



CENTRAL BUREAU INTELLIGENCE CORPS ASSOCIATION INC.

JUNE 2001.

Publicity Officer: Helen Kenny 27/1-13 Mackenzie Street Lavender Bay 2060 N.S.W. Tel.(02)99540940

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Our application for a grant of \$70,000 for the writing and publishing of a Unit History under the Federal Government's Their Service, Our Heritage Commemorative Program was submitted to the Department of Veterans' Affairs on 12th February.

Acknowledgment of the application was received on 20th February with accompanying note stating that it would be considered at the next Local Commemorative Activities Fund Committee Meeting in April. A rider to this advised that "due to the success of the program and the large number of applications received, delays of up to 6 to 8 weeks can be expected in the processing of your application". Since then no further news, so obviously it is a case of don't hold your breath".

On the credit side, however, we have letters of support from Mr Ron Bonighton (Director DSD), Lt-Gen Peter Cosgrove (Chief of Army), Admiral Shackleton (Chief of Navy), Air Marshal McCormack (Chief of Air Force), the National President of RSL, Naval and Air Force Associations, the Director Australian War Memorial, the Secretary, Department of Defence and of course,

from Steve Mason (ASWG) Mac Jamieson (Queensland W.U. Association) and Harold Jones (Victorian W.U. Association).

It would appear that the ultimate decision will rest with Bruce Scott, Minister for Veterans' Affairs, to whom we have also written. The Minister has also been lobbied by CBer Fred Smith's Local Member at Fred's instigation. Good one, Fred!.

We have been in frequent contact with historian, Chris Coulthard-Clark, who is ready, willing and able to take on the role of author and will be looking for anecdotal, photographic and documentary assistance from member should our application for funding be granted. What else can we do? Perhaps it might help if some of us were inspired to follow Fred Smith's example.

Just a final brief word about our recent highly successful Anzac Day March and Reunion. It was foreshadowed in the March Newsletter that Rob Moore was planning to assume his father's role in attending to the banner, bringing it to the March and taking on the job of banner bearer.

Believe it or not, some weeks earlier, Rob had a bad fall fracturing both

forearms. This did not deter Rob from having the banner repaired, bringing it with him and taking part in the march. Actually, carrying the banner was in the circumstances, a bit beyond him. Fortunately, Bruce and Brian Lovett were there to do their usual fine job. Many thanks Rob, Bruce and Brian.

Gordon Gibson, President
67/1-9 Yardley Avenue
Waitara NSW 2077.
Phone (02)9487.3029
E-mail Sueg@optusnet.com.au

HON. SECRETARY'S PAR

Hello everyone and thanks for good wishes received. I'll need them. I'm fortunate working with such an experienced and supporting Committee.

Recently we brought the extensive membership/mailling list up to date. In passing, quite a few unfinancial members were noted. Treasurer Bruce is attending to this.

Amongst many phone calls prior to Anzac Day, received apologies from Stan King - an injury has restricted walking, hence inability to join us. Hope there has been improvement, Stan. Also heard from Nancy Goldsteen (Brisbane). Her medico had given permission to fly down, but not to march. She had booked in at The Mercure and will attend the lunch.

So to Anzac Day and what a beautiful day, with a very good roll-up. You will all recall Dennis quietly moving around recording those present. Well this year that busy bee with notebook/pen was yours truly trying to do the same job. You were all very patient. First, our thanks to Bruce and Brian Lovett who carried the banner (due to fractured elbows, Rob Moore was unable to help, but did march with us). Marchers were: N. Allen, N. Benn, B. Bentwitch, K. Burns, S. Carey, S. Cooper, M. Chidgey, Bert De Mars, R. Fleming, D. Geyer, G. Gibson, J. Granger, A. Hale, L. Harris, F. Hughes, S. Kirsten, B & B Lovett, M. McCredie, L.

McClellan, A McMahon (for grandfather), D. McNally, V. Malcolm, R. Moore (for Dennis), R. Murphy, A. Norton, R. Perry, K. Phillips, H. Rogers (for father). J. Shoebridge, P. Teague, E. Webb. Later in the day I was interested to hear Rob Moore's reaction to actual participation as opposed to watching the march. It's hard to put into words, but I'm sure we all stand a little straighter in response to the warmth from the huge crowds.

