



CENTRAL BUREAU INTELLIGENCE CORPS ASSOCIATION December 2004.



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PRESIDENT'S PAR

Remembrance Day Reunion

Once again our Mini Reunion was held on the 11th November at the Roseville Memorial Club and although numbers were slightly down on last year's record attendance it was a great success from every other point of view and we all had a jolly good time. A number of Cbers were early arrivals at the Club and were in time to attend the formal Remembrance Day Service which is held every year. An unexpected spin-off from this was a feature article on Central Bureau's WWII activities in the 17th September edition of the local newspaper, North Shore Times. Under a banner headline "Mates Remembered with Code of Honour," reporter Kim Christian had recorded an article calculated to make the hearts of CBICA members swell with pride. Congratulations once again to the irrepressible Frank Hughes. You certainly have a masterly touch when dealing with newspaper reporters, Frank.

"For the duration of the Second World War, about 2,500 men and women worked out of Brisbane in the Central Bureau Intelligence Corps. Only high levels of government knew of the existence of the CBIC. Members of the bureau would listen in to Japanese communications codes and provide the military, navy, and air force with details of the enemy. 'It was a very unusual and exciting life, being able to give the location of oil and rubber ships,' former crypt-analyst Frank Hughes said.

'We gave the location of thousands upon thousands of Japanese military.' Mr Hughes, 80, said he and his fellow servicemen were sworn to secrecy until 1975. 'It was essential to be disciplined during war time and maintain secrecy,' he said.

'It was a great honour. We had some extraordinarily intelligent men and women. Their families never knew of the work that was carried out by these men and women during the war.'

Historians considered that the intelligence information gathered by the bureau shortened the war by two years and saved hundred of thousands of lives. We were the Australians General MacArthur took with him from Australia to the Philippines."

Mini Reunion 2005

A reminder to all members of the suggestion in the September Newsletter that our Mini Reunion next year be held in Brisbane in August to coincide (hopefully) with the completion of Stage Two of the MacArthur Museum and also with the 60th Anniversary of VP Day. Your reaction would be a great help to the committee in planning for this event. How about a brief note attached to your annual sub indicating whether or not you would be in favour. Better still, come along to the Annual General Meeting on 7th February and give your opinion there. Meanwhile, my very best wishes to all members for a joyous Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Gordon Gibson, President

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HON. TREASURER'S REPORT

For some of our Committee the year 2004 has presented health problems. Likewise we are aware

a number of members also are not enjoying the best of health. Let us hope the coming year gives us all better health.

We are also aware that some former members now reside in nursing homes. Included are Reg Murphy, Stan King and Ron Chidgey. If you know of any other members in nursing homes kindly let us know.

Subscriptions: In the previous Newsletter I mentioned that a number of members had not paid this year's subscriptions. While some have paid we have 18 who have not. If you see a red cross marked at the head of your December Newsletter, this will show that you are unfinancial. We request payment as soon as possible.

Wishing all a happy Christmas and a health New Year.

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HON. SECRETARY'S PAR

No riveting news from me as this year comes to a close. So, to the mini-reunion on 11 November. A lovely ceremony in the Remembrance Garden at the Roseville Memorial Club when representative children from many Northern Suburb schools presented beautiful flowers and books, and a teenage cornet player (female) acquitted herself splendidly. Very brief addresses made by Dr. Brendan Nelson, the President of Roseville Club and a School Captain. We then repaired to the Club for sustenance and to order our choices from an excellent menu, served in a private room.

Convivial participants were Gordon and Sue Gibson, Bruce Bentwitch (both Gordon and Bruce still recuperating from recent surgery), Stan and Maureen Baylis (recently returned from great trip overseas), Noni Benn, Keith Carolan, Hope Creary, Jack (so much better in health from last year) and Melva Douglass, Don Dunn, Joyce Grace, Joy Granger, Lou Harris, Frank Hughes (seen chatting with a reporter), Jim Kennedy with his lovely granddaughter, Julia, Steven Kirsten, Alan and Pam Langdon, Les McClean and Peg Teague. Apologies were received from Helen Kenny (sick), Eric and

Eve (sick) Webb, Madge Chidgey (having minor surgery), Ailsa Hale (husband Bruce just out of hospital), Joyce Casey (not well) – all of whom sent best wishes. We missed them too.

President Gordon welcomed all and thought it was a pretty good attendance with some leaving home at the crack of dawn to be present.

