to the Navy where his mustering was gunnery and radar plotting. The extra curricula activities naturally were in the band. Norm had a remarkable naval service in that at different times he was posted to the "Perth", the "Shropshire" and the "Hobart" and for various reasons these ships had quick changes of orders resulting in him not being able to join. In the case of the "Perth" she was lost with nearly all hands, the "Shropshire" and "Hobart" badly battered. Norm finally served for 2½ years on the "Hobart" where she had no further problems; could have been Norm's presence.

Following the war Norm continued with his music on a part-time basis and played in the band of the Palmolive-Colgate Show and also in the ABC Dance Band. In these 2 bands he changed from cornet to trumpet.

Norm married Dorothy in 1941 who at that time was Private Secretary to John Mulholland (Assistant Manager (AWA)). They now have 4 children and 5 grandchildren. One daughter has a farm in the Riverina and one of his sons is a School Master at Dalgety. No doubt Norm will spend a lot of his retirement time in the bush.

Geoff Warner

Geoff left school in 1930 and having an interest in radio worked on various jobs such as servicing radio sets around the Tuggerah Lakes district, picture show projectionist, ice carting and offsidng to the local electrician. He obtained his "ham" licence shortly after leaving school and became the youngest ham operator in Australia. He took a course with the Marconi School of Wireless and on obtaining his Commercial Operating Certificate waited around for ships postings but as these were hard to get finally obtained a job in Lae with the Guinea Airways in 1935. This organisation had a fleet of 16 aircraft including 4 Junkers G31, 3 engine planes which had the appearance of being built with corrugated galvanised iron. These were huge planes at that time and were used to carry the large pieces of dredging equipment into the mountainous gold fields of New Guinea. After a year at Lae he moved up to the gold fields himself mostly around Wau where he was involved in radio communication and cargo checking this being mostly tons of raw gold. In 1937 Geoff joined AWA as Operator/- Technician Port Moresby. His job included visits to the numerous radio outstations scattered around Papua where he had to often go in by light plane, copra boat or canoe. His duties also included the maintenance of and operation of broadcasting station 4PM. The operating side involved copying the news in Morse from GBR (UK), editing and then reading it "on air" to the news hungry people of the Territory. In 1941 after gaining a wife and suffering Malaria he was transferred to the Beam Room which was an annex to the Central Operating Room in York Street. The next year saw Geoff at La Perouse, Melbourne radio, Melbourne Facsimile Department followed by a couple of years at the Beam Receiving Station Rockbank. In 1946 he was transferred to the Beam Transmitting Centre at Fiskville (Ballan) which at that time was the main international transmitting centre for Australia. Later that year he was returned to Port Moresby where he remained until 1954.

When OTC opened the new receiving centre at Bringelly in 1954 Geoff served as Assistant Manager under John Peell. When John died Geoff took over as Manager. In 1971 Geoff was off to Perth where he served as Manager Bassendean for 3 years and Manager Gnangara for 4 years. In late 1978 Geoff was transferred

back as Manager Bringelly where he is due to retire on the 3rd December.

Geoff and his wife have been ardent travellers and no doubt they will keep this up in retirement for as long as they can afford it. With just on 50 years as a ham he has held 9 different call signs and is still going strong especially with 7 MHz mobile. He is in the painful process of building the ultimate Warner QTH at Camden.

Austin Houseman

Austin who commenced with AWA in 1929 as a Beam Messenger Boy retired in September. At the time of retirement he held a doubtful honour of being No. 1 on the OTC seniority list.

After completing his time as a Messenger Boy he was promoted to Office Boy in the AWA Purchase Department followed by Office Boy to Sir Lionel Hooke, General Manager of AWA. During this time he attended the Marconi School of Wireless and obtained his Commercial Operating Certificate and was posted in 1932 as Technician with broadcasting station 2CH. A year later he was transferred to the Pennant Hills transmitting station where he remained for the next 5 years. In 1938 Austin was posted to Wyndham working on DCA operations. At that time DCA had not as yet developed their new very extensive communications network and AWA Technicians carried out many of the functions. After a year he was transferred to Braybrook Victoria where the Australian shortwave broadcasting station VK3ME was located. In 1940 he was transferred to the Rockbank receiving station.

In 1941 Austin enlisted in the AIF and was on his way northwards by ship when Singapore fell and was disembarked at Fremantle thereby missing on being a certain prisoner of war. He served in New Guinea and was demobbed in 1946. On resuming duties with AWA he served a short period in the Melbourne Facsimile Department and then posted to the Fiskville transmitting station. After 6 years this was followed by one year at Rockbank, 10 years at Bassendean, 2 years Manager Applecross, 8 years Manager Doonside, 4 years Manager Ceduna Satellite Station and the last 2 years back to Doonside as Manager.

Austin's interests are Ham radio, hifi audio, touring and fishing and he intends to build a new home on the central coast of NSW to extend these activities.

Jack Sheath

Served in the R.A.A.F. and on demobilisation was trained at the Marconi School of Wireless under the Rehabilitation Scheme for a Telegraphist in the Beam Wireless Service. At the time of demobilisation the Beam was operated by AWA with OTC taking over whilst Jack was in training. He completed his training in May 1947 and took up duty in the Central Radio Office, York Street.

During his 32 years with the Commission Jack served as a Telegraphist, Senior Telegraphist and Area Controller.

Jack took an active part in the Cricket Club and not only played in the yearly Interstate matches at Wagga but the weekly business houses competition.

Keith Wilmot

Keith recently proceeded on sick leave prior to retirement after having served as the Chief Draftsman of OTC for the last 23 years. He joined AWA in the Drawing Office in 1937 and rose to the position of Leading Design Draftsman where he was involved with equipment for the Marine Service, aircraft, broadcasting, armed services and international communications.

Keith was very active in staff associations and during his years with OTC proved a very valuable committee man and at times Chairman on a number of welfare and other committees. He was also very active in the Credit Union, Veterans' Association and the Drafting Industrial Union. Unfortunately Keith was involved in a serious train accident 2 years ago and due to injuries he had to curtail some of his association work.

Earlier in life Keith found romance in OTC and we wish him, Marie and the family a healthy, happy and long retirement.

Les Brown

Les retired early in the year due to ill health. He commenced in AWA in 1933 and moved through all positions in the Melbourne Operating Room, reaching the position of Shift Controller. Les has always been a very popular character, and a leading figure in the Melbourne Cricket Club and Wagga weekends.

Molly Condon

Molly also retired early in the year. She joined OTC in 1956 from the New Zealand Press Association where she had worked previously for a number of years. Starting as a Typist in the Administrative Branch she quickly rose to Secretary and later Private Secretary to the Chairman of the Commission. At the time of retirement Molly was a high level Clerical Assistant in the Supply Section of OTC where her duties consisted of removal of personal effects for staff on transfer. She carried out her duties efficiently and with a minimum of fuss thereby making transfers somewhat less traumatic.

Betty Leweniec

Betty retired on the same day as the NSW Association's Annual General Meeting. She joined OTC in 1952 where she was employed as a Phonogram Operator.

Roy Tully

Roy recently retired due to ill health. He joined C&W in 1940 in the Spring Street office and subsequently came to OTC on the takeover. His whole career has been in the Operating Room where at different times he held every traffic position and was a Shift Controller at the time of retirement.

Tom O'Donnell

Tom joined OTC in 1948 and a few months later trained and qualified as a Telegraphist. The majority of his career was spent in the Melbourne Operating Room with a 2 year term at Cottesloe. At the time of retirement, due to ill health, he held the position of Senior International Telecommunications Officer.

FROM HERE, THERE, NEAR AND FAR

Octogenarian veteran Ellis Smellie sailed on the Russian Liner LEONIDE SOBONOV for a world tour leaving Melbourne mid-May. Like his colleague, Dave Fleming, Ellis prefers travelling by sea.

Two veterans at the Sydney Annual General Meeting were frequently mistaken one for the other and the clue to identity rested with the chap wearing glasses!

