

CENTRAL BUREAU INTELLIGENCE CORPS ASSOCIATION June 2003.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Unit History Fund

In spite of my optimistic forecast in the March Newsletter, it appears that we are still a long way from achieving the initial goal of \$50,000 with donations so far received amounting to a little under \$20,000.

However, Bill Rogers, Helen Kenny and Frank Hughes are not the sort of people who give up easily, and we have been following up the suggestion of Peter Donovan (University of NSW) and John Mack (Sydney University) regarding the possibility of obtaining a grant from the Australian Research Council.

Any such grant, it seems, would be made only as a result of a joint application on behalf of the University of NSW and the Australian War Memorial, so there would need to be an agreement between those two bodies covering such matters as copyright.

The application will need to be delayed for some months to give time for a proper and detailed submission to be prepared, hopefully, by Peter Donovan in collaboration with Chris Coulthard-Clark. John Mack is hoping also to contact Bill Caelli regarding a possible arrangement involving a PhD student of the Queensland University of Technology, which could result in a sizable donation to our fund from that institution.

Meanwhile, Frank Hughes, in spite of illness, has been working on other fund raising activities, including one involving IBM, whose machines were used at CB during the war.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge a recent letter from Harold Jones, (Victorian RAAF WU

Association) from which I quote: "Details re the history of CB and affiliated units were given at our annual reunion on 24th April, 2003. It was decided a donation would be made from our Association funds, and some members indicated they would make individual donations."

Your support is greatly appreciated, Harold, and should encourage us all to continue the struggle for this worthy cause.

Anzac Day, 2003 Some people say it about Christmas, but this thought has struck me more and more in recent years: how great it would be if the Anzac Day spirit continued indefinitely. Meeting and chatting with your old mates is only to be expected, but then there are all the mates you didn't know you had, who strike up a conversation with you on the train.

In the crowded monorail, family groups crack a joke with you and the kids jump up to give the old guys a seat. The pubs are jam packed, but if someone bumps you as you struggle to the bar, instead of a glare it's "Sorry, mate" and you both relax. Once again, the best Anzac Day ever!

The Bletchley Park Code Breakers – Enigma, Tunny and Colossus

On the 15th March, at the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney, a very special lecture was given by Jack Copeland, Professor of Philosophy at the University of Canterbury, New Zealand. Professor Copeland is the director of the Turing archive for the history of computing. The story of the Enigma cipher machine and its defeat by the Bletchley Park codebreakers is now well known. This lecture described Bletchley's success against a later, more advanced German cipher machine, codenamed Tunny by the British. Whereas Enigma dated from 1923 and was marketed openly throughout Europe, the ultra-secret Tunny was created by scientists of

Hitler's Third Reich for use by the German Wehrmacht. How Bletchley Park broke Tunny has been a closely guarded secret since the end of the war, and this fascinating lecture was based on recently declassified material.

Central to the Bletchley Park attack on Tunny was Colossus, the world's first large scale electronic digital computer. The British Government kept the existence of Colossus secret, and many history books, even recently published ones, claim that the first electronic digital computer was an American machine called the ENIAC. The ENIAC was not operational until 1945, two years after Colossus first ran. The first part of the lecture traced the influence of Colossus on the modern computer and gave full credit to the erratic genius Alan Turing, who, it appears, was really the founding father.

Jack Copeland's talk lasted an hour and a half and seemed to be half an hour. I apologise for our inability to notify members, but news of it came too late for inclusion in the December Newsletter.

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HON. SECRETARY'S PAR

Well, hello again; I hope you are all in reasonable health. Before I launch into my extended report on Anzac Day, a request to members...did any of you have any contact with or knowledge of M Special Group (all apparently Army) on the 4th floor, Heindorff House, Brisbane, 1944/45? Don Murdoch (AIF S/Sgt) 33 Illawarra Crt, Blackmans Bay, TAS, was one of the group but lost all contact when the unit broke up. After 40 years secrecy, he tried the internet without response. At this late stage he is trying, as are we all, to fill in missing gaps. Over to you. Helen is making other enquiries, it would seem AIB is involved.

Now to Anzac...President Gordon, Helen Kenny and Diana Parker represented us for the wreath laying on Anzac Eve; also a very sick Stephen Kirsten who regretted he would be unable to march next day. He had a bad reaction to a flu injection.