Helen asked me to pass on the following messages: Madge Chidgey celebrated her 80th in October and is determined to make it to Brisbane in 2005 should that reunion prove feasible!!

Vic Lederer turned 90 in October; still driving and doing the family shopping. He was sad to read about Geoff Ballard – they shared work and accommodation in Heliopolis, Cairo. Vic thinks he must be one of the very few surviving from the early days in South Yarra.

Joe Richard (USA) sent the quarterly journal "CRYPTOLOGIA" (Vol XXXVIII) containing his (leading) article re breaking of Japanese codes, how he came to enter this field and his subsequent involvement with Central Bureau, Brisbane. A further article is by Dr. Peter Donovan "The Flaw in the JN25 Series of Ciphers". This deals with FRUMEL, Melbourne, recognition – during heavy traffic – of a perpetuating error in Japanese codes, leading them to crucial material in advance of the Battle of the Coral Sea and Midway.

Robert Jones (Florida, USA) has sent a lot of photographs. Robert and wife, Elsie (former WAAAF) were both with CB/SIS in 1943/5.

With regret we note the passing of Fred Franks (ACT) and Max Hurley (VIC). Condolences were also sent to Brian Lovett (former banner-bearer) on the death of Heather.

In closing, our remembrance and good wishes go to members in Nursing Homes and hospitals, also to those not able to travel. May Christmas be a peaceful time for you all. We face 2005 with hope.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday, 7 February 2005. Please read the final page of this Newsletter for all details.

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HISTORIAN'S REPORT

The main piece of progress to report is that I have been up to Brisbane and walked (and photographed) the ground at 21 Henry Street and two other sites in Ascot, which are relevant to the story. This was unexpectedly beneficial – as these things often are – in that I discovered aspects to the main headquarters building that I hadn't previously gleaned from looking at other people's photos.

While in Queensland, I travelled to Canungra and visited the Army Intelligence Museum where a lot of effort has been put into developing a computer database on personnel who served in the plethora of intelligence units and organisations that operated during WWII, including CB naturally. For the price of a "donation", the Museum's curator very kindly provided a copy on CD of the information I need to try to work out how big CB actually became and its composition at various stages during the war.

Of course, the opportunity was taken to interview as many ex-Cbers as I could manage in the available time. This was time consuming (as always) and demanding in other ways, as in at least one case it meant visiting a subject in a nursing home, with all the usual distractions that entails. This particular interview was nonetheless worthwhile, as it gave a glimpse into the winding up of CB at 21 Henry Street after the Japanese surrender. Two ex-WAAAF and an AWAS officer were also interviewed, providing insights into the translation work and cipher activities carried out at Ascot.

The prime person I wanted to speak to in Brisbane was Dr John Stumm, a retired medico who was an AIF member of CB. Like the Int Museum, he has been trying to construct a membership list for CB. A number of people have been steering me in his direction, and I was aware that there are differences between the picture he has built up and previous understanding of precisely how many people were involved. Happily, he also let me take away a copy on CD of his findings.

For the record, the costs of this research trip were part-met under the arrangement with Army History Unit. Only car hire and two nights accommodation were involved, since I went to Brisbane on RAAF business and air fare and another night's

accommodation were met by the Air Power Development Centre. Sharing costs in this way should help to conserve and extend the CB project funds held by the Memorial.

Apart from the Brisbane trip, my focus has been on continuing to work through the mass of material previously received from the CB Association and DSD, and on correspondence with people of interest who cannot be readily accessed otherwise. In this latter category has been a British Army linguist who has just supplied a remarkably lucid and detailed description on the work in which he was engaged for CB to break Japanese three-digit codes.

Cheers,
Chris (October 14, 2004)

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MEMORIES OF CB by Joseph E. Richard * (Part One)

As you know, about half of Central Bureau was American, especially during the last years of the war. But until late 1943 all the intercept done in Australia was by Australians. In 1943 the American 126th US Army Signal Corps intercept unit in Australia got a lot of men and by 1945 was intercepting 30,000 to 50,000 messages a month. (I got those figures from a paper I saw written to get the unit a Presidential Citation.)

All the US Army men in Central Bureau were from the Signal Corps. By Army rules we were supposed to read the Japanese code messages but were not supposed to make intelligence inferences from them, at least not to write and publish inferences from them. That was reserved for G2, the Army intelligence branch. Fortunately that restriction did not apply to the Australian components of CB.

