



Newsletter

Vol. 4 PT 1 PAGE 125 - APRIL 1990

MEETINGS AND REUNIONS

VICTORIA

AGM - Friday 11th May, 1990
12Noon - 3.00pm

OTC office 3rd Floor
382 Lonsdale Street
Melbourne

Reunion - Friday 9th November, 1990
5pm - 9pm

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NEW SOUTH WALES

AGM - Friday 18th May, 1990
12Noon - 3pm

Conference Centre
15th Floor OTC House
231 Elizabeth
Street Sydney

Reunion - Friday 30th November, 1990
12Noon - 3pm

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QUEENSLAND

AGM - Tuesday 15th May, 1990
12Noon - 3pm

OTC office 12 Creek
Street Brisbane

Reunion - Tuesday 13th November, 1990
12Noon - 3pm

Maritime Comms. Stn
Caboolture

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

AGM - Thursday 24th May, 1990
12Noon - 3pm

Maritime Comms. Stn
McLaren Vale

Reunion - Thursday 22nd November, 1990
12.30pm - 3pm

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WESTERN AUSTRALIA

AGM - Tuesday 27th November, 1990
12.30pm - 3pm

OTC office
26 St. George's
Terrace
PERTH

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

VETERANS' ASSOCIATION - MEMBERSHIP. (A message from the NSW President).

Over the last couple of years there has been a great deal of representation and discussion on the lowering of the standard for membership of the Veterans Association. The Veterans' Association was formed in 1956 by a small group of Operating and Technical staffs who had service not only with the infant O.T.C., but with A.W.A, Cable and Wireless, Overseas Telecommunications Organisations and the Armed Services. At that time it was determined that membership be limited to those who had at least 25 years service in international communications. As males normally retired at 65 years and females 60 years, it was decided that female membership be for 20 years service. The Veterans has been a unique organisation and over the years the requirement of 25 years for membership has been jealously guarded, and persons with 23 years service, for example, on retirement have been very disappointed in not making the grade.

It has now been rightly argued, that the old saying "from messenger boy or filing clerk to General Manager" is a thing of the past, and with the present day Corporate methods and bringing in people at all levels does away with the old career type thinking of a lifetime in one organisation. Thus many with 20 years or more service miss out on the opportunity to come to our functions, and consider it unfair, and time for us to reconsider under the present day conditions. Also, with the present equal opportunities and non-discrimination of the present laws, it is unfair that females only require the 20 years service.

I am loath to recommend that we reduce our standards, but see that there is a point to the argument. If we do not make changes it will finish up with Veterans dying out and the organisation finally coming to a slow demise, as is the case in New Zealand. I have discussed the situation with a number of our members and the following suggestions have been forthcoming.

- (a) That retirement time be included in service so that on reaching 25 years of service, including retirement, that a person be accepted.
This unfortunately, results in a loss of interest in the intervening years.
- (b) Lower the eligibility to 20 years service, at retirement.
- (c) Lower the eligibility to 20 years service overall.(i.e. do not have to retire to join).
- (d) Accept Associate Membership after 15 years service, and full membership at 25 years.
- (e) That an O.T.C. Retired Officers' Association be formed and that they meet in conjunction with the Veterans. (It should be pointed out that in the case of the N.S.W. Association our Secretary has great difficulty in carrying out his duties, as he has a high pressure job in O.T.C., and one could not expect him to take any extra load). Therefore, if a Retired Officers' Association was formed, it would need to have its own Executive and Committee, and assist in arranging the functions. Dual membership of some of the committee would be ideal.

Two other notice of motions have been received from (a) Wilf Atkin, who is the sole surviving member of the original committee, which drew up the Constitution unanimously believing that you could not be classed a "Veteran" until you had 25 years in overseas telecommunications, and (b) from Jack Hansson as follows

(a) This motion will be put forward at our next A.G.M. I am only too happy to second your counter motion, and speak to it at this meeting and hopefully gain support to defeat (1) 20 instead of 25 years, (2) forming a Retired Officers Club to meet with us and (3) allow Honorary Membership to those with 20 years service without voting rights, which would also legalise the move made by the Victorian Branch some years ago!

(b) The following motion has been cleared with my seconder, Edgar Harcourt, and Graham Goswinkler of Aussat.

" An O.T.C. Veteran is any person who

(a) is Currently employed by OTC or one of its subsidiaries and has been in employment for at least 25 years.

(b) has retired from OTC and 25 years at least have elapsed since the date of their commencement with OTC.

(c) whilst in the employ of OTC transferred to Aussat then (a) will apply"

Explanation: The wording is intended to exclude employees who resign from the Company as the loyalty of such persons should transfer to the business of their new employer.

It also brings in such persons as Athol Brown as full members and not treat them as less mortals. Mover is Jack Hansson.

It is intended to discuss the subject at our next Annual General Meeting, and would like to submit the various proposals as a notice of motion for all States to consider at their next meetings. Any alternative suggestions and/or views of members would be greatly appreciated.

VALE JACK LEE

It is with regret that we report the loss of Jack Lee, a most humorous and talented bloke. Jack passed away on 4th March, 1990 and had a private funeral on the 7th March. To his wife and family go our heartfelt sympathy.

Jack was born on 30th October, 1903.

In June 1919 he joined the Eastern Extension Australasia and China Telegraph Company.

From 1919 to 1939 he was employed in the Sydney office as an operator (telegraphist).

From 1940 to 1942 he was stationed at Cottesloe, Western Australia, as Watchkeeper.

From 1943 to 1947 he served in the same capacity in Suva. It was during the years 1956 to 1968 that he peaked in his career when he went from Traffic Officer, Supervisor, Assistant Traffic Superintendent, Traffic Superintendent, and finally Operations Superintendent over that period.

He served in the Eastern Extension A. & C. Co, Imperial and International Communications, Cable and Wireless and O.T.C. from its foundation.

As he was in his working life, he displayed a vitality and sense of humour at our Sydney Veterans' meetings and he will be sadly missed by his many friends. Farewell, John.

GIVING CREDIT WHERE IT IS DUE.

The editor of NEWSLETTER wishes to acknowledge those who have submitted articles or information re other Veterans. They are

GORDON CUPIT	MRS. PHYLLIS COWIE	GEOFF COX	MRS. GRACE MORRIS
JOHN NORRIS	KATHY JONES	JIM BANKS	WILF ATKIN
CHARLES SWINNEY	D.B. WALKER	MRS. VALDA BROWN	MRS. HILDA DOUBLEDAY
HARRY STONE	RALPH SHARMAN	A.W.A. "RADIOGRAM".	

REMEMBER -- We are always in need of copy. I know that there are a lot of good stories out there because a lot of Veterans have given me sketchy outlines of happenings but haven't provided the essential details.

CALLING MICK WOOD.....When am I going to get your story about "The Last Train from Fanning Island"?

FAREWELL W.N. (JOCK) COWIE.

Upon his retirement from O.T.C. "Jock" and his wife, Phyllis, took up permanent residence in Tumut, slap bang in the heart of the Snowy River country. It appears that he must have made some impact down there, also, because this tribute to his passing was printed in the local Tumut paper.

"On a more sombre note, the passing of Bill Cowie last Friday week (September 29th 1989) has left the fisherman's world in our region with a tremendous loss.

Bill, or "Jock" to his Scottish friends, was a thorough gentleman, a true and sincere friend and a most dedicated individual as we found during his activity and involvement with the Tumut Acclimatisation Society from 1978 onwards.

Bill was there throughout the duration of the stocking of Blowring and it was his close liaison with the Minister Jack Hallam that greatly assisted the fishing fund group to achieve what they did.

Bill would correspond directly with Mr. Hallam, keeping him informed of what was going on here. His pet catchcry during those early years was "We want more fish".

He will be sorely missed. Sympathy is extended to his dear wife, Phyllis, at this very sad time.

Compiled by the Man from Tumut River."

Jock was one of the Veterans who was not frightened to leave an historic record of his service.

Born on 1st July, 1908 he joined Marconi in July 1926, becoming a Marine Operator with Marconi International Marine on July 26th 1938. This was deep sea service and involved service on all types of ships, from tramps to passenger liners.. During the period 1937/38 he installed radio equipment, power amplifier systems, talkies etc. on the M.V. DUNTROON when it was being built in Swan Hunters yard.. In fact, he came out to Australia on the DUNTROON and was retained in the Marine Section of A.W.A. on the Australian coast freighters. After twelve months or so he was transferred to Island Coastal Service and served at Suva Radio.

In 1939 he joined the Aeradio Service with the then Civil Aviation Board, and remained with D.C.A. until his retirement. Served at a variety of postings with the Department of Civil Aviation throughout the Commonwealth.

On 19th March, 1975, Jock was given an Honorary Life Membership in the Professional Radio employees Institute of Australasia.

Perhaps his biggest distinction was when he was appointed as Deputy Commissioner for the Western Pacific with Jurisdiction within the district of Christmas Island in the Gilbert and Ellice Islands colony.

Copies of these papers and his experiences in Christmas Island have been supplied by his wife, Phyllis, and appear in this copy of NEWSLETTER.

We are grateful for her permission to reproduce them.

WESTERN PACIFIC HIGH COMMISSION.
CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Name of Officer:	William Newell Cowie.
Position Held:	Acting Administrative and Wireless officer, Christmas Island. (Temporary appointment)
Period of Service:	From 16th July, 1937, to 6th July, 1938.
Cause of termination of Engagement:	Completion of Agreement.
Efficiency as a Radio Operator:	Satisfactory.
General conduct:	Satisfactory

Signed by the Secretary, Western Pacific
High Commission.

Suva, Fiji
5th August, 1938.

HIGH COMMISSIONER

By his Excellency SIR ARTHUR FREDERICK RICHARDS, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, His Britannic Majesty's High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

To: WILLIAM NEWELL COWIE, Esquire:

GREETING

In the name and on behalf of His Majesty the King and by virtue of the power and authority in me vested by His Most Excellent Majesty I do hereby, be this my Commission under my hand and the official seal of His Britannic Majesty's High Commissioner for the Western Pacific, appoint you, the said WILLIAM NEWELL COWIE, to be a Deputy Commissioner for the Western Pacific with jurisdiction within the district of Christmas Island in the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony in accordance with the provisions of the Pacific Order in Council 1893 for so long as you shall act as an Administrative Officer in the said Christmas Island.

