

**CENTRAL BUREAU INTELLIGENCE
CORPS ASSOCIATION Inc.****MARCH 2000****Publicity Officer: Dennis Moore 183 Sylvania Road Miranda 2228 02 9524 6267 dennis@flex.com.au****PRESIDENT'S REPORT.****1999**

For CBICA Inc. in 1999 there were two events that stood out. The first was the address at our Anzac Day Reunion by Desmond Ball, special professor at the Strategic Defence Studies Centre A.N.U. and co-author with David Horner of "Breaking the Codes-Australia's KGB network". Professor Ball's revelations of Soviet espionage in Australia and activities of Australian communists during the Second World War were both startling and disquieting. It was certainly a blow to the pride we had gained in our own SIGINT achievements to learn that while we were laboriously gathering intelligence about Japanese operations, Australia's own security was so lax that "Tokyo was receiving top secret intelligence reports, details of General MacArthur's war plans and other sensitive material concerning the Allied war effort."

The second outstanding event was the final release of the long sought "Technical Records of Central Bureau". For this we owe a debt of gratitude to Myra Rowling, Assistant Director Defence Signals Directorate, who sent them to Secretary Helen in response to her letter along with much helpful information about additional CB files held in Australian Archives. Canberra members Vic Lederer and John Laird are still researching these archives. The Technical Records are available on loan to interested members from Hon. Treasurer Bruce Bentwitch.

From the social aspect the Anzac Day Reunion and the Mini Reunion held on 9th November were both highly successful. Fifty four members, spouses and friends attended the luncheon at the Mercure Hotel amidst the usual atmosphere of good fellowship. It was particularly pleasing to note the number of interstate members and also the good will messages from those unable to attend. The Mini Reunion was held at the Kirribilli RSL Club on the shores of one of

Sydney's secluded and picturesque bays and provided the opportunity for us to foregather in a totally informal and relaxed atmosphere enjoying drinks and a bistro style lunch.

The steady stream of publications relating to SIGINT in WW2 continued this year and included: "Leyburn's Liberators and Those Lonely Special Duties Operations" by Phil Dynes, "Station X" by Michael Smith (also run as TV series), "Allied and Axis Signals Intelligence in WW2" (various authors including Joe Richard and Frank Cain), "The Codebreakers of Bletchley Park" and an article in the National Geographic magazine. These days, of course, an important added source of information is the web site through which our indefatigable Newsletter editor Dennis Moore has established valuable contacts with the Garat's Hay Branch of The British Legion and the US Naval Cryptologic Veterans Association and also with Chatsworth TV Ltd. regarding a proposed documentary film series about the work of intercept personnel from Europe, Australia and the US.

The Association has continued to support the General Douglas MacArthur Memorial Trust in its efforts to establish a memorial in the AMP building in Brisbane. Thanks are due to Allan Campbell, Frank Hughes, John Stumm and Betty Chessell who have been very active in this matter.

Finally, it is once again my sad duty to record the passing of the following men and women who were involved with SIGINT Operations in WW2: Marion Winn, Nobby Clarke, Keith Jarrott, Keith Leopold and Mrs N.Howard.

My sincere thanks to Secretary Helen Kenny, Treasurer Bruce Bentwitch, Publicity Officer Dennis Moore and all committee members for their unstinting efforts throughout the year.

Gordon Gibson President.

EXECUTIVE NEWS

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Gordon has advised that Roy Ward and Geoff Patience are completing arrangements for the Sigint Reunion in Melbourne later this year. He has announced that a letter will be sent to every known member of an Australian Sigint Association within the next few months setting out details and inviting participation. If you know of any former WWII service person who does not belong to CBICA Inc or ASWG or a WU Association please send names and addresses to Secretary Helen Kenny so that they may be added to the mail out list.

HON. SECRETARY'S PAR.

Greetings to all, and I do hope to see some of you on Anzac Day and Anzac Eve in Sydney. Members of CBICA are scattered throughout Australia. Some will be able to attend Wireless Unit and ASWG reunions as well as CB get-togethers, but others, isolated from their units, will still gather at Anzac ceremonies where ex-servicemen and women meet. We think of you and hope that on November 11 and 12 this year, some may be able to make the journey to Melbourne, where CB started, and join in the Combined Sigint Reunion.