They contributed to the special intelligence bulletins of GHQ SWPA as described on pages 101 and 102 of Jack Bleakley's book "The Eavesdroppers."

In Central Bureau the work was roughly divided up early in the war so that those with experience did it. That is: Traffic Analysis was performed by Australians headed by SRI Clark (STAN or PAPPY) who had experience from doing it on German traffic in the middle east (Egypt, Greece, and Syria). Air to Ground or messages to and from airplanes were studied by Captain Nave since he was an experienced Navy cryptanalyst and a capable Japanese linguist. He taught Australian Army and Air Force people. See pages 164 and 181 of Geoff Ballard's book "On Ultra Active Service." Ballard's book gives a good account of the Australian Army intercept units the 51st wireless section and the 55th wireless section (page 200) in chapter 23 page 177. Both of these sections 51 at Darwin and 55 at Port Moresby intercepted Japanese High Level (4-digit) Army traffic, but until relieved in 1943, by units of the Australian Air Force, gave priority to intercepting Japanese Air-to-ground communications.

I wish that Jack Bleakley in his fine book "The Eavesdroppers" had included the air groundwork done by the Australian Army before the Australian Air Force took over. Also that he had read Lt. Col. H.W. Brown's account of his unit's work on the Japanese Air Ground messages. Brown, on 8 December 1941, changed from monitoring Japanese diplomatic traffic to listening to Japanese naval Air-Ground. He followed all the air raids from Formosa (now Taiwan) by identifying a three-digit number in the messages as a bearing, the bombers were asking a station in Formosa for a bearing. Using this and the signal strength Brown was able to guess the flight path and proximity of the bombers. (When the signals got so loud he didn't need earphones he gave the order to go to the air raid shelter.)

Brown notified the air warning section. It, not knowing about SIGINT paid no attention. After about three raids Brown went to see General Akin who got the Air Force to assign two pilots to Brown's station, (by this time there were lots of spare pilots whose planes had been destroyed on the ground).

When the unit moved to Corregidor, Brown got two Japanese linguists (one was Clarence Yamagata who later was evacuated to Australia and became part of Central Bureau. The other stayed in the Philippines but was able to convince the Japanese that he was anti-American and so was spared.) The unit was moved by air to Mindanao. Gen. Aiken got some large airplanes (I think Flying Fortresses) to fly them out but they were damaged by the Japanese air force and only four of Brown's men were flown to Australia. Akin got more planes but these too were damaged and the rest of the unit did not get out. **None of them, I repeat, none of them came out by submarine.**

The men left behind split two ways. Two pooled their money (poker winnings) and (the rest joined the guerrilla forces in PI) bought a Philippine fishing boat (a type of catamaran) and set sail for Australia. Unfortunately as they approached New Guinea a storm blew them out to an island where a Japanese naval vessel picked them up and they spent the war in a POW camp (I think in Java).

Brown wrote that while working with 1 WU at Townsville he got into trouble because General Akin told him to take a group to Port Moresby to give air warning to the Air Force there. Akin felt the delay caused by Townsville working through Central Bureau to Moresby was too long. Of course both Brown and Akin had come from Corregidor where things were done quickly. Akin told Brown he would take care of the administrative red tape, but he couldn't, so Brown was unable to move the unit.

Akin apparently enlisted the help of General Kenney, which led to the letter from the Minister for Air, Drakeford, to Prime Minister Curtin on December 11, 1942. The PM approved additional RAAF Wireless Units for Port Moresby and Darwin.

General Akin was very lucky that the Royal Australian Air Force authorised him in 1944 and 1945 to send the RAAF intercept units to the Philippines. By then Akin and Central Bureau had lost control of the two American Army Signal Corps intercept units that had come over to Australia and had been trained to intercept Kata Kana and read Japanese Air Force, Army and Navy Air ground messages. These units had been

switched from the Signal Corps to the US Army Air Corps. I don't remember their Signal Corps numbers (possibly the 138th SRI) but they became the First and Second RSMs in the US Air Force (Radio Squadron Mobile) and were no longer part of Central Bureau, which only had men from the US Army Signal Corps.

As a Signal Corps General, General Akin could not give orders to an Air Corps Unit and the 1st and 2nd RSMs refused to let Central Bureau assign the radio net they were to cover. I know this is true because Stan Clark told me so one time when I visited him at his retirement home on the Gold Coast. He was still indignant about it 40 years later. He controlled all of Central Bureau's intercept.

