



NEWSLETTER

MAY 1986

We start with news of our ANZAC DAY ACTIVITIES in Sydney, particularly for those who were unable to attend.

Seven members attended the Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Cenotaph in Martin Place on Anzac Eve: Bob FROST, Bob LEONARD, Joy LINNANE, Charles McCAFFERTY, Allan OSBORNE, Aub ROBERTS, and Madeline CHIDGEY. Once again Allan Osborne arranged for the wreath and Insignia, and as usual the parade included personnel from Z Special Force and the Australian Intelligence Association.

The weather for Anzac Day was perfect, thirty one members marched - a really good roll-up. The Banner was ably carried by Vic Lederer of Canberra and Bill Rogers of Melbourne. (Bill did say later that we needed more 'flak holes' in the Banner as it 'nearly blew them into the ocean', so we will see what we can do.)

The marchers were Bruce BENTWITCH, Daisy and Alf BOBIN, Ray BRADLEY, Michael CASEY, Syd CAREY, Madeline CHIDGEY, Nobby CLARKE, Bill ESTEP, Dave GEYER, Pat GILL, Joyce GRACE, Frank HUGHES, Nancy and Max HURLEY, Norma KEELING, Stan KING, Noel LANGBY, Vic LEDERER, Joy LINNANE, Brian LOVETT, Charles McCAFFERTY, Doreen McPHERSON, Mac MARONEY, Reg MURPHY, Allan OSBORNE, Aub ROBERTS, Bill ROGERS, Stewart SOUTHAM, Jim WILLIAMS, and Alan LANGDON who made the distance despite his 'tricky' leg.

Six of the marchers were from MELBOURNE, two from QUEENSLAND, and three from other areas far afield. It is easy for us Sydneyites to get to these functions and we all appreciate the efforts made by those who come long distances. Lester TRUEX was a non-starter this year, only because his bus was late in from MELBOURNE.

Pittwater House College Band, which preceded us, was great to march to, and looked very smart in the TV coverage. On the whole, the camera coverage was not as good as in the past, but the commentary gave us quite a good mention.

After the solemnity of the March to honour lost comrades and loved ones, it was time to repair to Phillip's Foote, to enjoy the excellent food provided by the new licensee, Howard Dredge. The Restaurant area was practically taken over by our lot, a record seventy in all including spouses, friends and relations.

Some of the marchers were unable to come to the Reunion, but many others were there who did not march: Doug ALLEN, Shirley BENTWITCH, Jock CAMERON, Margaret and Len CARRIGG, Norma CAREY, Ron and Adele CHIDGEY, Shirley CHUCK, May GERBER, Irene and Doug GILLESPIE, Margaret HANNON, Ken HENDERSON, Jackie KEELING, Heather LOVETT, Margaret McCAFFERTY, Les McCLEAN, Ruth MACDONALD and son DAVID, Noni and Lach McNAUGHT (accompanied by friends Mary Jane CLARK from Missouri and Margaret PICKERILL from California), Claire MOSS, Meg OSBORNE, D. POWDRELL, Eileen and Bruce PURVIS, Gwenda ROBERTS, Jan ROGERS, K. ROSENBLUM, Diana SEYMOUR, John SHOEBRIDGE, Hillya SOUTHAM, M. SPEEDY, Merv STINSON, Keith STRINGFELLOW, Nancy and Walter TAYLOR, Lester TRUEX, Pat and Gerry FURNER, Gordon WILSON, Marion and Stan WINN. Our A.I.A. friends are included in this number.

There is always a lively, cheerful atmosphere at the Anzac Reunions, as we swap memories and don our specs as more photos and memorabilia go the rounds. This year, with Pat Gill, Nancy and Max Hurley, Bill Rogers and Stewart Southam up from Melbourne, there was a lot of catching up to do for some of our members - 40 years is a long time!

Doug PYLE had sent a couple of photos of our President, Michael CASEY, taken "somewhere up there", looking unbelievably young. The only difference now, of course, is the colour of his hair! We missed Michael's wife, JOYCE, at the Reunion - she was needed at home to care for her mother.