We held our Annual General Meeting on February 7, and there were few changes to the executive team. President is Gordon Gibson, Vice-Presidents are Frank Hughes and John Shoebridge, the Hon. Treasurer is Bruce Bentwitch, I (Helen Kenny) am still the Hon. Secretary, and the Executive Committee comprises Mike Casey, Gordon Swinney, and Madeline Chidgey. Publicity Officer is Dennis Moore, who is Newsletter editor, Networker and World Wide Webber. The Newsletter is now on the Web, and communication around the world seems instant.

What next to report?

In Queensland John Stumm has undertaken a Colossus of a task. By the time of the Melbourne Reunion he hopes to record the names of all those who served with CB and combined Sigint associations. Already the list is long, and names flash up electronically.

Allan Campbell, from Brisbane, writes of his disappointment over delays in the planned General Douglas MacArthur Memorial. The building is still closed. (For the reason, see Frank Hughes' explanation in this Newsletter.)

However, he was made most happy at the end of January when the Australian-American Association honoured him with life membership. The US Consul General, Richard L. Greene, made a special visit to Brisbane to present the award, and the Australian American Association's media release proclaimed him to be a "living treasure."

A-AA President, Ms Denise Reghenzani, said it was "relevant to acknowledge the major contribution that Allan has made to the A-AA, and indeed Brisbane."

After the "Battle of Brisbane" (1943), when an Australian soldier was killed by an American and six others wounded after a confrontation in Adelaide Street at the American canteen, Campbell was asked if he could find some way of calming down

the great feeling of hostility.

As the A-AA's journal reported recently: "Campbell was approached by US Colonel (later Brigadier-General) Diller at the request of General MacArthur to organise a campaign to forge better relations between the servicemen of the two countries." Allan Campbell, then on part time duty as a Captain in Intelligence had his own advertising company, was former Assistant Manager of Queensland Country Press, and was Chairman of Directors of the Trocadero Dansant (the biggest dance hall in South Brisbane.) He helped to set up the Australian-American Association, became its inaugural President, went on to serve with Central Bureau, and after the war received other awards, including an Italian knighthood. When Chairman of Red Cross he raised funds to rebuild a Trieste hospital, which had been destroyed by earthquake.)

In Canberra, at our request, Vic Lederer and John Laird have been going through the Australian Archives, looking at material concerning CB, ASWG, wartime intelligence and Sigint. Theatres covered include the Middle East, India and South-East Asia. We thank Vic and John for undertaking this task and for giving up a great deal of time to it. They will send a report summarising their findings.

Norma Keeling is now living at Grosvenor Nursing Home, 48 Nelson Ave, Wentworth Falls, NSW, 2782, phone 4757-1117. This is in the Blue Mountains, close to the home of her daughter Jacqui. Norma, who would love to hear from Cbers, hopes to be well enough to come to the reunion lunch on Anzac Day. Coral and Sandy Hinds wrote from Baxter, Victoria, with apologies that they could not come to the A.G.M. The reason? Coral explained: "Sandy and I are to attend the February 19th Darwin Defenders 1942-1945" gathering in Darwin. "Sandy was there on the 'drome on February 19" when the Japanese bombers came

TIMOR

CBer Bob Leonard is organising an exhibition of Timor photographs at Westpac Bank, George Street, Sydney, from April 10 to 28. Earlier this year Bob asked Major-General Peter Cosgrove, head of Interfet forces in East Timor, if he would open it. Major-General Cosgrove, now back in Australia after relinquishing his Interfet role agreed. Bob Leonard, Westpac RSL Secretary, has been organising such exhibitions since the 1960s, and had the great forethought to line up Major-General Cosgrove for this one. The display will contain about 500 modern and historic photographs (some of Gallipoli because this is the 85th anniversary of Anzac Day).

Some show the Australians of the 2/2 and 2/4 Independent Companies, who, helped by brave Timorese, fought a guerilla war in the mountains of Timor against the Japanese in World War 11. Damien Parer, the celebrated wartime photographer, made film of this.

In February 1945 the Australians were ordered to evacuate Timor, but left one officer and 12 other ranks behind. All were volunteers. Four more joined them. There was one cipher operator, and signallers whose wireless set could transmit to Darwin but not receive. They were called "S" Force.