OTVA (Victoria) started off in 1957 with 84 registered members and, of that original number, 49 veterans have passed on. The present membership is 115.....73 in retirement and 42 still active.

Mr. & Mrs. Robinson, Senior, parents of veteran Jim Robinson, Manager OTC Melbourne, recently celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary and among the many messages of congratulations was a telegram from Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

Veteran Frank Turville has given up bird breeding and apricot farm activities and sold his property at Dunalley - Tasmania - and now resident at the Freemasons Homes, 7 Ballawinne Road, Lindisfarne, 7015. Frank would be pleased to meet old colleagues.

There are two P.C.B. pioneer cable operators now retired and living in Victoria who would welcome hearing from P.C.B. colleagues of yesteryear. They are:

Jack Turnbull,
22 Hiddesdale Avenue,
FRANKSTON. VIC. 3199

Phil Little,
7 Percival Street,
PRESTON. VIC. 3072

Charlie Grech and Arthur Crisp travelling overseas showed judgement in missing the Melbourne winter.

Victorian veteran, Alan Vagg, like his great uncles on the distaff side of the KNUCKEY FAMILY, has had a life long association with telegraphy thus carrying on a tradition having origin when Richard Knuckey arrived in South Australia from Cornwall in 1849.

A son, Richard Randall Knuckey, was the first Line Inspector appointed in South Australia 1.8.1870 and became associated with Mr. Todd, later Sir Charles, in the now historic construction of the 1872 overland telegraph line from Adelaide to Darwin. He afterwards worked on the East-West telegraph line linking Adelaide with Eucla. A further call was made on his services in 1890 to help in the construction of many West Australian country telegraph centres.

John Randall Knuckey, 29.3.1846 to 19.7.1890, succeeded his brother in the office of Line Inspector and his fine leadership contributed to rallying the men in the field when the East-West telegraph line venture almost foundered in the extreme heat and drought of the arid Bight Country. His sudden death in 1890 was widely mourned and his grave in the West Terrace Cemetery is marked by a marble memorial "ERECTED BY HIS FELLOW WORKERS IN THE POST AND TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT".

The exploits of the Knuckey brothers include confrontation with hostile aboriginal natives, near death by hunger and thirst, long and tedious trials with replacement of telegraph poles eaten away by termites and problems of the then outback regions all surmounted by courage and endurance.

A copy of the Knuckey family diary is now included in the archives of OTVA (Australia) at the Latrobe Library, Melbourne.

P.S.....The last Lady Telegraphist in the Postmaster General's Department was Miss Ethel Richards, a niece of Richard Knuckey.

The 130th year gathering of the Knuckey family was held in Adelaide, January 7th, 1979.

After a motoring holiday on the mainland Jack and Dulcie returned to Tassie and "the house that Jack built" appropriately named "JORDAN'S JOINT" 3 Petty Road, Eaglehawk Neck, 7179.

An octogenarian couple finally decided to sell their family home and change over to a unit in a retirement centre there to enjoy all the helpful facilities and settle down to a new environment but our colleague really does miss:

- (1) being able to play the cornet any more;
 - (2) listening to ship to shore morse at loud speaker strength;
 - (3) having a fully equipped workshop in which to work hour on end.
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In retirement daily routine includes reading the paper, doing the crossword, attending the garden and household chores and walking out to the letter box there to now and then find in the mail a postcard kindly sent by someone on tour overseas to an old colleague back home...you sure do get a kick out of being remembered like that.

With family keeping in touch and telephone contacts there remains only to be thankful for continued good health and contentment as top priorities.

The following letter has been received from Mr. H. J. Scott, Secretary, Society of Wireless Pioneers, America. This letter is typical of those being received by Charles Carthew, our General Secretary and indicates the amount of effort he puts into his job.

"Thank you for your welcome letter. We are pleased to know that you enjoy our Journal,

We very much appreciate receiving your publications as this keeps us aware of what goes on "down under". Communication between our societies is a healthy sign and one which can keep our mutual interest and friendship alive.

Your proposal that veteran communication associations go "international"

is an interesting one. Our Society would be interested in knowing what your proposal is in depth. It sounds very good.

We have received your OTC publication for some time and enjoy it, and on occasions we have quoted some items from it in our publications with due credit being given of course.

Well, our southern friend, it has been a pleasure communicating with you, and I hope that we may continue the pleasant "hello-how are you" from time to time in the days to come!

73's to all of you,"

BORNEO

The late Ned Newell served in the Borneo area during the World War I era and had photographs of the Eastern Extension installations in Sarawak and Brunei. These albums have been loaned to the Government of Sabah and they have taken others for their historical museum. To supplement these records the Sabah government would like to hear from any Veterans who served in the Borneo areas particularly in the early days of the Eastern Extension Company.

Any member of this category could contact Charles Carthew, 7 Lantana Street, Clayton, Victoria, 3168 (telephone 544.2514).

VALE

It is with deep regret that we advise of the passing of the following Veterans and our deepest sympathy is extended to their families:

Cecil Shorrt

The oldest Veteran in Australia and a gentleman Cecil Shorrt died in May aged 96. Cecil joined the Eastern Extension Cable Company in Adelaide just before the turn of the century and after a few years was transferred to Darwin where he stayed for almost 4 years. His next transfer was to Singapore where he remained at that station and other straits settlement stations for the next 5 years. Returning to Australia in 1913 he was posted to Cable Bay near Nelson in New Zealand and towards the end of the First World War returned to Australia and then was posted to Cottesloe where he remained for about 4 years before returning to his home station at Adelaide.

Cecil had been ably cared for by his good wife Olivette a partnership which had lasted for 57 years. Charles Carthew recently commented on a visit to their unit as a very memorable experience. He points out that there was a 300 year old grandfather clock still keeping good time - a Battle of Waterloo cavalry sabre - a scarf made of very fine hand woven linen 2 centuries old - a Welsh dresser made 100 years ago with the original hinge pins still in-tact - and many other relics of days far gone plus the "old world charm" of host and hostess was really something to remember.

Bill Hosking

Bill Hosking passed away 1st August nearing the age of eighty. Bill started with the PMG 1915-25 then joined Eastern Extension Telegraph Company at Sydney 1930-33...Darwin 1933-34...Adelaide 1934-41 transferred Cocos first to Darwin. February 19th, 1942, quote from diary "Japs bombed Darwin. Roley Lane and self on duty and that sure was a bloody hectic day (you've read the story in the papers) however, Roley sheltered in a hole made to accommodate a new lavatory and escaped unhurt. I sheltered down the cliff in front of office and was on the receiving end of all the rocks and debris from the bomb craters. Hospitalised. Trip to Cocos washed out. Returned to Sydney S.O.R. and treatment resumed four months later. 1942-63 dug in S.O.R. Sydney until retirement...appointed Senior/Tel somewhere between 1945-60." unquote.

Settling down in Melbourne Bill regularly attended OTVA (Vic.) functions and became actively involved with the Nunawadding District Band in which he played the flute...he also did sterling work with Legacy. Fellow members of his band - all in uniform - came along to the funeral service and rendered appropriate hymns; a fitting tribute to a highly respected citizen.

Jack Heathershaw

Jack passed away on the 15th July, 1979. He joined the Eastern Extension Australasian China Telegraph Company in 1920, was later taken over by OTC and served in both the Sydney and Melbourne Accepting Offices as Officer-in-Charge until his retirement in 1961. Jack was known and highly respected not only by his colleagues but in the business world and was a well known figure supervising traffic covering international cricket, tennis, golf and other sporting events throughout Australia. He was a member of the Melbourne Cricket Club and played a good game of cricket and golf and served as the President of OTVA (Vic.) during 1973 and 1974. Until the last couple of months when Jack became seriously ill he had maintained excellent health and had an amazing physique, full of life and activity.

John David Milton

Born in England, served as a radio officer on ships whose radio stations were under the administration of Siemens Company.