Given at Suva in the Colony of Fiji this 2nd day of September, 1937, in the first year of His Majesty's Reign.
By Command,

Signed by the Secretary to the Western Pacific High Commission.

CHRISTMAS ISLAND
BY
W. N. (JOCK) COWIE

A series of confidential interviews and discussions between executive Officers of the Western Pacific High Commission, in Suva, and myself, in June 1937, were the preliminaries to twelve months service as Acting Administrative Officer at Christmas Island, in the Gilbert and Ellice Group, which is now the site for Britain's Hydrogen Bomb Test.

After passing a medical examination, I was advised that I was to proceed to Honolulu on R.M.S. "Niagara", where I would be joining H.M.S. "Achilles" to be transported to my destination, along with a complete radio station which I was to instal, and in turn, use to maintain regular contact with headquarters in Suva.

Perhaps the most difficult part of the assignment was the drawing up of a list of provisions, to keep me going for twelve months. It was all the more difficult because of the secrecy imposed on my impending departure.

It was also made clear that I had to be prepared to rough it, and to living by myself for the duration of my stay there. Although there were Tahitian natives, and a plantation manager on the island, no-one spoke English.

The secrecy on my movements was imposed on account of the rivalry between Great Britain and the United States regarding the use and ownership of such atolls, for the then forthcoming trans-Pacific air services.

In due course, all stores were ordered, and I set sail for Honolulu where the now famous New Zealand cruiser was waiting for me.

The trip on a ship of the calibre of the "Achilles" was an experience in itself. The accommodation provided was extremely comfortable, and the hospitality just could not be faulted.

Shortly after leaving Honolulu, we anchored off the spot where Captain Cook is buried, and a landing party went ashore, and generally tidied up the site.

From there we proceeded to Fanning Island, where we stopped long enough to be entertained by the Administrator and the cable station Manager and his staff. Although a comparatively small island, the accommodation and amenities provided were very good indeed. In addition to the cable station there is a reasonably extensive coconut plantation, which is operated by a private company.

During the few hours we were there, the plantation Manager produced a coconut crab, and to demonstrate the power of its claws, placed the neck of an empty beer bottle between them, - which it promptly crushed. Such crabs, which are reputed to make excellent eating, are a constant source of worry to plantations, because of their destructiveness. Appreciably larger than an ordinary crab, they climb up the coconut trees, nip off the green nuts, which fall to the ground, and then climb down and consume them.

We left Fanning one afternoon, and were anchored off Christmas Island by breakfast time the next morning. The intervening distance is only about two hundred miles.

After meeting the plantation Manager, and preliminary introductions were completed, I proceeded ashore to have a look at my new abode, and from the start, was agreeably surprised.

The house which I was to occupy, and which had been in disuse for some time, was only a few feet from the water's edge, on the northern shore of the lagoon, and whilst void of furniture, had distinct possibilities about it. It was sheltered by coconut palms and pandanus trees, thus keeping it nice and cool.

The "Achilles" stayed three days to assist me with settling in, and in the interim, quite a few of the crew availed themselves of the excellent fishing.

Seeing the "Achilles" disappear over the horizon emphasised the fact that I was on my own, and for a short period at least, I was not exactly happy about it. Fortunately, there was plenty of work ahead of me, with the result all such worries were soon forgotten.

At the time of my arrival, it was nesting season for myriads of sooty terns. The bird life on the island presented an unforgettable spectacle. At the areas where the birds nested, the air was literally black with them, and it was impossible for anyone to be heard above the noise of their screeches. On the ground, one could not traverse the area without treading on eggs, and after hatching, the ground was covered with a moving fluffy mass of chicks.

Contrary to general belief, these eggs made excellent eating, and did not have a strong flavour. On first acquaintance, the red yolks made one dubious. However, experience soon revealed that eggs with normal yellow yolks were the "fishy" ones, and had to be avoided.

Other birds which frequented the island were, Gannets, Bosun Birds and Frigate Birds. The latter were the hawks of the community. Although their main diet was fish, they rarely caught their own, but preferred to hover over a flock of birds, and when they saw one with an appetising catch, would swoop down on it, force it to release the fish, or disgorge it, and then, in turn, catch it in the air. During the nesting seasons, they would augment their diet with an occasional sooty tern chick.

The waters in and around the island were something that fishermen normally dream about. They abounded with quite a variety of types, thus always ensuring excellent sport. In addition, the reefs provided an almost unlimited supply of crayfish, so that apart from the stores I had in my larder, there was always a good variety of local foodstuffs available.

The eastern side of the island, which is curved to form a bay, is aptly named, the Bay of Wrecks. The island lies in the track of a permanent westerly stream, either part of, or similar to that used by the Kontiki expedition, and the result is, the eastern shores are, and have been highly dangerous to shipping. There are numerous wrecks dotted all along its shores. Two of the most vivid examples, are the ss "Aeon", which was carrying a cargo of lumber from Vancouver to Sydney, and the remains of what is alleged to be a galleon. In the former instance, the ship slipped off the reef, and sunk in deep water, but its cargo was washed ashore. About a quarter of a mile of the beach at this spot, is piled up to ten feet high with all sizes and types of dressed and undressed timber. When I was there, some was still in a remarkable state of preservation. As regards the galleon, part of the wooden frame lay on the beach, and one mast was quite well preserved. Legend has it that there is a buried treasure somewhere on the island, but so far as I know, no-one has made any attempt to locate it.

The actual coconut plantations themselves are very extensive. It is estimated that there are some 600,000 trees, but even so, this represents about one third of the land area of the island.

Several inland lakes are dotted around the island, - some are tidal, and some are not. One, named the Oasis, located in the southeast corner, provided a most unusual phenomena, in-as-much that although it was non tidal it teemed with a specie of fish, not unlike a mullet. To give an idea of the super abundance of fish at this spot; the first time I went there, the natives who were with me made a rough net out of palm fronds. It would not have been more than forty feet in length. They pinned one end on the beach, at the water's edge waded out with the other end, and then came back to the beach with it, leaving a small semi-circle. Catching the fish with our hands, we filled three sacks in one scoop.

Apart from the fact that I was never short of work to do, thanks to my bull terrier companion, the plantation Manager and his wife, and the wonderful co-operation of various Radio "Hams", who acted as a medium to maintain personal contacts, I never suffered from boredom throughout my sojourn on the island.

In the first instance, my dog was my inseparable companion, and whilst dumb, in-as-much that he could not speak, proved him-self to be truly understanding, and a never ending source of amusement.

The plantation Manager and his wife were Czechoslovaks, and although he spoke seven languages, and his wife, at least three, English was not one of them. Prior to coming to the Pacific, Mr Jerabeck had had a rather colourful career, and was quite widely travelled, with the result we spent countless very interesting hours exchanging reminiscences. On Sundays we developed the habit of exchanging visits. I had the mid-day meal with them, and late in the afternoon, they came and had drinks and savouries or the like with me. At all times, our conversations were conducted in German, unless we were in the presence of natives, when French would be used. In this regard, I must confess that I had to rely on Mr Jerabeck's assistance when the French conversation became too involved, because he would then interpret into German for me.

Although my radio equipment was primarily for maintaining contact with Headquarters, I was given a free hand to use it as I desired, with the result I was able to keep almost nightly skeds with "Hams", both in Suva and Ocean Island, who looked after my personal contacts. In addition, I used to yarn with the radio staff on the "Niagara" from time to time, as she plied to and fro across the Pacific. I also used to exchange notes with the boys on Canton Island, who were doing a similar job as myself.

Some two months after I arrived there, I had a visit from an American Coastguard ship, which had several high American officials on board. Although the ship stayed less than a day, the visit was most cordial, and I was entertained on board almost lavishly, - even to the extent of a movie show. This same ship subsequently called at Canton Island where the visit was of a much more official nature. Although there was already a Resident British Officer there, they landed a party there to claim the island on behalf of the United States, and from that day to this, the island has been administered by a condominium.

Three trading schooners from Tahiti called in during my stay, dropping off stores for the plantation, and taking away copra. By devious means I established contact with the radio station at Papeete, so that for the first time, the plantation knew definitely when a schooner was en route. Round about arrival time, there was a general air of expectancy, even to the extent of setting up a telescope at a vantage point, to pick up the first sight of a sail. Once "sail-O" was shouted, the excitement was unbounded, because as can be imagined, with such a small community, the arrival of a schooner was really an auspicious occasion.

Christmas time on the island was celebrated very quietly, but I was surprised on New Year's Eve by a visit from the whole native population. After an exchange of greetings, I was entertained by some excellent island music and dancing which went on until about 4 a.m. on New Year's Day.

During February 1938, a Pan American Clipper in charge of Captain Musick went missing off the West Samoan coast. The U.S.S. "Avocet" was sent down to investigate, and endeavour to locate any wreckage, and after completing this work called in at Christmas Island on her return to Honolulu. It was purely a social call, but like all these other incidents, helped to make my stay on the island all the more interesting.

FROM OUR SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BRANCH

President Geoff Cox writes

" I had been hoping that George Rowe might have been willing to act as Hon. Sec. pending our next meeting on 23rd November. Unfortunately, he has not been at all well and is continuing with further medical tests and treatments.

Bert Dudley's daughter has handed over to me the O.T.V.A. (S.A.) records, and among these, I have found details of Bert's service and activities since he joined the Eastern Extension Co. in 1934 up to his retirement from the South Australia Public Service in 1980. No doubt the editor of NEWSLETTER will suitably condense what I have written for the purpose.

Referring to the "Master List" as at 31.3.89 it will be necessary to also delete the name of Mr. E.G. Symes of Toorak Gardens. Eric Symes died on 18th September last after many years confined to a wheel chair. I wrote to his widow on behalf of the South Australian Veterans and had a reply on her behalf, and also from her sons who appreciated my "kindness in writing".

