



CENTRAL BUREAU INTELLIGENCE CORPS ASSOCIATION September 2012

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PRESIDENT'S PAR

Unit History

The good news on this front is that our ever vigilant Publicity Officer Helen has received a letter from Linda Ferguson, Assistant Director of Public Programs at the Australian War Memorial, which concludes with the following statement: "We are currently finalising the publication arrangements and expect the book to appear later this year." Are we finally nearing the end of the road? Linda's letter also contained an assurance that the names of all those who donated money will be included and that an index is also being compiled by the A.W.M.'s Editor.

Remembrance Day 2012

It is not too early to remind all members who are within reasonable distance of the Roseville Memorial Club (Pacific Highway, a stone's throw from the train station) that they are welcome to attend the Roseville RSL's annual celebration thereof commencing at 10.30am on Sunday 11th November. As usual this will be followed by an informal luncheon at a convivial gathering of all attending members and friends of C.B.I.C.A. Hope to see you there!

Gordon Gibson, President
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HON. SECRETARY'S PAR

In June "unforeseen circumstances" prevented Secretary Joy from writing her para. These circumstances still prevail in September. Bluntly, Joy can't write because she has broken both wrists.

This has meant many doctors' visits, physio treatments, pain and frustration. (*May the wrists mend, Joy*).

Thanks for writing all those past pars and for the way you have helped CBers. H.K.

HON. TREASURER'S REPORT

A few days ago when having lunch at the Roseville R.S.L Club I had a look at the Gallipoli rose bushes we gave the club on 11/11/2008. Kuringai Council gardeners planted them near the Club's front entrance.

The plants have thrived and were recently trimmed. They flower in October/November so should have quite a display on 11/11. Also in the garden is a concrete mound which has a number of large stones up to the size of one's hand cemented on top. These stones were brought from Gallipoli Cove some years ago.

I joined No 2 Wireless Unit at Coomalie Creek, South of Darwin on 26.12.1943 and returned to Brisbane late September 1944. I wonder whether any of our members were with 2WU at that time?

I know some of our members are not well, but we are not spring chickens. Let's hope with medical attention health improves. Just a reminder that a few have not as yet paid this year's subscription.

Bruce Bentwich
Hon Treasurer
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A JUDGE'S VIEW

“The egomaniacal General MacArthur insisted that only US troops should return with him to the Philippines”. So wrote Judge Geoffrey Robertson in the Sydney Morning Herald of July 21-22. He was wrong.

His article “War Stories”, based upon the wartime logbook of his father a RAAF Kittyhawk pilot in the South-West Pacific, made no mention of the SIGINT experts whom MacArthur took to the Philippines. These men of the AIF and RAAF belonged to Wireless Units, Intelligence, Central Bureau and ASWG. They intercepted, deciphered and translated Japanese KANA signals sent by pilots attacking our troops and naval ships.

Judge Robertson (whose mother was a WAAAF in Townsville) probably did not know of the presence of our “Foreign Legion” because of the 30 year security ban.

MacArthur wanted Australian women of the AWAS and WAAAF to go north too, but because the Australian Government refused this, American women replaced them. The Australians were to go on to Japan, but the dropping of the A-bomb brought the end of the war. In the nineties the Government of the Philippines awarded medals to the Australians who had served there. After Judge Robertson's article I wrote on CB's behalf to the SMH asking for a correction. The letter was not published. No correction was given. H.K.

BACK TO THE PHILIPPINES

MacArthur vowed “I shall return” to the Philippines. He did, taking hundreds of Australians with him, one of whom was A. Jack Brown of 6 Wireless Unit.

Last month members of the CB's executive received envelopes with Filipino stamps. Inside were letters from Mrs Anne Brown saying that she and her husband had left Leabrook, South Australia,

to live in the Philippines. Their new address is PO Box 176, Tacloban City, Leyte, Philippines, 6500.

A. Jack Brown is the author of “Katakana Man” subtitled “I worked only for Generals”.

The book, winner of the RAAF Heritage Award in 2005, is “dedicated to our Allied Japanese Katakana operators and their backups, alive and deceased, who served during World War II in the Pacific”. Brown left Hollandia on Friday, 13th October 1944, bound for the Philippines in a huge convoy of more than 800 ships. These ranged from aircraft carriers to small vessels such as USS LST 700 in which Jack sailed.

Newsletter has written to Mrs Brown asking why the decision to return to the Philippines was made, and how they found Tolosa and Tacloban now.

The book says that they had a happy and memorable visit there in 1979, meeting old friends and seeing great changes. May their 2012 move be a happy one.