After taking up residence in Sydney, he joined AWA in May 1954 as a Marine technician specialising in radar, which was then a very new navigational aid to ships.

In December 1959, John was appointed an Inspector for Marine Service and later in April 1963 became Service Supervisor at Sydney.

Following the increase in ship building activity in Australia in 1967, John moved into the Marine technical section at AWA head office to assist in planning new installations.

John transferred to Melbourne with the appointment of Victorian Marine Manager in December 1969 and in this capacity became a respected and well known identity in the Marine fraternity.

He was also a keen Rotarian, a past president of the Liberal Party branch in his area and took an active interest in Toastmasters. John leaves behind a wife and daughter.

Jack Guthrie

Jack Guthrie died late April at the age of 76. He commenced in the Eastern Extension Cable Company in 1919 and during his career served at Sydney, Adelaide, Cottesloe, Suva and Fanning Island. At the time of his retirement in 1967 he held the position of Traffic Manager OTC. For the 10 years prior to his passing he very ably carried out his position of President of the NSW Veterans' Association. The following story of some early recollections of Jack has been submitted by John Lee.

"First met John Guthrie around 1919 when we were Probationers (Trainee Telegraphists) at the Sydney office of the Eastern Extension Australasia and China Telegraph Company at 17 O'Connell Street. I was sixteen and John probably a year older. He was a solidly built lad from the Sydney Technical High School with a wholesome and honest approach to life. As he had joined a few months before me I soon began to rely on him for advice and guidance.

There were never more than four of us training at the one time - the room would not have held more. For the first six months of our training we were paid ten shillings per week which hardly allowed any high living but our salaries were increased every six months providing we made good progress and behaved until we were earning thirty-five shillings per week, when we felt quite affluent.

Under the eye of an instructor we learned to read recorder signals - the usual method of receiving signals through a submarine cable at that time. We practised touch typing, morse (reception by sounder), hand perforator and transmitting by hand on recorder keys. By the time we were eighteen we were Operators (Telegraphists) and we had established a firm friendship.

In those early years of our working life Sydney was settling down after World War I. It was a city almost devoid of buses but criss-crossed with tram tracks and I recall being impressed with John's prowess in jumping on and off moving trams.

As Operators we were required to work six 6-hour shifts covering Monday to Saturday. If my memory is correct Sunday work was at overtime rates but the rate of sixpence per hour for a First Year Operator made little difference to our monthly pay cheque. However we both lived with our respective parents, we were unaware of the delights of alcohol and we decided that girl friends were luxuries we could not afford.

Around 1920 the Eastern Telegraph Company had a team in the City Houses Rugby League competition and though a soccer player at school, John was a regular member of that team until it lapsed for want of players. We turned to mid-week friendly soccer games and here John really shone. He was a very solid player whose powerful clearing kick got us out of many a difficult situation. John had a refreshing approach to cricket. He believed that the ball was there to be hit and I never saw him play a defensive innings.

We took our first recreation leave together and with the late Jim Lynch and went fishing at Point Clare (we could not afford to go further afield). It rained consistently for the full three weeks. The following year we fished at Tweed Heads and John's skill with the rod kept the boarding house in fish.

Our knowledge of life was mostly derived from the older members of

the staff, many of whom were much travelled and had served at Cable Stations in South East Asia. We listened to their stories with respectful attention but occasionally tried a venture on our own like the time we went to see Rudolph Valentine in the silent film "The Sheik". Front seats in the dress circle cost us three shillings and sixpence each (we were accustomed to paying one shilling and sixpence at suburban picture theatres). Unmoved by the performance we agreed that one could learn more about the facts of life at any matinee at the Tivoli or Fullers Vaudeville. He was a very reliable friend who never let me down and though I worked with him in subsequent years at Cottesloe, Suva and finally Sydney, it is the pleasant memories of those early years that keep flooding back."

Don Soraghan

Don passed away on the 11th August, 1979 at his home in Kingscliff. He was one of those pioneers who can never be replaced having served initially with AWA in the Marine Service transferring to the Department of Civil Aviation on the advent of radio into the aviation industry. It is understood that Don was the very first Aeradio Operator employed by AWA at Mascot aerodrome which in those days was little better than a paddock.

Don was always a very ardent "ham" and this gave him great comfort and interest in the latter years of his life when he became practically blind. He kept regular skeds with old buddies and other hams and recently rejoined the Veterans network.

Harry Oates

Harry died on the 5th January, 1979 aged 79. He joined the Coastal Radio Service in December 1923 in Sydney and subsequently served at Adelaide, Darwin, Thursday Island with the last 25 years of service at La Perouse. At the time of retirement in 1965 he was Assistant Station Manager (La Perouse). Harry spent most of his retired life at Gerroa on the south coast and recently moved to Brisbane.

Sid Le Grand

Sid passed away on 16th May, 1979 aged 77. He commenced in communications in the PMG's Department Queensland in 1916. On the commencement of the Beam Wireless Service in 1927 he was one of the specialist Telegraphists recruited for the operation of that service. His whole career in AWA and OTC was in the Beam Operating Room where he served as a Telegraphist, Senior Telegraphist, Control Officer and Traffic Officer. Retired in 1967 and took up residence at Banora Point a few miles south of the Gold Coast.

Tom Pattinson

Tom joined the P.C.B. in March 1916 and was employed in various clerical/traffic positions rising finally to the position of Supervisor, Accepting Office of OTC. Tom who retired in 1964 was one of those characters with an outstanding personality and was very popular not only with his work mates but with quite a number of the clients. He also was active in welfare and sporting club activities. His retirement years were spent in Adelaide.

Jack Bassett

One of those real characters who appear from time to time, Jack Bassett, died late April at the age of 75. He became interested in telegraphy in 1918 when he joined the PMG's Department and was appointed to the Newtown Post Office as Telegraphist. After serving there for some time he was transferred to Tamworth where he remained until 1926. Hearing the call of wireless he resigned from the PMG's Department the same year, and joined the Island Radio Service. His first appointment was at Bitapaka where he served for 2 years followed by transfer to Salamoia. He later served at a number of New Guinea stations one resulting in him becoming known as "Wewak Jack".

Jack turned up in the Island Room at the Central Operating Room in York Street during the war years and remained there until 1963, when he was retired on the grounds of invalidity due to losing portion of a leg from thrombosis.

Jack's interest lay in hi-fi, fishing and writing of verse. A number of his contributions appeared in the staff magazines and he also wrote a number of lyrics for Rolf Harris the royalties giving him quite a handy bit of pocket money. His fishing excursions to Port Kembla just after the war in his 1938 Vauxhall will be remembered by many of our members.

Cec Wood

Cec unfortunately passed away only one year before retirement after a short illness. He was introduced to communications in 1940 when he joined the RAAF as a Wireless Operator Mechanic. In the service he graduated further to Aircraft Radio Maintenance, Transmitting and Receiving Station Maintenance and Control Tower Maintenance.

On demobilisation Cec obtained employment with Thom & Smith as a domestic Receiver Instructor followed by being in charge of their line receiver assembly. He only remained at Thom & Smith for one year and then went to AWA in the Special Products Section. His duties consisted of testing ships equipment, DCA HF transmitters and commercial transmitter construction. He saw a future in Government employment and in 1949 obtained a position with the Department of Civil Aviation employed on installation of high and low power HF transmitters - receiving station control equipment - navigational aids etc.

Eleven years later Cec got itchy feet and applied for a job with OTC where he was involved in the planning, installation and acceptance testing of various CRS and SEACOM installations and equipment. The last couple of years had been with the Training Section as a Field Training Officer.

Bill Uwins

Veteran Bill Uwins President of the Victorian Association passed away in September. He joined the PCB in 1919 transferring later to C&W and subsequently OTC. At the time of his retirement he was a Shift Controller in the Melbourne Operating Room. It was only in May this year that Bill and Thelma celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

Deepest sympathy is extended to Veterans Jim Taylor and Arthur Stewart on the sad passing of their life partners in May and August respectively.