Last Anzac Day, CBER Phil Dynes published his book "Leyburn's Liberators and Those Lonely Special Duties Air Operations." It was launched at the "Z Special Force" gathering in Launceston. This book, which devotes a chapter to Timor and the Sunfish missions there, will be displayed at the Timor exhibition. The book tells an extraordinary story.

In 1945, the last year of World War II, a top secret unit No. 200 (Liberator) Special Duties Flight was established outside the small village of Leyburn on the Darling Downs. Specially chosen pilots and crews, who were veterans of flights over Europe, Tunisia, Burma, New Guinea and the islands, flew out from Leyburn in Liberators to drop men of "Z Special Force" behind enemy lines in Borneo and Timor. They also aided men of SRD (Services Reconnaissance Department), dropping food and supplies to them.

Phil Dynes, at the request of 200 Flight, has written their history, and has done so meticulously, getting his information from survivors and from records. From CB and ATIS, Phil was posted to Leyburn. He describes the missions, names the crews and, in the Timor chapter, tells how SRD realised that ciphers and wireless messages from there had been compromised.

The cipher operator had been tortured, and his hand held to the Morse key by a Japanese signaller when he was too weak to complete a message.

A party, code-named "Sunable", was dropped in. The Japanese ambushed them. Death and capture resulted. In other operations, such as Sunlag, a party observed the Lagarto leader under Japanese guard.

The book tells of incredible bravery, of lost aircrews, of disaster. An index is lacking which is rather a pity, but "Leyburn's Liberators" fills in more pieces of a mosaic, more of World War II history. It saddens to see the faces of the lost aircrews (Pockley'slost returning from mission over Borneo.....Clark's crew..... crashed near Dili, Timor.... Emmett's crew crashed, British North Borneo...) and to read the names of the lost. For them, and for the survivors and their families, Phil Dynes, a surveyor by profession, not historian, has mapped and recorded the past.

Helen Kenny

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TREASURER'S COLUMN.

When forwarding subscriptions, a number of members have commented how they enjoy the quarterly Newsletter, which due to ill health or distance, at least keeps them in touch with C.B.I.C.A. These appreciations have been conveyed to Dennis Moore whom we all agree always finds items of interest to publish.

Mention of Dennis reminds me of a discussion about 5 years ago. After completing the Anzac Day March four of us —Dennis, Gordon Gibson (not our President, we have two GG's in the Association), Reg Murphy and myself were walking to Circular Quay for our luncheon when mention was made of the American

aircraft that took off with only one motor operating and all said "I was on that aircraft."

This incident occurred about early June, 1945 when 6 W.U. was being transferred from Tolosa, Leyte to San Miguel, Luzon. Thirty six of us with gear boarded a C46 transport at Tacloban Airstrip, but blew a motor on take off, somehow took to the air, circled over the water and returned to earth in one piece.

For eight hours we sat around while the motor was rewired, then with much trepidation we boarded and safely flew to Clark Field, then trucked to San Miguel arriving late in the day.

It seemed remarkable that fifty years on the four of us at 6W.U. whose members came from far and wide should be together at that particular time. Were any other members of our Association on that particular flight?

When forwarding his sub. for the year Canon Hugh Melinsky (Ex British Army) who wrote a book of his C.B. experiences, noted the 26p British stamp on the envelope was designed by his daughter, a very artistic lady. I must remember to take the envelope to our luncheon at the Mercure Lawson for all to see. Hugh also tells us that he has been in touch with Michael Smith who wrote the book of the "X" series shown recently shown on ABC T.V.

From the comments received from our southern members the reunion in Melbourne is being awaited with interest.

Well, I hope members are fighting fit and those not so well keep fighting. Modern medicine seems to be improving all the time.

Bruce Bentwitch

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VALE.

MAJOR W.E. CLARKE.

On the evening of Australia Day 'Nobby' Clarke's eighty five year old physical frame gave up the fight for life and he died peacefully at his home in Manly, N.S.W.

Although handicapped by a failing body his mind did not slow down. His recollections about war service and his ability to analyse his connections with the events of those momentous years did not diminish.

Major W.E. Clarke had a long history of service to his country. In 1934 he had risen to the rank of Sub-Lieutenant in the Royal Australian Navy Volunteer Reserve. Having learnt Japanese in his childhood he was able to teach the language to Naval Officers, N.S.W. Police and young ladies at the elegant Hopewood House finishing school during the 1930s.