Have any other CBers revisited the Philippines or islands on the way there? Please tell your stories. The late Keith Carolan once wrote an interesting account of his journey, to Labuan in peacetime.

BRISBANE ANNIVERSARY

“On the 22nd July 1942 a train puffed into the interstate platform of South Brisbane Station and the focus of the war in our region shifted to Brisbane.

The arrival of General Douglas MacArthur was unheralded thanks to wartime security – but no less important to the history of Brisbane”.

So begins a paper published by the MacArthur Museum Brisbane, which on July 21 2012, held many events to commemorate that arrival and to “promote the history of the period”.

MacArthur was a five-star general – which is why five stars lead the paper, sent to us.



Jessica Harrington is Education Coordinator at the Museum. This is housed in the old AMP Building on Queen and Edward Streets, Brisbane where MacArthur set up his General Headquarters.

He had originally established CB in Melbourne. This organisation was housed in “Cranleigh” and elsewhere in Victoria from April ’42 to July ’42, when the move came to Brisbane.

Soon mansions (such as 21 Henry St, Ascot), schools, parks and racecourses were taken over by the General, who lived in Lennon’s Hotel, as did General Akin, his Chief of Signals. Thousands of Americans arrived by sea. They and Australians went north by trains, which puffed their slow and sooty way from State to State, across different gauges. Queensland railways bore the brunt.

MacArthur first encountered Australian trains when he came from the Philippines – ordered to leave by President Roosevelt, at the time the Japanese had invaded those islands.

He reached Australia by PT boat, aircraft and trains, including the old Ghan. At Terowie S.A., when the train halted briefly, he is said to have made his famous “I shall return” statement.

Eventually he and his men reached Melbourne, tired, unwashed, still in the stained and weathered uniforms unchanged since the Philippines.

Quick action followed. He established CB, a secretive signals intelligence organisation with Australian Army veterans, RAN, RAAF, British, Canadians, New Zealanders and Americans drawn together.

The anniversary events in Brisbane included –

Visits to the Museum

The inaugural MacArthur Dinner – a “black tie” affair at Tattersall’s Club in the city. Jazz music of the 1940s played. Former Deputy P.M. and recent Ambassador to the Vatican, the Hon. Tim Fischer, AC, gave the address.

Back to Brisbane in the War day on King George Square in the city.

The event featured historical and re-enactment groups. Military vehicles and equipment were there. Visitors could see the fashions that were the rage at the time and try their hand (and feet) at learning how to jitterbug. Walking tours of the City’s WWII landmarks were also available.

Seminar – “General MacArthur – Agent of Change”.

Jointly hosted by the MacArthur Museum and the Royal United Service Institute (Queensland), the seminar at Victoria Barracks was open to the public.

Topics included the influence MacArthur had on the development of Queensland railways, public relations in Australia, the Japanese communication industry, naval and air warfare, health and hospitals in Brisbane.

Keynote speaker was the historian Professor David Horner, “noted MacArthur historian”, Professor of Defence History at the ANU and author of 28 books.

Professor Horner’s topic was “General Douglas MacArthur and his impact on Australia”

Among the speakers was Dr Ian Pfennigwerth, author of the biography “A Man of Intelligence: The Life of Captain Eric Nave, Australian Codebreaker Extraordinary”. Dr Pfennigwerth

“examined the Royal Navy under MacArthur’s command, and its development”.

This speaker, a CBICA member, gave us a mention in his speech. He is a former Director of Naval Intelligence, once commanded HMAS Perth and was Defence Attache in Beijing for 2 years.

Historians abounded at the seminar.

Greg Hallam, for Queensland Rail, spoke, saying “they flogged us to death” backed up by Dr Geraldine Male, Senior Curator at the Queensland Rail Museum. The 147 year old railways suddenly had to cope with the transport of thousands.

Dr Mark Lax who served in the RAAF for more than 30 years, and has had a most distinguished career, chose the subject “MacArthur and Air Power”, tensions between the American and Australian Air Commanders and the development of the RAAF.

Newsletter has no space in which to cover all speakers, all topics but Dr Chris Strakosh, Associate Professor of Medicine and Head of Medicine at the Greenslopes Hospital Campus of the University of Queensland is also historian and author.

He told of the more than 1000 bed hospitals staffed by the US Maryland and Harvard Medical Schools at Holland Park and Gatton, of the US Navy’s hospitals, and research done by the Australian and Americans.

65% of US and Australian troops were made ineffective by malaria. Others suffered scrub typhus and dengue fever. Battle casualties were high and the wounded then had to travel south by hospital trains.

