



CENTRAL BUREAU INTELLIGENCE CORPS ASSOCIATION SEPTEMBER 2011

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PRESIDENT'S PAR

Unit History

The following letter from Major General Gower, Director of the Australian War Memorial will, I am sure, be of interest and I hope a source of encouragement to all members.

"Dear Mr Gibson

Thank you for your letter of 21 July 2011, regarding the progress of the Central Bureau history.

As you note, Dr Jean Bou, took up the history from Chris Clark in April this year. I can assure you that he is working on its completion to the best of his abilities. He inherited from Chris Clark about 50,000 words of draft text and all his research materials, but the process of handing over a draft manuscript from one author to another is not an easy one.

Dr Bou has had no previous experience of signals intelligence history and it has accordingly been necessary for him to do a good deal of work to become familiar enough with the topic and its application in the South-West Pacific during the campaign so that he is able to write about the topic adequately. This undoubtedly took longer than anticipated, but while doing this he has produced a new outline structure of the history and worked to incorporate the supplied draft text into it.

Dr Bou's plans are to produce a history with two parts, the first relating to the establishment of the Central Bureau and its associated network, the second to what the Bureau actually did during the war. The draft text supplied by Chris Clark will contribute significantly to the first part, and this part of the book is, after the slow start, advancing well, but there is still considerable work to be done to complete the second part. The Memorial was able to recoup some of the funding that was provided to Chris Clark, however we are using our own funds to pay Dr Bou's salary over a six-month period while he works on the history. I sincerely hope that the manuscript will be completed within this time.

When the project was handed over earlier this year, all the Central Bureau material that Chris Clark had in his possession was given to Dr Bou. There is no apparent reason to be concerned that any of the material donated by members of your association has gone astray. As I indicated in an earlier communication, we can only confirm that all material was handed over at projects completion. ———"

Remembrance Day 2011

A reminder that we are all welcome to join with members of the Roseville RSL Sub Branch and children representing the local schools in the usual Wreath Laying Ceremony commencing 10.30am at the Memorial Club, 24 Pacific Highway Roseville.

The following photographs show the C.B.I.C.A Gallipoli Roses Memorial Plaque and the roses on view in the adjoining park where the actual ceremony takes place. Then back to the club for much chatter over an informal luncheon.

Gordon Gibson, President
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HON. TREASURER'S REPORT

Following a note I sent Heather Williams re her subs I thought I should record part of her reply. "Seeing I would be one of the few members who actually worked with Gen MacArthur in the AMP Building in Brisbane and also at Ascot Park where I lived at home it would be a pity to lose complete contact with the remaining members. At Ascot Park I worked with Col Sandford, so I have a few worthwhile memories."

These days Heather lives at Barrington N.S.W.

Subscriptions Last month I sent a note to a few members who had not paid this years subs. Heather and some others have paid but I have not heard from a handful, while I am told some have serious health problems.

We are certainly not spring chickens. Let us hope we can go on much longer.

Bruce Bentwitch,
Hon. Treasurer,
7 Holly Street
CASTLE COVE NSW 2069
(02) 9417-1427

HON. SECRETARY'S PAR

Dear friends

Sorry, no scintillating prose this time...have been out of action for some months with dressings for hand (caught in lift door) and intensive physio for wrecked neck and arm (penalties of age).

General correspondence almost non-existent; sadly mostly condolence letters.

All being well some of us will roll up for the Remembrance Day ceremony at Roseville Memorial Club on Friday, 11 November, followed by lunch. We look forward to seeing those of you also able to attend. The roses are doing well and the plaque has been installed.

That's it for now. Like our Bill Rogers am "still above ground" but going with the flow.

Cheers and good wishes.

Joy Granger
WarVets 2/5 Endeavour Drive
NARRABEEN 2101
(02) 9981 2397

THE YEAR OF TURING

2012 will be officially the Year of Turing, marking the centenary of this code breaker's birth.

This mathematician was only 27 when he went to Bletchley Park, where he and others, helped first by brave Poles, were instrumental in breaking the Enigma Code.

German submarine packs were roaming the Atlantic using this code, destroying ships and crews who were bringing supplies to almost starving Britain. The breaking of the code won the Battle of the Atlantic, and warded off Nazi invasion.

Judith (Roe) Carson, former cryptographer in Hut H at Ascot Park, has just read "Alan Turing – The Enigma" by Andrew Hodges, first printed in 1983 and reprinted by Vintage in 1992.