Thanks Geoff. We are all sorry to hear about the passing of Eric and to his widow and family go our deepest sympathy.

HERBERT EDWARD (BERT) DUDLEY.

Bert joined the Eastern Extension A & C Co Ltd in Adelaide in 1934. In 1942 he resigned to join the A.I.F. and was drafted into the 2/48 Australian Infantry Battalion, then to the Signals platoon (subsequently an anti-aircraft battalion). He was transferred to the Beach Signals Section, a newly formed section attached to the Australian and American troops specially trained for amphibious operations against the Japanese held islands in the Pacific. He took part in the landings at Lae (New Guinea), Tarakan (off Borneo) and Balikpapan which is now part of Indonesia. He was discharged from the Army in 1945 and re-instated in the E.E. Tel. Co which was by then Cable and Wireless. In 1945 he was appointed personal assistant to the founding Secretary of O.T.C. (P. Greenland) at Head Office.

After the birth of his first child, being unable to obtain accommodation, he resigned and returned to Adelaide. After nine months service at the Weapons Research Organisation, he transferred to the South Australian Public Service in the Motor Registration branch and then to the Education Department. At the time of his retirement in 1980 he held the position of Senior Clerk in the office of the Minister of Education and was acting Secretary on many occasions.

Geoff Cox notes that Bert served as foundation Secretary of the O.T.V.A. South Australia Branch until his sudden death on 18th September, 1989. His wife died three or four years ago.

THE PUNT THAT PAID OFF

In the late forties to seventies, when I was involved with the Professional Radio Employees Institute, which is the Union covering us in those days, and still is, I believe, I met a bloke called Sid Morris. Sid was a Governing Councillor of P.R.E.I. and represented the Department of Civil Aviation. He has only recently died of cancer after a long, losing battle. Sid was also a foundation member of the Homebush Bowling and Recreation Club, and we had a closer relationship when I joined the Club in 1967. Sid was a past President of the bowling Club and a good bloke. After his death his wife, Grace, approached me saying that she had some papers of Sid's which might be of interest to me, seeing that I was involved in communications. An item in the magazine of the Department of Civil Aviation written by Ralph Sharman caught my eye and because it is now history, I sought and received Grace's permission to reproduce it in our NEWSLETTER.

I don't think I could produce a better by-line than Ralph Sharman's so without further ado here it is.

The article states THE PUNT THAT PAID OFF.

In September 1984 the Federal Government released sixty five boxes of papers from the national archives ending a compulsory thirty year embargo on them. They included the controversial Petrov Papers which contain details of the "Petrov Affair" in 1954 which began when Vladimir Petrov defected from the Russian embassy in Canberra on April 3.

Following their release, the papers were scanned by the media looking for a story which might have been overlooked. But the journalists of that time had done their job well and there was nothing to make headlines. The best the media could do was to announce the anniversary of the Petrov Affair and the release of the papers.

But the revival of the Petrov story jogged the memory of one man - former Department of Aviation employee Sid Morris - and has resulted in an intriguing and hitherto untold story about the Petrov Affair.

In the early hours of 20 April 1954, Sid Morris, Senior Communications Supervisor, at Sydney (Kingsford-Smith) Airport was on duty in the Operations Building. (The building stood on a site opposite where the TAA terminal stands today). Jack Grealish (now deceased) was the Senior Operations Controller (SOC). The British Overseas Airways Corporation (BOAC) Constellation G-ALAK was about four hours into a flight from Sydney to Darwin, enroute to London. G-ALAK was significant in the drama about to unfold because it was carrying Mrs Evdokia Petrov, wife of Vladimir Petrov, who had earlier announced his defection to Australia.

Russian Escort

Mrs Petrov had boarded G-ALAK with two Russians in Sydney. Sid, who retired from the Department in 1969, recalled at his Sydney home that Jack had approached him about 2am and said: 'I've just had a call from Canberra. They want to know how we can get a message to Mrs Petrov without being monitored'. The authorities wanted the captain of the aircraft to ask Mrs Petrov if she was being taken out of Australia against her will. They wanted him to reply with a simple 'yes' or 'no' answer on the normal transmitting channel. But there was a hitch. The request could not be transmitted on the normal HF frequency because it would have been monitored. Sid, said, 'We had to establish a secret communications link with the aircraft which couldn't be monitored by the Russians.'

After some serious thinking Sid and Jack realised the aircraft was coming up on the radio signal beacon at Cloncurry, near Mt Isa. The beacon was an ideal medium for sending a message because it had a very short range and could not be monitored in Sydney. The two communications men decided to take a punt that the pilot was tracking via this beacon. It was a simple matter to break the continuous callsign and replace it with a voice message, but first we had to get the message of what we wanted to Cloncurry without being monitored', Sid said.

Delicate Message

They did this by sending their delicate message to Darwin by radio teletype and then on relay from Darwin to other airports until communication was made at Mt Isa. The operator then sent the message via the Cloncurry beacon. About 3 am the one word message that had been so anxiously sought in Sydney was sent. On the normal transmitting frequency the pilot told the Sydney Communications Officer, 'Yes'. As a result of that message, Federal Government agents met the Constellation at Darwin and escorted Mrs Petrov from the aircraft despite protests from her Russian escort. What happened afterwards is now history.

The parts played by Sid and Jack in helping the authorities were never made public, but there was commendation from within the Department. Allan Hepburn, the Regional Director for New South Wales, sent Sid a letter which read, 'I have examined the records relating to the flight of G-ALAK on the night of 19/20 April, 1954 and note with pleasure the part taken by yourself in relation to the confidential messages concerning Mrs Petrov. 'The initiative displayed by yourself is something of which you and the Department may be proud. Please accept the congratulations of this Region and myself on a job well done. Sid, now 66, recalled that he did not think too much about the incident at the time. 'I was just doing my job. I knew it was urgent and I just got on with the job', he said. Sid worked with the Department for twenty-five years and at the time he left was Flight Service Supervisor in charge of the Flight Services and Communications Centre at Sydney (Kingsford-Smith) Airport.

Following Sid and Jack's action, Sid received a letter of commendation from A. Hepburn, Regional Director of the Department of Civil Aviation (NSW Region) which reads.

Dear Mr. Morris,

I have examined the records relating to the flight of G-ALAK on the night of 19/20 April, 1954, from Sydney to Darwin and note with pleasure the part taken by yourself in relation to the confidential messages concerning Mrs. Petrov. The initiative displayed by yourself is something of which you and the Department may be proud. Please accept the congratulations of this Region and myself on a job well done. A copy of this letter will be placed upon your personal file and a further copy will be forwarded to our Head Office.

Signed: Yours sincerely
 A. Hepburn
 Regional Director.

Also among Sid's papers was an article "The Aeradio Operator in the Rural Community" which was delivered by Roger Meyer, a member of the Department of Transport and Communications and which was delivered at Sydney University on 10th February, 1988. It is a graphic account of conditions which these operators had to face and not without some humour. Mrs. Morris has given me permission to use anything of Sid's if we believe it to be of interest to Veteran operators, and one day, when space permits, I will include it in our NEWSLETTER.

I have already extended my thanks to Grace.

BACK TO BOGGA. From John Norris, one of our Queensland Correspondence.

Once again - on January 28th - heads were directed towards Bogangar for the 2nd Bogga Week-end.

Our numbers were down a little on our initial Bogga, but those present, I'm sure, had a very enjoyable day.

The old Vets of Wagga Wagga were out in force and these included Jim Rodda, Keith "Pancho" Vincent, Dean Laws and Jack Norris. Much discussion took place on the many happenings that occurred over the years at Wagga. All this chatter was over a cold drink or two.

One point raised and discussed at length, with differing viewpoints, was on how many washouts of the cricket match had occurred in the battles which have taken place in the play at Wagga, but the final answer was never found - not yet anyway.

Good to see Dean and Alma Laws in attendance. Alma has been on the sick list but is progressing well now. Dean missed the first Bogga. Jim and Beryl Banks also made their first visit. Jim always wanted to visit Wagga but never made it - well not yet, anyway. Special thanks go to Keith and Sadie Vincent for allowing us to enjoy ourselves at their country estate and supplying all the extras. A reminder to those Vets who were missing this year - mark it on your calendar for 1991 and turn up.

Those present were Keith and Sadie Vincent, Spike and Colleen Jones, John and Mildred Norris, Jim and Joyce Rodda, Dean and Alma Laws, Jim and Beryl Banks, John and Betty Toland, David and Patricia Rogers and Blue Easterling.

MINUTES OF 33RD ANNUAL VETERANS REUNION NSW BRANCH

This years Annual Reunion was held in the 15th Floor Conference Centre, OTC House at 231 Elizabeth Street, Sydney on the 1st December, 1989 where 150 members, guests and visitors were in attendance.

The Secretary read apologies from OTC Directors: Helen Williams, Len Hingley and John Menadue. We had an apology from Athol Brown, who is now 86 and hopes to see us all at our next AGM. All other apologies are recorded in the attendance book. Lou Brown presented a Gavel to our President so that we can better control our meetings, if or when required.

President Gordon Cupit then officially opened the days proceedings by welcoming all members and visitors present, before extending a special welcome to our official guest, and visitor.

Steve Burdon - Managing Director of OTC Limited
Wentworth Quirk - Member of the Quarter Century Club
of TELEGLOBE Canada.

The Managing Director of OTC Ltd, Mr Steve Burdon, assured all present that he fully supports our association and its activities. He finished by saying he finds it easy to distinguish retire veterans, by their suntans and relaxed appearance, which brought a hearty round of applause. The President then extended a special welcome to new members attending their first meeting:

Len Wylde, Sylvia Ayres, Pam Helps, Tony Farrugia, Fred Barrington, Eric Spooner and Paul Stubbe.