The Day threatened rain but eventually cleared to sun and humidity. Enormous and very supportive crowds lined the entire route. Our stalwarts were Ailsa Hale, Joyce Grace, Gordon Gibson, Rob Moore (for Dennis), Doug McNally, Don Dunn, Ivan AuPrince with g/son Ben, Doug Pyle, Peg Teague, Noni Benn, Eric Webb, Keith Carolan with g/sons Tony and Chris, David Hansen, Alan Fookes, Norm Allen, the 'other' Gordon (Richard) Gibson, Keith Phillips, Alan Norton, Roy Perry, Syd Cooper, Joy Granger. We made fairly fast time to Hyde Park and welcome coffee. Then off to the Mercure for revivers and a good lunch. An excellent and convivial roll-up – Norm Allen, Noni Benn, Stan and Maureen Baylis, Bruce Bentwitch, Col and Mark Brackley, Judith Carson, the Carolan family Keith, Joan, Dianne and Tony, Syd Cooper, Hope Creary, Dr Peter Donovan, Don Dunn, Alan and Margaret Fookes, Fred Frank, Faye Gilinsky, Joy Granger, Gordon and Sue Gibson with Richard and Peg Gibson, Lou Harris, Jacqui Keeling, Helen Kenny, Bob and Pam Leonard, Doug McNally, Rob Moore, Jean Mulholland, Alan and Katie Norton, Diana Parker, Roy and Ellen Perry, Keith and Ruth Phillips, Doug and Nell Pyle, Jack Shoebridge, Peg Teague, Eric and Eve Webb with English visitors Serena and Michael Willicome. Hope I haven't overlooked anyone.

President Gordon welcomed all, especially those who travelled some distance – from Green Point, the Mountains, Port Macquarie, Yarralumla and Melbourne. Apologies and messages were received from Ailsa Hale and Joyce Grace who had to return home after the march, Joyce Casey (not well), Alan and Pam Langdon (on pastoral duties) Madeline Chidgey (Ron far from well), Frank Hughes, Les McClean, Peg Moore (Rob representing her), Geoff Howard, Vic Lederer (in and out of hospital but now reasonably well), Jim Williams (has had two operations but sounded cheery), Brian and Bruce Lovett, Jean Hicks (Q), Joe Richard (USA) sent a splendid letter with greetings to all and wishes for a great day. He also reported the death of Graham Lobb (Washington). Betty Chessell (Q) sent apologies. She was bound for a cruise along the Kimberley coast.

Finally, Gordon made mention of the Unit History Fund. As you are all aware, Frank Hughes has been working tirelessly (with Bill Rogers) on this. Frank went to Brisbane for consultation with Professor

Caelli re proposed collaboration between QUT, the Australian War Memorial and Historian Chris Coulthard-Clark. He spent Anzac Day at home with his family, and was joined by his old friend Les McClean. At the beginning of June, Frank went to hospital in Sydney for surgery. We wish him well. Meanwhile, Bill Rogers has been attending meetings at the A.W.M. and, directly, with the Australian Research Council, hoping that that latter approach may produce something positive re funding. We are greatly indebted to him for all his endeavours.

So endeth Anzac Day 2003 – may we all still be around for the next one.

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HON TREASURER'S REPORT

The recent heavy rain in parts of Sydney reminded me of a downpour experienced in San Miguel, Luzon.

No. 6 WU had recently moved from Tolosa, Leyte. We were housed in 36-man American tents with stretchers, which were reasonably comfortable.

This particular morning, June 1945, about 9am, only two of us were in the tent when the downpour commenced. First we loosened the tent ropes, then with the ground becoming awash, we lifted kitbags onto each stretcher. This was just as well, as in no time the ground was covered with about six inches of water. Fortunately the storm did not last long, and the water receded quickly. I wonder who it was who helped me on that morning?

I also recall a small Filipino village across a creek a short distance from our camp. In a short period the pigs had piglets, the chooks had chickens and two of the women had babies. Quite a productive community.

Now to CBICA, where 58 years after the above, many of our members have health problems – wearing bones, heart, osteoporosis, eyes, just to mention a few complaints. Let us hope that modern

treatment and medicine will help the conditions. Certainly a number could not march this recent Anzac Day.