The book, written by a mathematician, has technical passages readily understood by mathematicians such as Judy, whose late husband, Tony Carson, was one of those clever young Englishmen sent out to CB.

"Turing's my hero," she said as we lunched. Turing, like Kipling, was the son of British parents living in India. Such children were usually "sent home" for education in Britain. (Read Kipling's "Baa baa black sheep" to sense the pain of separation and the young lad's misery.)

Turing went to Sherborne in Dorset. It was – and still is – one of Britain's most famous schools. Its buildings featured in the musical "Goodbye, Mr Chips".

At Sherborne he was not happy (neither was Judy Carson's cousin who went there much later.) He was studious, a top runner who could have been an Olympian, and rather withdrawn. From school he went on to Cambridge, the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, and, of course, Bletchley Park.

After the war he was working on artificial intelligence, and using what now is called the Turing Test to find out if machines could think.

He was homosexual (illegal then) and in 1952, after reporting a theft from his home, was convicted of gross indecency. After oestrogen treatment to "cure" homosexuality, he lost his security clearance within Britain, and could not go to America. In 1954 he committed suicide by biting into an apple dipped in cyanide.

Since then, the former PM, Gordon Brown, has apologised for the “appalling way” Turing was treated, and said sorry on behalf of the British Government.

But look back to 1951 – the year when Burgess and Maclean defected to Russia. These diplomats were passing information to the NKVD. Later Kim Philby went to Moscow. Eventually Blunt and Cairncross were revealed as spies. Cairncross had worked at GCCS. They were to be called “The Cambridge Five” or “the Magnificent Five.”

They had been feeding the Soviet Union with the most secret material. Was Turing tainted by their actions and made suspect?

Three of the “Cambridge Five” were homosexual – Burgess flamboyantly so.

Turing’s mother never believed that he had committed suicide with that apple. (A mother never would.) It was an extraordinary action – straight out of the fable Snow White. Much time has passed. There have been strange incidents with poisoned umbrella spikes, and death by poisons. Who knows if he took his life or if others took it? His tragedy is over, but when Turing is mentioned the word “hero” still applies.

BLETCHLEY BRIEFINGS

Family friends who visited Bletchley Park this year found themselves back in the forties. (They were probably not born then.)

People were wearing wartime uniforms. Women affected dresses and hairstyles of the time. It was a day of special commemoration. Suddenly “Churchill” appeared – a rotund, cigar smoking replica, very convincing. It was the real Churchill who ordered “Action this day,” when the young Turing of Bletchley sought urgent help for the codebreakers. He and others short cut officialdom by writing directly from the PM.

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For years Peter Westcombe and Founders of the Bletchley Park Trust tried to preserve Bletchley, its buildings, and any relics – paper and machinery – for history. There was no Government support, no funds, no interest. Times have changed. Visitors, from H.M. Queen Elizabeth II to tourists arrive. Money is coming in. Mathematicians seek the place.

CBer Alan Norton sent a clipping from the Sydney Morning Herald (5.9.2011). It told of the death of Tony

Sale (1931-2001), the scientist who “brought the code-breaker, Colossus, back to life.”

“Colossus, designed by the engineer, Tommy Flowers, determined the settings used on the Lorenz machine which encrypted messages with greater complexity even than the Enigma machine.”

“From the summer of 1944 it allowed Allied commanders to read Hitler’s mind”.

Hitler was tricked into thinking that the D-Day landings would take place in the Pas de Calais, not Normandy, and refused to reinforce his troops in the latter. After the war, trying to keep Colossus secret from the Soviet Union, Churchill ordered all trace of the machine to be destroyed. Colossus had been dubbed the world’s first computer. The last Colossus at GCHQ was destroyed in the 1960s.

In 1993 Tony Sale set about rebuilding a Colossus. He visited engineers who had worked on the original and discovered that some of them had retained scraps of the original plan. “The rebuild was done from eight black and white photographs and 10 fragments of circuit diagram,” Sale revealed later.

Armed with the plans, Sale acquired old valves – more than 2000 of which were used in Colossus – and “standard telephone exchange gear” that Flowers had incorporated into the original design. Over the next 14 years, Sale and 20 assistants reassembled Colossus. “I had to piece it all together and slowly work out how each part worked,” he said.

In November 2007 a Lorenz-coded message was sent from Germany, and intercepted at Bletchley. It was fed into the resurrected Colossus which, within 3½ hours, produced a decrypt just as it had in the days of the war.