The Secretary read seasons greetings from all our Branch Presidents of WA, SA, VIC and QLD Associations, and from our National Secretary, Charles Carthew who is keeping exceptionally good health at present. Bob Scott of the Quarter Century Club, who recently looked him up while he was visiting Sydney, sent his seasons greetings to all and regrets was unable to extend his stay in Australia to enable him to be present here today. Harold Le Quesne, past president of the Quarter Century Club and his wife Katherine also sends us seasons greetings etc.

The Secretary has also been asked to convey fraternal and Seasonal Greetings to all present today at our Christmas Reunion, from the Brisbane Boys. They had a great meeting at VIB ably hosted by Dick Westwood and visited by John Blewitt the Brisbane Manager. Chins & Cheers.....specially to Ando. Regards Keith (Pancho) Vincent President QLD Branch.

SICK LIST

Eric Norris is recovering from a trip to hospital which has temporarily confined him to a wheelchair.

President Gordon then asked all present to join him in observing one minutes silence for the following members who have passed away since our last meeting:

Horrie Brown, Jack Burgess, Ray Carragher, Les Doubleday,
Bert Dudley, Albert Henkel, Jack Jordan, Herbert Lake,
Jack Sallaway, Eric Symes and Ron Winders.

President Gordon , before closing the formalities, mentioned that our Committee sanctioned his suggestion last year to invite Widows to our Reunion meetings, and he noted we have several in attendance today. Namely Mollie Raecke, Gwen Sallaway and Thelma Guthrie. President Gordon then formally closed this meeting after thanking OTC LTD Managing Director, Steve Burdon, for their continuing support and generosity to our Association, and called on all present to enjoy themselves and have a very Merry Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year to follow.

ALAN ARNDT
(Honorary Secretary)
6-12-89

WHAT'S NEW WITH THE OTC EXHIBITIONS - By Kathy Jones

For over six months now the workshops of PICO International at Leichhardt in Sydney have been buzzing with the unique sounds and images of OTC's Communications Exhibition.

They are building over 20 interactive displays. Each of them explaining in some unique way a scientific principle which has played a part in the development of telecommunications technology.

OTC and PICO started with face to face communications. Why does the human voice have different tones? Why don't all cultures have the same words for the same sounds? for example a dog goes woof in English but oef in French.

Humans have been increasingly imaginative about ways to communicate over long distances. Smoke signals were handy and message sticks useful but they were unreliable. So people discovered that sound waves could be guided through a tube or down a wire for a short distance and that there was no trouble with translation. Visitors to the Exhibition will be able to guide their own sound waves (voice) down a long tube.

These guided waves have been useful for international communications. From the time of the telegraph to the latest optical fibre technology, sound waves have been conducted and guided from one location to another. The phenomenon of the Exhibition.

The Canadian company, Nortel, are helping OTC with the development of a brand new exhibit to explain digital sampling. Whilst the exhibition is laid out as a series of sections - face to face, guided waves, broadcast waves, switching and the real thing - the underlying theme is that worldwide communications are becoming increasingly fast and complex. And no more so than with the digitising of messages. The difference between analog and digital messaging will be explained in the Nortel display.

Visitors will be able to listen to the vibrations of a perspex conductor and hear a local radio station. Their understanding of broadcast waves will be further enhanced by the Gaby Kennard story. Panels which surround each area of the Exhibition will tell a story which explains the practical applications of the scientific principles. (Just how do radio waves get from one side of the earth to the other - if they travel in a straight line and the earth is round?).

Bob Fisher, the Manager of the OTC Telecommunications Centre at Paddington has been putting a 1950's Uniselect System back together. The idea is that people will be able to dial a phone on the other side of the exhibit and see the actual uniselectors working. Switching is of course a key principle of telecommunications.

Everybody loves all the whizz bang, gee-whiz technology of today and the future. And of course this will be featured in "The Real Thing" section. OTC products such as OTC Dialcom (electronic mail), Faxlink (facsimile machines), IDD (International Direct Dial), and ISDN (large capacity, subscriber networks) will all be used to link the OTC Exhibition - and the National Science Centre - with students and other museums around Australia and around the world.

The Exhibition will open in Canberra for 12 months from July 1990. It will then tour for three to four years to other science centres in Australia.

It is the natural follow on to OTC's Settlement to Satellite Exhibition which is currently located at the Museum of Victoria in Melbourne. Settlement to Satellite tells the history of Australia's Communications systems and how we have sometimes led the world - often by necessity - with communications technologies. Schools, universities, general interest group have all used this exhibition as a way of increasing their knowledge of one of the key growth areas of the 90's - telecommunications.. This tradition is continued with the state of the art NSW Exhibition.

OTC hopes to see you there!!

Further Enquiries:

Kathy Jones

OTC Exhibitions Program Manager

Telephone: (02) 287-5267

FROM OUR QUEENSLAND BRANCH

15TH ANNUAL REUNION

The fifteenth annual reunion was held at the OTC Maritime Communications Centre, near Bribie Island on Tuesday 14th November 1989.

Present were: President Keith Vincent and Sadie, Jim and Beryl Banks, Kevin Bobridge, Eric Cramp, Blue Easterling, Sid and Eileen Gill, Alf and Heather Goebly, Kev and Vi Hiscock, Bob and Margaret Hooper, Alan and Colleen Jones, Dean and Alma Laws, Pat Phipps-Ellis, David and Patricia Rogers, Vince Sim, John and Betty Toland and Dick Westwood. Also present, from the Brisbane Office, were new State Manager John Blewett and Glenys Baldwin, plus ex-OTC Robert Birse and ex-Telecom Joe Johnson and his wife, Zoe.

Apologies were received from: Wilf Atkin, Denis Bloudani, Denis Humphries, Doug Lloyd, Alan Rees, Stan Silver, Peter Starbuck and Bob Webster. Laz Eliou, we learned later, was indisposed; Jack Silcock had transport problems (from yet another new residence!) and John Norris had the 'Flu.

The day was a very informal one with no 'official' business, simply a welcome to all present from President Keith and a renewal of the invitation to all members, their wives and friends, to join him and Sadie at their home at Bogangar for the second 'Bogga Day' on Sunday, 28th January, 1990. The address is: 7 Kurrajong Avenue Bogangar (near Kingscliff), mud-maps available from Glenys in the Brisbane Office if required. Simply bring yourselves, your drinks and eats for the BBQ and enjoy a great day. Please let Keith (066 761152) or Glenys (07 2216250) know by 23rd January if you are coming or not or if transport is required.

As an extension to Christmas and New Year greetings to all present, it was decided to fund the reunion from our adequate bank balance. Dick Westwood had arranged an excellent barbeque of steak and chicken with salads and there were adequate supplies of the usual with which to wash it down (adequate thanks to a late donation from John Blewett - it was a very warm day!)

FROM OUR MAN AT BROADBEACH, QUEENLAND - WILF ATKIN.

It's good to see that our Veteran mate, Wilf Atkin, is still going strong after all these years. He is not as prolific a writer as he used to be, so we welcome this little item from him.

He writes

"One morning, early in the New Year, I was sitting having my morning cup of coffee when through my lounge room window I saw a car stop, a man got out and started to walk towards my steps leading to the front door. I only got a glimpse of him but I thought, "I know this bloke".

I sure did. It was Athol Brown on his way back to Coffs Harbour.

As it was over 26 years since I retired, the sight of him brought back many memories as we were both in the Admin Branch. Athol, as you know, is a good and descriptive talker and I was an avid listener. He, too, is 86 years of age but I beat him by a few months; he must be a better man than me, though, for he still drives a car and has all the confidence in the world.

We spent a pleasant hour together talking about the old days when George Maltby was just another member of the staff and Edgar Harcourt was Senior Research Officer.

GORDON CUPIT, OUR PRESIDENT, WRITES

For those who remember that energetic custodian of the S.O.R. Canteen, Roy Doohan, he can be found in the same role in a takeaway - grocery - milk bar, etc. in Palm Beach Road, Palm Beach, Gold Coast. The shop is about three doors from the Gold Coast Highway and adjoins the hotel. Although getting along in years - near mid-eighties-about 30% eyesight, diabetic, bad ticker and gammy legs, he is just the same old Roy with his ready smile.

Roy would love to hear from or see any of his old workmates. If he's not at the shop he can be contacted at home on 345551.

Roy has donated his 1926 Eastern Extension Cricket Club blazer and cap, together with some promotional material for the Compac opening, to the Archives.

Good to see you, Roy.

HOW ABOUT A SUB-BRANCH.

With Eric Cramp, Stan Gill, Kev Hiscock, Bob Hooper, Jock Kellie and Jack Silcock all living on Bribie Island and with VIB only a couple of kilometres from the island, think that we could consider a Bribie Island Sub-branch of the Veterans Association.

Must be a good place to retire.

THE JAPS ARE COMING !!!!!

Got a little note from CHARLIE SWINNEY who declares that W.H. (Bill) SANDERS (now deceased) was probably the first civilian to know about the Japanese entering Sydney Harbour during World War 2 because he read the morse message signalled from the U.S. battleship (he wasn't sure if it was the Mississippi or the Missouri) which was in the harbour at the time whilst he was lying in his bed at his Neutral Bay home. He rang Charlie, who was in the office on duty at the time to tell him about it!!!

FURTHER TO THE VALE ON ALBERT HENKEL.

Charlie Swinney advises that Albert was in the 1904/5 vintage and trained at Southport in 1919/20. He served at Suva, Fanning Island and Bamfield. He married a Port Alberni girl, and returned to Sydney where he seen out his remaining years of service as Investigation Officer in the S.O.R. Spring Street, Sydney. It is interesting to note that Bill Sanders, Bob Scott, Keith Spark, and Barry Lucas were also in the school of 1919/20. The only ones left now are Percy Love, Russ Welbourne (both living) and Bob Scott who lives in Canada.

LOST AND FOUND DEPARTMENT.

Alan Arndt advises that a badge was found on the floor at our last Reunion in December and was handed to him for safe keeping. If the owner contacts Alan he stands a good change of getting it back.

In the event of there being more than one claimant, a ballot will be conducted. The Reunion was the Sydney one, of course. Claims from other States will be regarded as dubious.

THE O.T.C. EXHIBITION.