This is an early notice. Our November mini-reunion will be held on 11th November (Armistice Day) at the Roseville Memorial Club, which is a short level walk – about 100 metres – from Roseville rail station. (Roseville is a suburb on Sydney's North Shore line.) The September Newsletter will give more details about this.

Finally, when sending cheques or money orders for subscriptions etc., it is not necessary to write the Association's full title. Central Bureau I.C.A. or just the initials C.B.I.C.A. will suffice.

Best wishes to all and we appreciate the kind remarks re the Newsletter (Helen's expertise).

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IBM

(Part two of Don Moreland's recollections)

In the March Newsletter Don Moreland of 1508 Pineview Drive, Raleigh, NC USA 27606-2562 – email donald.moreland@ncsu.edu – described how he set up IBM equipment for CB in the Henry Street garage, and later the fire station.

By email he asked Helen Kenny if she knew who had followed the IBM people into the garage.

"I certainly do," she replied. "My crowd- 11 Aust. Cipher Section. When we went there – about March 1944 – the garage held Typex machines. The IBM machines and staff had gone, as had the air conditioning. Yes, that garage was a sweltering place, where we worked around the clock keeping to Greenwich Mean Time."

Don Moreland writes: "The engineering know-how at Central Bureau was quite remarkable. We kept the IBM machines going round-the-clock for almost

four years, using the machines to do tasks that they were never designed to do. There was much creativity in our operation.” He enjoyed the work at Central Bureau, the informality, and working for Colonel Sinkov who “was more like a professor than a commander. It was a privilege to be invited to his home for dinner.”

Eventually CB moved to the Philippines. By then Don Moreland was a second lieutenant.

After war's end he went on with his career, becoming a Professor of Crop Science, Botany, Forestry and Toxicology. He is now Professor Emeritus at North Carolina State University.

When he was a young man in this country, Australian slang fascinated him. He mentioned that it had changed greatly when he came here again in the 1990s.

He is interested in the planned history and told Peter Dunn: “Time is passing us by rather rapidly, our memories are fading and our ranks thinning. I am more than pleased to share my recollections with all interested parties.”

(Thank you, Don Moreland. As Australians of World War I would have said, “That’s bonzer.” And, for our vintage “That’s beaut...goodonyer.”)

Doug Pyle is another Cber who remembers when the garage at Henry Street housed the IBM equipment. He says: “I was working in the servants’ quarters of the house with Nave and Nobby Clarke. You went down steps to the garage, entering it by a side door. Two machines, with a walkway between, filled the garage. The rollers on the machines had a set of little fingers on the face of each roller. As a card moved along the rollers, a little finger would pick it out and send it sideways – in other words the machine spat the cards to one side. Then they would fill letter racks.”

Doug, a cipher mechanic, recalls a huge and jovial American, Van, who presided in the garage. The IBM machines made a din.

What sort of a din?

“Rattle, rattle, ROAR” shouted Doug over the phone from his home at Bolwarra Heights, NSW. “People got used to it.”

LETTER FROM JOE RICHARD –

17315, Donora Rd, Silver Springs, Maryland, USA,
20905

To CBICA, President Gordon Gibson, et al.

Greetings to all. I am sorry I don't feel up to coming over for Anzac Day but wish you all a very successful one. I enjoy getting the CBICA bulletin and read it carefully. I am glad you still have the energy to do such a good publication.

You haven't said, but I assume the CB history will be sort of an anecdotal one with short accounts by a number of us who can contribute individual memories like Don Moreland's in the March 2003 Newsletter.

(Here Joe sent a generous contribution to our history fund, wished us luck in reaching the \$50,000 target, and suggested that a committee work with the professional historian to prevent duplication and to ensure accuracy. Many thanks Joe – this has been organised.)

I welcomed your item about Don Moreland. I have lost touch with him but in Brisbane for a time we roomed in the same house near the Ascot Park. Don was working the night shift on the IBM machine so he would have some weekends free, which he usually spent with some men of the Queensland Forestry Department.

About Henry Street...there were balconies around both floors. We Americans mostly worked on the upstairs one. The balconies had Venetian blinds when we came, but were soon glassed in so papers would not blow away.