GOOD LIVING

The Division of Health Education, Health Commission of NSW, has now produced 3 books which could be of interest to members. These are:

"How to Lose Weight Wisely"

"Food and Nutrition"

"Wise Eating for Older People".

These books can be obtained free of charge from the Health Commission of NSW, Division of Health Education, Box 4340, G.P.O., Sydney.

VETERANS IN RETIREMENT

OTC staff magazine "Transit" intends to run a series of articles on Veterans in retirement. The first of the series on Charles Carthew has already been published and this is being followed by a story on Jack Burgess and then Jock Cowie, who is actively engaged in stocking trout streams. We are sure a number of other Veterans have interesting activities and any stories together with a photograph would be appreciated. Please send to Gordon Cupit, OTC, Box 7000, G.P.O. Sydney.

HISTORICAL RECORDS

The announcement in the last Newsletter of the formation of historical records and museum by OTC has brought some response, and to these we say thanks, but this has been very small considering the number of Veterans in our Associations. Please fellows look through your old drawers etc. and drag out anything you have. Old stationery message forms, equipment or anything else you may have borrowed would be very welcome. This also should be sent to Gordon Cupit.

One document donated by Len Vella, OTC Cable Station, Cairns, is a tariff list and cable map issued by the Eastern Telegraph Company, Malta on the 1st March, 1896. Rates per word to Australasia at that time were: NSW 4/11d, New Zealand 5/2d, Queensland 9/5d, South Australia 4/9d, Tasmania 5/5d, Victoria 4/10d and Western Australia 4/9d. Others of interest are France 4d, Gibraltar 5½d, Great Britain 6d, Mauritius 8/3d and Madagascar 9/5d.

In addition to the information on tariffs an interesting aspect on the map is a cable between Bundaberg and Caledonia. Research has since revealed that this cable was laid in 1893 by the cableship "Francois Arago" for the French company La Societe Francaise des Telegraphes Sous-Marins. The cable was a distance of 793 n.m. and the shore ends were at Mon Repos in Queensland and Teoudie in New Caledonia. Unfortunately we have no further information as to how long this cable operated, whether it was successful etc.

ANOTHER PAGE FROM THE DIARY OF A WIRELESS OPERATOR

In the early 1930's the Beam Wireless nerve centre was situated on the 1st floor of Wireless House, Queen Street, Melbourne, with the receiving station at Rockbank, some 20 miles out, and the transmitters set up at Fiskville another 25 miles further on - near Ballarat.

Staff-wise there is much to write about particularly in regard to the esprit-de-corps that prevailed. For instance, the operator on duty from 3 pm to

9pm was released early when the cheap rate traffic was cleared and on the circuits ready for transmission...the incentive was there to hop in and keep things moving for the Supervisors extended the same privilege week by week providing, of course, the "SHIPS-IN-RANGE" notices were not neglected. Again, there were often "BLACK-OUTS" on the night shift (11.30pm to 6am) and a draw was held permitting one or more operators to catch the first train or tram home. The Supervisors kept a list of those previously released so that everyone had the same privilege extended when circumstances were favourable.

Working on the SERVICE TABLE called for the taking of morse traffic on the telegraph sounder coming in from Melbourne radio (VIM) at that time in the Domain Gardens. Incidentally, the sounder is now a museum piece although it reigned supreme for quite a long time.

Shift work is always a bone of contention but there are compensating factors once adjustment is made to sleeping at odd hours and the irregularity of meals. Leisure time during the day can be put to good use round the house tending the garden and keeping up to date all round general home maintenance not to mention indulging golf, tennis and other sporting activities. Commuting to and from the city day after day, week after week, can become tiresome but never really appreciated properly until the experience of shift work gives emphasis to the change.

The now demolished WIRELESS HOUSE - MELBOURNE has its memories and among the staff were personalities aplenty including comedians, scrip writers, musicians, athletes and, above all, a splendid team of international telecommunicators associated with whom very capable technicians whose expertise kept the mechanical side in good and reliable order.

Anyone making a transcription or gelling error received a chilling reprimand in the form of a "MAJOR A"...Management did this to keep everyone alert but the telling factor rested with personal pride for no one liked "GETTING A BLISTER"!

On the ground floor the late Tim O'Leary kept a vigilant eye on the BEAM WIRELESS MESSENGERS, and there were some real characters among them, yet from their ranks emerged several lads who made the grade upstairs and subsequently went on to carve a career in the Service.

FROM NEW ZEALAND

Tom Condon writing from New Zealand advises that he and his wife will be holidaying in Honolulu/Maui for 6 weeks and he is hoping to visit Fanning Island but visitors permits are hampered by red tape and the creation of the new independence for the Gilbert Islands. He is just biding his time and waiting not too hopefully. He was deeply interested in the pre-retirement planning article in the last Newsletter, as this is a subject foremost to the older people and particularly to his wife who is associated with the local Citizens Advice Bureau. They have become aware of the many perplexities which come forward particularly of how older people fill in their days. He is of the opinion that without being nosey it is a good objective to keep ones eyes open and absorb what is going on around one with a view to gaining information and ideas on activities etc. He can foresee that we have a problem with modern technological advancement where work will be less and we will have a greater problem of how to use leisure.

Tom said that the recollections by Phil Little were really something to enthuse about and he can recall the cricketing days of Sutcliffe, Hobbs, Charlie Kelleway, Ryder, "Nip" Pellew, and Jack Gregory. All were forerunners

in a golden age and also the artificial make believe of bat meeting ball and the applause of the spectators together with the fictitious LBW appeals and score. Great was the preparation for the Derby result with all the lines from London to Sydney being open for a clear run. The time for the result to reach NZ was marvellous, something like 80 seconds. Today we almost see it before it is run. Tennis too was to the forefront and one can remember back to Jo Anderson, Hawke, Schleisgner, and having the privilege of seeing them play an exhibition game in New Zealand whilst en route to America for the challenge round. Their American counterparts Tilden, Bill Johnstone were worthy opponents and even the Victorian wizard in Norman Brookes could not stem their ascendancy. In later years we had Jack Crawford, Fred Perry and then Hoad and Rosewall. A big thank you Phil for rousing one in these memories.

Claude Dalley with his wealth of experience brought a new dimension to the Newsletter and it was good of him to mention Doubtless Bay and Bob Marchant, NZ's oldest Vet, and now not so mobile as of yore but with still a very alert mind. I see him now and then and his acuteness of mind is truly amazing. It was good of Claude to bring Bob's article to the fore.

LETTERS LIKE THIS CONVEY THE IMPORTANCE OF NOSTALGIA SO COME ON YOU OLD PIONEERS PEN A STORY OR TWO AND SEND IN TO EDITOR GORDON CUPIT, OTC, BOX 7000 GPO, SYDNEY.

PLANNING FOR RETIREMENT

In the last edition of the Newsletter we outlined activities, seminars etc. conducted by the NSW Council on the Ageing. For our Victorian members there is a kindred body in that State known as the Early Planning for Retirement Association the Secretary being Mr. S. P. Hardisty, c/- National Mutual Centre, 447 Collins Street, Melbourne, 3000, telephone 620411.