Anthony Edgar Sale was born on January 30, 1931, and educated at Dulwich College, London. He completed his national service at RAF Debden, lecturing aircrew on radar. After the RAF, Sale worked at Marconi’s laboratories before joining MI5 in 1957.

In 1989, Sale joined the Science Museum, where he restored and helped curate displays on computing. In 1991 he was part of a group that began a campaign to save Bletchley Park and was named the Bletchley Park Trust’s secretary and museums adviser in 1992. The following year he began to rebuild Colossus.

He is survived by his wife, Margaret, and three children.

IN BRIEF

Does any CBer remember the 1923 Rolls Royce tourer commandeered in New Guinea during World War II by General MacArthur for use as his staff car?

Alexander (Sandy) Gilliland, writing in the September issue of "Una Voce" – journal of the Papua New Guinea Association of Australia, seeks help.

His grandfather, Robert Bertie, a solicitor, owned the Rolls, which is believed to be the first motor vehicle registered in Port Moresby. Its number plate was PM1.

Sandy Gilliland's mother told him this story. He hopes to verify it, and to track the movement of the Roller to the present day. A rumour says it was sighted – derelict, in Bougainville.

He has confirmed (helped by "Una Voce's" readers and the Rolls Royce Foundation) that the tourer's chassis was 87K9, and that the Rolls was overhauled in Sydney and returned to New Guinea in the 1930s.

Mr Gilliland writes: "My grandfather (Robert Bertie), was apparently in charge of the evacuation of women and children from Port Moresby to Australia in 1941. He never returned."

If you have any helpful information email sandy.gilliland@accinfo.net.au or contact him on Mobile 0418 782 582, write to 127 Kenmore Road, Kenmore, QLD, 4069.

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Jean Robertson, of Toowoomba, Qld, has just "turned the big 90". (*Congratulations, Jean, join the club*)

She writes to say that she can't go out on her own, and can't move two feet without her "wheelie walker."

Her birthday was "lovely". Family took her to lunch; her son, his wife, Jean's daughter plus 5 grandchildren, their husbands or boyfriend and 6 great-grandchildren came along.

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Diana Parker, Box Hill North, Victoria, has been housebound, but is now off to New Zealand for a trip with daughter, Kath. *Bon voyage, bon retour*

Gordon and Sue Gibson have been staying at what seems to be his Presidential Retreat – Noosa. It's a place to escape from troubles. The Gibsons are home in Sydney again.

BOOK REVIEW

Sharon Bertsch McGrayne, The Theory That Would Not Die: How Bayes' Rule Cracked the Enigma Code, Hunted Down Russian Submarines and Emerged Triumphant from Two Centuries of Controversy "A book simply highlighting the astonishing 200 year controversy over Bayesian analysis would have been highly welcome. This book does so much more, however, uncovering the almost secret role of Bayesian analysis in a stunning series of the most important developments of the twentieth century. What a revelation and what a delightful read!" – James Berger, Duke University

BAYES AND BLETCHLEY

A new book by Sharon McGrayne has been published by Yale University Press. Yalebooks.com

Who was Bayes? Mathematicians know, but most of us don't. Thomas Bayes, English mathematician and clergyman, lived from 1702 to 1761.

A Fellow of the Royal Society, and a Presbyterian minister, he was "author of the first expression in precise quantitative form of a mode of inductive inference" to quote the Encyclopaedia Britannica.

He expounded his theory before Australia and Bletchley were on the map, but his theories survived and were recognised only after centuries of condemnation.

The mathematician, Dr Peter Donovan has a copy of the book.

Just before he left for Canada and the U.S.A. where he will give a talk on JN25 at NSA's Seminar on "Historical Aspects of Cryptology." Newsletter asked him about the Bayesian Theory.

(Helen Kenny, who, regrettably, is innumerate, took down his lengthy dictation, but was unable to check it back with him. Apologies for any mistakes.)

He said that Bayes' method of Bayesian Inference is now the accepted statistical method. It was in general disrepute in the 1920s and 1930s. Then Professor Jeffrey of Cambridge University wrote a book "Theory of Probability." It is presumed that Alan Turing, then at Cambridge was aware to some extent of this book. "Next," continued Dr Donovan, "the breaking of JN25 was initiated by Tiltman with some input by Turing. FECB, Singapore was also using Bayesian techniques.

In 1945, Turing wrote a report on Bayesian methods used against Enigma, The paper has not yet been released.

