

# COUSENS IN RADIO TOKYO SNAPSHOT

**A photograph of the Radio Tokyo staff, which included Major Charles Hughes Cousens in civilian dress, was produced at Central Police Court yesterday by Mr. Dovey, K.C., for the Crown.**

Cousens is charged with high treason while he was a prisoner of war working for the Japanese at Radio Tokyo.

There was an angry clash between counsel for the defence and Mr. Dovey after Mr. Dovey had said to Cousens, "You appear to be in the full bloom of health."

Mr. Shand, K.C., for Cousens, invited Mr. Farrington, S.M., to study the photograph and see Cousens' haggard and drawn condition.

Mr. Shand accused the Crown of putting a question based on "absolute falsehood."

In cross-examination, Cousens said that on one occasion at Bunka, a Japanese wanted to stage an execution in the courtyard. He later gathered that the victim was to be himself, Ince, or Henshaw (American P.O.W.s).

Cousens, explaining information which he tried to get out in his scripts, said he mentioned unconditional surrender, and a request for conditions of surrender, indicating even at that stage that there was a body of opinion in Japan considering surrender conditions.

## Feared Execution

Replying to questions about his arrival at Tokyo, Cousens said that he was in an enfeebled condition because of lack of proper food. He was extremely worried, and during that time had a fear of imminent death.

Mr. Dovey: The script writing gave you something better to do than the broadcasting.

Cousens: Yes, but it was more dangerous.

You have told us Ince and Reyes (American prisoners of war) came to the station in 1942 and you have told us of a photograph group of which you were one?—Yes.

You were not commanded by anyone to take your place in the group?

No. I was asked by Watanabe.

That was the occasion on which he was going away to serve with the armed forces against your compatriots?—As an interpreter, yes.

Did any of those in the group express disapproval or resentment at

Did any of those in the group express disapproval or resentment at your presence in the group?—I was told that some of them did.

The picture was taken out of compliment to those who were going away?—As a souvenir, I understood.

It was not a photograph of the whole English-speaking section of Radio Tokyo?—I believe it was of all those who were available at the time.

Ince and Reyes were in the studio at the time?—I don't know.

Mr. Dovey: I suppose you will agree that a photograph of that sort is unique?

Cousens: In what way?

It is the photograph of a group of enemy nationals together with a lone British officer in civilian clothes. The occasion is a send-off to three of the group to the enemy front. Don't you call that unique—a British officer being there voluntarily?

It is not unique at all. Thousands of similar pictures were taken in the prison camps.

This was going to the front. Did you think it would make a nice Christmas card for the boys in Burma?

If I thought of it as falling into their hands at all it would be in terms of their realising that I had kept my promise and they would see that I was on the job.

So it had a message, did it?—Only in terms of your supposition.

## S. M. Bruce Reference

Do you remember the line "fair round belly with good capon lined," and applying it to Mr. S. M. Bruce, Australian High Commissioner in London? Do you remember writing that in your commentary?—I may have. I wrote 500 commentaries.

Those lines might well have applied to you in this picture. You appear to be in the full bloom of health?—All I can see is part of my face.

In better condition than you look now?—I deny it.

You don't appear to be "sickly or with a pale cast of thought," do you?—When you are a prisoner of the enemy it is essential to keep up appearances.

Explaining a passage in one of his commentaries, Cousens said that a series

was broadcast and in them he suggested "links" and he hoped that eventually Allied Intelligence would see the "chain"

"links" and he hoped that eventually Allied Intelligence would see the "chain."

Mr. Dovey: Have you found anyone who picked up these links?

Cousens: In Australia, not yet, but in Omori prisoners of war camp in Japan, I believe I have records of that. They would be American bomber crews and pilots who were shot down and taken to Omori camp.

Cousens said that when he referred to Japan as a totalitarian State, he qualified it by saying that there was a big flaw in it—the Emperor.

Mr. Dovey: Do you claim to know what the Emperor was thinking?

Cousens: Yes, through Huga and Domoto, both of whom were in contact with the Emperor's Household.

## Deceiving One Another

Huga was a big playboy, was he not?—That is what he led individuals at Radio Tokyo to believe.

He was like you, he was deceiving them too?—They were all deceiving one another.

Questioned about his relations with Domoto at Bunka Camp, Cousens said Domoto had been instrumental in saving the lives of three officers—Ince, Henshaw, and himself, when they had been suspected of incorporating information into programmes.

Mr. Dovey: On what occasion.

Cousens: There was more than one occasion. I recall on one occasion at Bunka when I had been having constant trouble over suggestive messages and double meanings in the scripts. The then civilian head at Bunka, a man called Fujimura, wanted to have an execution in the courtyard as an example to the other prisoners.

Execution of whom?—Of one of the prisoners, and we later gathered it was to be probably me or possibly Henshaw or Ince. Domoto, by argument, was able to tide over that situation which had gone too far for me to control.

Cousens said this was told him by Japa in the "front office" at Bunka.

The hearing was adjourned until Monday.

Mr. Dovey, K.C., Mr. Barwick, K.C., and Mr. Rex Chambers, by the Commonwealth Crown Solicitor, appeared for the Crown; Mr. Bradley, K.C., Mr. Shand, K.C., and Mr. J. W. Smyth, by Messrs. McFadden and McFadden, for Cousens.