This organisation has a number of groups spread around the suburbs and these are listed for information:

<u>CHELTENHAM</u>	Mr. Len Evans, Secretary, E.P.R.G. (Cheltenham) P.O. Box 74, Southland Centre, CHELTENHAM, 3192. Phone: 93 2816	<u>UNLEY</u> <u>S.A.</u> Phone:	Mr. Robert Birnie, Sec, Eriplan (Unley), P.O. Box 12, UNLEY, 5061 (082) 584 455
<u>BENTLEIGH</u>	Mr. Ken Wynne-Hughes, Secretary, E.P.R.G. (Bentleigh) 3 Austin Street, BENTLEIGH, 3204 Phone: 97 1345	<u>WAVERLEY</u> Phone:	Mrs. Jack Pascoe, Sec. E.P.R.G. (Waverley) 22 Danien Street, GLEN WAVERLEY, 3150. 232 6314
<u>DONCASTER</u>	Mr. Cliff Fisher, Secretary, E.P.R.G. (Doncaster), O'Briens Lane, TEMPLESTOWE, 3106 Phone: 846 2182 (Res) 51 8621 (Bus)	<u>HAWTHORN</u> Phone:	Sister A. M. Hains, Sec. E.P.R.G. (Hawthorn) 2 a. Power Avenue, HAWTHORN, 3122. 814 008
<u>SANDRINGHAM</u>	Mr. David & Mrs. Betty Young, Secretary, E.P.R.G. (Sandringham) 9 Miller Street, SANDRINGHAM, 3191. Phone: 598 7219	<u>FRANKSTON</u> Phone:	Mrs. J. Collie, Sec, E.P.R.G. (Frankston) Unit 3, 25 Phillip St., FRANKSTON, 3199. 786 6130

<u>BENDIGO</u>	Mr. R. S. Downey, President, E.P.R.G. (Bendigo) Moore Street, BENDIGO, 3550. Phone: Bendigo STD (054)43 4550	<u>ESSENDON</u>	Mr. T. W. Tonks, Sec. E.P.R.G. (Essendon) 34 Uplands Road, STRATHMORE, 3041. Phone: 370 2911
<u>GOULBURN VALLEY</u>	Mr. H. M. (Mac) Ford, Secretary, E.P.R.G. (Goulburn Valley) 108 The Boulevard, SHEPPARTON, 3630 Phone: (058) 21 9111 Ext. 274,277	<u>WILLIAMS- TOWN</u>	Mrs. Peggy Stone, Sec. E.P.R.G. (Williamstown) 40 Junction Street, NEWPORT, 3015. Phone: 391 3149 (Res.) 398 1555 (Bus.)
<u>HEIDELBERG</u>	Mr. M. Bridgman, President, E.P.R.G. (Heidelberg) 61 Victoria Avenue, WEST MACLEOD, 3085. Phone: 62 0391 (Bus.)	<u>CROYDON</u>	Mr. W. G. Blunden, Sec. E.P.R.G. (Croydon) Geoffrey Drive, KILSYTH. 728 2115
<u>KEW</u>	Mr. Alan Tweddell, Secretary, E.P.R.G. (Kew, P.O. Box 14) 1 Barenysa Crt, KEW, 3101. Phone: 80 4264	<u>RINGWOOD</u>	Mrs. Betty Fly, Sec. P.O. Box 398, RINGWOOD, 3134. Phone: 870 5311
<u>NUNAWADING</u>	Mr. Stan Penny, Secretary, E.P.R.G. (Nunawading) 63 Quarry Road, MITCHAM, 3131. Phone: 874 4592	<u>BOX HILL</u>	Miss Esme Dunnell, Sec. 36 Bronte Street, BURWOOD, 3125. Phone: 288 1078
<u>DANDENONG</u>	Mr. Allan Morris, Sec. E.P.R.G. (Dandenong) P.O. Box 737, DANDENONG, 3175. Phone: 546 7572	<u>T.A.B.</u>	Mrs. Ruth Wood, Sec. T.A.B., 2 Queens Road, MELBOURNE, 3004. Phone: 26 6921

FINANCIAL ADVICE ON RETIREMENT

Many of Australia's leading companies now are arranging for their staff to attend public seminars for people nearing retirement which are run by one of Australia's leading stock brokers, Randall & Co. This company has been conducting seminars since the beginning of 1978.

Individual retirees and their wives are also welcome to attend the seminars and can obtain invitations by telephoning the Retirement Council or Randall & Co., telephone Melbourne 620611 or Sydney 276043. The seminar takes the form of a planning for retirement film followed by four talks subjects being:

- (1) Investing on Retirement;
- (2) Wills and Asset Planning for Retirees;
- (3) Taxation for People Approaching Retirement;
- (4) Social Security Entitlements.

All the talks are given by experts from the various fields. There is no charge to attend the seminar and your editor was surprised at the number of services available to elderly people by Randall & Co. and most important at no charge.

AIR CHARTERS - NEW GUINEA

John Lennon tells a story of the Port Moresby Tennis Club charter for a visit to Wewak. The expected routine charter started out this way.

A 32 seater DC3 aircraft was arranged to carry the 31 people booked for the flight. On arrival it was found that only a 28 seater aircraft was available and 3 were to be off-loaded. When the plane landed on the strip it was found that a further four seats were not there and as a result 7 now became off-loaded. These 7 finally arrived in Wewak by commercial flight as a favour by Air New Guinea. On the return journey some days later another 28 seater arrived and the same 3 were off-loaded and wait-listed for a commercial craft the following day. In actual fact the wait-listing became two days. As John explains it was a good effort only being off-loaded three times on one charter. It was just as well that Wewak's surf, golf and friends provided plenty of entertainment during the waiting period.

KNOW YOUR COLLEAGUES

The following interesting facts we learnt about Longun Evans during his recent visit to Sydney and it is recommended that any visitors to South Australia should look him up.

Longun started in the cable service in the Moore Street (now Martin Place) office of Eastern Extension. His next posting was the La Perouse Cable Station.

Not only has Longun an extensive cable career but he also started off as a radio man and was issued with the fourth amateur licence in Australia. This he obtained in 1912 and at that time he transmitted on 250 watts with a call sign XVD. He was using American apparatus and was the first ham to use valves. Longun sat for his first class radio certificate in 1915 and was tested on Telefunken gear.

He was serving in Darwin during the 2nd World War. At one time the Java to Darwin cable was broken in 18 places and the cablesheep in making repairs was unable to match the old cable. Longun was given the job of balancing the mixed cable and getting traffic moving again. The cablesheep estimated that it would be a 2 to 3 weeks task. With hard work and some unorthodox methods he had the cable running better than 100% within 2 days.

Longun also tells of the time he was stranded in San Francisco during the war years for a ship to return him to Australia and finally sailed on a liberty ship which was loaded with troops. They were thirsty for news and Longun finished up taking press for 2 hours daily to issue a news sheet. After they had been out 20 days or so he was called to the bridge when the skipper saw land and asked Longun did he recognise it. Longun thought it was New Zealand and north of Auckland so the Captain changed course to south and they arrived in Auckland a couple of hours later.

Longun in his time was one of those extremely fast Morsemen, rare beings. He could send at 40 words per minute and he had been tested in reception at 48 words per minute. He worked for some time with the United Press

of America (Sydney office) taking press for hours at a stretch. Anyone who could handle this job, under the Chief George McCadden, had to be good.

2ND WORLD WAR

Phil Little quotes the following recollections on the 2nd World War and the 1956 Olympic Games.

"Tension filled the evening when the word came through that the Germans had entered Poland. The evening when Singapore advised--- "This is it, we are closing down."

The many faces we missed calling at the office as the quiet rounding up of all aliens in Melbourne and surrounding areas took place.

The "INVENTORS" who occasionally called to cable, mostly crackpot ideas, to the war office in London, one chap in particular who claimed he really had the answer to the bombing of London.

Very simple he said. "All they have to do is make thousands of small bombs and attach a small parachute to each one, then load them on a high flying plane, which would fly over the bombers and proceed to drop the small bombs. The contact of course will blow the bombers to hell."

I didn't ask the poor silly B----R about the bombs that missed and landed on the poplace below.

The foreign woman who called in wishing to cable Italy, and on my explaining that I could not oblige, due to censorship, promptly threatened to report me to the Italian Imperial Police and then marched out.

On the occasion of a member of the British Merchant Marine calling in and asking me to do him a special favour, by holding a birthday message to his wife for ten days before transmission as he would not be in a position to send it, and my awkward position in explaining that whilst being very happy to do him a favour, this could not be done as there was a possibility that something just might happen to him prior to his wife's birthday, and the consequences would be tragic. THE BLASTED WAR!- This incident really upset me."