This report, listed in the British National Archives is in the GCHQ archives.

Turing acquired an assistant, Jack Good, who after the War popularised and explained the Bayesian method in numerous publications. Fortunately, Turing's work on JN24 happened before Good reached Bletchley Park. So Turing's role in JN25 decryption remains somewhat obscure.

The work of Good and others made possible the proper analysis of the relationship between smoking and lung cancer and numerous developments. The book by Sharon McGrayne says this came out of Bletchley and the use of Bayesian theory, now standard.

Dr Donovan said it appears that British doctors, who graduated between 1910 and 1920 held reunions in 1950. Obviously not everyone was still alive. Smokers were greatly represented among the dead..

Statistics of the Bayesian method made doctors realise that smoking was dangerous to health.

"It would be nice," said Dr Donovan "if GCHQ would release the reports of Turing. Edward Simpson ran the JN25 Unit at Bletchley from 1944 to 1945, and wrote a paper, later published by the Royal Statistical Society. He did not mention anything before 1944, but his paper describes how the Bayesian theory had application to JN25, Enigma, and the use of multiples of 3.

(Find the book at amazon.com. Look at scientific method.)

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FRIENDS FOREVER
 BY
GWEN CHARLESWORTH



L to R Geoff Charlesworth, Dr Kagawa, Alan Langdon
 Tokyo 1945

Alan Langdon and Geoff Charlesworth met in 1943 when stationed in Brisbane at 21 Henry Street, Ascot. They shared accommodation at a bug-ridden hotel, nicknamed "The Shambles."

Here, sharing a room. And discovering a Bible in it, they discovered that they were both Christians of differing denominations; Geoff a Methodist, Alan Church of England (Anglican).

They formed a great relationship which was to last all their lives. Later they served in New Guinea, then the Philippines. During this time they were able to attend Church in Baguio and made friends there.

Peace was declared and troops were given 10 days leave. These two corporals wore epaulettes and perhaps were mistaken for officers when they went to the airstrip and asked the US Airmen if they could hitch a lift to somewhere – perhaps China. The answer was "Yes, buddies, hop on board."

Geoff and Alan then found themselves on a plane bound for Tokyo. It was carrying the personal equipment of General Whitehead, General of the American 5th Air Force.

Ten days after peace was declared the hitch-hikers landed in Tokyo. Waiting at the foot of the gangway were U.S. Officers waiting to meet the General.

The corporals disappeared quickly into the crowd. They knew of only one person in Tokyo they would love to meet. He was Dr Kagawa, a famous Japanese Christian who had lectured in Australia before the war.

They set off in the direction of a spire or cross on a building which denoted a Christian Church. Here they found a number of missionaries who had been under house arrest for the duration, meeting Amy Luke whose husband Percy was at that very time in a meeting with Kagawa. Their young son took Alan and Geoff to meet him, and it was arranged he would see them the following day – which was a special and memorable time for them all. (Many years later, the Lukes' moved to the Toowoomba area to be near their son and family, and we were able to meet up with them a few times).

They were shown many places of interest as they walked around, including General Tojo's residence. They went to a famous shopping centre, and here Geoff and Alan were shown exquisite materials,

which they greatly admired. They did purchase a particularly attractive piece each, which later was to cover lampshades in their homes after they married.

In recent years, F.E.B.C (Far East Broadcasting Company) conducted a tour into Asia, so these intrepid travellers joined in because it was going to the Philippines. Once there they were able to get a lift to Baguio, and meet a number of folk from war days. Alan had photos of those days with him, and the locals were thrilled to see themselves after 40 plus years.

Geoff celebrated his 90th birthday at Melbourne in May this year. Alan and his wife Pamela from the Blue Mountains were happy to attend. Sadly, Alan passed away on 31 May and Geoff followed soon after on 24 July.

VALE

Geoff Charlesworth (1921-2011) was born at Elsternwick, Victoria, son of Albert and Ida. He had one sister, Helen, four years younger.

After school at Wesley College, Geoff went into his father's business, Charlesworth Rubber. War came. Geoff joined the Army and was posted to Glen Innes, N.S.W.

He came from a Methodist family – his father was an officer in the YMCA, deeply involved in running Sunday school and youth groups.

In the country town of Glen Innes many church organisations offered hospitality to soldiers. One such was the Methodist Church.