The garage was insulated by at least two layers of caneite and rewired with lots of outlets. This and the huts at Ascot Park were, I think, reverse Lend Lease. I wondered why the IBM room was always so cold, but the card swelling was certainly important to prevent.

We were lucky to have three experienced IBM officers, Major Halpin and Lieuts Swanson and Frazier, I think (am forgetting names now.) Frazier told me he had cleaned every relay in the machines Clark found on the dock in Sydney.

Halpin knew the principle behind the machines' operation and he would come and sit down by a book breaker or a stripper and go back and devise an IBM process or print to help them. I remember watching him wire up a jackboard that went into one of the machines. I think it was called a collator. Anyway it would take a card containing a ripper group and a card containing an additive group. Using the controlling jackboard (a jackboard for each enciphering square the code used) a new card would be punched that contained the resulting code group which was then matched with a card containing that code group and its meaning in Japanese kana.

All the code groups in the message, were then sorted together and used to print out the message text for the translators.

Regarding the intercept operators all learning kata kana, did they not also have to know international Morse? I think all the mainline Army codes were not sent in kata kana, but in short letter substitution for numbers – ATRW for instance for 5679.

Best wishes to all,
Joe Richard

(Best wishes to you and Elsie, Joe. We remember your visits here and are sorry that you don't feel up to it now. We also remember that you broke the Japanese Water Transport Code. Hope to hear more of your reminiscences...H.K.)

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CANUCKS IN AUSSIE

This is the title of a five-minute film preserved in the Canadian War Museum, and held here by Screensound, Australia. It depicts the men of Number One Canadian Special Wireless Group, Royal Canadian Signal Corps, at work in their Darwin base in 1945.

On Anzac Day in Sydney, Dr Peter Donovan spoke of the film, and said that Cbers would be able to see it at Fox Studios if enough were interested. Many put down their names. We did not know then that the film was so short, so there will be no screening. This seems to have been the only film made of any wireless unit, or CB unit, at work.

Gil Murray, author of "The Untold Secret Story of Number One Canadian Special Wireless Group" (The Dundurn Group, Toronto/Oxford, 2001, ISBN 1-55002-371-3) mentions the film in his book, which will be reviewed in Newsletter.

Gil Murray was just 18 ½ when he came to Australia in 1945, one of 336 officers and men, all volunteers, under the command of Lieut-Colonel Harry Wethey. Members of ASWG call themselves Aswegians, but those in ICSWG dubbed themselves Swiggers. After a long sea and land journey, they went to Darwin where they monitored Japanese signals from the Dutch East Indies, relaying information to Central Bureau.

In mid-1945, writes Gil Murray (who, in civilian life became a distinguished journalist of press and radio) a party from G3 Intelligence in Canada arrived to take pictures and to write stories about the Swiggers. The results would be shown to the folks at home.

"What about, some of us asked each other, the unit's top-secret status?" says Murray. "No one could answer that." He became "one of the faceless O.R.s who marched by the cameras in freshly washed and pressed shirts, shorts and pith helmets, with .303 rifles at the high port, cleaned of black grease and shining like glass reproductions. There was even a movie of us ...showing these oddball Canadians at work and play in their tropical paradise."

Months later in Sydney, Murray and some of his mates saw the film in a picture theatre. "Our belly laughs and guffaws disrupted the whole showing and annoyed the others in the audience."

Lt-Col Sandford, of Central Bureau, also saw the film, and his annoyance was great. On December 7, 1945, from Victoria Barracks, Melbourne, he directed a furious letter to the ADMI, HQ, AMF.

“A grave breach of security,” wrote Sandford, demanding that the film be withdrawn and that “disciplinary action should be taken against the officer responsible for the disclosure.”

Nothing came of this. A handwritten note, by Lt-Col Little, ADMI, penned at the bottom of the letter, considered further action unnecessary. There had been disclosures about “Y” in the US press, and reports about the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour.

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Thanks to Peter Donovan for information about the letter and the film. The film caused a furore at the time, and the Swiggers certainly found it laughable. Perhaps we will too – if ever we see it.

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VALE

Graham Lobb’s obituary, quoted here, appeared in the Washington Post of April 4, 2003. It read:

Graham Rogers Lobb, 79, a telecommunications specialist who retired from the State Department in 1981 and then worked for firms that included Contel ABC, died of pneumonia March 15 at Georgetown University Hospital. He lived in Washington.