After much needed refreshments at the Red Cross tent and a brief chat with friends from other units, we were off to The Mercure. A very cheery gathering enjoyed good company and an excellent smorgasbord. Chairman Gordon, in a brief address, welcomed members and friends with special words for Honorary Member, Peggy Moore and son Rob; also for our new honorary Life Members (past Treasurer) Norma Keeling (past Presidents) Jim Williams and Mike Casey. On behalf of all members, Gordon wished them well. Good wishes also extended to Madeleine Chidgey on the road to recovery from ear surgery and Kath Burns who is in the throes of changing house, but managed to march. Sorry she couldn't stay for the lunch. A warm welcome to Betty Coombs from the USA.

At the risk of appearing to be a social columnist, the following attended the luncheon: Norm Allen, Noni Benn, Bruce Bentwitch, Col and Mark Brackley, Keith Carolan, Mike and Joyce Casey, Madeline Chidgey, Betty Coombs (via USA), Syd Cooper, Hope Cleary, Bert and Beth De Mars, Sue and Gordon Gibson, Fay Gilinsky, Nancy Goldsteen, Joy Granger, David and Noelene Hansen, Len and Joan Harris and guest, Mary Hogan, Frank Hughes, Norma and Jacquie Keeling, Jim Kennedy and granddaughter, Alexandra, Helen Kenny, Stephen Kirsten, Bob and Pam Leonard, Margaret McCafferty, Les McClellan, Max McCredie, Betty McCulloch, Doug McNally, Peg and Rob Moore, Allan and Kate Norton, Diana Parker, Roy Perry, Keith and Ruth Phillips, Bill Rogers, John Shoebridge, Lester and Celia Truex, Jim Williams, Eve and Eric Webb.

Reminder: Mini-reunion, Tuesday 15th November at Stockton RSL Club. Closer to the time, we'll fill you in again on transport and timetables.

Vale to the following Members:

Mr Bernard Anderson (North Balwyn, Vic) Mrs Marie Miller, nee Boyd (GyMEA Bay) Mrs Eleanor Hurst Bennetts, nee Smith (Corryong, Vic) known as "Smithy" when telephonist at Henry Street. Mrs. Anne Schneider, nee Moon (Seaforth NSW).

Our condolences to their families.

As they say these days..... "May the force be with you".

Joy Granger
2N. RSLVRV
P O Box 56
Narrabeen NSW 2101

HON TREASURER'S REPORT:

First, I will add a little to the Anzac Day March. Prior to the start Eric Fleming mentioned he was recovering from by-pass surgery and doubted he would last the distance. Eric managed to keep with us to the corner of George and King Streets and wisely withdrew.

Reg Murphy joined us at Martin Place, just managed to reach the finish line, and with help from Noel Langby, found a seat. They sat for some time, then had a cuppa which revived Reg and Noel escorted him to Town Hall Station.

Our thanks go to Noel for his TLC. Now in his 92nd year, Reg doubts marching again, but who knows!

The following sent regrets they could not be with us on the day due to distance, ill health or injury. These included Bill Clark, Geoff Day, Gordon Gibson (Port Macquarie), Earle Heap, Stan King, Alan Marsland, Vic Lederer, Noni McNaught, Alwyn Petherbridge and Kath Burns, who was in the process of moving house. Alan Langdon who was Acting Rector of Lithgow Parish, was involved with local duties so could not come. We hope all on the sick list are feeling much improved.

The Centenary of Federation Ceremony at the Royal Exhibition Building Melbourne, telecast by the ABC, interested me greatly.

As an 18 year old RAAF Rookie (trainee wireless mechanic) I was posted to 1 STT (School of Technical Training) in September 1942. This was housed in the Exhibition Building.

Sleeping was on curved timber benches on the building's balconies. Palliasses were stuffed with straw. The kitchens, mess and ablution blocks were on the ground floor as was the Administration Section. If anyone coughed during the night the cough echoed around the building.

Six days a week we marched to an annexe of Melbourne Tech. This, I think, was situated in Little Lonsdale Street in a building which had been part of Borthwick's meatworks. The place had a bit of an odour.