After going to church one day, Mr and Mrs Wallace Parker asked Geoff home to lunch. Their 14 year old daughter, Gwen, was there. There were games of tennis, sing-songs. Geoff moved on to CB, New Guinea and the Philippines as did his comrade, Alan Langdon. In the Philippines, Geoff went to Gospel meetings and met Filipino friends.

War ended. Then came that hitch-hike to Japan. Geoff kept a diary.

It is now in the keeping of Gwen, his widow, once that 14-year-old he first met in Glen Innes. She will let Newsletter use excerpts.

After the war he came back to Melbourne, went to England, and crossed to Amsterdam to attend the first meeting of the World Council of Churches, and returned

to work with his father, an original Anzac, as was Gwen's father.

Geoff Charlesworth Snr was one of the last three living Anzacs in 2000. The faces of the three appeared on Australian stamps. He heard of this honour the day before he died on 21 January, 2000, aged 105 ½. In the 90s he had attended a CB reunion with his son.

Gwen, when 7, travelled to Melbourne with her Anzac father, when Government paid for Anzacs to attend a commemorative service. She grew up in Glen Innes, was organist in her church, worked as a secretary and travelled. She and Geoff met a few times, but did not become engaged until 17 years after the schoolgirl and soldier met.

They went to Alan and Pam Langdon's home. Pam brought in the afternoon tea tray and suddenly glimpsed the diamond ring on Gwen's finger. "Pam nearly dropped the tray" says Gwen.

The pair married in Glen Innes. Alan Langdon was there to officiate as Assistant Minister.

The couple lived in Melbourne. There were three children, Helen, Murray and Ian. There are five grandchildren.

Gwen and Geoff kept up with church work. He founded the North Balwyn Boy's Club, and the Y's Men's Club.

As years passed, they travelled to many places overseas.

Alan Langdon flew to Melbourne for Geoff's ninetieth. Not long after Gwen and Geoff flew to Wentworth Falls, N.S.W. for Alan's funeral service. He was to write Alan's Vale, but became ill and died.

Gwen and Pam are old friends. They've decided, all being well, that they'll come to Sydney, book into the Marriott, and join CBers there for the Anzac Day lunch. They'll be made most welcome by CBers, especially those who served with their husbands. Pam will bring her grandson who will wear Alan's medals.

Canon Alan Langdon

Alan was born on 6th March, 1924 at Balmain, and grew up in Roseville. He attended Roseville Public School and went on to North Sydney Boys High and later to Sydney University where he did Arts and French with a view to teaching. After the war he went back to University, having first been to Japan (where he and Geoff Charlesworth found the Japanese Christian on Kagowa).

Archbishop MOWLL heard of that trip. He interviewed him and persuaded him to enter the ministry, which he was not keen to do because he wanted to teach. He was given the job of Christian Education in the Diocese of Sydney where he remained for nearly 40 years. He was involved in producing Scripture lessons for schools and Sunday Schools and teacher training and was also involved in establishing low fee Anglican schools.

I was born in January 1923 and my schooling was unspectacular. I first met Alan through a member of my church, St. Clements, Mosman. Where I had just become a committed Christian. Alan and his friend, Alwyn, had walked down from the University to Bible Society where I worked. We were married on 11th September, 1954 and had five children, two girls and three boys. They are all married and my eldest daughter is now a grandmother! I have 13 grandchildren and five great grand children.

Since retiring Alan took on a small church at Portland, part of Lithgow's parish, which is 70 kms from our home in Wentworth Falls. He also had two men's discussion groups.

He belonged to the RSL Sub Branch in the Upper Blue Mountains and spoke at the Dawn Service each Anzac Day and Remembrance Day. It often rained lightly but was always well attended. We then went to Sydney to join his Unit for lunch. He also organized "Australia My Country" which was no mean task.

He was the sort of person who did not give up easily and it seemed he would go on forever, so it came as quite a shock when he was taken by ambulance to Katoomba hospital and transferred the next day by helicopter to Nepean hospital in Penrith. He was in the intensive care unit in Nepean and while he recognized all the family, he was not able to communicate with us. He died a week later on 31st May..

From Pamela Langdon, widow of Alan.

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ERIC ALFRED SAXON

14 February 1915 – 6 June 2011



Eric Alfred Saxon was born on February 14th, 1915 at Eastbourne, England. After the end of World War I the family settled on a small farm in North West Tasmania.

Eric was a keen student and on finishing secondary studies at Launceston High School, he matriculated in 1931.