Kathy Jones has sent along a little article which was published in the "WHAT'S ON IN MELBOURNE" info in one of their papers. Settlement to Satellites, an exhibition tracing the history of Australia's communications with the world will be open in the Museum of Victoria during the summer months.

The Exhibition has been organised and sponsored by OTC Limited, Australia's worldwide communications company.

The Exhibition gives visitors a journey through 200 years of Australian international communications and offers a glimpse of the exciting technology of the future.

Because of its isolation, Australia had relied heavily on communications from the earliest days of European settlement. In 1788 there were no telephones, no telegrams, not even regular mail services. Letters home were entrusted to any passing ship, and they were few and far between.

The article goes on to say that the exhibition can be seen at the Museum of Victoria, 328 Swanston Street, Melbourne from 10am to 5pm daily. It also gives a run-down on what can be seen there and the contrast from the early days to the present.

VALE.

Mrs. N. D. Symes has written to advise us that her husband ERIC SYMES, passed away in Adelaide on September, 18th, 1989. He died peacefully in his sleep after a long illness.

To you, Mrs. Symes, and to your family and friends we send our heartfelt sympathy.

Mrs. R. WINDERS has also written to tell us that her husband died on 25th December, 1988.

If anyone can supply us with some service details of these two associates we would be only too glad.

FROM OUR WEST AUSTRALIAN VETERANS.

MINUTES OF 15TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 28TH NOVEMBER 1989.
Held in OTC's city office, 26 St. George's Terrace, Perth.

The meeting was declared open at 1.10pm by the President, Fred James.

Western Australian Veterans attending were Jim Bairstow, Colin Benporath, Ron Cocker, John Coles, Paul Cooper, John Eales, Des Else, Ron Fisher, Fred James, Norm Johnstone, Jim Keenan, Ted Kemp, Des Kinnersley, Joan Kirkpatrick, John Knight, Brian Morrell, Norm Odgers, Les Owen, Val Parker, Rod Pernich, Harry Rumble, Brent Schofield, Ellis Smellie, Eric Smith, Pat Sykes, Gerry Tacey, Jack Thomas, Elliot Trigwell, Derek Walker, Graham Watts and Barry Whittle.

Apologies had been received from Jim Devlin, Heb Farrar, Barry Field, Phil Hay, Arthur Hadden, Allan Headley, Doug Lancaster, Max Miller, Derek Moore, Barry O'Keeffe, Jim O'Toole, Roger Pugsley and George Rogers.

The Minutes of the 14th Annual General Meeting having been circulated, it was moved by Norm Johnstone and seconded by Ron Cocker that they be accepted as a true and correct record.

The motion was put and carried.

Reports: It was moved by Colin Benporath, seconded by Des Kinnersley that the Hon. Secretary/Treasurer's Financial Statement and Report be received and endorsed. The motion was put and carried.

Election of Officers: The President declared the positions of President and Secretary/Treasurer open for nominations. Brent Schofield nominated Fred James as President, seconded by Des Kinnersley. There being no further nominations Fred James was re-elected to the position of President. Des Kinnersley nominated Derek Walker for the position of Secretary/Treasurer, seconded by Ron Cocker; there being no further nominations Derek Walker was re-elected as Secretary/Treasurer.

Further Business: A discussion was held on transferring \$500 from the OTVA(WA) Savings account into a Term Deposit. A motion was finally put and carried that the Hon. Treasurer investigate the best terms available and transfer the amount to that account.

Discussion was also held on the possibility of OTVA throughout Australia lowering the number of years service in telecommunications for eligibility to join OTVA from 25 to 20. Graham Watts moved and Colin Benporath seconded a motion that OTVA(WA) was in favour of lowering the age eligibility requirement throughout Australia and Des Kinnersley promised to sound out the feeling of the NSW Branch when he attended the NSW reunion on 1st December 1989. There being no further business the President closed the meeting at 1.32pm and invited everyone to enjoy the drinks and meal. The next meeting of the OTVA(WA) Branch will be on 27th November 1990 at 12.30pm in the OTC city office.

Signed as a true and correct record.
D.B.Walker.

VALE ALBERT HENRY (HORRIE) BROWN.

"Horrie's" death was reported in our last NEWSLETTER but at that time we had no details as to his demise. I am indebted to his daughter, Mrs. Valda Brown for an amplification on the events leading up to his death. We are also fortunate in having a copy of a letter sent by Horrie to Alan Arndt which gives a detailed record of his service in communications, and which we will add to the information given by his daughter, Valda.

Horrie passed away on Sunday 3 July at Springwood Hospital in his 90th year (his birthday was 6th November) He was cremated at Northern Suburbs Crematorium on Thursday 7th July, 1988. It would have pleased my father that he was cremated on the 7th day of the 7th Month. He only recognised our birthdays if they were divisible by 7, for that reason.

His death was due to a recurrence of bowel cancer which had been removed some 20 years before. He is survived by his two sons, Theo and Marcus, and his daughter, Valda, and five grandchildren, three grandsons and two granddaughters, the children of Valda and her husband, Leon Brown. This explains why Valda Brown nee Valda Brown, is still Valda Brown.

To you, Valda, your brothers and family, I express our sincerest sympathy on the loss of your father, who was well-known within our Veterans' group.

SERVICE RECORD.

"Horrie", as he was affectionately known by his mates within the Beam Wireless Service, was born at Emerald Hill, Melbourne in 1898. In 1915 he was appointed a telegraph messenger at E.T.O. Melbourne and was later transferred to the Chief Money Order Office with telegraphic capabilities.

At the age of 17, he was called up in 1916 under the proclamation for war service in the Royal Australian Naval Brigade where he trained at Williamstown Naval depot in wireless telegraphy, and served two years as Leading wireless Telegraphist on Naval examination and pilot vessels in Bass Straits and Flinders Island Radio Station.. until 1918.

In 1919 he resumed duties with the PMG's Department and after further study, qualified for 1st class Commercial Operator's Certificate of Proficiency in wireless telegraphy and telephony. At this time he was in contact with H.Q. Staff of the Naval Coastal Radio Service, Collins House, Melbourne, under Lieut. Newman.

From 1919 to 1923 he transferred to Port Moresby Wireless Station as Chief Petty Officer telegraphist and later acted as 4th grade clerical division, Public Service wireless telegraphist.

During his three years at Port Moresby, the Naval Coastal Service was transferred to the Post Office Department under Jim Malone in 1920, and from the P.M.G.'s Department the C.R.S. was transferred to A.W.A. control in June 1922 under Sir Ernest Fiske and Lionel Hooke.

1923 to 1927 transferred back to Melbourne Coast Radio station which was still using balsille spark transmitters together with the first issue of the three electrode vacuum tube receivers. He also acted for twelve months as Telegraphist-in-charge of King Island station.

He received training in high speed morse transmission and receiving equipment and transferred to Beam Wireless Service in 1927 when he was in personal contact with staff at Ballan (Fiskville) Rockbank, Braybrook and C.R.O. Queen Street, Melbourne until he was transferred to C.R.O. York Street Sydney in 1928 as Senior Beam telegraphist.

1931 to 1938 transferred back to CRO Melbourne and continued there until he commenced his first long-service leave. His six months long service leave was spent as Marconi 3rd wireless operator on RMS ALANZA on its final voyage between Southampton and Buenos Aires, via ports, until she went to the breakers. He then returned to CRO Melbourne from furlough as wireless officer in charge of equipment on the new Burns Philp M.V. BULOLO on her maiden voyage from her Clyde tests to Sydney.

Direct contact was made with Sydney while she was still in the English Channel, and maintained daily throughout the voyage.

From 1929 until 1945 he was back in Sydney CRO and was appointed acting Supervisor when Harry Selfe died. He was officially appointed Supervisor CRO Sydney in 1940 and served in that capacity, occasionally acting as Superintendent, vice Mark Mortimer.

When the Beam Wireless was taken over by OTC he was re-confirmed as Supervisor. In February 1952 he was awarded an OTC scholarship for course of instruction in Foremanship and Supervision, but this was postponed until he returned from his second bout of long service leave. In April, 1952, he was granted 9 months furlough on half pay, part of which time was spent in London Radio House (then under the control of Cable and Wireless Ltd). Studying and gaining practical experience in the adjustment and maintenance of latest cable automatic equipment and in picturegram techniques.

He also visited Cable Terminals in Cyprus, Aden, and Gibraltar.

As he was running short of funds he decided to work his passage home as Marine Radio Operator and signed on M.V. EASTBANK in Liverpool enroute to Sydney.

Unfortunately EASTBANK'S sister ship WESTBANK ran aground near Madagascar and EASTBANK was diverted to WESTBANK'S schedule of carrying jute from Calcutta to Buenos Aires, returning with wheat for Indian ports. He explained the position to OTC who granted extension of leave without pay to March 1953 but refused to consider extension to June 1953 even though he had arranged matters to be back in Sydney by that date. Because of this he was forced to resign from OTC.

When he returned he re-applied to join OTC in February 1954 but could not get re-instatement on a permanent basis because his age was over 51 years, but he was re-employed as Radio Officer C.R.S. on a temporary basis after passing the Commonwealth Medical Officers examination as being fit for tropical service. During the period 1954-57 he was employed as Radio Officer CRS Laperouse and later as R.O. Island Room Sydney Spring Street office. In 1957 he wanted leave of absence to visit India where he wished to study Tibetan Esoteric Science and methods of Yoga, but this was refused. OTC, however, did agree to terminate his employment as from 10th August, 1957 and re-employ him as R.O. on his return. From 1958 until 1963 he rejoined R.O. Island Room Spring Street staff where it was necessary to maintain a manual morse speed of between 30 and 35 w.p.m. In addition to the heavy point-to-point traffic from the Pacific Islands it was also a requirement to copy aurally over 5,000 words daily of the New Delhi Press at speeds between 30/35 w.p.m. He considered it an arduous way of earning a crust but his retirement came about in 1963 at the age of 65 and he went on to the old age pension. Dah Dah Dah Dit (the telegraphic laugh) was all he ever made as a way of comment on his checkered career.

Vale, "Horrie".