He was serving with the Australian Imperial Force in Mughrahe, Palestine, when Japanese forces commenced their onslaught in the Pacific. In Australian Military circles W.E. Clarke was somewhat unique; a soldier highly skilled in the use of the Japanese language. Along with other Army Sigint people serving in the Middle East he was called home to become one of the first Army Officers appointed to MacArthur's infant Central Bureau.

Major Clarke led the first Central Bureau "T" contingent into the field to work in Darwin in 1942. Later C.B. service took him to Brisbane, the Philippine Islands and Japan.

After the war the Australian Defence Department used his services offshore as did the Diplomatic Service.

'Nobby' had contributed interesting material to the columns of CB Newsletter. His highlight contribution was still to come. We know that it had been conceptualised but not put on paper. That failing physique had not let him meet the submission dates for the December, 1999 or March, 2000 Newsletters. Sadly another interpretation of Central Bureau and its place in history and indeed another point of view, have been lost to us forever. Having conversed with 'Nobby' in recent years I suspect that we have missed out on a remarkable story.

Sincere condolences are extended to Nobby's wife, Wendy, and his son Hugh.

A tribute to Nobby Clarke by his wife Wendy

I was greatly privileged to be married to Nobby for the last few years of his long and eventful life. He was indeed a remarkable and wonderful man. I hope these few words will give you a small insight into the non-military side of his life. For Nobby was first and foremost a **scholar**. Without his fine intellect, he could never have contributed so much to the code-breaking effort during World War II.

He had an extraordinary knowledge of Chinese, Japanese, Russian, German and French and over a period of many years did a great deal of scientific and technical translation in all these languages. But his real love was poetry, and he would often quote verse in various languages. He could always make me laugh, with his wide repertoire of jokes and limericks, and especially with his uncanny ability to perfectly imitate a whole gamut of accents (Irish and Cockney being among his favourites).

He read widely on philosophical issues, his mind was always extremely active, and he was generally immersed in a diverse range of books at any one time. Japanese and Chinese texts were constant companions, as was the "Encyclopedia Britannica". The ease with which he was able to solve cryptic crosswords certainly helped to keep his mind razor-sharp to the end.

Nobby and I shared a love of music, literature, history and languages. He liked me to play the piano and recorder for him, and was always most appreciative, no matter how mediocre the

result. The same applied to my cooking: it was always "cordon bleu" to him! He himself cooked wonderful ox-tail.

Nobby was a deeply caring and loving person, "a complete gentleman", and intensely proud of his aristocratic Irish heritage. The Clarke Family Crest bears the motto, "Fortitudine et Justitia". William Elliott Clarke, my beloved husband, whose last few years I am so proud to have shared, truly embodied these qualities, and so many others as well.

Vic. Lederer Remembers His Good Mate.

I only had two close friends in my C.B. Army days, Nobby and Bill Kalbfell - did you know him? Bill passed away on 8th July 1992 aged 84, and now Nobby is also no longer with us.

Both of them were seconded to what is now C.B. but was then No. 4 W/T Section at Suez, on the old hell-ship 'Mendoza', crammed like sardines well down in the airless hold, cursing and sweating, but still seeing the funny side of things, on our way back to Australia from the Middle East campaign. I had been a German linguist translating German Army/Air/Ground signals in the old Museum (or Mausoleum?) in Heliopolis, day and night at a mad rate with Rommel's Afrika Corps only 60 kilometres away. Had they caught me I might well have ended up hanging from meat hooks, but they didn't. I reckon I did a worthwhile job there, like Nobby and Bill were later doing against the Japanese.

The three of us hit it off well right from the start and we had a similar sense of humour and somewhat fatalistic attitude, without both of which you'd have a pretty miserable time in the Army. My Japanese 'nom de plume' became 'Hatsupi Bikutoru' (translate to Happy Victor) - the others were Biru Karubuperu and Nobbisan.

Back home in Aussieland, after a short spell in a 'haunted' old villa in South Yarra which was now CB HQ, we moved to another, not so old villa in Ascot Park Brisbane, which from now on became CBHQ, shared with a lot of Americans. A huge cypher machine supervised by Colonel Abe Sinkov spewed out an endless stream of messages which in due course were cracked and delivered most valuable information on Japanese air, ground and naval movements.