Of course the Australian Air Force units were its most experienced and did very well especially on giving comment on the convoys sent to reinforce Leyte. The escorting airplanes were naval planes which sent a final message as the convoy was about to run for Ormoc which the RAAF intercepted and alerted the Allied Air Force.

As the war progressed the people at Central Bureau were moved to areas where they could work best. For example, Guy Stephens, an American, was put in the Traffic Analysis Section. Later at AFSA and NSA Guy used this training to become an important executive at NSA. Jim Warmington and Bob Botterill worked in groups reading the high level Japanese Army codes and later they had important positions in the Australian DSB crypt unit.

How were the Americans selected? One factor was their grade on the Army intelligence test. I was told candidates for officer candidate school had to make a score of 110 (out of a possible 170) and to go to crypt school we had to make a score of 125. The two highest scores I know of were made by two brothers, William and McGeorge Bundy. William went to Bletchley in England to lead the US unit working on the Enigma and got an OBE as well as Legion of Merit. After the war he became an assistant to the secretary of Defence and later assistant to the secretary of state. McGeorge became the National Security Adviser to the President.

Col. Sinkov went to Sydney when a shipload of WACs landed there and came back with at least 60

girls. Later a number of WACs who trained in the crypt school at Vint Hill, Virginia came to Hollandia, New Guinea and worked on reading the Japanese Army shipping code (2468) there. They became part of Central Bureau but never got down to Brisbane.

Reference Captain Nave: Commander Fabian, head of the US Navy cryptographic unit, which moved to Melbourne from the Philippines, quarrelled with Nave when he (Fabian) arrived in Melbourne. He said that Nave was handling comint insecurely. Fabian was known to be a fanatic about comint security (he had discussed shooting all 60 men in the unit in Corregidor to avoid their capture and interrogation by the Japanese) but I think it could have been a method of getting rid of a rival who was the logical candidate to put in charge of a combined US and Australian comint unit. Nave was senior, older, and more experienced at solving Japanese Naval codes and a better Japanese linguist. Anyway, it worked out to benefit both Central Bureau and the allies war effort as Nave solved the Japanese Naval Kana Alphabet codes throughout the war and also recovered the Japanese Army three digit air to ground code, and that gave the allies command of the air. Fabian must have had influential friends high up in the US Navy staff for there were officers in his unit who out-ranked him and he was able to place a clause in the American-Australian-British comint agreement saying Nave would not become part of the combined Australian US Navy comint work.

[*Joseph E. Richard, renowned for breaking the Japanese Water Transport code lives at 17315 Donora Rd, Silver Spring MD 20905, USA.

Newsletter will print more of his "Memories" in future issues.]

IN BRIEF

Vic Lederer, of Curtin, ACT, was sorry to hear of Geoff Ballard's "sad passing." He wrote: "I always held Geoff in high regard and liked him a great deal, also his sense of humour. We shared quite a few laughs along the way.

"He and I were at the Barracks in Heliopolis, Cairo, where, under the command of Mic Sandford, I worked in translating German Army and Air-to-

Ground plain messages. This was often almost round the clock, and was very exciting and absorbing work.

“One day Mic brought me a thick Code Book of the Nazi army, marked ‘Nur fuer den Dienstgebrauch’ – ONLY FOR OFFICIAL USE – and Mic, with a delighted smile said, ‘YES’ for OUR Dienstgebrauch!! I never forgot it. Rommel was at one stage only 60 kilometres (or was it 40) away from Cairo. I think if they’d have caught me they might have hung me from meat hooks.”

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Vic is a CB original from “the beginning days” in South Yarra in April 1942. Who else is an original? Les McClean certainly. Early in the war Les, a Sydneysider, was sent by ship to Western Australia to serve with an infantry battalion. He was transferred to Intelligence and then ordered to Melbourne. There he went to that old house at South Yarra, to study kana. In typical CB style, he and his group did their own job, and had no idea of what others in the building were doing. He did glimpse Mic Sandford and Edgar Kelson. He went on to serve with CB in Brisbane, Port Moresby, Lae, Finschafen and Hollandia before going to San Miguel.

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Book Review:

The Foundations of Victory: the Pacific War 1943-44. ed Peter Dennis, Jeffrey Grey (Army History Unit)

“If men could learn from history, what lessons it might teach us.” Coleridge would have been proud of the Chief of Army’s 2003 annual military history conference, one of the largest in the world. Leading service and academic specialists contributed to the planning of future directions for the Army, and the continuing education of officers, especially in understanding the profession of arms.