O.T.C. TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS.

Reading the staff magazine, TRANSIT, by the "oldies" is a mind-boggling exercise and one really needs a dictionary of modern day terms and abbreviations. Of late the editor has amplified some of the initials used, and although we still do not comprehend, we are very grateful. I have listed a number of terms for your info and I understand that the Training Section have prepared a booklet on this subject called "The A - Z of O.T.C. Jargon". When available we will try to publish the contents in the NEWSLETTER for posterity. Here are some of the later ones, you may care to come up with some of those of the older days such as TOC, TED, GNH, BBB, etc.

AMSS	Aeronautical mobile satellite services.
AUSTEL	Government Regulating Authority for Telecommunications Industry.
AIDAB	Austn. International Development Assistance Bureau.
ANZCAN	Pacific Coaxial Cable laid 1984.
AIS	Perth to Singapore (via Indonesia) Coax Cable.
A-PNG	Cairns to Port Moresby Cable
ASEANI S	Indonesia to Singapore Coax Cable.
ASEAN M-S-T	Thailand to Singapore (via Malaysia) Coax Cable.
ASEAM P-S	Phillipines to Singapore Coax Cable.
AOFR	Australian Optical Fibre Research Pty. Ltd.
AXE	Telephone Exchange.
ATMS	Automatic Traffic Monitoring Service.
CTO	Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation.
CANTAT	U.K. to Canada Coax Cable.
CAPLAN	Computer Capacity Planning System.
C-BAND	6-4 GHz
CC	Certification centre.

CABS	Computer Automated Business Systems.
DCME	Digital Circuit Multiplications Equipment.
DSN	Deep Space Network.
DIALCOM	OTC & British telecom Public Message System.
DGPT VIETNAM	Vietnamese Telecom Organisation
DAMA	Demand Assigned Multiple Access.
EEO	Equal Employment Opportunity.
ESA	European Space Agency.
EDI	Electronic Data Interchange.
EXIT	OTC Service provided for Australian Customs Service for lodging export applications.
EFT	Electronic Funds Transfer Network.
EFTPOS	Electronic Funds Transfer Security Standardisation.
FOCUS	Fourth Generation Computer Language
FMIS	Financial Management Information Systems.
FAXLINK	International Facsimile Service.
GEM	Global Environment Monitor - .computer accessed service.
H-J-K	Hongkong-Japan-Korea Optical Fibre Cable.
HAW3/TRANSPAC2	USA to Okinawa (via Hawaii and Guam) coaxial cable.
HF	High Frequency
HDTV	High Definition Television.
ISDN	Intergrated Service Digital Network.
IBS	Intelsat Business Service.
IDR	Intermediate Data Rate.
ICA	International Communications Association.
IAOG	International Administration Management Domain Operators Group.
INMARSAT	International Maritime Satellite Organisation.
IOCOM	India to Malaysia Coax Cable.
INTELSAT	International Telecommunications Satellite Organisation.
IDD	International Direct Dialling.
ICS	Integrated Circuits.
INTELNET	Data Access Service.
INTERNET	International Message Service (designed for small businesses).
INTERPLEX	Private Message Network.
ISD	International Subscriber Dialling.
ISG	Information Service Group.
INMC	International Network Management Centre.
IP	Intellectual Property (patent type system).
KU-BAND	14-11 GHz.
LEM-AKE	Erickson Analog Telephone Exchange.
MCS	Maritime Communications Station.
MTA	Message Transfer Agent.
MOJO-MDA	OTC's Advertising Agency.
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding.
MINERVA	Electronic Mail Service.
NVTM	Non Voice Traffic Monitor.
NAS	OTC's New Main Frame Computer.
NPSC	National Protocol Support Centre.
OSI	Open Systems Interconnection (Computer standards).
OA	Office Automation.
OTCI	OTC International Ltd.
OLUHO	Okinawa to Hongkong (vai Phillipines) Coax Cable.
PIOCMA	Pacific and Indian Ocean Mutual Assistance Agreement.
PSTN	Public Subscriber Telephone Network.

PDT	Programme of Development Training (Operated by OTC).
PACRIM IPG	Initial Procurement Group.
PACRIM EAST	Australia to Hawaii (via NZ) Optic Fibre Cable (1993).
PACRIM WEST	Australia to Guam Optic Fibre (1993).
PKDS	Public key Distribution System.
PACT	Pacific Area co-operative Telecommunications Network.
R & D	Research and Development.
SEACOMA	South-east Asia Indian Ocean Cable Maintenance Agreement.
SEATEX	OTC Maritime Radiotelex Message Service.
SES	Satellite Earth Station.
SITA	Telecommunications and Information Management Service Co-operative.
SEAGRAM	Ship Shore Telegraph Service.
SEAPHONE	Ship Shore Radio Telephone Service.
SKYCOMS	Communication to and from Aircraft.
SKYSTREAM	Private Digital Satellite Service.
SATNET	Satellite Service for info to widely distributed destinations.
SEA-ME-WE	Singapore to France (via Indonesia-Sri Lanka-Djibouti-Saudi Arabia-Egypt-Italy) Coaxial Cable.
SIN-HON-TAI	Singapore to Taiwan (via Hongkong) Coaxial Cable.
SOLAS	Safety of Life at Sea.
SPTDP	South Pacific Telecommunications Development Programme.
TPC 4	Trans Pacific Optical Fibre Cable.
TTC&M	Intelsat Telemetry Tracking Command and Monitoring.
TNI	Telecom Networks and International NZ.
TCI	Telecom Cook Islands.
TASI	Time Assignment Speech Interpolation.
TASMAN	Australia to New Zealand Coax Cable.
TASMAN 2	Aust. to NZ Optical Fibre Cable.
TCNZ	Telecom Corporation of NZ.
TELETEX	High Speed Desktop to Desktop Electronic Communications Service.
TCA	Transport Communication of Aust. Pty Ltd (joint venture OTC and National Engineering information services - NEIS).
TRMS	Traffic and Revenue Modelling System.
TDC	Trade Development Council.
TELEPOWER	OTC Joint Venture Company.
VLSI	Very Large Scale Integration Encoder.
WISENET	Women in Science Enquiry Network.

Gordon also provided us with another short list of terms he had gleaned from the Training Section. The book he mentioned which was forthcoming from the Training Section to be known as the "A to Z of OTC Jargon" was never published, unfortunately, but the glossary of terms gathered by our N.S.W. President, Gordon Cupit should be kept as a reference when reading TRANSIT and other OTC publications.

Add these to your list

ANARESAT	Australian National Antarctic Research Establishment Satellite.
CODEC	A brand of Data Modem (Modulator/Demodulator Device).
DATEL	Data Services using the PSTN (Public Switched Telephone Network).
FDM/FM	Frequency Division Multiplexor/Frequency Modulation.
ITMC	International Telephone Maintenance Centre.
KEYLINK	A joint OTC/Telecom Electronic Mail Service combining MINERVA and TELEMemo.
MIDAS	Multimode International Data Acquisition Service.
RADOME	Protective cover for Radar and Satellite dishes.
SAG-F2	Designation code for Satellite Earth Station.
SSOG	Satellite Services Operations Guide.

METHOD AND PROCEDURES

By Gordon Cupit.

I have supplied the Archives with my history in S.O.R. from 1933 until 1952 (less the war years). In this history I have described in detail the duties, procedures and methods of the following jobs during that time. Messenger boy, Circulation Clerk, Service Clerk, Adrema Clerk, Despatch Clerk, Counter Clerk, Telegraphist and Senior Telegraphist. The details included Messenger collections and deliveries, envelopes and receipt slips (including phoning and delivery instructions), Inward and Outward Circulation Sheets, circuit and delivery numbering, interstate deliveries via Post Office, Adrema plates, Counting and charging and various charges at that time, Counter invoicing, perforating, checking and onward transmission, inward undulator slips, perforated tapes, printing, transcribing, telegraphic addresses, classes of messages, etc..

It would be appreciated if some of the S.O.R. and Cable types could take up the story from 1952 until the close of the S.O.R. not forgetting Telex, Ted, Toc, and MRS as these things are vital to a good archives.

O.T.C. SERVICES

We old timers thought that O.T.C. had the ultimate in communications services with telegraph, telephone telex and facsimile, and we were very proud of the service offered to the public. By virtue of articles in TRANSIT we heard of Minerva etc, but really didn't understand what it meant. Recently reading a copy of the Annual Report I came across a section titled OTC Services Directory.

Thought it well worth repeating in NEWSLETTER for our enlightenment.

OTC SERVICES DIRECTORY

TELEPHONE

OTC International Direct Dial

International Direct Dial provides access to the world's largest direct dial telephone network, enabling callers to pay only for the time they use.

Operator Connected

Operator connected calls can still be booked for customers who prefer to arrange person to person or reverse charge telephone calls, or for those subscribers not yet connected to OTC's IDD network. A minimum three minute charge is applied.

OTC International Toll Free

The International Toll Free service enables businesses in Australia to allow customers and prospective customers overseas to contact them by telephone typically for no charge.

OTC Country Direct

Visitors to Australia can now make use of OTC's Country Direct telephone service, allowing them to bill calls to their home address or credit card. The service is available to the home countries of most visitors to Australia. An OTC Australia Direct service is also available from the major destinations of Australian travellers overseas.

OTC Skycoms

Aircraft fitted with High Frequency radio can access OTC Skycoms' operators for in-flight connection to the national and international telephone networks.

TEXT

OTC Telex

Universally accepted for international business, OTC Telex provides connection to more than 1.5 million subscribers in more than 200 destinations.

Telex World Letter

International companies without their own telex facilities can be reached through the Telex World Letter service. Messages sent by telex from Australia are processed at an office close to the overseas destination and delivered by mail. For most destinations, Telex World Letter is faster by days than overseas mail.

OTC Faxlink

The most efficient method of sending facsimile messages internationally. By dialling the international facsimile access code 0015, users gain access to circuits which allow facsimile machines to operate at speeds of up to 9600 bits per second.