Due to problems with the practical aspect of the course (solder burns etc), I was scrubbed, spent two months at 5 FTS (Flight Training School) Uranquinty, and was then posted to the mysterious RAAF Command, Brisbane.

On the Monday after our Melbourne Reunion in November, I visited the old building and spoke to workmen involved in the restoration work, none of whom knew that the RAAF had occupied the building during wartime. The commentator with the City Circle tram also had never heard of this.

Enclosed with this Newsletter is the reminder that some members are at least two years overdue with subscriptions, while a few as yet have not paid this year.

Bruce Bentwitch, Hon. Treasurer
7 Holly Street, Castle Cove NSW 2069
Phone (02)9417.1427

.....

DSD OPEN DAY (MARCH 31 2001)

The Open Day was as "open" as it is possible for the Defence Signals Directorate to be. The aim of the day (said the invitation to CBICA) was to "enable families of current staff to view the Directorate's working environment". DSD Director, Ron Bonighton, extended this to CBICA members and their "partners".

This didn't mean a free go, wide open gates and just walk in. Far from it. We didn't

expect that. Security is still most important. Well in advance we filled in forms, and on the day had to be identified before walking through the Northgate Entrance to the Department of Defence, Russell Offices, Canberra.

Some of us had been there before on more formal occasions, such as DSD's 50th birthday. This was relaxed, different. We set off in groups, led along passages by uniformed and courteous guides.

CBers who attended were: Sue and Gordon Gibson, Bill and Ruth (Muriel) Burns, Charles Morrison, Les McClean, Brian and Heather Lovett, Fred Smith and his grandson Tom, Frank Hughes, Vic Lederer, Noelene and David Hansen, Diana Parker, Helen Kenny, Ian and Lorraine Buckingham, Geoff Howard.

The throng of DSD families was so great that there were almost human traffic jams as we entered certain parts of the building, where cameras watched us, and doors slid shut behind us. Computers were everywhere. People talked of CNOC (Canberra Network Operations, Canberra) of encryption machines, of the colours red and black. This writer really didn't understand. Young servicemen and women wore ribbons, gained from service in Bougainville and Timor. Some told us that Ron Bonighton, the Director, made a point of knowing and talking to his staff and that workers there had an idea of the whole scheme of things.

Among our members were Canberrans, Vic Lederer and Geoff Howard and Bill Burns who lived in Canberra as a schoolboy and learnt Japanese there in days when Japanese was rarely taught.

On this visit we did not sight Ron Bonighton, who spoke to us at the SIGINT Reunion, or Arthur Skimin, the DSD historian whom we met in Melbourne. (We've been very much in touch with him since). There was quite a lot of walking. I gave up towards the end when people vanished into subterranean regions. DSD refreshed me with tea. The

sausage sizzle followed. Thanks, Noelene Hansen, for helping me compile the list of names and for hurrying in stocking feet across the road to give it to me. (My shoes were off too). There was much walking in Canberra that weekend - not only DSD - but the Monet show, the new Museum and the superb "Cook and Omai - the Cult of the South Seas" display at the National Library. The visit was certainly worthwhile.

Helen Kenny

.....

ANZAC EVE

A fine evening in Sydney's Martin Place. The Cenotaph's base already is banked by wreaths and flowers, by large floral representations of flags and colour patches, by little posies with hand written tags bearing the names of men and women who were loved and remembered.

Between George Street and the Cenotaph rises another obelisk. It interferes with the line of vision to the Cenotaph, is small enough to be a stumbling block and is placed there to commemorate some city dignitary who thought his name worth recording. We will not record it here. CBers gathered Bruce Bentwitch bringing the wreath which was to be laid by President Gordon Gibson. Among those who lined up for the ceremony were: Lou and Joan Harris, Lester and Celia Truex, Fred Smith and his two grandchildren, Frank Hughes and his daughter, Diana Parker, Bill Rogers, Gordon Gibson, John Shoebridge, Nancy (Nelson) Goldsteen, Helen Kenny and Stephen Kirsten. They had come from Sydney itself, Melbourne, Brisbane and country New South Wales. Stephen Kirsten was new to the scene. He had read in "Reveille" of CBICA and of how World War II SIGINT personnel were invited to our Anzac Day functions. This Polish-born ex-serviceman for long an Australian citizen, came along and has since joined our Association. Welcome Stephen.

