



CENTRAL BUREAU INTELLIGENCE CORPS ASSOCIATION

March 2004.

Publicity Officer: Helen Kenny, 27/1-13 Mackenzie St, Lavender Bay NSW 2060 Email: lalkenny@hotmail.com tel: 02 9954 0940

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

Throughout the year 2003 the Unit History Sub-Committee led by Frank Hughes and Bill Rogers has been unremitting in its efforts to secure a successful outcome to the Central Bureau History Project. Support has been sought (with some success) from every conceivable source including the Prime Minister of Australia, Mr. John Howard. Whilst the AWM/CBICA Fund had not yet been fully subscribed, and more money may be needed, we have received an assurance that the Project will go ahead. Author, Chris Clark is already engaged in research and personal interviews. I should like to place on record our appreciation of the assistance received from the following: the Australian War Memorial, Army History Unit, RAAF Historical Section, National RAAF Association, RSL of Australia, Defence Signals Directorate, Canberra "Times", Mr. Ron Bonighton, Head of Intelligence, Professor Bill Caelli and Mr. Les Smith of the Queensland University of Technology, Professor John Mack of Sydney University, Dr. Peter Donovan of University of NSW, Group Captain Arthur Skimin (Retd) and finally our kindred Associations ASWG and RAAF Wireless Units. Our thanks to you all and special thanks to Les Smith for his invaluable assistance in the production of our quarterly Newsletters.

Attendance at the Anzac Eve Wreath-laying was very much down on previous years and was, in fact, the smallest I can remember. This was quite disappointing especially as the twilight ceremony is always such a moving one. I look forward to a better turn out in 2004. On Anzac Day itself the weather, though threatening at first, was kind to us for the march, in which twenty-four took part, after which there was the usual spirit of camaraderie in the crowded pubs. Forty-eight attended the Reunion Luncheon including English visitors, Serena and Michael Willicome - quite a large gathering and a good time was had by all.

There was a new venue for the Mini-Reunion on 11 November - the Roseville Memorial Club - which turned out to be a very happy choice. We had a room to ourselves, an excellent choice of meals and courteous attention. The attendance of thirty-five was, I think, the best ever for this function. Early comers were able to witness a Remembrance Day Ceremony at which local school children laid wreaths and seven snow-white pigeons were released, symbolising peace in the seven continents of the world. A repeat of the date and venue for the 2004 Mini-Reunion seems to be in order.

With regard to membership, we now have 157 ordinary and associate members, three Life Members, and fifteen friends of the Association. At the last Executive Meeting for 2003, Les McClean's resolution that Life Membership be conferred on Bill Rogers and Frank Hughes was carried unanimously and was ratified at the 2004 Annual General Meeting.

Finally, I express my deepest sympathy to the family and friends of the following members who passed away in 2003: Jean Jarrott, Graham Lobb, Myron Scougale, Keith Payne and Noni McNaught.

Gordon Gibson
President
67/1-9 Yardley Ave
WAITARA NSW 2077
Phone (02) 9487-3029
Email sueg@optusnet.com.au

HON. TREASURER'S REPORT

The recent inaugural journey by the Ghan train from Adelaide to Darwin reminded me of a trip Jack Shoebridge and I partook in mid September 1944 in the opposite direction.

After about nine months at 2WU, we were posted back to RAAF Command, Brisbane. We left Coomalie Creek in the Northern Territory in the

unit vehicle, which drove us to Adelaide River. There we joined the train (cattle trucks) for the trip to Larrimah.

On arrival at Larrimah we were advised that the road convoy to Mt. Isa had left the previous day, so we joined the convoy to Alice Springs. The convoy consisted of semi-trailers which proceeded at a leisurely pace and took two days to reach the Alice.

From the Alice we boarded the train for Adelaide but the locomotive broke down at Oodnadatta, so we sat around for several hours awaiting a replacement.

One morning breakfast was served alongside the train at Marree. It consisted of powdered egg, and bacon with a sprinkling of fine sand. If anyone has been to Marree you will know what I mean (desert country).