1956 Olympic Games

"The wonderful set-up at the M.C.G. for transmission of all press traffic.

It made us all feel very proud to see the astonishment on the faces of some of the Press Correspondents who claimed it was the best they had ever seen.

The O.T.C, personnel who had worked so tirelessly must have felt very happy at the result of their labours.

The fantastic sight at the opening of the Games; a glorious sunny day, the hundreds of athletes, the many flags of competing nations and the huge crowd, cheering and clapping like mad.

The wonderful thrill to see our "Golden Girl", Betty Cuthbert, run as she had never run before, to win her Gold Medal.

The piles of press messages which poured in every evening made us wonder if we would ever finish counting and preparing them for transmission.

I guess everyone felt very satisfied at the conclusion of the Games and realized that all had done a very good job."

ANOTHER PAGE FROM THE DIARY OF A WIRELESS OPERATOR

Accompanied by my wife and young daughter a spot of Long Service Leave was taken in 1950 tripping round New Guinea there to meet up with O.T.C. Manager, Port Moresby, the late Geoff Buckland, who kindly took us round the city environs and thence via the wireless outstations to Bomana War Cemetery situated at the foot of the Owen Stanley Ranges.

The cemetery itself is a sacred spot with an eternal flame to commemorate and pay fitting tribute to the repose of so many Australian lads who lost their lives defending the Kokoda Trail. It was truly an impressive sight akin to the indelible imprint left during my stay in France way back in the mid-1920's and there seeing the well kept graves of so many, many Diggers.

By a singular coincidence Geoff was left two short staff-wise the very next day and to hop in and help out was in itself a reciprocal pleasure followed later by a visit to the "local" where the mainland amber fluid proved most acceptable!

From ports of call to Rabaul and return proved a memorable experience particularly in regard to the good fellowship extended by the Island Radio Service personnel...a holiday like that is really something to remember.

SAFE BOATING

An article some time ago in the Financial Review on safety for ships contained the following story on the late Bill Watson and his activities during Hobart yacht races.

"Many veteran Hobart yachtsmen will remember Bill Watson, the Coast Radio Service operator at Hobart, who stayed on the air to assist small-craft crews in trouble in Tasmanian waters.

Nothing was too much trouble for Bill Watson and at the height of a Bass Strait gale nothing was more reassuring than to hear him come on the air to give the weather and take the daily calls. He would persist, despite heavy static, until he established contact with vessels to obtain their positions and make sure that they were not in difficulty."

SOME CABLE NOSTALGIA (Contributed by Philip Geeves)

Who among the Cable Veterans remembers "Brooky" - E. G. Brooke, who joined the Eastern Extension Company in Tasmania in 1885? In April 1945 Mr. Brooke completed 60 years of service in communications and was tendered a complimentary dinner in Melbourne. Here is the text of the specially written verse - "When Brooklyn Joined The Eastern" - which was a highlight of that 1945 dinner.

When Brooky Joined The Eastern

Heads that were brown and golden
 Are silver now and gray;
 The Bells of Time are ringing
 A different tune today;
 But one thing has not faded,
 And that is friendship's glow,
 Since Brooky joined the Eastern
 In the days of long ago.

When Brooky joined the Eastern,
 There were whiskers everywhere,
 And Macassar's oily perfume
 Left its trace upon the chair;
 There were grandpapas at forty
 In the good old-fashioned way,
 When Brooky joined the Eastern-
 But he's up-to-date today.

With all his modern knowledge
 There is something in him still
 That he has carried with him
 From the bottom of the hill;
 A courtesy and flavor
 That today we hardly know,
 From when he joined the Eastern
 In the days of long ago.

He has watched the march of science
 That has changed the face of earth,
 Of strange new things and dreadful things
 Has Brooky seen the birth.
 Through many changing values
 Humanity has ranged,
 But simple Faith and Honor
 Are the gold that has not changed.

Then drink a toast to Brooky,
 And drink it bottoms up;
 Drain every drop of friendship
 That sparkles in the cup.
 The Service found a comrade
 That all might hope to know,
 When Brooky joined the Eastern
 In the days of long ago.

THINGS HAVE CHANGED A BIT (by Ponto)

Having taken up permanent residence in Queensland our first duty was to apply for a telephone. A reply came back that an installation fee of \$120 had to be paid before it would be considered. This turned my thoughts back to the year 1910. At that time the P.O. wasn't doing so well so the Postmaster General asked me to join the service! After due consideration, I decided to join up and did so as a telegraph messenger, in a remote western Tasmanian town, on a salary of one dollar a week. 1911 showed even a greater loss!

At that time there was no installation charge for a phone service,

and the annual rental was \$6. A telegram to anywhere in Tasmania was 9 cents for 16 words, 12 cents to anywhere in Australia and later rose to 16 cents. To register an article from a letter to an 11lb parcel was an extra charge of 3 cents. Today that charge is \$3 - just a hundred times more. If a fault occurred in a telephone line anywhere within three miles of the Post Office a linesman was expected to walk carrying his ladder and if over three miles he could hire a horse and trap. A knot hole in the floor of the public counter was capable of receiving 3d, 6d and 1/- coins. If a 3d coin went down the hole there was consternation but if a 1/- went down there was a call for a national disaster to be proclaimed. The P.M. refused point blank to have a portion of the flooring removed but about 40 years after erection, the floor had to be renewed and by the time the workman had removed two boards I was under and scooped the pinnacle of dirt that had almost reached the floor boards into a kerosene tin. I netted 17/6d from this effort - nearly 2 weeks salary! As I said things have changed and I wonder if the pendulum hasn't swung too far?

THE COASTAL RADIO STATION THAT ALMOST NEVER WAS (by G. T. (Tom) Hughes)

If my memory serves, it was Hamilton B. Wolfe who told me about the coastal radio station that received only one paid telegram during its existence - and mucked it up. Maybe I'm wrong; it could have been Charlie Lemmon, but I think it was Wolfie. Since both these old timers are now dead I had better tell the story before it is lost forever.

It appears that, about 1913, a coastal radio station, call-sign VIZ, was established at Roebourne between Geraldton and Broome to ensure continuous availability of communications along the W.A. coast between ship and shore.

I was at Geraldton in 1941 when Wolfie told Fred ("Daddy") Christmas and me the story of frustration at Roebourne when the few ships on the coast ignored the station's existence. Apart from routine broadcasts, there was little to do beyond charging the batteries and polishing the brass.

Late one afternoon, the operator at Roebourne (Wolfie wouldn't admit it was himself) heard a ship calling Darwin with no response from VID. When repeated calls to VID had not achieved results, the operator sensed an opportunity to handle a paid message and started up the Fordson engine to power his transmitter, called the ship, gave his own call sign and said "QSP VID". ("I will relay your message to VID without additional charge"). He then hastened to shut down the Fordson engine because, in addition to the mechanical noise it created, the generators caused fierce QRM (electrical noise) in the receiver. As the engine slowed, the noise receded and through it he could just hear the ship reach the preamble of its message and he took it down. It was a telegram from a cattle buyer on a Portuguese ship travelling from Timor to Darwin asking to be telegraphed supply and price details in the Darwin saleyards. The operator was confident he had received the message correctly and, cranking the Fordson again, told the ship "R1" (I have received one message) and again turned off the ignition. Through the receding noise he heard the reply "TKS VM CL NW GN" (Thanks very much, closing now, goodnight).

Now, lack of practice had drawn our operator into his first serious error. He had not counted the words before giving "R1" and, when he did, he found that there was one less word in the message than the preamble indicated. He hastily called the ship, but to no avail.

He had to do something and he was absolutely confident he had received the message correctly; so confident that he committed the cardinal sin. He altered the number of words in the preamble and sent the message on to Darwin.