Our C.O. was Lt. Col. A.W. (Mic) Sandford, the best C.O. I ever had in the Army. Nobby looked after the Intelligence side in Darwin with No. 51 W/T Section and later went to the Philippines and Tokyo. Bill and I had various assignments in New Guinea and I ended up in Morotai in the Halmaheras attached to an American unit, where we had a lively reception the first night we arrived! After the war the three of us kept in touch and, until Bill's demise in 1992, met from time to time at Nobby's favourite restaurant in Manly to talk and laugh about old times. If there's an after-life I hope we all run into each other again, we were such good mates.

Vic Lederer

VALE

CAPTAIN IAN ALLAN

Archibald Ian Allan, NX3533, who was born on January 3, 1916, died on February 13, 2000, aged 84, leaving his wife Tod, daughter Sue, son-in-law Hugh, and grandsons Christopher and Andrew to mourn him.

Captain Allan requested that his funeral service be private. This was typical of the gentle and reticent man, who was in charge of the cipher operators in the garage at 21, Henry St, Ascot. The former garage girls and men will be saddened at the news.

I first met this cipher officer in 1943, when we worked at Boronia Park, Sydney. The Army had taken over the newly built Montefiore Jewish Home on the banks of the Lane Cove River. Gathered there were signals, cipher, camouflage and carrier pigeon units.

In September of that year a small draft of us went north, told that we were New Guinea bound. Ian Allan was with that draft, but the destination was not to be New Guinea, but Brisbane. Months passed. People were shifted around, and in the moves some of us ended up in that strange organisation, Central Bureau.

Here, in the fibro garage, was Lieutenant Allan (later Captain), who at 6 feet 7 inches towered over everyone. He spoke little, but his voice was memorable for its diction and quality.

From others - we would never have heard it from him - I have gathered some details of his life and career.

Ian Allan, second son of Hector and Isobel Allan, was born at Newcastle, NSW. One of his grandfathers was the British Liberal politician, Sir William Allan, who helped to instigate the eight hour day in the British Isles.

After school at Shore, Archibald, (known to most as Ian) travelled to Japan, then joined Burns Philp, Port Moresby, and later became an overseer with the Colonial Sugar Refining Company in Fiji. War began in September '39. Ian Allan enlisted on October 25 with the 2/1 Field Co. Engineers and sailed for the Middle East in January, 1940. (His low NX number shows that he was a very early volunteer for the A.I.F.)

He served in Syria, Palestine, Greece, Crete and Tobruk. In Cairo he undertook cipher training, and on return to Australia spent some time in Darwin before going to Boronia Park, then to Central Bureau.

In 1944 he married Bosville Rhona Macdonald - "Tod" - who was as diminutive as he was tall, and whose outgoing personality and animation balanced his reserve. They had one daughter, Sue, now Mrs Hugh Gausson.

At the end of the war Ian Allan left the garage and Central Bureau.

He joined the ABC in Melbourne as an announcer and in 1949 established 2NU, the radio station at Tamworth. Another change of career came in 1955 when he was elected M.H.R. for Gwydir, representing the Country Party. Mr Ralph Hunt, a former Minister in the Country Party, and now Treasurer for the National Party, NSW remembers Ian Allan's integrity and his dedication to public service, as does Mrs Sadie Watts, former electorate secretary. (Mr Hunt and Ian Allan's daughter, Mrs Gausson, have written a yet-to-be published obituary of Ian Allan. Mr Hunt kindly provided me with a summary of it, and Mrs Watts also passed to me some reminiscences of Ian Allan's time in politics).

Mr Hunt said that Ian Allan was a consistent campaigner for conservation and drought mitigation, that he established the Darling Basin Authority, and that his activities laid the foundation for the current Murray-Darling Basin Commission.

Ian Allan was also the first Australian Parliamentarian to be elected to the executive committee of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, which led to extensive overseas travel.

In 1969 he resigned to become Secretary-General of the Anzac Agency, Commonwealth War Graves Commission, and was with this until retirement.

Some CBers met Ian Allan again in 1988 when CB held a reunion in Brisbane. Many visited the restored Henry Street mansion, behind which the old garage still stands, no longer housing Typex machines, but cars. Outside the garage Ian Allan was photographed with some of the "girls" who once worked for him.

He and his wife Tod, in recent years, have lived at Banora Point Retirement Village, Tweed Heads, NSW.

Ian Allan gave long service to Australia in war and peace. CBICA has sent deepest sympathy to his family.