During 1933/34 he was serving as a probationary teacher before entering Teachers College in Hobart in 1935.

He was very interested in languages and would listen to ABC Radio and study the program material he received and then submit simple exercises in Japanese for correction. In 1939 he joined the militia and was placed in the Signals Section of the 40th Battalion, having gained some knowledge of Morse. He gained promotion to corporal, sergeant, and then lieutenant in charge of signals. As there was no full time work available, Eric resigned from the militia. In 1940 he qualified for the degree of Bachelor of Commerce at the University of Tasmania.

In 1941 we married in Hobart.

After moving to Canberra Eric worked at the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. During this time he attended night classes to study Japanese. In March 1943 he enlisted and joined Central Bureau (Army Intelligence) with the rank of sergeant. In the Bureau he worked with Allied personnel from Australia, Britain, Canada and a large number from USA under the command of General Douglas MacArthur.

At the end of hostilities, it was very pleasing when he was accepted as a member of the British Commonwealth Occupation Forces in Japan as an interpreter. He found it rewarding to meet members of the public especially the children. During this time he was invited to several schools to speak to the classes. In 1970, Eric with his wife, travelled to Japan. Here he was able to meet the same former students, who by this time had children of their own.

In September 1959, Eric was granted a Commonwealth Research Scholarship. He attended Oxford University and undertook study towards the Diploma of Agricultural Economics for which he qualified in June, 1960. He visited India in 1972, as a representative of Australia in seminars and conferences dealing with matters involving agricultural economics.

In 1978 he was elected President of the Canberra, Australia-Japan Society.

Eric officially retired from the Commonwealth Public Service in 1980. His last job was to deliver a paper at an International Conference held in Adelaide.

Thirty years after the end of the war the embargo was lifted on the intelligence operations in the Central Bureau and Australian Special Wireless Group WW II. Achievements in intercepting and deciphering coded Japanese military messages were applauded by the UK Government Code and Cypher School. In July 2009 he was sent a certificate of thanks signed by the then Prime Minister the Rt Hon Gordon Brown.

After having lived in Canberra for over 40 years Eric and Thelma moved to the Sunshine Coast Queensland. Eric is survived by his wife, Thelma, three children, Leslie, Ross and Lyndall, seven grand children, and three great grand children.

Contributed by Thelma Saxon, his wife of 70 years.

SUCCINT SIGNALS

“Here are a few somewhat succinct naval signals from the past. Some were sent by flags, some by Aldis light, most by wireless Morse Code. Firstly here is arguably the most famous signal in British Naval history.”

(This quotation and the following (shortened) text comes from the December 2010 issue of ‘Old Timers’ News. ‘Our thanks.)

“ENGLAND EXPECTS THAT EVERY MAN WILL DO HIS DUTY” was a signal sent by Admiral Horatio Nelson, 1st Viscount Nelson, from his flagship HMS

Victory as the Battle of Trafalgar was about to commence on 21st October 1805.

What follows are just a few interesting signals from the earlier part of the 20th century. Most are from the British naval records of WW I and WW II, with a few from US ships and some from post WW II.

- From HMS *Formidable*, after being attacked by a Kamikaze pilot in the Pacific towards the end of the WW II, to HMS *Indomitable* (flying flag of Admiral Vian): “LITTLE YELLOW BASTARD.” The reply from HMS *Indomitable* was: “ARE YOU REFERRING TO ME.”
- A Battle Cruiser Squadron was being led to the anchorage by a Senior Captain who had not had much experience in handling the Squadron. The signal to stop engines was hoisted. When it was hauled down the leading ship did not stop her own engines, and soon began to draw away from the others. From the ship next astern to the leading ship: “WHAT SPEED ARE YOU STOPPED AT PLEASE.”
- From the very old HMS *Tenor* to HMS *Protector* off Sidi Barrani in 1941: “AM PROCEEDING AT FULL SPEED TO YOUR ASSISTANCE. MY SPEED 4 KNOTS.”
- A light naval force was on a sweep in the Skagerrak in World War I in hazy weather. Shortly after dawn the most northerly cruiser signalled: ‘ENEMY BATTLE - SHIP BEARING NNE DISTANCE 2 MILES. AM PREPARING TO RAM.’
Later came: “CANCEL MY LAST SIGNAL. BATTLE-SHIP TURNS OUT TO BE A LIGHTHOUSE.” (It seems that the lighthouses on the northern shores of the Skagerrak often had twin towers which looked like a superstructure and turrets.)