Few traces of these hospitals around Brisbane remain. CBers would certainly remember Greenslopes.

Unveiling of Commemorative Plaque, South Brisbane Station

The final event of the commemorative activities was the unveiling of a plaque by Her Excellency the Governor of Queensland, Ms Penelope Wensley at South Brisbane railways station near where General MacArthur first set foot in Queensland. This took place on 23 July, the actual anniversary of his arrival



From left to right:

Brigadier Peter Rule AM RFD (rtd), Chairman MacArthur Museum, Brisbane Councillor Graham Quirk, Lord Mayor of Brisbane The Governor of Queensland, Her Excellency, Ms Penelope Wensley AC, Ms Jackie Trad MP, State Member for South Brisbane Mr Jim Benstead, A/CEO Queensland Rail.

Did any CBers or ex RAAF/WAAAF attend the seminar, the celebrations or visit South Brisbane Station? Tell us if you did. Meanwhile congratulations to the MacArthur Museum for staging it all.

ALAN CAMPBELL – FOUNDER OF THE MACARTHUR MUSEUM

One interesting aspect to the recent activities at the Museum is the role played by the late Group – Captain Alan Campbell in getting the Museum started.

In the 1990s with the building unoccupied, he set up a special display when CBers met in Brisbane for a reunion. In MacArthur's room on the 8th Floor, he showed a collection of photographs, and historic documents. It was Campbell who first had the idea for the Museum. Thus CBers founded it.

Later a committee was formed, including CB representatives, Frank Hughes and Betty Chestell, also American. But MacArthur was politically unpopular. Allan Campbell died before the Museum was approved and before it grew to tell the people of Brisbane the wartime history of their city.

Of interest is the fact that MacArthur's chair was in the display organised by Campbell. Where is it now?

STATE AND INTERSTATE

Newsletter asked for more interstate contributors, but only two came good. They were:

Jean (McLennan) Robertson of Toowoomba

A "former garage girl" and faithful correspondent, she lives in a nursing home, turned 91 on July 15, and went out to lunch that day with her son Des and family to have her favourite meal – steak.

She has a daughter Roslyn and 12 great – grandchildren "scattered from here to Darwin".

Jean gets around on a "wheelie walker" and because of stiff fingers finds it hard to write. All the same she managed to type her letter – two fingered style. (*Thanks Jean, and belated Happy Birthday*)

Margaret (Fullgrave) Raymond of Durack Queensland, joined SIGS (ASWG) 70 years ago – in May 1942. Before Army days she'd attended Art

School in Adelaide and when in the Army, made sketches which were to appear in Geoff Ballard's book "On ULTRA Active Service". One showed "Night Shift at Kalinga", the other a concert, with performers on stage.

Margaret is still very much an artist. From ASWG's "Ink Emma Ink", and from a talk on the telephone we learnt that she had illustrated childrens' books and had had many exhibitions of her artworks and pastels. (She's hoping to send us a sketch for a future newsletter). The "tyranny of distance" means she cannot get to reunions. She now lives in a retirement village and just before the 2010 floods, sold the house where she had lived for 60 years. It went under water.

Her son Clive lives in England, and once visited Bletchley Park with her. She sent photographs of herself with artworks "so you will know what I look like when we correspond". (*Many thanks Margaret. You look pretty good!*)

Nancy (Nelson) Goldsteen

In the June newsletter we wrote that we were worried about Nancy, who rang saying she was ill and had moved. Then the phone cut out.

In September she rang again saying that she had been in an accident, and that it had affected her badly. She now lives in the Masonic Care Hostel, Allied Drive, Arundel, Queensland. (*Best wishes Nancy*).

VALE

Geoff Milne, whose death in March was reported in our June newsletter, leaves his wife Heather, and two sons, Michael and Christopher. (A third son Robin, was killed in 1994).

Geoff was born in Hurstville but lived in New Zealand with his family. When depression struck they moved back to Australia on the last boat before war broke out.

He joined the old CBC Bank, but enlisted in the RAAF when 18. He studied Morse Code at Point Cook, then learnt kana at CB's 21 Henry St Ascot. Service with 1WU took him to Milne Bay, Hollandia and Morotai.

After the war he went back to the bank, where he met Heather who was working there. This was in 1955. After moves to Grafton and Bathurst, they went to Terrigal where Geoff became the first bank manager. He left the bank in 1968 and bought a real estate agency. After selling this and retiring he and Heather enjoyed travelling. Before his death their home was at Wamberal Gardens Retirement Village, where Heather lives now. Thanks to Heather for information. Our condolences.