The evening ceremony was short, dignified, solemn. This time we did not leave the confines of Martin Place. Morning would come soon enough, and Joan and Lou planned to go to the Dawn Service for the first time. Anzac Day was close.

Helen Kenny

.....

AROUND THE TABLES

On past Anzac Days, Dennis Moore used to move around the tables at lunchtime, bearing his tape recorder, and switching it on and off to capture conversations and interviews.

This year, I tried first a notebook, then the tape recorder, lent to me by Peggy Moore who gave a few quick instructions just before lunch began. It was so good to see her there with her son, Rob.

.....

The non-marchers, of course, had reached the Mercure/Lawson quite early. After the march, the rest joined us. Jim Williams, past president, past secretary and an honoured life member of CBICA, is in a wheelchair now. Steps down to the dining room looked an obstacle, but Jim with help, overcame this by going out to a balcony and making a grand entrance through glass doors. He took his place at table with Mike Casey, another former president and CBICA life member. Mike wasn't able to march this year and Norma Keeling, former treasurer and life member, was another non-marcher. Peg Moore who holds a special "honorary membership" in appreciation of all the work she gave to CBICA when Dennis edited "Newsletter", was surrounded by friends.

President Gordon Gibson gave a special welcome to those who had travelled long distances, to interstate visitors, and to our international visitor, Betty Coombs, who was back in her native Australia for a month's holiday. Maurie, her husband, not well enough to travel, was in good care and

"doing well". Their home is in Lancaster, Virginia, USA. The couple met and married during the war, when Maurie an American, was serving with CB in Australia.

Gordon Gibson then referred to "people who were here in spirit, but couldn't be here in person". He spoke of Joy Linnane of "the Port Macquarie Gordon Gibson" of Geoff Day, Jean Robertson, Stan King, Earle Heap, and Allan Langdon all of whom had sent messages.

Canon Allan Langdon, in a bad car accident earlier this year, had recovered well enough to be playing tennis again, and to be conducting an Anzac Day service in the Parish of Lithgow, where he is Acting Rector.

Finally, our President congratulated the life members, Jim Williams, Norma Keeling and Jim Williams, and made special mention of Peggy Moore's honorary membership.

In reply Jim Williams thanked the President, Secretary Joy Granger and the Committee for the life membership he had received, saying how proud he was of it. Then he recalled the early days of the Association 26 years ago. Things could be haphazard.

"I remember asking Bill Ludwig, who was supposed to be secretary, for the minutes. Bill answered 'What minutes? I've got a few notes from Marion Winn and a lot of paper!'".

In his time with CBICA, Jim was secretary and president. He lives at Ronald Coleman Lodge, Woollahra a Uniting Church establishment. He can't get about now, but CBers could find him there.

Mike Casey and his wife Joyce were at the same table. I switched on the recorder. They're old friends of Maurie and Betty Coombs and have stayed with them in Virginia. Mike, who joined CB in 1943, was in Port Moresby on the eve of his 20th birthday and from there went to Finschafen, Hollandia and San Miguel in the Philippines. He was involved with "radio intercepts and a

bit of codebreaking". Mike, who's been having a hard time lately, in and out of hospital, thought the work so interesting he wished he were doing it again. After the war, Mike visited Japan with Bill Coates and Peter Elkin. He was just saying more about his post-war career, when I had to leave his table. The first course was being served.

My own table was circled by women, mostly from the garage in 21 Henry Street. A new face was there - Mary Hogan (nee Bourke, or is it Burke?). We hadn't seen her since 1945 - and she's now a grandmother of six. Mary just came along for lunch and isn't a member - yet. We hope she'll join us.

Talk grew. Knives and forks clattered. There was laughter, I captured Norma Keeling's voice on the tape recorder. "I've got a very good daughter" she said. "Without Jacqueline I wouldn't have got down to this lunch". (Norma lives in Katoomba NSW).