Mr Lobb was a native of Honesdale, Pa., and was a copyboy on the old New York Herald Tribune before joining the Army to serve in World War II. He was assigned to the Signal Corps in the Pacific and with the Signal Intelligence Service at Gen. MacArthur’s headquarters. He re-enlisted after the war and was stationed in Italy.

He attended Georgetown University before joining the Foreign Service in 1948. His assignments included Kabul, Afghanistan, London, The Hague, Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Paris and Accra, Ghana.

Survivors include his wife of 50 years, Roberta Lobb of Washington, and two children, David Lobb of Denver and Jennifer Lobb of Washington.

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(Joe Richard, who sent us the obituary, wrote: “Graham Lobb’s death was a surprise to me since I had recently talked to him on the telephone about a copy of an item from the Japanese archives which was a decode of a US State Department message in November 1941 from Secretary Hull to the US Ambassador to Japan, Grew. It seems the Japanese had entered Grew’s office and photographed our State Department’s “Grey” code in November 1941. So, while we were reading Japanese diplomatic messages “Magic”, they were reading any of ours in the “Grey” code”.)

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Graham, of course, worked for Central Bureau, belonged to our Association, and often visited Australia. President Gordon Gibson says: “We all have fond memories of Graham Lobb marching with us on Anzac Day. A few years ago he presented Cbers with enamelled badges of the American flag. We send condolences to his wife and family.”

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IN BRIEF

Two Queensland Cbers, Nancy Goldsteen and Betty Chessell, received Centenary of Federation Medals. Betty heard last year that she’d be getting one, and recently hers arrived in a black, leather-like box, with “Centenary Medal” printed in silver on the lid. Inside, the medals (one normal sized, one miniature) lay upon black velvet. “An elegant presentation,” writes Betty of the medal which has the words “Centenary of Federation 1901-2001” on the obverse side and “For contribution made to Australian Society” on the reverse.

Betty was surprised last year to hear that someone had nominated her for the medal. As she saw only the list of Queensland names in her State’s newspapers, she’d like to know of any Cbers who received this award. So would Newsletter, and we’d also be pleased to know if any of you received Queen’s Birthday honours.



Steve Mason, president of ASWG and editor of "Ink Emma Ink", told us of another certificate, and sent us a photocopy of his.

It's called Saluting Their Service ... a Certificate of Appreciation in Recognition of Wartime Service. The certificate bears the Australian coat-of-arms in colour, the Australian flag, also coloured, and is bordered in grey, red and dark blue. The wording on it reads: "A grateful nation expresses its thanks to(in this case Mr Stephen Mason) for your service in contributing to Australia's effort in World War II."

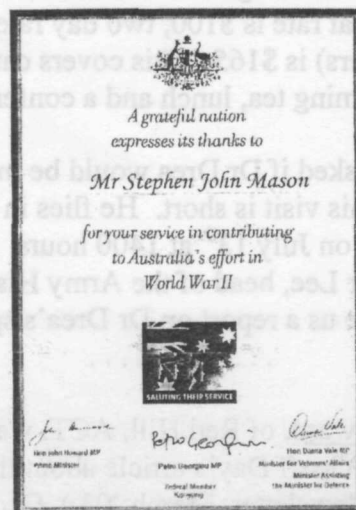
It is signed by the Hon. John Howard MP, Prime Minister, by Petro Georgiou MP, Federal Member, Kooyong, and the Hon. Danna Vale, Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence.

Steve said that you apply for a certificate through your Federal Member of Parliament. To find out more Helen Kenny rang her Federal Member, Joe Hockey (North Sydney) and asked his office for more information.

The office said that certificates are given to those who served overseas or in Australia with the Australian Armed Forces or Merchant Navy between September 3, 1939 and August 15, 1945. They are also given to those who contributed on the home front as volunteers, munitions workers and in the Land Army.

If interested in obtaining a "Saluting their Service" certificate, apply to your Federal member. You will need to provide evidence of service such as a

service record, discharge certificate or statutory declaration.



The same office told us that you can access your wartime record or records of family who served in World War I or II by using the net address www.dva.gov.au. The Department of Veteran Affairs (the DVA of that address) provides this through a link to the nominal roll.