OTC International Telegram

International Telegram provides a basic text messaging service with almost universal availability. It features physical and electronic lodgement with hardcopy message delivery at the recipient's physical address.

OTC Teletex

Teletex is a service which allows high-speed transfer of presentation quality documents between word processors and/or computers.

X.400 Message Handling

Based on Open Systems Interconnect (OSI) standards for computer to computer communications, X.400 allows interconnection of dissimilar computer systems for the first time.

DATA

OTC Dialcom/E Mail

An electronic messaging service, E Mail allows subscribers to send electronic messages around the world, screen to screen, to as many as 500 recipients simultaneously.

OTC Data Access

Data Access provides business and private users with a cost efficient packet switched data service to meet the expanding needs of customers who wish to access and transport small or large quantities of text and data information. It is available with optional Microcom Networking Protocol protection to ensure error-free communication.

OTC On-Line Directories

An electronic database service, On-Line Directories offers white and yellow pages directory support for telex, teletex and facsimile services. General information such as world time differences, international access codes for telex and telephone and information about other OTC service is also available.

OTC Intelnet

A data access service that provides easy access to 850 computerised information banks worldwide, Intelnet requires only one registration, one command language and provides one account.

PRIVATE SERVICES

OTC Interplex

OTC Interplex is a time-saving, convenient and economical method of establishing a private messaging network. OTC Interplex provides subscribers with the ability to multi-address, retrieve, retransmit and store and forward, as well as to broadcast messages to private leases and public telex destinations.

OTC Satnet

Satnet is designed for the frequent exchange of small amounts of information between widely distributed destinations and a host computer/database. It is especially suitable for remote locations where telecommunications are difficult or non-existent.

OTC Analog Voice/Data (AVD)

AVD provides point-to-point, voice-grade private lines used primarily for voice traffic but which, if fitted with appropriate modems, can carry data to those destinations not yet serviced digitally.

OTC Bitstream

Bitstream offers dedicated digital circuit high performance data transmission. Used for the ITSRT interconnection of host computers, office automation, interactive processing and facsimile transmission. The highest bit rates allow transmission of two or more streams of data simultaneously.

OTC Skystream

Skystream is a high-speed, high-quality, high-capacity, private digital satellite service for the simultaneous transmission of voice, text, data, facsimile, graphics and video.

OTC International Videoconferencing

Videoconferencing allows companies to use television to hold international conferences without leaving Australia. It is ideal for regular executive meetings, workgroups and crisis management.

OTC Satellite TV

Television services for broadcasters to receive and transmit programs between Australia and overseas are available on demand or through contracts or leases.

MARITIME SERVICES

OTC Auto-Seaphone

Provides a maritime direct dial radio telephone network through inexpensive Very High Frequency radio telephone links. The service allows users access to national and international telephone networks from up to 80 kilometres out to sea.

OTC Radphone

A long range radio telephone service, Radphone provides High Frequency radio telephone links for large trading vessels, blue water yachts and an increasing number of commercial aircraft.

OTC Seatex

Seatex operates automatically as a marine telex service via High Frequency radio providing large trading vessels and passenger ships with access to the worldwide telex system.

Satellite Services

A complete range of satellite-based commercial and safety services is provided to suitably equipped vessels through OTC's INMARSAT links.

SOLAS

Safety Of Life At Sea provides information on weather conditions and hazards at sea in addition to maintaining a constant watch on international distress frequencies.

OTC Yachtcoms and Fleetcoms

These services allow simultaneous communication with a number of vessels through OTC's maritime radio facilities.

OTC Seagram

Seagram provides, via Morse code or voice, the equivalent of land-based telegrams operating for ship to shore or shore to ship needs.

CONSULTANCY SERVICES

OTC offers a range of consultancy services on international telecommunications matters.

VICTORIAN VETS 33RD ANNUAL RE-UNION

Once again an excellent reunion was held in the Melbourne Manager's Suites on Friday 10th November 1989 at 5.30pm.

In the absence of the Melbourne Manager, Rex Dupe welcomed all present. He then read a fax from Graham Darley wishing the reunion every success, and conveying the compliments of the season to all Victorian Vets. Len Hingley - the Melbourne Representative of O.T.C. Board of Directors - in reply to his welcome stated that he always looked forward to joining the Vets at both the Annual Meeting and the Re-union. Prior to inviting everyone present to partake of the hospitality of the Melbourne Vets, President Sam Bright called for one minute's silence in respect of Jack Jordan and Bert Lake. In closing I would like to thank our ladies - Marie Crabtree, Norma Green, and Jean Russell for all their assistance with the catering and the ever reliable bar attendants who were in the capable hand of Bob Hall.

Attendance	59	
Agologies	17	as per attached list.

Attendance Victorian Vets 33rd Annual Reunion

A. Bright, S. Bright, P. Barrow, D. Batten, T. Bastow, B. Bentley, D. Crabtree, M. Crabtree, D. Chambers, J. Caulfield, M. Cooper, J. Coxhead, J. Dacey, R. Dupe, W. Ferguson, L. Foley, M. Fernando, J. Ferne, J. Fez, A. Green, N. Green, J. Gowans, D. Gault, R. Hall, E. Hope, L. Hingley, M. Jessop, J. Kennedy, D. Krisa, G. Kelly, R. Lovett, M. J. McCarthy, G. McCarthy, A. McLean, J. Nicholson, H. Newsome, F. Patrick, T. Payne, P. Peat, G. Russell, J. Russell, I. Reed, J. Robinson, T. Reed, R. Rogers, A. Stewart, B. Starr, A. Siscos, K. Schafer, C. Tancheff, E. Turner, M. Wilton, B. Williams, G. Whitmore, E. Willingham, J. White, H. Starr.

Apologies

S. Burdon, J. Bennett, C. Benson, C. Carthew, J. Curtis, P. Dennis, G. Fraser, E. Keil, C. McGillivray, C. Purvis, W. Shea, N. Stubs, E. Trezise, A. Vagg, C. Allison, G. Maltby, T. Bryant.

Guye Russell
(Secretary)

A BIT MORE ABOUT OUR LATE GREAT MATE, LES DOUBLEDAY.

Despite the fact that she is not a well woman herself, Hilda Doubleday (may her tribe increase) has forwarded a thumbnail sketch of Les's service.

Les completed the Marconi School Certificate in June 1938. A great deal of his time was spent at sea.

NEPTUNIA	Signed on 11/11/38 in Sydney and signed off on 18/5/39.
MULCRA	Signed on 19/5/39 in Melbourne and signed off on 4/11/39.
BARWON	He did two stints signing on 29/11/39 in Sydney until 6/5/40. He rejoined her on 17/5/40 and signed off on 30/8/40 in Sydney.
NIEW HOLLAND	Signed on at Sydney on 6/9/40 and signed off on 5/3/44 in the United Kingdom.
PANUD	Signed on 27/7/44 in Sydney and off 29/6/44 in Brisbane.
MILDURA	Signed on 4/10/44 Sydney and off 3/1/46 Sydney.

It was around this time that he came ashore and joined A.W.A., which finally became O.T.C. and he retired on 13th April 1979. He died on 24th August 1989. As a post script, Hilda has commented "Sounds lousy, doesn't it? But it wasn't really, because we made some wonderful friends, yourself included."

I presume that Hilda was referring to the fact that they didn't have much time together whilst Les was at sea - but lousy - NEVER. Les and Hilda are great people, and the memories I have of the "dos" we had together, especially at the old Barcom Avenue, Darlinghurst, are indelibly printed in my memory box. Hilda is coming to Sydney sometime soon and the memories I have of Les could fill a book. There was more to this bloke than a list of ships, I can tell you.

-----AND A BIT MORE ABOUT HERBERT (BERT) LAKE.

Keith Vincent writes

"Received the NEWSLETTER today and a couple of items hit the eye and have forced nay, shamed me into print.....firstly the passing of Herbert (Bert) Lake and the often reminder about "your personal history".... one doesn't know when the Grim Reaper will strike and I guess it's like making out your will; some have the feeling that doing so will in some way hasten the inevitable.

My first meeting with Bert Lake was when I was interviewed by him and Laurie Fitzsimmonds as a prospective junior trainee instrument maker in the (A.W.A.) Melbourne Instrument Workshop. This occurred in 1941. I was a Beam Messenger at the time. The workshop was in the process of expanding in the making of Wheatstone telegraph instruments which were previously supplied by Creed & Co., but due to the war Creed could not provide further instruments. George Appleby (Melbourne Manager at the time) had this workshop set up and the manufacture of these instruments commenced in late 1940. Both Bert and Laurie were fine instrument makers and between them and others who worked there, Bert (Spike) Saunders, Jack Jordan, Jack Camp, Phil Cohen, Sam Bright, Doug Lawrence (?), Wally Annand and myself, they modified and manufactured the transmitting slabs, transmitter heads, relays, morse keys, sounders, and many other instruments for the ever-expanding A.W.A. Beam Service, the R.A.A.F., Army and Navy communication bases. From the middle of 1941 to the end of 1943 the workshop was in operation for 60 hours a week and nobody had any recreation leave during those dark days of the war. Bert Lake took charge of the Technical Maintenance Workshop after the manufacturing section closed and remained there until his retirement in 1964 or 1965.

He and his wife, Alma, did not have any children but they were active in the social events held at the time. They were also very protective of the "lads" in the workshop during our growing up period."

Thanks Keith. Keith is the President of the Queensland Branch of O.T.V.A.

AND YES.....I CANNOT STRESS IT ENOUGH... Your personal service record is always a boon to us, even though it may seem a bit innocuous to you it can trigger off the memories of other Veterans who may have served in your area.

WHICH REMINDS ME..... Alan, me ole son..... have you got one from me? Al Zimer is not unknown to me, either.

REMEMBER FELLERS, it is not a will I am asking you to make out!!!!

FROM OUR SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BRANCH

Greetings and salutations from our South Australian Branch members and myself, the following report of our Annual November meeting is for your edification and use as you see fit.