Unable to contact the ship again, nothing further was heard for about a month when a blast came from Head Office. It seemed that the ship was bound for Darwin and the sender did not receive a reply to his telegram. In due course he visited the premises of the addressee and berated the latter for his lack of courtesy and business acumen in not replying to his reply paid telegram. Cattle dealers in my experience have a varied, colourful and richly-ornamented vocabulary and it is a pity the addressee's remarks have not been handed down to us but, in short, he produced the offending telegram on which there was no mention of "reply paid". The sender promptly referred back to the ship's wireless officer who, in defence, pointed out that not only had "reply paid" been sent, but the number of words had been changed. Ah, Woe!

At this stage "Daddy" Christmas injected his famous philosophy; "It's like I always said; if you never do any work, you never make any mistakes and you never get into any trouble". Fortunately, there weren't many in CRS who followed Daddy's dictum.

Be that as it may, VIZ did not ever again handle a paid telegram. The First World War intervened and, after that, the powers that be, reviewing their good works in setting up the coastal radio network, decided that VIZ could be done without and the station was closed down. (Or so Wolfie said.)

I wonder can anyone vouch for this story? What happened to the station building? If it was as solid as the other radio stations, it would still be there. And was Hamilton B. Wolfe among the staff of that ill-fated station, or was it Charlie Lemmon?

SENIOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Your Editor recently had the honour of being a judge for the Senior Citizen of the Year in NSW. The group judged were the the semi-finalists of the country group. It was most interesting talking to these people and hearing about their activities. It is known that some of our Veterans also have extensive community and other interests and these are at the moment the subject of the series in Transit. There is no doubt that some of you would be worthy entrants in the Senior Citizen of the Year contest and they could be sponsored by the Veterans' Association. Members who would like to be considered for nomination should send details of their activities etc. to Gordon Cupit, OTC, Box 7000 G.P.O., Sydney.

RETIREMENT SEMINAR

Bryan Nell, Welfare Officer of OTC, is conducting a retirement seminar for the Kings Cross Community Aid and Information Service and in conjunction with the NSW Council of the Ageing. The seminar will be held in Potts Point on the nights of Wednesday, October 24 and Wednesday, October 31 commencing at 6.30 pm. The cost to attend these seminars is \$5 and any member interested could contact Bryan, telephone 230 5542.

FIRST WORLD WAR

Ted Bishton has in his possession a book called "With Horse and Morse in Mesopotamia". It is a history of the Anzacs in Asia taking in the 1st Australian Pack Wireless Signal Troop, the New Zealand Wireless Signal Troop, the 1st Australian and New Zealand Wireless Signal Squadron, the 1st Cavalry Divisional Signal Squadron and the Light Motor Wireless Sections.

Ted served in the 1st Australian Pack Wireless Signal Troop and the book reveals that the troop consisted of one officer and 54 other ranks comprising of 30 operators and mechanics and 24 drivers. NSW and Victoria each supplied half the ranks. The NSW operators were 14 volunteers from the Marconi School Sydney and the Victorians from the Signal Depot at Broadmeadows. The drivers came from the Army Service Corps and Artillery School respectively.

They embarked on the "SS Saldanhr" on February 5 1916 for Colombo. From here they were trans-shipped to Bombay where they remained in barracks for 10 days and then went on to the Persian Gulf.

Arrival in the Gulf met the usual rounds of drawing equipment, rations etc, and finally on the 1st April of that year they were handed over 74 specially picked Australian horses. Unfortunately most of these were unbroken. The Remount Depot realised that the fortunate arrival of a "gang of Australian bushmen" had given them the opportunity of getting rid of some of their very rough horses. Most were so wild it was impossible even to place a nose bag on them. This was the turning point in the careers of these troops who up till now had believed themselves a distinguished technical unit but now very disillusioned they found themselves horse breakers, horse trainers, stable hands, jockeys and grooms. Those who had poor vocabularies at the beginning improved to no end particularly during the daily task of taking the horses to water through the best mud Mesopotamia could produce.

Those that were not expert horsemen were placed under instructors from the 13th Hussars out on the desert and these gentlemen did not care whether the trooper was bucked off every few minutes or not. Rifle drill, particularly removing the rifle from the bucket strapped to the horse, in the proper manner over the horse's neck caused them to take fright and bolt.

After training it was decided that each wireless station would comprise 7 operators and 6 drivers all to be mounted resulting in a total of 13 other ranks and 18 horses. The stations were divided amongst different fighting battalions around the Gulf country where they operated magnificently under the most trying conditions of heatwave during the day and freezing at night. They also had to put up with such problems as Malaria, Smallpox, Cholera, Dysentary and Typhoid.

There was special mention in the book of the troop that Ted Bishton was a member and one of their first jobs was a 140 mile trek with the 42nd Infantry Brigade. The trek took 6 days and their troop was increased by 2 horses and 18 mules for baggage. With the heat and sand of the desert the troop had a pretty heavy task which was quite trying for the horses, but the infantry troops had a terrible time carrying their own packs under the boiling sun. As a result a lot of the horses and mules carried rifles etc, for the infantrymen. Half way through the trek the mules were replaced by camels and 750 camels were provided for the pack wireless and the infantry. They made a magnificent sight travelling across the desert. Ambulance waggons also accompanied the troops each being drawn by 2 bullocks. Due to the number of sick and exhausted the ambulances were placed at the front of the column to ensure the troops kept going. Ambulances

and transport carts were quite often up to their axles in the sand and this did not help things.

The Pack Wireless Troops were an instant success in the desert and gained such proficiency that at the end of a trek they could have their station assembled and operating within three minutes. It was due to their success that the High Command realised to what extent a larger signal body could accomplish in a wider field of endeavour and this resulted in the formation of Signal Squadrons.

Another part of the book tells a story of a Signal Squadron listening on the air by way of practice for their operators and they began copying enemy messages. After a while they managed to get down with accuracy the mixed figure and letter groups which were sent at high speed and these the Officer-in-Charge forwarded with the various batches of traffic to Signals Headquarters who were somewhat nonplussed on their receipt. There was some delay in this information reaching the General who was rather annoyed when he had not been informed earlier and he immediately asked the War Office for a deciphering expert. Within 23 hours the expert had mastered the secret of the first code and information received in this way proved very valuable and confirmed intelligence being sent by spies. It was decided to extend this special work and two stations were set up staffed with the best operators. These stations ran for two years. Russian traffic was also quite important and the operators were required to become familiar with a new morse code covering the thirty odd letters of the Russian alphabet. As a side-line they also copied press from Basra, Bombay, Malta, the Eiffel Tower and Berlin.

Anyone wishing more information on the activities of the Pack Wireless should contact Ted Bishton.

LEISURE TIME UNLIMITED (Talk given by S.A. President Brax Horrocks to a recent meeting of Rostrum in Adelaide)

If you have tears prepare to shed them now. I have a season ticket at the local Crematorium to attend the funerals of so many of my contemporaries who, having retired at the age of about 65, have said "Hurrah, no more work, now only play, leisure time unlimited".

There is an expression "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy": I suggest that equally true is "All play and no work is fatal". I am convinced that if, after a lifetime of labours, one suddenly ceases to work, ceases to use his brains, he will die within a very few years, it is not enough to be active only physically.

If we think that after retirement leisure time is unlimited, then we delude ourselves regarding the "Unlimited" part of the expression, for it must be qualified in so many ways, especially as by that time so many have lost the zest of living, or have commitments, such as a sick wife, which makes it quite impossible to enjoy leisure time, so it could be a vain hope to think that one can leave most of the enjoyment of leisure until retirement, so often by then one suffers from some ailment which restricts his activities and therefore his ability to enjoy life - one can't enjoy surfing or skiing if he has sciatica or osteo-arthritis, nor is it much fun going on a world tour if he is confined to a wheel-chair, even going sight seeing or bird-watching of any kind is without joy if his eyes are failing.

Let's face it, it is exceptional for anyone over the age of say 70 not to have ailments, exceptional indeed to even live that long. The average life expectancy of us males is something like 67, unfortunately too, not many just pass away, so often they spend protracted years in and out of hospital, and

there's not much fun in that - leisure time unlimited it may be, but they would be far far better without it.