Keith Carolan, “One of the Eavesdroppers” as the notice in the SMH says, served with 4WU in New Guinea and the Philippines. CB has sent condolences to Joan Carolan and family and asked if they could tell us more of his life, pre and post war. He contributed many interesting articles to Newsletter, and will be missed at our Anzac Day gatherings.

Joyce Enid Linnane (26/8/1919 – 15/7 2012) has left us. Known as Joy, by most, this pioneering WAAAF grew up and lived in Marrickville, a Sydney suburb, with her parents Desmond and Emily and siblings Mavis and Dennis who survive her.

As many did in depression times, she left William Street High School after the Intermediate, worked as a shop assistant at Anthony Horderns, then moved to the Australian Drug Company. In her spare time she studied Morse Code (voluntarily) and joined the WAAAF in April 1942.

Jack Bleakley’s book “The Eavesdroppers” describes how Snow Bradshaw trained the first WAAAF kana class at the Melbourne Showgrounds. Bleakley names all in the group saying they were “leaders in their field, proficient and absolutely dedicated”. Joy described in the book how they were sent to Point Cook, where they worked in the “hush hush” hut, on four hours – on – four hours – off shifts” to Tokyo time, intercepting Japanese messages. These were passed to the newly formed Central Bureau.

Next Joy joined 1WU to do similar work at Townsville, intercepting air to ground Japanese

traffic. The Unit at Stuart Creek, in a concrete blockhouse, was brilliantly disguised to look like a Queensland tropical house, set on stumps with fake verandahs and water tanks,

War had come close to Townsville. The city had been bombed, and ships sunk off the coast. There was little respite from work – an occasional outing to Magnetic Island. More movement. Joy was sent back to Central Bureau Brisbane, remaining there until discharge late in 1945. Ex – Sergeant Joy Linnane was to join the Sydney branch of the WAAAF, where, over the years she held many executive positions, being a State Councillor, and received many awards for her achievements, including the badge from GCHQ in Britain.

She travelled widely and in Australia taught public speaking, winning success for herself and her pupils at the Sydney Eisteddfod. When CBICA held a reunion in Melbourne she was able to see Point Cook again and the changes there. For the past there years Joy lived at Orana Nursing Home at Gosford. Her brother and sister lived far away – Dennis in Deagan, Queensland.

In her final years, Community Care volunteers Peter and Doreen Smith looked after her welfare. Joy’s funeral service was held at the Greenway Memorial Chapel, Green Point Central Coast NSW. Distance and age prevented many of us from attending. (Thanks to Dennis and his wife Heather for information).

Bruce Hale, husband of CBer Ailsa (formerly Hurley) died recently after a long illness. To Ailsa, her daughter Lyndall and son Craig, our sympathy

Les Smith (1945 – 2012)

With the greatest sadness I report the sudden death of Les Smith, producer of our newsletter for over 11 years. He was too young to be a CBer, but was made an Honorary CBer, along with his wife Eunice, in thanks for all the help they gave in getting out the Newsletter, “We like doing it” they said.

Only H.K knows how this kind, clever and humorous man helped. I'd post the newsletter content to him in Ipswich Queensland. He'd return it printed and I'd phone the corrections. "Hang on, hang on" he'd say, or "You'll have to cut a column and a half" or "I'm just off to NSA (in the USA) or the UK, but Eunice will fix things up. We'll get it out on time."

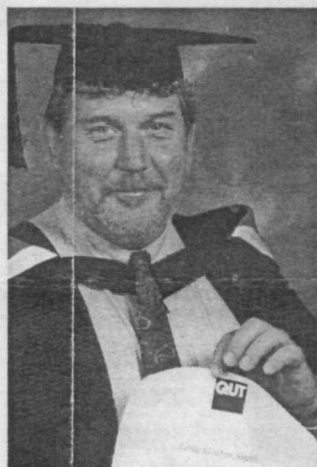
Les got the June newsletter out under great difficulty. Eunice, critically ill, was rushed to hospital. Les stuck by her all the time. Then to his relief she came home. He still did the newsletter.

Early in August I heard from Eunice. Les had died suddenly of a heart attack on July 24. The poppy service celebrating his life had already been held at the Grace Lutheran Church, Riverview Queensland. Had we known we would have tried to be there. A photo of smiling Les in his mortarboard and gown of the Queensland University of Technology was on the cover of the Order of Service,

Celebrating the life of

LES SMITH

3 February 1945 - 24 July 2012



Chris Smith and Fiona Walker, his children gave the eulogy and told of his life. He was born in Western Australia, and as a boy with his mate Keith Woods, swam in the Swan, went to the beach and "let off gumnut bombs" (*What on earth are they??*)

He joined the Air Force on 11 Jan 1965 as a Clerk, EA. Soon after he decided to "check the new chick on the desk". The new chick turned out to be the "love of his life" – Eunice, also in the Air Force.