Helen Kenny.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO ?

The release of 2 volumes - weighing about .8 Kg of Technical Records of Central Bureau, say some hundreds of newsletter-sized pages, has excited those interested in its history or in the detailed workings denied them before 1999. However none of its 11 sections lists the names of the people involved. Yet each member contributed to our success and all provided the basis of many friendships which have lasted for over 55 years.

CB ROLLCALL, which aims to list all who served in Central Bureau and associated units, should remedy this. Its completed form will show :-

NAME, including preferred first name and even some nicknames. Already 160 women have been cross-indexed to the maiden names under which they served

RANK. An additional means of identification.

SERVICE includes AWAS, AIF, RAAF and WAAAF and Brits, Canooks, Kiwis and Yanks.

FUNCTION shows specific job. eg Translator, intercept operator, D/F type, driver, etc.

FATE shows those still alive or the date or year when they ceased to grow old.

POST-WAR ACTIVITY will range from archbishop to youth worker or even zoologist

POSTCODE will show the member's last known locality and postcode.

One source estimates about 2300 Australians and 1700 from USA were involved. To date we have almost 1500 from Commonwealth countries, mostly Australians, and almost 800 from the USA. Material not fully processed should add another 100 or so to the US list. That's a good basis for additions from members who served in any of the associated units.

An example of how the recollections of individual members can help is a contribution by Betty Chessell. She supplied the names of 27, mostly Cypher AWAS, who worked with her in the Henry Street garage. Only 2 were on our list but the other 25 helped identify some of the many who were on Association records under their married names.

Each of the seven categories shown contains plenty of blank spaces so lists of members with whom you served, what they did and what happened to them will help. It does not matter if the info is already held.

Those who worked outside Henry Street could make a very valuable contribution. We hold the names of many of you and would like to know more.

Why bother.!!! Perhaps to provide the memorial which does not

exist. I personally know of only two men who died while serving in one of the many units which form CB but there may be more. None of our names will ever be inscribed on the huge bronze plaques at the National War Memorial at Canberra. However our list could find a permanent place in the records of DSD or even the war Museum.

Some of you may know of the planned General MacArthur Memorial in Brisbane. The trustees envisage a section of it will contain memorabilia and records of our "consortium". Some of the material will be present on touch-sensitive screens which will allow visitors to trace the history of our group. Wouldn't you like your great-great-grand-children to know what you and your unit did during WW ii ?

Of course you would. So PLEASE send your contributions to Helen Kenny, Bruce Bentwitch, Dennis Moore OR to me.

John Stumm

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MACARTHUR'S BRISBANE MEMORIAL

CBICA TAKES ACTIVE ROLE

(Reporter Frank Hughes)

Allan J. Campbell A.M. O.B.E. Patron of our Association, now a very active 95 years young, started to collect memorabilia associated with General Douglas MacArthur in 1944. MacArthur, Commander South West Pacific war zone established his war Headquarters on the eighth floor of the A.M.P. Building, 229 Queen Street, Brisbane.

General MacArthur's office was the focal point for daily presentation of intelligence reports from Central Bureau H.Q., 21 Henry St. Ascot. With Gen. Sutherland alone MacArthur examined each matter revealed from enemy Army, Navy and air traffic, the secret Japanese codes broken and read by staff at Central Bureau. Action based on the information enabled Commanders on land, sea or air an advantage over the Japanese that shortened the war in the Pacific and saved lives.

For many years after the war Allan Campbell with a number of loyal friends sought to have the eighth floor of the A.M.P. building preserves as a memorial museum. The Kern Corporation then owned the building, which was marked by a heritage order. Kern Corporation passed the building on to the Brisbane City Council.

Years of frustration gathering support for the development of a MacArthur Museum and Memorial won the interest of R.S.L., the Australian American Association, the Brisbane City Council, the Brisbane Visitors & Tourist Bureau, the Royal United Services

Institute the American Legionnaires, the U.S. Consulate, Brisbane Chamber of Commerce, former staff members of General MacArthur and I am pleased to advise also the many individuals previously opposed have now come to understand the benefits we derived from the United States of America during the war in the Pacific.

The Brisbane City Council granted a 99 year lease of MacArthur's Chambers to Banker's Trust Australia with specific conditions applying to interior refurbishment plus approval for conservation of a multi-story office block adjoining. The 99 year lease also gave rights to the Trust to develop the MacArthur Offices as a Memorial Museum. The building has been renamed "MacArthur's Chambers".