We arrived in Adelaide on a Saturday and were taken to a staging camp for the night at Wayville. On Sunday morning we found trams did not operate, so had to walk about a mile with kitbags to join a city bus.

Sunday evening we boarded the Melbourne train to be greeted at Spencer Street station by Jack's future wife resplendent in her AWAS uniform.

As we were both due for leave and to avoid further travel we visited Victoria Barracks as we believed a RAAF Command officer there (one of the Clarkes) could arrange leave, but learned that he had recently left for Brisbane. To complete the journey we boarded the troop train for Sydney,, changing at Albury, arriving in Sydney next morning, after which we took the afternoon troop train to Brisbane. On arrival at camp in Brisbane we were asked "Where the H--- have you been?"

After explanation we were back to the South Brisbane station - Jack to Melbourne, me to Sydney. What travel!

Unfortunately with the passing years some members are not enjoying the best of health, but tell me they enjoying reading the Newsletters - thanks to Helen's expertise. Keep battling on!

Finally, for those who have perhaps forgotten, subscriptions for 2004 are now due - \$15.

P.S. Jack Shoebridge is a Vice-President of CBICA.

Bruce Bentwitch,
Hon. Treasurer,
7 Holly Street
CASTLE COVE NSW 2069
(02) 9417-1427

HON. SECRETARY'S PAR

Well, here we are again – trusting you are all bearing up under our current seriously hot weather.

The Annual General Meeting was held on 6 February. Your Executive was voted in again and, with fingers crossed, hopes to last the distance. The team is: President – Gordon Gibson; Vice-Presidents – Frank Hughes and John Shoebridge; Treasurer – Bruce Bentwitch; Publicity Officer – Helen Kenny; Secretary – Joy Granger; Executive Committee – Les McClean, Alan Norton and Noni Benn.

Two matters pending were dealt with immediately: 1) Life Membership to be conferred on Frank Hughes and Bill Rogers AO, in recognition of their tireless efforts to raise money for the Unit History Project. RATIFIED with pleasure. 2) Annual Subscription to be \$15, Associate \$10. APPROVED.

Anzac Eve and Day arrangements appear at the back of this Bulletin. Fortunately, the Mercure Hotel agreed to the same price as last year for the Reunion Lunch - \$35. Please fill in the form and return to Treasurer Bruce, with your money, ASAP. We look forward to catch up with all who can make it.

A little note from Doug Pyle advised the death in December 2003 of Val (Klodnisky) Claude. Val (though not a member) very much appreciated his late contact last year with friends and workmates of the war years. Any news of your book yet, Doug?

Letter in from Diana Parker listing Service details (added to my collection for Chris Clark). Thanks Diana, and specially for that great photograph of Frognal at Canterbury, Victoria, one of my

stamping grounds. That elegant edifice concealed much. Ground floor – C.O./, M.O., General

Administration and Officers mess. First floor – Cypher; Tower – where I first laid eyes on the Telex machine (and left almost immediately for Brisbane). At the rear was the large communications centre containing a telephone exchange, transmitters, banks of W/T stations plus the Kleinschmitt machine with hi-speed Xmitter on the London watch, teleprinters and message despatch Clerks. Behind all this were the barracks and shower blocks (hell in Melbourne's black frosts) and the Mess. To the right of the main building were a post office and a small hospital unit. Fascinating to look back.

I guess that's about it, and quite enough. Hope to see you in April. Cheers.

Joy Granger
WarVets 2/5 Endeavour Drive
NARRABEEN 2101
(02) 9981 2397

MAJOR-GENERAL AKIN'S REPORT

(Part 11, Part 1 appeared in the December Newsletter)

Central Bureau, first established in Melbourne, eventually consisted of:

- A headquarters section with the necessary clerical, administrative and supply personnel as well as cryptographic, cryptanalytic, interpreter and translator personnel.
- A field section which included intercept and communication personnel.
- Detachments for attachment to subordinate command headquarters, which included intercept, communication and translator personnel.