Keith Phillips, Bob Leonard and their wives Ruth and Pam were at another table. Keith, at the University of Sydney when war started, trained as a Japanese linguist, starting with a course at the University of Melbourne. The training was so intense, he says, that there were many drop-outs, even suicides. Another course followed, run by Professor Sadleir at the University of Sydney.

Keith in the RAAF, and fellow students lived at the Coogee Bay Hotel, took toast-rack trams to the University and studied night and day. Eventually Keith worked with ATIS in the old AMP building, Brisbane, and later went to the Philippines. Somewhere crossing a bridge, he met Bob Leonard. The friendship has been long.

Bob, 75, has been compiling Anzac Day exhibitions since 1965. They're staged in the Westpac Bank, 341 George Street, Sydney, where the Westpac RSL sub-branch is based. Last year, the exhibition concerned Timor. This year, when we're celebrating the Centenary of Federation,

Bob's exhibition was "From Colony to Nationhood 1801-1901". It ran until May 11. Barrie Unsworth, the Australia Day chairman who opened it, said it should go on national tour. The hundreds of exhibits - photos, sketches and drawings - concerned Aborigines, bushrangers, minerals, explorers, soldiers, railways, rebellions.

.....

On with the tape recorder to another table. Stephen Kirsten was talking to Bruce Bentwitch and Faye Gilinsky. This new member first heard of CBICA when he read of our unit and plans for the Anzac Day march and reunion. His story would fill a book, not the few paragraphs we can devote to it here. Briefly, he came from Poland to Sydney in 1949 and is now an Australian citizen. During the war, he got out of Poland, reached the Middle East, from there went to Bletchley Park and to Scotland doing intercept work at listening posts such as Banff. He brought along photographs one showing him in uniform, another showing him as a ballet dancer. Just after Anzac Day a photograph in the North Shore Times under the heading "Dancer defies the age barrier" showed this very limber 78 year old at Lindfield's "Ecole Ballet School", where he practises three times a week, travelling from Liverpool to reach it.

These were just a few samples from the tape recorded talks. The background noise was loud - but the words came through clearly enough.

Helen Kenny.

.....

BOOK REVIEW: "The Emperor's Codes"

Michael Smith has lived and breathed intelligence and security. It is no surprise that he has produced a worthwhile addition to the literature on WW2 signals intelligence.

The pages teem with people we knew - or, if we didn't know them we heard of saw their names so often that it was as if we did. Likewise the locations which, whether we had been there or not, became familiar territory. There are two Nobby Clarkes and our Nobby receives only passing mention. Our "Pappy" fares little better.

The book sets the record straight on whether the US almost entirely broke Japanese codes, or whether the British and Australians broke most of them. Credit is shared by Army, RAAF and Navy, as well as some notable civilians.

Due honour is paid to Eric Nave, to his remarkable understanding of codes and ciphers and of the Japanese language. His son, David, told me that when Paymaster Lieutenant Nave was sent to Japan in 1921 to study the language he purposely lived in a small village where nobody spoke English.

If we wondered whether the US had prior warning of the Pearl Harbour attack and ignored it, it is worth reading about the stage at which work on JN25 was at the time, and the distortion of Nave's 1991 memoirs by another.

Significant passage: *When Churchill described the fall of Singapore as "the worst disaster and largest capitulation in British history", he was not to know that within weeks the codebreakers would have sown the seeds of revenge, turning the tide of Japanese victory and putting them continuously on the defensive for the rest of the war.*

Michael Smith cites cases, prior to 1944, of inter-service un-coordination and international rivalry, some of which seemed to boil down to one or two personalities - and the resulting heavy cost in human life. Indiscreet use of intelligence by some operational commanders and zealous journalists if blamed for a number of abrupt book and additive changes.

The ingenuity and improvisation employed by cryptanalysts, their growing

understanding of human nature, and their gratitude for the errors and sometimes the apparent ineptitude of enemy cipher clerks and operators, play an important part. The initial British reluctance to embrace machine technology is noted, likewise Hollerith on one side of the world, IBM on the other.

If you wondered what you did, or have forgotten, or where the "Y" came from, this is your book. The author includes a large number of verbatim contributions by participants and consequently there is occasional repetition. We can excuse his placing the machine room in the three-car garage at 21 Henry Street rather than in the old fire station in Kitchener Road, and the pre-fab huts on the racecourse instead of in Ascot Park opposite.