It is fascinating, after all these years, finding out what other "cogs" in the CB machine were up to while we were all doing our own particular jobs in tight security. A lot of interesting stories are being recalled - to find out about them, keep reading your Newsletters!

An ex-CBer, who now plays bowls with our Norma Keeling, recently recalled her memory of guards with fixed bayonets. She was a 'late starter' in the Cypher Room at Henry Street, was only there for six months, and she remembers being on 'dog watch', getting a bit fuzzy headed around 5 a.m. and this incredible sight of an outline of a soldier with fixed bayonet passing by the barred window!

We are very pleased to welcome some new members - Bernie ANDERSON, Henry KROGER, Ray EDDOLS, Keith PAYNE from Melbourne, John LAIRD from Canberra. Ray was a member of the 'Brisbane 12' from the U.K. It was Steve Mason, Editor of the ASWG journal, who kindly supplied addresses which made it possible for us to contact some of these.

Also, at the Reunion, we 'signed up' Gerry FURNER, Merv STINSON, Wal TAYLOR, ex RAAF personnel who worked in D/F and W/T, colleagues of Alf Bobin. Alf is still having a tussle with his lung trouble so it was particularly pleasing that he and Daisy were able to come down again this year. We wish him well with his treatment and travels, visiting family and friends. Alf showed us part of the book mentioned in our last Newsletter, "A Saga of Achievement", in which three pages are devoted to the development, work and disbanding of the RAAF Wireless Units. For those of us who did not know, No. 1 Wireless Unit was formed in Townsville as early as April, 1942, at the very beginning of CB activities.

Just prior to Anzac Day, Stan and Marion WINN had a week in Melbourne where they survived the cold, admired the gardens (particularly the trees), rode the trams, and enjoyed fine hospitality from ex CB members - Ted BROWN with whom they stayed, Percy PLEDGER, Geoff CHARLESWORTH and wife Gwen, Bob BROWN and wife Edith, and Stan also had a visit with Geoff BALLARD and Ruth.

Peter COLLESS in Brisbane has not lost his cheerful spirit, despite losing a leg. A recent letter revived some memories of CB and WU days when he was known as 'Snow'. He says, "I have been connected with Vets Welfare for quite a number of years", and we hope he can keep up his good work for a long time yet. His wife Mollie was a 1 WU girl. Perhaps we should start a register of the happy couples who met through CB - there are quite a few!

Our very highly respected and well liked civilian (the only one) at CB, Professor Room, died on April 2nd, aged 83, and we append a copy of the Obituary Notice from the Sydney Morning Herald.

We missed Florence ESTEP on Anzac Day. Bill reported that she was recovering from a cataract operation and we wish her well in the restoration of good sight again. John WALSH was another absentee - he was at home caring for his wife who is not in good health. John is due to go into Concord on July 6 for further skin treatment, a familiar process to him now. Norma KEELING, our willing and hard working Treasurer, has not been fit these past few weeks but is on the mend again. We extend our good wishes to all our friends who feel less fit than they would wish.

A letter from Ray EDDOLS with his membership application says, "I shall retire next year and probably move with my wife to Queensland, where I still have friends of WWII vintage. No doubt some of the 100 members live in or near Brisbane. However, you should hear from me again before I migrate back to where I came in!". We certainly will look forward to further news and maybe a Sydney visit.

Keith PAYNE writes also from Melbourne. Having retired from the Defence Department about three months ago, he is finding he has too little to do! Having served a total of six years in Washington, D.C., he has a hankering to return there as he and Wilma have many friends there, as well as a daughter in Texas. Keith marched with the A.S.W.G. group on Anzac Day in Melbourne and the only other two CB men with him were Frank O'LOUGHLIN and Geoff BALLARD. Maybe we will have Keith and his wife with us in Sydney next Anzac Day, or for the barbecue later this year. It would be great to see them with the Melbourne contingent.