Having had the basic organisation set up, the problem of obtaining the necessary personnel presented itself. The very high type of personnel required for the technical duties initially complicated the issue. The Australian ground forces, except for the field Wireless Companies which were well suited for radio communication and intercept duties, had already exhausted most of the available high type of male personnel that would be required. (The Royal Australian Air Force found that there could be provided from its

personnel a limited number of women of the high type required and the remaining needs could be met by recruitment. This was done. The result was the assemblage of a group of highly qualified patriotic Australians.)

Major-General Akin then lists the Americans...the intercept detachment brought from Manila by submarine which assisted the Australian Wireless Units; the group of cryptographic, cryptanalytic and translators from the Japanese Section of the Washington Signal Intelligence Service, and later several Radio Intelligence Companies from the USA. These assisted in the work then being done by the Australian Wireless Units.

With the assemblage of those groups Central Bureau immediately went into operation.

Akin's report then describes the results of CB's work, and some of the "interesting incidents" connected therewith.

.....

CB's mission became primarily that of meeting the needs of General MacArthur's command for Japanese intelligence and signal security of our own forces; of transmitting to Signal Intelligence Headquarters in Washington, and in cooperation with that office the solution of Japanese cryptographic systems at the appropriate level of command.

("In fact," writes Major-General Akin, "the success of Central Bureau in this field caused the Washington office to attempt a takeover and direction of all of the Central Bureau's activities. This resulted in direct correspondence between General MacArthur and General Marshall which promptly blocked this attempted takeover. The fallacy of this Washington proposal will be shown later in this narrative.)

He goes on: "Central Bureau's activities...consisted in providing General MacArthur with a daily file of intercepted (decrypted and translated in usable form) Japanese radio traffic."

This included:

- The Japanese Army's high command, its exchange of information, and also the orders and operational plans of the several commanders.
- Information as to shipping activities (i.e. water transport) which included the itinerary, schedule, composition, contents and escort vessels. This information was immediately provided to our own Navy's submarine headquarters and constituted one of the bases of our submarine activities
- The Japanese Air Force's high command plans and orders (this intelligence was sent at once to the Air Commander empowered to act thereon).

General Akin writes again of the physical handicaps under which its field intercept agencies had to operate, of the difficulties of terrain, and of the movement of personnel and equipment from Melbourne, to Brisbane, Hollandia the Philippines and "finally Japan."

He writes: "Worthy of special mention was the landing at Leyte – (with the first troops to land) of an Australian intercept detachment. When next encountered the unit had moved to a native village, had occupied housing there, and was in full operation. Another first for the magnificent Australian component of our forces. Its prompt action there provided early intercepts that were invaluable.

He tells of important intercepts, starting with one from the Japanese High Command to the commander of the Japanese Air Force in Hollandia. This was brought to General Akin in his room in Brisbane. It directed the Japanese Hollandia Air commander to evacuate all of his airplanes from the Hollandia Air Base as early as practicable the next morning as it was expected that the Allied bombers would attack that base.

"The author (Akin) immediately took that message to General MacArthur's air commander (General Kenney) who immediately sent an order to his air commander in New Guinea (General Ennis Whitehead) conveying this information and directing that he have the Hollandia Airbase attacked before the enemy could evacuate. This attack caught and destroyed 250 Japanese airplanes on the ground.

"In addition to the casualties caused to the enemy it demonstrated the necessity for the South West Pacific Area Command's policy in having ... the intercepts immediately translated and at once handed to the commander empowered to act thereon.

"To have, as Washington authorities fallaciously proposed, all intercepts transmitted to Washington for translation and thence returned for action by the commander empowered to act thereon, would have caused a delay that would have rendered it valueless by the time it reached the combat commander concerned. A direct message from General MacArthur to General Marshall in Washington prevented this fallacious procedure from being placed in effect."

General Akin mentions another "impractical proposal" put forward from the Countermeasure Office in Washington. A representative from this office proposed that CB should "jam" all Japanese radio circuits. When Akin was called to appear before a conference to justify his failure to have radio circuits jammed, he immediately pointed out that the "jamming" of enemy radio circuits would at once block all the intercepts giving General MacArthur vital combat information about the enemy's plans, operations, and ship convoys. Akin's explanation was accepted and the proposal dropped.

