

NEWSLETTERJUNE 1982

Eight members of Central Bureau Association attended the A.I.A. wreath-laying ceremony at the Cenotaph on the evening of 24 April. They were, in alphabetical order; Norman Allen, Bob Bevan, Jim Blair, Maurie Coombs, Ted Eckert, David Hanson, Allan Osborne and Jim Williams.

On the following morning, Anzac Day, nineteen members marched behind our banner. They were, in alphabetical order; Norman Allen, Bruce Bentwitch, Bob Bevan, Jim Blair, Syd Carey, Mick Casey, Maurie Coombs, Ted Eckert, Gordon Gibson, Stan King, Brian Lovett, Bill Ludwig, John Macfarlane, Reg Murphy, Allan Osborne, John Shoebridge, John Walsh, Jim Williams and Gordon Wilson.

Unfortunately they were situated between two bands playing at different tempos and their steps didn't always match. But they battled along and managed to make the reunion at Phillip's Foote at noon.

We had a very welcome addition to our usual members attending the ceremonies and reunion. He was Maurice Coombs from Virginia, U.S.A. Maurie was one of the many members of the U.S. Army who served with C.B. in Australia during World War II. Maurie and his wife Betty were paying a visit to Queensland, where Betty was born. Betty's sister Aubrey Nicholson, who still lives in Queensland, came along to the reunion with Betty. Maurie signed up as a member of the Association and donned his C.B. badge alongside his R.S.L. badge. He's a member of the Washington D.C. sub-branch of the R.S.L. We didn't even know it existed but it has about 250 members and holds regular meetings and functions.

As well as Betty and Aubrey, Shirley Bentwitch, Sue Gibson, Meg Osborne, Heather Lovett and Marcia Wilson were at Phillip's Foote. All the marchers were there plus members Noni McNaught,

Frank Hughes, our loyal Melbourne member Percy Pledger and myself. Also sighted was Charles McNaught, our Original Anzac friend. When last seen he was tripping the light fantastic around the piano with other dancers after the reunion had finished. A remarkable bloke! His son, Lachie McNaught, was there, too. He and Charles had come from the reunion of the 2nd Battalion, 1st A.I.F. Lachie was in the RAAF in World War II. Quite a family day - Noni, her husband and her father-in-law.

A.I.A. members also shared the sociable gathering. In fact, I had trouble getting Jock Cameron to leave the happy group around the piano. He drove me home, good fellow that he is. The strain of 2 reunions, one at Redfern and one at The Rocks, was beginning to tell on me.

A number of members sent apologies for non-attendance. Charles McCafferty was convalescing after a heart attack. He has since had a good recovery and we saw him at the Committee meeting on 10th May, looking his usual cheerful self.

Athol Whyburn was also a casualty. He rang from The Entrance, where he lives, before Anzac Day saying he was having hip trouble. He was later sent to Royal North Shore Hospital for an operation.

Marion and Stan Winn, who were also unable to attend on Anzac Day, have given us some interesting information. Captain T.E.Nave, OBE RN (Rtd) led the Anzac Day march in Melbourne this year. Those of us who were with Central Bureau in Brisbane will remember him as Commander Nave, the only member of the Royal Navy (or any other Navy, as far as I know) who served with C.B.

An ex-member of C.B. who has received a lot of press attention recently is the new Anglican Archbishop of Sydney, Donald Robinson.

Our President, Ted Eckert, knew Don when both were with 3 W.U. at Batchelor Road, near Darwin. He has supplied the following interesting article.

Bob Burnside

Publicity Officer

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

The Sydney Morning Herald of 3 April 1982, page 2, features an article by Alan Gill, headed "Now the Archbishop gets a grilling" referring, of course, to the newly appointed Anglican Archbishop of Sydney, Archbishop Donald Robinson. The report includes a paragraph which will be of interest to all C.B.ers and which reads as follows: Quote - In answer to a question Archbishop Robinson revealed he had an unusual World War II record. He was a member of a top allied intelligence organisation known as Central Bureau. The Bureau was responsible for decoding and analysing interceptions of Japanese military and wireless traffic in the South West Pacific area. It was the forerunner of the present Defence Signals Division - unquote.

That certainly brought back memories, for Don (as we knew him) was in fact posted to No.3 W.U. then located off the Batchelor Road (the site of the present Rum Jungle mining operation) some 70 miles south of Darwin. He was assigned to the Unit as my 2 i/c, as I was then O.C. of Intell. Section, having succeeded Fl. Lt. George Reveleigh some 6 months earlier. Don was a very bright and likeable young Army Lieut. and I eventually handed the Section over to him at the conclusion of my 13 months tour of duty in July '45. It may be of interest to those members of C.B. who knew me then to hear that after making my report to W.Cmdr. Booth of RAAF Command Brisbane (then rear H.Q. of C.B.) I proceeded on leave and was to report to RAAF Command on 20 August for onward movement to C.B. at San Miguel (Philippines) and posting to the Task Force which was to stage the invasion of Southern Japan on 25 September 1945.

But the Japs ceased flying on 16 Aug. as we all know, and I spent the next 2 months in Brisbane awaiting discharge. But Air Board Personnel Postings, in their wisdom, saw fit to reclassify me from Intell. to Admin. (I originally joined the RAAF as a Clerk General Group 3) and posted me to Rathmines Flying Boat Base as Station H.Q. Adjutant, where I "happily" spent the next 6 months signing thousands of discharge movement orders before my own came through in March '46. And guess who signed my Interim Discharge Certificate at the Showground - none other than F/O Arthur Brown, the former Sigs officer at 3 W.U. and popular sports organiser! By the way, I contacted Don Robinson a couple of years ago, when he was Bishop of Parramatta, and tried to enlist him into our Association but unfortunately he had to decline on account of his extensive involvement in Church affairs. Nevertheless, and on behalf of all members of Central Bureau Intelligence Corps Association, I wish Don every success in his new appointment.

Ted Eckert

President

A REMINDER FROM THE SECRETARY'S OFFICE

IF YOU HAVE NOT PAID YOUR 1982 DUES
PLEASE FORWARD SAME (\$6.00) TO OUR
HON. TREASURER: JOHN MACFARLANE
24 KANOONA ST.
CARINGBAH. 2229