In September 1998, Clayton Utz, Solicitors of Brisbane, registered the legal entity of the General MacArthur Memorial Trust. The trust deed documents were signed at Government House, Brisbane. Trustees then appointed were Allan Campbell A.M. O.B.E., Alex McArthur M.B.E., Major General 'Digger' James, A.C. M.B.E. (Rtd) and Sir Leo Hielscher. Mr. Campbell signed over his collection of MacArthur memorabilia to the Trust as a gift on 28.11.98.

Regretfully, Bankers Trust did not proceed with the proposed high-rise office building. All tenants were moved out of MacArthur's Chambers. All lifts, power, water and services were disconnected. Macquarie Bank Limited took over all the assets of Bankers Trust Australia which included the 99 year lease of MacArthur's Chambers and the adjoining land with the approval for the development of high-rise commercial buildings. *Recently I was advised that Macquarie Bank Limited had sold on their 99 year lease of MacArthur's Chambers together with the land adjoining, which is approved for high-rise construction and development. I will advise when new plans are made public by the new owner, Ariadne Limited.*

However, I am sure members will be pleased to know that the General MacArthur Brisbane Memorial Trust has been reformed under the Executive Chairman, Major-General Murray Blake, A.O. M.C. (Rtd). An invitation was extended to CBICA Inc. to meet with the Trust members and some of the ten business men comprising the Steering Committee, which is also chaired by Murray Blake. I was delighted to have the company and support of CBICA members, Mrs. Betty Chessell and Dr. John Stumm. We were enthusiastically received as your representatives.

We presented some printed and verbal history of Central Bureau. Betty and John were pleased to explain their experiences during the war years with the secret organization, Central Bureau, plus details of the contribution of Australian, British and American servicemen and women. They pointed out the importance and the dedication of the wireless operators in the field and explained the link between 21 Henry Street and the eighth floor of MacArthur's war headquarters. We owe our thanks to Betty & John for their time as I know Betty is very busy with matters on behalf of a number of Ladies Service Organizations.

I would also like members to know that John Stumm has been engaged for some time recording the names and addresses of

thousands of servicemen and women of all countries who were associated in the war years with Central Bureau. He welcomes Member's support in this task. (See John's report in this edition. Ed.).

At present the Memorial Trustees are : Hon. Peter Beattie M.L.A., Major Murray Blake AO MC (Rtd), Mr. William Benston, Mr. Allan Campbell AM OBE, Hon. David Hamill MLA, Sir Leo Hielscher and Major Gen. Digger James AC MBE (Rtd). His Excellency, the Governor of Queensland, Major-General Peter Arnison AO is the Patron. The Trust's task is to arrange development of an historical display for the people of, and visitors to, Brisbane. General MacArthur's war headquarters will be refurbished to preserve the rooms as near as possible as they were during 1942-1944. Research facilities will be developed and educational programmes will be set up. In addition links will be established with relevant organizations in Australia and in America. The Queensland Government has made the first donation of funds to advance the planning process and has expressed the wish that the display be opened in time for the Goodwill Games to be held in Brisbane in September 2001.

The Executive Committee of C.B.I.C.A. Inc. invites Queensland members to express their interest and perhaps offer assistance for the future success of the eighth floor, MacArthur Office Memorial Display by joining with Betty Chessell, John Stumm and myself when we meet again in Brisbane at a date to be decided.

Frank Hughes.
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MAJOR W. E. CLARKE BY KEITH REDENBACH

(Although Keith is still security conscious this is also a story about a very secret Radio Telephony Intercept Group. About seven pages of C.B.'s "Technical Records" are devoted to attempts to copy Japanese telephony. Editor.)

Major W. E. Clarke (Nobby) was a friend and associate from 1944 until he passed away on 26.1.2000.

Further to your story in your CB Newsletter, I shall be grateful if you allow me to submit to you some of the facts known to me as a former subordinate and (later) a long-standing friend.