(This condensation of Major General Spencer B. Akin's paper "MacArthur's Signal Intelligence Service" will be followed in the next Newsletter by the conclusion of the report. The Paper is held in the MacArthur Memorial Military Archives, Norfolk, Virginia, USA.

Were you in Townsville in May 1942 when 1 Wireless Unit's work was documented in the Operations Record Book? You'll certainly know some of the names. Dr Peter Donovan provided the photocopy and says it is part of a 182 page document, held in the Australian Archives, Melbourne. "It's easy to trace the Wireless Unit record," he says.

OPERATIONS RECORD BOOK

R.A.A.F. Form A.50
(Feb., '33)of (Unit or Formation) No. 1 Wireless UnitNo. of Sheet Two

Place	Date	Summary of Events	References to Appendices
TOWNSVILLE QLD	MAY 1942 1/5/42	Establishment : Officers 17, Airmen: 220, W.A.A.A.F Officers: 3 Airwomen: 113 (Annotation) May be used in lieu of R.A.A.F Personnel. Strength : Officers 3, Airmen : 3 W.A.A.A.F Officers : Nil, Airwomen: Nil. U.S.A Enlisted personnel: 3.	
	1/5/42	Usual operations were conducted on a basis of 24 hours per day. Summaries of derived intelligence passed by signal and report to authorized recipient daily.	
	14/5/42	P/O S.H. WESTON arrived on posting for Equipment Duties. Auth: A.S. Sig. P400 8/5/42.	
	29/5/42	10574 CPL. BRADSHAW T.S, Telegraphist, promoted to Temporary Sergeant, 28466 LAC OODK E.F, Telegraphist, promoted to Temporary Corporal, 26677 LAC HERMES O.L, Telegraphist, promoted Temporary Corporal, Auth: P/P Form 86 Serial No. 2462 dated 19/5/42. (Promoted wef 1/5/42). 23718 CPL. TOWERS A.H, Telegraphist, Appointed Acting Sergeant wef 1/5/42. Auth: N.Z.A Sig. M143 dated 30/5/42.	
	31/5/42	Summary of postings, To Unit, Officers: Nil, Airmen: 8, Airwomen: 16. From Unit, Officers: Nil, Airmen: Nil, Airwomen: Nil.	
	31/5/42	Establishment, Officers: 17, Airmen: 220, W.A.A.A.F Officers: 3, Airwomen: 113, (Annotation, may be used in lieu of R.A.A.F Personnel). Strength: Officers 9 (R.A.A.F 6, U.S.A 1, A.M.F 2), Airmen 11, W.A.A.A.F Officers Nil, airwomen 16, U.S.A Enlisted personnel 3.	

A. J. J. J. J.
Commanding,
No. 1 Wireless Unit, TOWNSVILLE

Charles E. Bean, Commonwealth War Historian, wrote this poem in December 1915 "when leaving the graves on Gallipoli." It appears in "The Book of Common Praise, Australian Supplement," and is listed under "Hymns for use on Anzac or Remembrance Day."

NON NOBIS

1. *Not unto us, O Lord, to tell Thy purpose in
the blast,
Why those, that towered beyond us, fell
And we were overpast.*
2. *We cannot tell how goodness springs
From the black tempest's breath
Nor scan the birth of gentle things
In these red bursts of death*
3. *We only know – from good and great
Nothing save good can flow:
That where the cedar crashed so straight,
No crooked tree shall grow.*
4. *That from their ruin a taller pride –
Not for these eyes to see –
May clothe one day the valleyside –
Non nobis, Domine.*

THE FORMATION OF 11 AUST. CIPHER SECTION

By Nancy (Nelson) Goldsteen

After completing Recruit Training School at Darley, Victoria, a 12 day Admin. And Org. course, also at Darley, then a school at the Old Observatory, Melbourne, I was one of six AWAS privates who entrained for Brisbane.