1. The annual pre-Christmas meeting of the O.T.V.A.(S.A.) was held at the O.T.C. Maritime Communications Station McLaren Vale on Thursday 23rd November 1989 commencing at 12.30pm with a luncheon plus refreshments. A warm welcome was extended to us by the Manager Fred Reeve, who in his usual capable manner had everything well organised in advance for us. We are indeed fortunate to have somebody like him.
2. A minutes silence was observed as a token of respect for two of our colleagues who passed away recently Bert Dudley (Secretary) and Eric Symes.
3. Those in attendance were Geoff Cox (President), Dick Inwood, Max Lang, Denis Maher, Keith Parker, Fred Reeve, Harry Stone and Dudley Treliving. The poor attendance was mostly due to the Transport strikes at the time.
4. Apologies were received from Ken Collett, George Rowe, Ken Springbett, Hugh Taylor and Ron Ward. These were mainly due to health reasons apart from Ken Collett and Ken Springbett who actually got as far as his local railway station on time only to find that the next train would have delivered him a couple of hours too late for the meeting.
5. Correspondence consisted of several Association business letters exchanged between President Geoff Cox and Secretary Alan Arndt including the sad news of the demise of our late secretary Bert Dudley and member Eric Symes. A letter of thanks was received from Eric's widow Mrs Noreen Symes and a letter of appreciation plus receipt for our donation of \$25.00 was also received from the Blind Welfare Association of S.A. This donation was made in memory of our late Secretary Bert Dudley.
6. Finances. Our account with the State Bank of S/Aust was transferred from Brighton to Noarlunga on the 15th December 1989 and authorization was also changed to the incoming secretary Harry Stone and/or President Geoff Cox. The balance of \$188.75 up to 15/12/89 now stands at \$152.75 after payment of \$36.00 to Pres, Geoff Cox as reimbursement of his outpayments on behalf of O.T.V.A. (S.A.) members, these being \$25.00 to the Blind Welfare Association of S/Aust and \$11.00 for two boxes of chocolates presented to Rhonda Hunt as a token of appreciation for her services at the luncheons of the May and November meetings.
The fact that we are in "the black", unlike some financial wizards that we all know, is due largely to the good graces and efforts of the O.T.C. manager Fred Reeves.
7. Other Business concerning the vacant position of secretary was discussed and nominations called for. Despite a vigorous and spirited protest by the only nominee, the position was duly and democratically filled. So I am yours truly Hon/Sec Harry Stone and hope that I do as good a job as the previous secretary, Bert Dudley did.
8. President Geoff Cox thanked Manager Fred Reeves and Rhonda Hunt for their able efforts and hospitality and it was agreed that the next A.G.M be held as usual at the same venue on the Thursday 24th May 1990 at 12.30pm.
Hope this fills the bill Alan, regards to your good self and 'Ando'

Harry Stone (Hon/Sec)

OUR THANKS TO THE AWA "RADIOGRAM"

The following article "12 Months Marooned" first appeared in the June edition, 1933, of the AWA Staff Magazine. It gives an insight into life on Willis Island. Our thanks to "Radiogram" for allowing us to reproduce it here.

12 MONTHS MAROONED.
WIRELESS MEN AND DOG.
Life on Willis Island

After twelve months with no company than that of each other and a cattle dog, Messrs. F. Snape and N. Olsen returned to Sydney last week from twelve months' life on a deserted island.

These modern Robinson Crusoes are wireless operators in the employ of Amalgamated Wireless (Australasia), Ltd, who accepted voluntary marooning on Willis Island in order to supply information to the mainland of Australia regarding the origin of cyclonic storms off the coast of North Queensland. Six times a day they would read the barometer, attached thermometer and screen thermometers. They would take the moisture percentage at sundry hours of the day and at 3 in the afternoon the solar radiation thermometer was read. This information was sent by wireless to the weather authorities who were thus enabled to calculate the probabilities of cyclonic disturbances. The information despatched by Messrs. Snape and Olsen assisted in the forecasting of the great storm in which the Japanese steamer "Kinsen Maru" was lost with heavy loss of life last month.

Although the life on Willis Island is lonely, no ship ever passing within sight, there are plenty of volunteers for the wireless men's jobs. The reason is not far to seek - it is impossible to spend any money. There are no picture shows, no hotels, no racecourses, not even a church. When the wireless men step ashore at Sydney, a whole year's salary is at their disposal. While on the island they live on the best, taking with them enormous stores of tinned and other food.

Messrs. Snape and Olsen tried the experiment of growing vegetables and succeeded with silver beet, lettuce, cucumbers, beetroot and tomatoes. Their potatoes were a failure. They discovered, moreover, that the vegetables thrived as well in the plain sand as when planted in rich river loam, of which they took five bags with them from Brisbane.

The life of the party was Sandy, the cattle-dog. Sandy would swim out to sea for 400 yards and, although sharks surround the island in thousands, he was never taken. The wireless men never expected to bring him back, especially on one occasion when his path in the water crossed that of a 10ft shark, which passed him at a distance of about 6ft, apparently without noticing him. Sandy had great fun with the turtles which came ashore to lay their eggs. He would try to muster them like sheep until finally they would scatter in all directions and make into the sea.

Sandy amused himself also playing with the innumerable sea birds which inhabit Willis Island, and are as tame as domestic fowls. One bird did not appreciate Sandy's attentions and pierced his eyeball with a needle-like beak. Thereupon the islanders wirelessed to Townsville and obtained from the leading veterinary surgeon instructions which enabled them to save his eyesight. Their twelve months passed uneventfully, though Mr. Olsen while bathing trod on a sea-urchin. For a fortnight he and Mr. Snape were picking quills from his heel. The wireless men were brought back to Townsville by the Commonwealth lighthouse steamer, their places being taken by Messrs. A. Hooper and L. Coley, who will represent Amalgamated Wireless in the loneliest outpost of the British Empire for the ensuing twelve months.

VALE CLAUDE DALLEY

Claude's daughter, Mrs. Thelma McDonald, has advised us that Claude passed away on the 9th of February, 1990, whilst undergoing yet another operation on his leg. The funeral was a private affair, attended mainly by his family and close friends.

Fortunately, Claude was one of those veterans who had made out a Particulars of Service form, and details of his service are hereunder.

From January 1916 until July 1917 he served with the PCB in Auckland as a probationer and then an operator.

From September 1917 to January 1918 he served in Halifax Nova Scotia as an operator, and from June 1918 to November at Bamfield British Columbia as an operator.

In March 1924 to July the same year he was stationed at Suva where he was employed as an assistant electrician and technician. After his service at Suva he was returned to Auckland to complete his technician training. In February 1925 he was stationed at Fanning Island until February 1928, serving as a technician and during which time the loaded cable was laid.

From April 1928 until January 1930 he served at Auckland, and was then moved to Norfolk Island and was there until May 1935. June 1935 until July 1937 he was 2 OIC at Suva, and was returned to Sydney from then until October for his Managerial exams.

November 1937 till May 1943 he was returned to Suva as 2 OIC and from June 1943 until June 1962 he was back at Sydney as an engineer with C&W and served as Technical Superintendent with OTC until his retirement.

He will be missed by his many Veteran friends and our sincerest sympathy goes to Thelma, his family, and friends.

NATIONAL SCIENCE CENTRE EXHIBITION.

As some of you may have seen in "TRANSIT", OTC is staging an exhibit in the new National Science and Technology Centre at Canberra. The exhibition is opening in June of this year.

The theme of the display is connected to the Electro-magnetic spectrum. The Manager of OTC's Exhibition Program, Kathy Jones, is seeking some more examples of this subject than those listed hereunder. (Old H/F boys take special note of those used today).

Also would appreciate it if anyone can supply further info of those listed. Any Vet who can help is asked to ring Kathy on 287-5267 as a matter of urgency.

Kathy is also seeking a Uniselector of about 1950 vintage, so should you have one, or know where this item of equipment could be obtained, please call her.

<u>ARTIFACT</u>	<u>WAVEBAND</u>	<u>FREQ (HZ)</u>	<u>WAVE LENGTH</u>	<u>HERTZ</u>
MEDICAL X-RAY	ATOMIC			

ARTIFACT	WAVEBAND	FREQUENCY (HZ)	WAVELENGTH (METERS)	HERTZ
1 MEDICAL X-RAY	ATOMIC	$10^{20} - 10^{16}$	$.000000003 \text{ M.M.}$ 3×10^{-12}	?
2 PLANT GROW LIGHTS	ULTRAVIOLET	$10^{15} - 10^{16}$	$.00003 \text{ M.M.}$ 3×10^{-8}	?
3 FIBEROPTICS CABLE	WHITE LIGHT	10^{15}	$.0003 \text{ M.M.}$ 3×10^{-7}	30 TO 400 TERAHERTZ
4 DOOR OPENERS TV CHANNEL CHANGERS SECURITY SYSTEMS	INFRARED	10^{13}	$.03 \text{ M.M.}$ 3×10^{-5}	300 GIGAHERTZ 400 TERAHERTZ
5 MICROWAVE TOWER	EXTREMELY HIGH FREQUENCY (EHF)	10^{11}	3 M.M. 3×10^{-3}	30-300 GIGAHERTZ
6 SPACE & SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS MICROWAVE COMMUNICATIONS	SUPER HIGH FREQUENCY (SHF)	10^{10}	30 M.M. 3×10^{-2}	3-30 GIGAHERTZ
7 TELEVISION	ULTRA HIGH FREQUENCY (UHF)	10^9	300 M.M. 3×10^{-1}	300 MEGAHERTZ-3 GIGAHERTZ
8 FM RADIO AMATEUR RADIO	VERY HIGH FREQUENCY (VHF)	10^8	3 M 3	30-300 MEGAHERTZ
9 AM RADIO	MEDIUM FREQUENCY (MF)	10^6	300 M	300 KILOHERTZ-3 MEGAHERTZ
10 MICROWAVE OVEN	VERY LOW FREQUENCY (VLF)	10^4	3 K.M. 30000 M	3-30 KILOHERTZ
11 TELEGRAPH KEY	EXTREMELY LOW FREQUENCY (ELF)	10^2	300.000 M 300 K.H.	?