They married in 1967 in Ipswich Qld. After this Les re-mustered into the RAAF Police. He was posted "pretty much over Australia, back to WA (then Penang, Butterworth where the children lived under care of their amah Annie. Fiona (born 1971) and brother Chris (b 1973) had fond and funny memories of their father.

He told a yarn about a local police officer handing Chris a revolver "When I grow up I'm going to be a policeman and shoot people!" said the boy.

"Well Dad, I've kept up half that promise" said Chris giving his father's eulogy. Yes, Chris is in the police.

In 1985 Les left the RAAF, moved to Telecom then to his own consultancy business. This led to the Queensland University of Technology where he lectured, working with Professor Bill Caelli. Here comes the link with CB. On International Women's Day, QUT wanted to recognise servicewomen who'd worked in IT during the war. They'd found about 10 Queenslanders. Les asked if we could provide names.

"What's IT" I asked. When told we provided 100 or more names of AWAS who'd been with CB and ASWG and WAAAF, with Wireless Units and CB. Each received a certificate. Queenslanders were treated to a special lunch.

Before QUT Les had his own consultancy business which led to much overseas travel. Even recently he was off to NSA in USA and GCHQ in Britain.

He was involved in so much – was a Council member of St Peter's Lutheran College, Springfield. His great love was his family and extended family, but he had his Air Force family, church family and university friends too. He loved animals. Who was it who said firmly "We're not keeping that cat!", when one was found dumped in the driveway? And who was it got caught feeding bits of Violet Crumble bar to that cat, later named Tinkerbelle. Later there were silky terriers, one of whom, Tuppy, often tried to dictate barking into the phone, as Les spoke.

Regrets and don't lose touch Eunice

CONTRIBUTIONS PLEASE

In the June Newsletter I sent out an SOS asking if anyone would like to relieve me as Newsletter editor.

The silence deafened. So be it.

I do ask though, that you summon up a short burst of energy and send in contributions to fill the pages – even some jokes (see below) to brighten things up. A few ideas: perhaps write about your journeys on troop trains in Australia during WWII; perhaps tell us where your descendants live. Many are far away. My step – great grandson, aged 4, is in Houston Texas. Madeline Chidgey's grandson is in Thailand. Far away.

In the Australia of our youth we seemed to live in the same town or suburb with parents, grandparents and their kin. I hope for replies. H.K.

INK EMMA INK, the journal of ASWG, printed these riddles sent in by Nan Graeme-Evans. Thanks for letting us borrow them so we can test the I.Q of CBers.

Answers are provided at the end of this Newsletter – but no cheating! Don't look until you've had a go at the questions.

Questions

1. A murderer is condemned to death. He has to choose between three rooms. The first is full of raging fires. The second is full of assassins with loaded guns. The third is full of lions that haven't eaten in three years. Which room is safest for him?

2. A woman shoots her husband. The she holds him under water for over five minutes. Finally, she hangs him. But five minutes later, they both go out together and enjoy. How can this be?

3. What is black when you buy, red when you use and grey when you throw it away?

4. Can you name three consecutive days without using the words Wednesday, Friday or Sunday?

5. This is an unusual paragraph. I'm curious as to just how quickly you can find out what is so unusual about it. It looks so ordinary and plain that you would think nothing wrong with it. In fact, nothing is wrong with it! It is highly unusual though.

Study it and think about it, but you still may not find anything odd. But if you work at it a bit, you might find out. Try to do so without any coaching.

POSTSCRIPT

Thoughts to those who are in hospital, nursing homes or housebound. So many are missing now.

I'm most grateful to my niece, Sally Gibson, for getting this newsletter ready for the printers, and to Scott McSkimming of KwikKopy, Pacific Highway North Sydney. He hand delivers Newsletter to me.

H.K

ANSWER TO RIDDLES

(turn upside down to read; but no cheating!!)

1. The third room. Lions that haven't eaten in three years are dead. That one was easy right?
2. The woman was a photographer. She shot a picture of he husband, developed it, and hung it up to dry (shot; held under water; and hung).
3. Charcoal, as it is used in barbecuing.
4. Sure you can name three consecutive days – yesterday, today and tomorrow!
5. The letter "e" which si the most common letter used in the English language, does not appear even once in the paragraph.