Please remember that if you would like to receive a complete list of names and addresses of Members, you only have to ask our Secretary, Gordon Gibson, and he will send you same. (He is due back from overseas early June.) The following address changes should be noted:

Frances Cureton	P.O. Box 3, Derrinallum, Vict. 3325.
Ken Henderson	18/66 Darley Road, Manly. 2095.
Ailsa Hale	c/o 1 Daphne Street, Dolan's Bay. 2229.

Roy Rose has resigned his membership.

With best wishes to you all, until next time.

Madeline Chidgey
Publicity Officer

OBITUARY

Professor T. G. Room

Professor Thomas Gerald Room, Emeritus Professor of Mathematics at Sydney University, died last Wednesday.

Professor Room, who was born in England on November 10, 1902, was educated in London and Cambridge.

He began his lecturing career at Liverpool University, where he was lecturer in mathematics from 1925 to 1927. Following this he lectured extensively and held various posts in the UK and the US.

In 1935 he came to Australia to take up his post as Professor of Mathematics at Sydney University, where he taught until 1968. From 1952 to 1956 he was Dean of the Faculty of Science.



Professor Room ... lectured extensively in US and UK.

For many years he was chief examiner in mathematics for the Leaving Certificate and worked as a cryptographer in Australia during the war.

He is survived by his wife, son and two daughters.



At left, our subject for this issue's Profile, as portrayed by official War Artist Frank Hodgkinson, during WW2.

Bob Burnside.

Bob's "Profile" appeared some years ago in the Australian Intelligence Association Magazine and here it is again, in part.

Soon after WW2 began, Bob applied to join the RAAF Aircrew, but like so many others, found the waiting period lengthy and frustrating, and so joined the AIF just after the Dunkirk debacle, on June 3, 1940. By November 1940 he was in Palestine as a member of the Sig Platoon of the 2/1 Pioneer Battalion, and then it was North Africa and the famous siege of Tobruk. In June 1941 he was wounded by mortar fragments and after an urgent operation was eventually evacuated several nights later by HMAS Stuart. After a second operation at 2/2 AGH at El Kantara on the Canal, he boarded the hospital ship Manunda on August 18 for shipment home. Bob goes on, "After a bit of leave, into Concord, more physiotherapy and a medical board in June 1942, resulting in being declared medically B Class, something new in the AIF. They gave me two stripes and a desk job at Victoria Barracks.