One fairly certain way of ensuring that you will not be able to enjoy life after retirement is to be a heavy smoker, especially of cigarettes. During the past several years I have seen many of my contemporaries, who were addicted to tobacco, suffer from respiratory troubles such as emphysema, that I feel I have almost an obligation to warn you, those of you who are still smoking, that you are sowing seeds which will grow and grow and eventually choke you. I have at this time three good friends of about my age who are so restricted in their breathing, so pathetically short of breath, that they would find it quite impossible to walk up even one short flight of steps in a city building. Another friend, a year or so younger, is dying of cancer of the lung, he had given up smoking ten years ago, but it was too late.

That is why I say to you "If you have tears shed them NOW. So much better to weep today as you suffer the agonies of giving up smoking than to suffer so much more and for so much longer in years to come when you can do nothing about it.

We are inclined to overlook the fact that we have but one pathetically short span on this our tiny spec of universal dust, this is particularly so when one is young, for time is like money, the more you have, the less you value it. It is only when you realize that you are running out of either commodity that you commence to regret how much has been squandered.

I urge you, more, I entreat you, not to wait until you reach the end of the "Time" rainbow, that perhaps mythical age of retirement, but try to fill each PRESENT day, each PRESENT hour, each PRESENT fleeting, precious, unforgiving minute with a full sixty seconds worth of distance run.

BUDDING FILM STAR

NSW President Philip Geeves who is a historian in his own right is one of the stars of a pilot film on Australian history now being edited for TV. The film is being made by Sydney electronics millionaire Dick Smith and the present cast is Mr. & Mrs. Smith, their 2 young daughters Hayley 7 and Jenny 5, and Philip Geeves.

The film is a new concept in Australian TV being a family show for adults and children, with no violence, no smut, some magnificent camera work, quite a lot of history and many laughs. Philip appears in the film as an on-camera researcher. The pilot film is based on the landing of Captain Cook at Botany Bay and Philip who is well known as one of Australia's most authoritative historians answers a multitude of questions about Captain Cook. It is hoped that the pilot will be successful and if so will be followed by a regular series.

CORRIGENDUM

Apologies to Orme Cooper in that we omitted a couple of important facets of his life in the last issue of the Newsletter under the heading of "To Pasture". To put the record right Orme began his career initially as a Beam Messenger Boy. The other important omission was that he was selected to go overseas to train in preparation for the COMPAC system. He was responsible for and ably conducted the initial training of practically all OTC personnel involved with that system. Sorry Orme.

AMELIA EARHART

An American lady visiting Sydney has made enquiries about Lae and Nauru to fill in some blanks on the story of the disappearance of that well known and famous aviatrix Amelia Earhart. She is interested in hearing from anyone serving at those stations at the time. She is particularly interested in entries they have received on Nauru working to Amelia on 3105Kc and 6210Kc. Questions asked were the transmission on W/T or R/T. She is also enquiring about an 18-36 metre transmitter numbered 11NT23B. The lady is Mrs. K. Brick whose address is 622 Golden Road, Fallbrook, California, 92028, U.S.A. Those with information could contact her direct or through Gordon Cupit.

SPECIAL THANKS

Charles Carthew wishes to send thanks to all his colleagues and friends who inquired after him and sent best wishes during his recent and very dangerous illness.

HISTORICAL DONATIONS

So far historical material and photographs for the historical records and museum have been received from Philip Geeves, Claude Dalley, Rocky Gordon, Ted Bishton, Ted O'Donnell, Jack Burgess, Brax Horrocks, Norm Giles, Cliff Birks, Peter Phillips, Alan Vagg, Len Vella, Jack Coulson and for equipment Ted O'Donnell and Philip Geeves.

COCOS ISLAND - WAR YEARS

Brax Horrocks has submitted the following story on Cocos Island which was written by the late Harold Baker.

"I received instructions to proceed to Cocos Island, as Manager, early in 1943, almost exactly a year after the last cheerful message had been received from our Singapore and Batavia Staffs before the great silence started. The tide of Japanese aggression had ceased to flow strongly but it was still on the full and the ebb was merely a hope.

After the occupation of Java it was generally supposed that the Japanese would carry on with their Southern drive and take over the last remnants of Britain's Far Eastern possessions, Christmas and Cocos Islands, which had formed isolated parts of the Straits Settlements, governed from Singapore. Christmas Island was quickly taken over, valued by the Japanese no doubt, for its rich phosphate deposits. There was no surprise when it was known, in March 1942, that the Cocos Cable Station had been shelled by the enemy. Miraculously, the only gear damaged was that which was already lying idle owing to the capture of Batavia, and no lives were lost. However, it was felt that no good purpose could be served by risking the safety of a Staff larger than that required for the bare maintenance of the main cable route between Australia and the Middle East and Africa, so, shortly after the shelling, a partial evacuation was ordered. A skeleton Staff remained - 4 Europeans, 5 Chinese servants and 6 Singapore/Malay handymen.

Those left behind were not able to face the future with great confidence.

No more than 500 miles from Japanese occupied territory, they were also about 1500 miles from the nearest Allied countries, Ceylon on one side and Australia on the other, at a time when both these countries were too concerned about their own security to be able to prevent the Japanese making a landing at Cocos at almost any time they chose. The Islands' sole defence was a pair of ancient 6-inch guns, manned by a handful of untried Ceylon troops.

These conditions remained unchanged for some few months, until, towards the end of the year, two things became evident. The first was that the Station could not be run indefinitely on a "skeleton" basis and the second was that the Japanese were in no immediate hurry to take over the Islands. It was decided to take a confident long-term view and the European Staff was increased by three, bringing it to a total of seven.

Just before Xmas of that year the enemy again started to take an interest in the place. Reconnaissance aircraft flew over from time to time and on one occasion three enemy planes dropped nine bombs across the Island, damaging some of the buildings and water tanks, but hitting nothing of great importance. A more disturbing feature was the appearance of enemy aircraft just before or just after the arrival of the relief ship. The Japs seemed to be aware of the proximity of the ship but their Intelligence could not have been very precise. The bombing raid in December was a few days too early and a later reconnaissance raid again just missed finding the ship in the lagoon. It was at this stage that I received my orders for Cocos and my slightly pessimistic attitude in selling up my bicycle and my radio set and other small possessions before leaving Colombo might be understood.

One of the many duties carried out by the Manager of Cable and Wireless Limited at Cocos Island was that of Naval Reporting Officer. Shortly after my appointment was decided, I was sent for by the Naval Authorities in Colombo, to be initiated into certain naval mysteries. After two sessions I was able to win faint praise from the very superior lady who was my instructress, so I felt that I had achieved something.

The Authorities at this time were most anxious to hide from the enemy any indications that Cocos was occupied or used in any way except by the native inhabitants. It was particularly desired to keep secret the fact that Cable & Wireless Limited were still functioning there and that a supply and relief ship was periodically being sent from Colombo. Our ability to carry on at Cocos entirely depended on whether the Navy could keep us supplied with stores and equipment, food and fuel. The problem of supply was no easy one. Fifteen hundred miles from Ceylon, in enemy controlled waters, there was a native community of about 1400 people, a garrison of about 150 Indian troops and English officers, and Cable & Wireless staff, to be fed and maintained in stores and equipment. Nothing but a fighting ship could be used for the job, but not many fighting ships are suitable for carrying passengers and cargo. The inevitable compromise was found - a small Escort Vessel which in peace time had been on an Indian coastal run. She could do 14 knots, carried Asdic and depth charges, a 4.7 inch gun and a few Lewis guns. Certainly nothing formidable about her - she would be able to fight it out perhaps, with a submarine, but she would stand little chance with any enemy surface craft - if she met with one, it was just too bad. But she did have cargo carrying capacity and limited accommodation, so from the point of view of a supply vessel, nothing could have been better.".....(To be continued next issue of the Newsletter)