A useful selective recap of WW2 history, this should not be taken up when one is about to go out to keep an appointment. Gripping is the best word to describe it.

Bantam Press, 2000. RRP \$29.60

Rev. Robert Brown
33 Harmsworth Avenue
Wantirna Vic 3152 'phone (03)9887.3305

Joe Richard and his wife, Elsie, flew to London last year for the launch of Michael Smith's book, "The Emperor's Codes", reports Mike Casey. The Richards live at Silver Springs, Maryland, USA and the launch was at the Imperial War Museum, London.

Joe's doctor allowed him to go only on condition that he have oxygen on the plane. Joe agreed. Everything worked out, and codebreaker Joe was delighted to meet the author and to receive copies of the book. On return to the States he wrote to Mike Casey, sending him a copy of "The Emperor's Codes". Very well worth reading, says Mike.

.....

AWARDS

Geoff Patience and Roy Ward, those Melburnians who did so much to organise last year's SIGINT Reunion, have new awards to add to those they already hold. Geoff OAM, BEM was proclaimed Glen Eira's Citizen of the Year 2001, "Lion-hearted Geoff" (as the Glen Eira News dubbed him), is a former Mayor of Caulfield, who founded the International Diabetes Centre, raising \$100,000 from the Lions Club and is now working with the Caulfield Lions Club to buy Hart Walker machines for people with cystic fibrosis.

The Caulfield/Glen Eira Leader reports him as saying: "You don't grow old if you're occupied. Do something you love..... I just love helping people". At Christmas children in local schools and hospitals meet Father Christmas who bears a remarkable resemblance to the beardless Geoff Patience we know.

Roy Ward OAM, ASM, IOM, MH (CT) JP, wrote to Newsletter in typically laconic style to say: "I've joined Geoff Patience by receiving a Commonwealth Recognition Award for "Old B.....s". Copy enclosed if you haven't received one".

(Roy spelt the B..... word out. What's the style for Newsletter?).

The Award, recognising the contribution of the Honourable Roy Ward OAM to the community of Dunkley, is correctly known as a "Commonwealth Recognition Award for Senior Australians. "It was signed by the Hon. John Howard MP, Prime Minister, by the Hon. Bronwyn Bishop MP, Minister for Aged Care and the Local Member of Parliament, whose signature I was unable to decipher.

.....

The news of the award to Flora Davis (Associate Member and widow of CB pioneer, Alf Davis) should have been announced in Newsletter last year. It was then that Mrs Davis received the Medal of

the Order of Australia for her services to the Jewish community.

Mrs Davis, 87 last year, was working at David Jones when she volunteered to help the Sir Moses Montefiore Jewish Home. This was in 1930. For more than 70 years she "has driven residents to lunches, provided companionship served meals, folded laundry, raised funds, made jams, knitted gifts and kept the books".

She still visits the Montefiore Home twice a week, although much of the work done by volunteers has been taken over by paid staff.

David Parker, Curator of the Australian Intelligence Corps Museum at Canungra, Queensland (whom we met at the SIGINT Reunion last November), received an Australian Army Exemplary Service Medallion in recognition of service he had given beyond normal duty to the Australian Intelligence Corps.

Betty Chessell, who reported this, said that it came as a great surprise to David. He had invited her, and CBer Dorothy Morrow (nee Hilleard) to attend a memorial service at Canungra for the Australian Intelligence Corps and for the dedication of a banner. A car was sent to drive Dorothy from Brisbane and Betty from the Gold Coast and at Canungra they were able to witness the service and to see the excellent museum. Like our John Stumm, David Parker has been recording the names and wartime work for those who worked in Intelligence, including CB, and has interviewed many of our linguists.

Congratulations to him, to Geoff Patience, Roy Ward and Flora Davis. If you hear of other CBers who have received awards, please let Newsletter know.

.....

A RARE MEMORIAL

"Upfront" - Journal of the friends and supporters of the State Library of NSW,

reports: "Under the Rare and Valuable Books Conservation Project, Wendy Elizabeth Clarke has chosen to sponsor over the next five years the restoration of Voyage autour du monde.... Sur les corvettes de S.M. "l'Uranie" et "la Physicienne" (1822-44), consisting of 13 volumes and four atlases by Louis-Claude de Saulces de Freycinet (1779-1842).