The focus is the Green Hole – the largely neglected period post Kokoda, 1943-44, when Japanese military power in SWPA was vanquished, not least because of tropical disease (91% mortality in the 18th Army’s defeat in the Lae-Finisterre campaign). Atebrin and paludrine reduced our losses from malaria of a battalion a month; ten times the battle casualty rate.

Fearless evaluation gives credit and criticism: George Kenney’s purge of senior air commanders, and other visible reforms, MacArthur’s ego and Blamey’s ruthlessness are not overlooked; the Army’s trial and error stage of training and doctrine up till 1944 when the first detailed manual for jungle warfare was printed.

Two years before the war’s end, the Australian Government demanded the release of 20,000 soldiers to rebalance the nation’s economy.

Logistics organisation had to be developed from the ground up. The Japanese faced insurmountable odds. A chapter recounts the Japanese experience.

ATIS (the Allied Translator and Interpreter Section if we have forgotten) was a critical factor in operations in the SWPA in propaganda, and in psychological warfare.

Central Bureau (“the Bletchley Park of the SWPA”) received only two brief mentions.

The book is superbly documented and is sure both to inform and to stir the memory.

- Robert Brown

CERTIFICATES FOR THE SIGINT MEN?

An item in the Sydney Morning Herald (26.10.04) read: “Security can be seen as a natural for Queensland, given its history. During World War II a team of nine women working in American General Douglas MacArthur’s Central Bureau in Brisbane helped crack Japan’s main Army code.”

This is the story behind that story. Many of you know it. In 2002 WIT (Women in Information Technology) marked International Women’s Day (March 8) by holding a “celebration of women in Information Security over the last 60 years and into the future.”

CBICA was asked to provide the names of members who lived in Queensland. We had just 10 members in that State . . . but knew there were many non-members whose addresses we did not have. The Hon. Paul Lucas, then Queensland’s Minister for Innovation and Information Economy, presented 3 ex-WAAAF and 6 ex-AWAS with certificates at a special function, delivering a certificate to a former AWAS who was not well enough to attend.

Each certificate bore the recipient’s name and the wording: “For outstanding achievement in the area of information security Sigint during World War II.

Later the Queensland Government sent out 175 additional certificates to ex servicewomen from all states who had served with ASWG, the Wireless units and CB.

President Gordon Gibson's annual report (see Newsletter March 2003) described the honour paid to the women, adding: "Perhaps it may result in the issue of certificates by the Federal Government to all who were involved in SIGINT in World War II." Those of us who received certificates know that this would be only fair. The men had been left out – and we had worked with them and beside them in Australia, before they were sent to Papua-NG, the islands and the Philippines to perform such vital tasks.

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Perhaps it's not too late for either the Federal or Queensland Governments to issue certificates to the men by August 2005, the 60th anniversary of VP Day. This could coincide with the opening of the MacArthur museum.

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TAKING OFF FOR TOKYO

As soon as the war ended young Australian servicemen in the Philippines set off to see the world – particularly Tokyo and whichever parts of Asia they could reach.

They turned up at the American "aerodrome", Clark Field, not far from San Miguel, and hitched rides aboard US aircraft. Some of the Australian lads had leave passes, others took French leave.

Gordon Gibson, one of the travellers, recalls how he and Brian Walsh went out to Clark Field, where a signpost had fingerboards pointing to Tokyo, Saigon and other places. They hung around, had some "chow" with the Yanks, and eventually boarded a plane bound for Japan. It was heavily laden with cargo. As it began to climb an engine shuddered. The pilot returned to Clark Field, and the Australians disembarked, hoping to find another aircraft in better shape.

They did. It took them to the island of Ieshima (Okinawa being closed because of a typhoon,) eventually to Okinawa, and then to Japan. Huge areas of Tokyo were flattened, but they saw the

Diet, the Emperor's Palace, and went (as uninvited guests) to a prominent building occupied by the Americans. They were away only a week, but memories are still clear of that defeated city, of a beautiful geisha girl Kazumi Shirakawa, of Yank generosity, and of walking unmolested among those recent enemies, the Japanese.

Gordon brought back only one souvenir from that trip – a beautiful wooden lacquered tea caddy. He has it still.