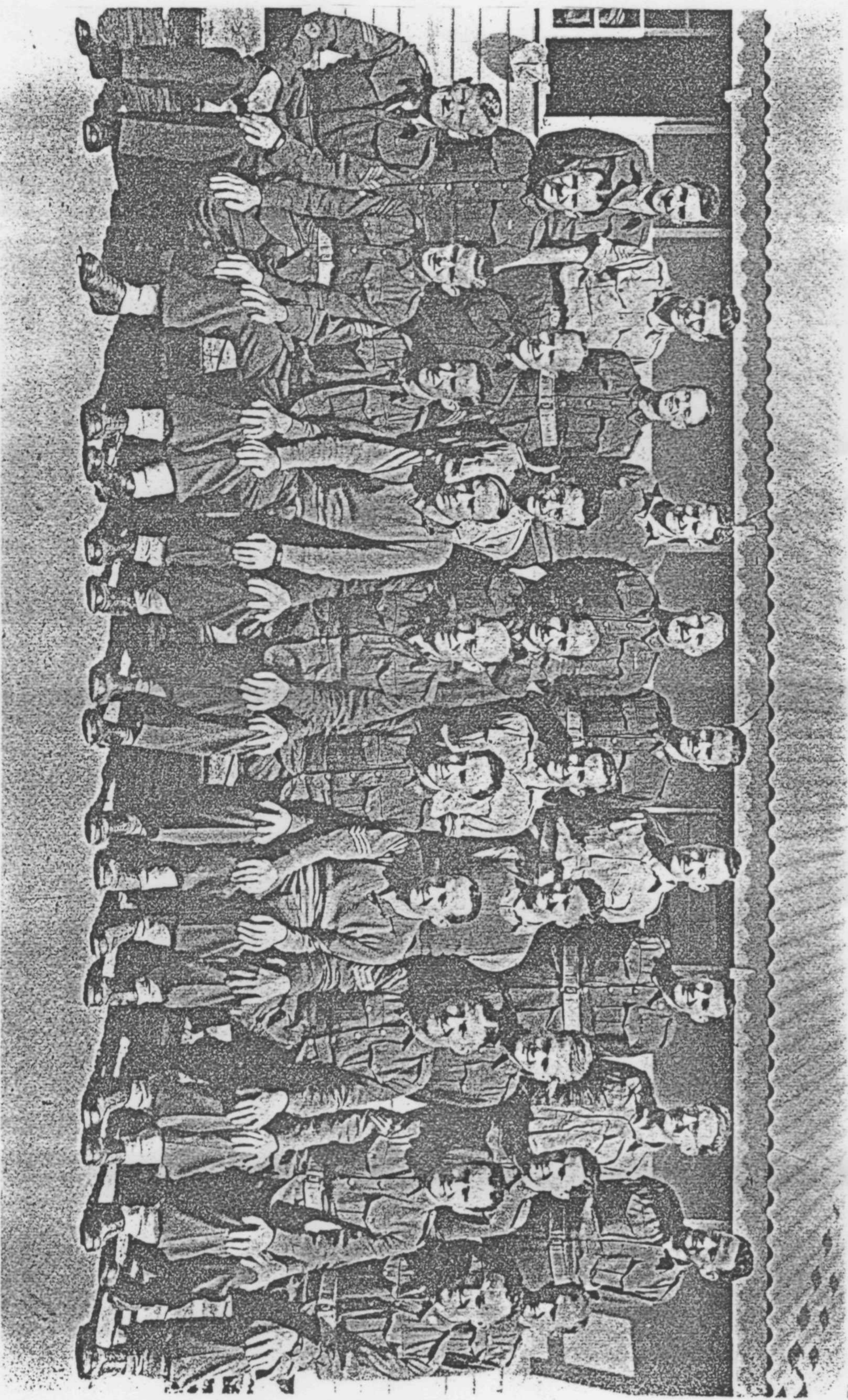
Then one day on a tram I met Capt. Edgar Kelson, whom I had known slightly before the war. He started talking about some vague unit and said he was looking for people to join it. I said 'OK' and forgot all about it. Then in January 1943, a party of about fifty, from all over NSW, were assembled at Liverpool and eventually shoved on a troop train for Brisbane, and Central Bureau.

I attended a Japanese language school in Melbourne 1943/4, for nine months. In late December 1944 I took off for Hollandia en route to Leyte, then to Luzon in the Philippines.

At the end of the war I was with a large part of CB at San Miguel, North of Manila. Although VJ Day was August 15 it was not until October 10 that the legion of the lost at San Miguel embarked at Manila on a Liberty ship headed for home. I firmly believe that AHQ in Melbourne had forgotten all about us. Probably only a few key people knew of our existence.

After a rather erratic trip (the Captain admitted that he didn't have all the charts needed, and we feared we might bump into an island one night), we finally disembarked at Brisbane on October 27 opposite the Hamilton pub, and were taken to Chermside.

After discharge in December 1945, I returned to the Advertising Department of the Sydney Morning Herald where I met Jean, my wife-to-be, and we were married in 1948. Like most of us, the years since WW2 revolved around my civilian and family life until other memories were revived with the formation of our Central Bureau Association. I was President for a couple of years, and then Publicity Officer for a while, but recently, for health reasons, have been unable to attend the meetings."



Sergeants of the Australian, British, and Canadian Armies.

We can identify the following:

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| Front row | - Bernie Anderson, George Clarke, Dave Kellock, 'Pop' Burns, Don Hosken, Dave Howard,
Charles Butler, Stewart Southam |
| Middle row | - Geoff Patience, Bob Brown |
| Back row | - Jack McCorkell, Harry Dempsey, Bert Bairstow, Bert Cockrum. |

Can you help with the others?