"This commitment to the Library's heritage has been made in memory of her husband William Elliott Clarke. "Nobby" Clarke was a foundation Custodian of the Library and felt strongly about the importance of preserving its collection".

Wendy told UPFRONT that she chose the Freycinet volumes as a memorial to Nobby, because she and her husband had a shared interest in history, in early voyages of exploration of the Australian continent, and a deep love of the French language. In 1998 both visited the beautiful Freycinet Peninsula in Tasmania.

The Library is restoring the volumes. Wendy looks forward to reading the entire set and hopes that in years to come, others will enjoy this.

.....

Nobby of course, was CB's Nobby and Wendy, a linguist like her husband, is an associate member of CBICA.

(As for Freycinet, when this French captain sailed in "l'Uranie" from Toulon in 1817, his wife Rose, disguised as a boy, went aboard too, defying Naval orders. She wrote her own account of the voyage).

.....

VALE

KEITH ("BLUEY") REDENBACH

The death of my lifelong friend, Keith Redenbach in December 200, came as a great shock, following as it did on that of my

former C.O., Captain E.E. Clarke ("Nobby") earlier in the year.

I first came to know Bluey in January 1945 on detachment from 6 W.U. Tolosa at Inopacan on the west coast of Leyte. This unit was under the command of Nobby Clarke with F.O. Warren Miller, RCAF, my RAF colleagues, Dave Mowatt, Don Chilver and myself and Billie Blinkhorn, a Canadian in the Australian Army as Japanese R/T operators. It was a truly Commonwealth outfit. Bluey was in charge of the domestic arrangements, and there acquired the skills in obtaining supplies which were to stand him in such good stead in his later civilian career with the General Medical Services RAAMC staff. The basic army rations we had suffered at Tolosa were rapidly transformed into something eminently palatable.

Bluey who was by then a veteran island hand, befriended the three young Poms fresh from school and we remained close friends later on at San Miguel, Luzon, until we returned to Brisbane in October 1945.

For nearly 50 years we lost touch, but on the occasion of my son's wedding in Melbourne, December 1993, I was finally able to revisit Australia and Bluey was at the airport to meet me and my wife. We remained in close touch on a subsequent visit and by letter and phone. Bluey was a great-hearted, generous man who lived life to the full. He delighted in good company, was easy in any society and greatly enjoyed his membership of the RAC Club (Victoria).

His pride was his family and his greatest concern was education - both generally and for his family.

If ever I had been in a really tight spot, Bluey would have been the one person I would have wanted with me. He will be sorely missed.

Jack Lane (ex R.A.F.)
5A Southfield Road
Gloucester, UK GL4 6UG

It is with a very deep sense of loss that I write these words. Readers of the Newsletter will remember the moving tribute to Nobby his lifelong friend, Bluey, who served with him in the Philippines in 1944-45. His devotion to Nobby and respect for his achievements remained unshakeable throughout all those years and in 1998 he wrote: "I always felt your hand on my shoulder in the difficult days of Vietnam".

Bluey was a very caring, warm-hearted and charming man and was a tower of strength and comfort to me during 2000 in our long and frequent phone conversations. Through our talks, I learned more about the time spent at Inopacan and I was also motivated to read the extraordinary book *A Man Called Intrepid*, to which Bluey often made reference.

Last July, Bluey spent a few weeks with some members of his family in Malaysia; long a favourite place. Later in the year, though, he suffered a "minor stroke" but seemed to have made a good recovery and was as cheerful as ever on the phone.

Jack Lane has written a fine appreciation of Bluey. The photo reproduced below shows (from right to left) Blue, Frank Patrick (who, Jack says, "popped down to Inopacan on a couple of occasions for a rest!" and who also passed away late last year), Nobby and Jack in February 1996 at the presentation ceremony for the Philippines Liberation Medal.

Postscript: Like Dennis Moore, Bluey served with 6 Wireless Unit, RAAF. However, their paths seem not to have crossed, and they never had the opportunity of meeting in later life.

Wendy Clarke