Remember the book "MacArthur's ULTRA: Codebreaking and the War against Japan, 1942-1945" by Edward J. Drea? It was published by the University Press of Kansas in 1992, and, as the preface says, assesses "the relationship between special intelligence and the campaigns of General Douglas MacArthur in the Pacific."

Dr Drea (Office of the Secretary of Defence, USA) will give the keynote address at the "2003 Chief of Army's Military History Conference," at 0900, Thursday July 10. Venue is the National Convention Centre, Canberra, at 31 Constitution Avenue, Reid. The title of the conference is "Foundations of Victory: The Pacific War 1943-1944."

The Army History Unit, Department of Defence, is conducting the conference which begins with a dinner on July 9 at the Officer's Mess, Royal Military College, Duntroon. Australian and American historians will give talks for the next two days, in proceedings to be opened and closed by Chief of Army. To make enquiries phone (02) 6266 2744.

Registration was needed by June 27th, but CBers will be allowed to register at the door. One day attendance flat rate is \$100, two day rate (students and pensioners) is \$165. This covers catering and includes morning tea, lunch and a conference bag.

Newsletter asked if Dr Drea would be in Sydney. He will but his visit is short. He flies in on July 12th and flies out on July 13th at 1400 hours. We shall ask Dr Roger Lee, head of the Army History Unit, if he can give us a report on Dr Drea's speech.

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Geoffrey Howard, of Red Hill, ACT, was most interested in Geoff Day's article about the Fall of Singapore (Newsletter, March '03.) Geoffrey Howard writes that he saw a German Enigma machine for the first time last year at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra, and "was immediately surprised by the fact that there were no numerals. And that the keyboard had only three rows of keys instead of the four usually found on a typewriter.

"I mentioned this to a friend who works at the Defence Department, pointing out that the operators were often required to send figures such as co-ordinates, and I wondered how they did this.

"My friend found out from one of his friends, a lady who now lives in Canberra and who, during the Second World War worked an Enigma coding machine in Hitler's headquarters. It appears that the Germans did this deliberately in order to force the operator to spell out each numeral to avoid a typographical error in the co-ordinate or other number transmitted."

Travellers bring home unusual souvenirs. When Bruce Bentwitch was in the USA last year he stopped in Arizona for a snack at the Kayenta Burger King, Number 6137. There, besides burgers, he saw World War II memorabilia, and a pamphlet headed "About the Navajo Code Talkers," which he collected. It said that by 1943, 1,400 Navajos joined the Army, Navy and Marines. The US Marine Corps organised a special Navajo signal unit for combat communication service. In the spring of 1942 a platoon of 30 Navajos was recruited. "Its members were trained in signal work using the Navajo language as a code, adapting a scheme tried with considerable success during

World War I, when the enemy was completely baffled by the employment of an Indian language in front line communication."

In World War II the Navajo code talkers fought in some of the fiercest battles of the Pacific War, from Bougainville to Okinawa. The efficiency of the Navajo Code was that all of it was memorised and verbal. The Code Talker wrote down the messages as he received them. The code was quick, perfectly decoded, transmitted over telephone lines and secure."

The pamphlet claimed "even after the war all secrets about the Atom bomb were sent to San Francisco by Navajo Code."

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POST SCRIPT

This could be called **STOP PRESS** if there were a press to stop. Here's some good news at last. Our Unit History Fund has jumped from \$20,000 to \$30,000 thanks to a sudden increase of \$10,000. More is promised, according to a "reliable source".

Historian Chris Coulthard-Clark, of the Australian War Memorial, is now recording interviews with CBers, starting with those who live in Canberra.

With AWM approval, he came to Sydney at the end of June to collect archives and papers from Helen Kenny. The archives were those bought by CBICA on the recommendation of Vic Lederer and John Laird, as of importance to the CB story. Chris also took away technical records of Central Bureau (given to us by DSD), a run of Newsletters and roneoed sheets dating back to 1974 and a list of members.

Gordon Gibson and Bruce Bentwitch also have cases full of folders and documents while Madeline Chidgey, our photo archivist, has preserved albums of pictures.

Chris Coulthard-Clark will be busy with research then with writing. We will tell more in the next issue. For now, we thank Les Smith of QUT and his wife Eunice for help in preparation of this Newsletter and send each out with best wishes to our readers – all 200 of them!