I was a member of 6 Wireless Unit, RAAF, which was a member of the CB and Allied Intelligence Organisation of World War II. I was a Leading Aircraftsman aged 19 years and I turned 21 years old on the day we returned to Australia on 21 October 1945. Major (then Captain) Clarke joined 6 Wireless Unit during the Leyte campaign, as 6 W.U. was the only Australian Unit to be approved for service in the Philippine Islands at that time. The Unit hosted a number of specialist intelligence personnel including

CB members, staff of 1 to 5 Wireless Units, and specialist Officers and Other Ranks from many other Allied Services, including Canada and the U.K. We were combined with the U.S. 126 Radio Intelligence Unit at Tolosa on Leyte.

During this time, three Royal Air Force Sergeants - Jack Lane, David Mowatt and Don Chilver - joined 6 W.U. I was appointed to join them along with S/Sgt William (Smiling Billy) Blinkhorn and Flying Officer Warren Miller, Royal Canadian Air Force, both of Central Bureau, to form an interception signals post at Inopacan on the west coast of Leyte. Captain Clarke was our O/C. This international group, due mainly to his leadership, loyalty and generosity to his subordinates, became an efficient and active team, a 24-hour watch was conducted by the RAF Sergeants and analysis and deciphering procedures were conducted by the Officers. Logs and information were carried forward to 6 W.U. and then to U.S. Army H.Q.

It was only recently that I found out that the purpose of this task was to assist in ensuring the safety of the path of the Enola Gay in the first atomic bomb raid on Japan (Authority: Major W. E. Clarke).

The disposition of this group was about 20 miles from where General Yamashita countered the American invasion with huge forces. The nearby Camotes Islands were heavily occupied by Japanese, as was Cebu.

Since the Camotes and Cebu were heavily occupied, a great deal of signals activity was available. We remained at Inopacan for further months, despite having completed the original task. We were in fact deep into enemy territory and my best friend in the Filipino guerilla movement, Sgt. Jason Montajes was killed in action on the Camotes Islands.

It is interesting to note that I had been almost a year in New Guinea and the Admiralty Islands and the consequent change of being in the midst of an area populated by civilians was a welcome relief after the completely war situation of the above areas. I can recall that Nobby was advised to blend us into the area and to be as little obvious as possible. This was rather difficult for him, he being over 6 ft. tall and with his immaculate bearing, particularly with his 3 shoulder pips which were taken by the Americans we met as being the 3 stars of a General, although this was of quite some benefit at times!

We remained at Inopacan for some months, where we were so generously received by the population in the surrounding areas and we were to a large extent protected by the Filipino Guerillas. When the invasion of Luzon was imminent, we returned to

W.U. at Tolosa where the Unit had swelled in numbers, 14 of which were RAF who had trained in the U.K. prior to leaving for the Pacific. There I was returned to the Unit, and the "international group" including the recently arrived RAF Sergeants, Billy Blinkhorn and Warren Miller, moved to another detachment under Nobby's charge. So the only times I saw him were when he visited the Unit. He advised me to transfer to the Army and to go to Japan with him. However, the RAAF would not allow this as I had been on active service for almost 2 years. I came back to Australia and he went to Japan in the Occupation Force.

We believed that we had an extra-sensory perception of each other and this became evident when I was visiting a casual friend some 3 years later at the Repatriation Hospital in Melbourne. I heard a voice coming from a private room and on examination discovered Nobby in bed. He had been returned from Mannus Island where he had been a member of the Australian War Crimes Tribunal. He said, "I knew you'd come. I've been trying to reach you for 2 days". He had actually been on my mind for some days due to the Korean War having started and I thought that he may have been in Korea.

He completed a degree in Russian after this, and later joined the Defence Department and we kept in touch until one day I called him and was told that he was "out of the country". So out of discretion, I enquired no further.

My career moved on and I later became a Civilian Officer of the "Director General Medical Services RAAMC Staff". This job had many facets, as we were managers for Army Health Logistics along with RAAF and R.A.N. Seeing that we had people and dependents in situ in Korea, Malaysia, Vietnam & Singapore and the importance of Health Services to those recipients is vital, there was a great deal of pressure and some emergencies. I am sure that Nobby's mentorship of me as a young man was of considerable help to me. In this extra-sensory perception, I often felt his influence. (The Filipinos call it Unting-Unting)

He had been in my thoughts a lot during his final 24 hours and it was no surprise when Wendy called to tell me that he had "passed on". I am so grateful to her for the comfort, love and respect that she was able to give him in his later years.

"An Officer and a Gentleman": Nobody deserved the title better than Major W. E. Clarke.

Yours sincerely,
Keith Redenbach