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Gordon has not written an account of his journey. Mike Casey's story appeared in Newsletter, (September 03), and Harold Marshall's tale of his trip there forms a chapter in his book, "The Cliff, Before and After."

This letter, addressed to "Dear Boss, Pop and all," was sent from Camp San Miguel, Tarlac, on September 20, 1945, after Bombardier Marshall, of ASIPS, returned from Japan. He signed it "Your Marco Polo-ing Harold."

He and his "cobber" Norman Smith caught a C46 transport plane from Clark Field to Okinawa. There they stayed at a "Yank" camp, dined in an officer's mess ("we were not too proud") and tasted ice cream for the first time since leaving Australia.

At night they slept in a 14-man tent with 12 American officers, bunking down on six-inch thick mattresses, made up with sheets, pillowslips and blankets. "All this on Okinawa which a couple of months before was one of the fiercest fighting theatres."

They had one night of comfort. On the second, the typhoon struck before dawn, blowing the tent away in spite of the men's struggle to hold it down. Harold dragged his bed and belongings to an old Jap air raid shelter. It smelt of the dead, and "the roof leaked as if dead Japanese were spitting on us."

The typhoon lasted three days. In that time Marshall and Smith met some released Australians POWs who were in a staging camp waiting to go home.

The weather calmed at last and the two cobbers (how dated that word sounds now) flew off for Tokyo.

After landing at battered Tachikawa airstrip, the two Australian soldiers headed for town, struggling to board an electric train with a jostling mob among which they were the only Australians.

In Tokyo they encountered no other Australian servicemen. The heart of the city was undamaged, as was the Emperor's palace, which, almost invisible from the street, was bounded by a wide moat. At sunset Japanese removed their caps when crossing the street near the palace, and bowed solemnly to the unseen Emperor.

The city had no electricity. Shops were empty of food and the Japanese hungered. The Australians were able to eat at the American GI camp well out of town, or at a "posh joint", such as the Maranouchi Hotel.

There Harold Marshall and Norman Smith tasted their first Japanese food. After the meal Norman tipped the waitresses, leaving a few yen under the plate.

"In civilian life," explained Harold, "he is the son of one of Australia's leading capitalists, W.J. Smith – but in the Army is just Smith. He reverted to his civvy state of mind by tipping."

Harold Marshall, who did not tip on principle, a policy endorsed by his pocket, did leave a note on the table. It was a chance for a bit of poetic justice.

It was a 1000 peso note, now useless currency, which had been issued in the Philippines by the Japanese as invasion money.

The young men had only three days in Japan. They could walk safely through the streets at night. They observed everything, trying to make contact with the Japanese. Few spoke English, but some asked Marshall and Smith what they thought of the Kamikaze Corps – those suicide pilots who crashed their planes into Allied battleships. The Japanese were proud of these men, whose tactics had been a real and shattering threat to the Allies. Marshall wrote: "When you derisively replied with the equivalent of 'lousy' or 'on the nose' they were much abashed."

Mention of the atomic bomb brought doleful faces and the word "dreadful." Marshall, too, thought it dreadful, and that its existence terrified with its potentialities.

The journey left indelible impressions on the minds of the young men. Other Cbers reached Japan, and Hugh Dunn had a flying visit to the Chinese city of Cheng-Du. Later Dunn was to become Australia's ambassador in China. Harold Marshall also became a diplomat, travelling to postings in London, Karachi, New York and Sri Lanka.

Norman Smith, who died not long ago, was a philanthropist, scholar, and student of architecture and Byzantium.

Our president Gordon studied Classics at the University of Sydney, becoming an educationist after the war.

Other Cbers Alan Langdon and Geoff Charlesworth made an extraordinary journey to Japan – searching for a Japanese Christian Dr. Kagawa.

Dr Kagawa, a Presbyterian minister, had visited Australia before the war and had spoken at many meetings. During the war Japanese Christians were interned.

Allan Langdon (now Canon Langdon) had not joined the ministry before he and Geoff Charlesworth set off to find Dr Kakagawa. Allan says that a long ago Newsletter gave a report of this journey.

[Over the telephone Allan retold the story. Can it be expanded for Newsletter? And do readers know of any other Marco Polos who reached Japan, Saigon, or, as rumoured America? HK]

Christmas and New Year wishes to all Cbers and their families. Please keep in touch via Newsletter, so that old links are maintained. Thank you for your help in the past year . . . Helen Kenny.