Ruby McLean, Frances Reeves, Betty Brymer, Diana Matthews, Mary Cheong and I were joined by Sergeants Margaret Kennedy and Betty Tough.

We spent two nights in the very last "dog-box" of the very last carriages on three trains (we changed at Albury and Sydney). At Albury, then the longest railway station in the Southern Hemisphere, we were aghast to see how far we had to carry our kitbags, suitcases, great coats, haversacks, water bottles and gas masks.

I do not know what happened to the others, but two nice young soldiers came one on each side of me and whisked me off with my luggage to the other train. By the time we reached the dining room, the sausages, mash and gravy were stone cold. All eight of us were pleased to reach Sydney and to stretch our legs. When the train left Sydney for Brisbane, two of our number missed the train, so the rest of the journey was less cramped!

We arrived at South Brisbane, hot, bedraggled and bewildered, not knowing where we were, where we were going, or how to get there. Eventually transport - a truck - arrived, but the driver did not know the route to Kalinga. I do not remember much about the journey but was happy to see the ASWG camp. Even the tents to which we were allotted looked wonderful. They were actually more comfortable than those my family used when we went camping.

We were allowed to settle in on Christmas Day, 1943, and 11 Aust. Cipher Section started working on Boxing Day. There were two privates on two of the shifts, and one on each of the other two shifts. Mary Cheong and I were alone and I really cannot remember seeing a sergeant or officer for some time. I do recall my very first task was to decipher the CV of every high ranking officer of the Japanese Forces. It took some time. We worked long hours - sometimes 16 hours straight.

Mary Cheong and I were the last to leave 21 Henry Street, Ascot. Mary and I left Brisbane on November 11, 1945. Mary was discharged, but I went to L.H.Q., Albert Park, Melbourne until March 1, 1946.

I believe my name had been submitted for the next course at O.T.U., Toorak, but as all arrangements for my marriage were completed.

(Nancy married Basil Goldsteen, who also worked at Central Bureau.)

IN BRIEF

Last year, in October, The Bulletin put out a special issue, with the cover emblazoned: " SMART 100 . . . They are the smartest, most creative and innovative people in Australia. Here's how they're changing our world."

We were delighted to see, in the IT and Communications section a photograph of Bill Caelli, Head, School of Data Communications, Queensland University of Technology, with the accompanying text:

"Bill Caelli describes himself as an "oldie" meaning he's one of those who can remember when computing didn't mean PCs running Windows and connected to the world wide web.

"As head of the school of Data Communications at QUT, he is also founder of the Institution's Information Research Centre.

"In 1979 Caelli founded and served as managing director of cryptographic systems developer ERACOM. Outspoken on security and copyright issues, Caelli is a fellow of the Australian Computer Society, a Computerworld Fellow and 2002 winner of the Pearcey Medal, named for Trevor Pearcey, who developed Australia's first electronic computer. The medal is awarded each year to someone who has made an 'exceptional and long term contribution to the ICT sector.'" Given the emphasis now on software copyright and the toll of viruses, Caelli's long-held position on IT security and robust defences looks prescient."

The Bulletin's "Smart 100" was divided into sections, with special judges for each. In the IT and Communications Section, only nine smart people were named.

Congratulations, Bill, from CBICA. Our members would call you a "youngie!"

Is a computer "he" or "she"? A ship, after all, is "she".

Thanks to ASWG's "Ink Emma Ink" (November 2003) we can pass on the explanation.

A college professor, wondering by what gender computers should be addressed, chose a group of women and a group of men, asking each for four reasons.

The women reported that computers should be referred to as *masculine* because:

1. To get their attention you have to turn them on.
2. They have a lot of data but are still clueless.
3. They are supposed to help you solve problems but half the time they are the problem.
4. As soon as you commit to one you realise that, if you had waited a little longer, you could have had a better model.

The men said computers should be *feminine* because:

1. No-one but the Creator understands their internal logic.
2. The native language they use to communicate with other computers is incomprehensible to everyone else.
3. Even your smallest mistakes are stored in long-term memory for later retrieval.
4. As soon as you make a commitment to one, you find yourself spending half your pay cheque on accessories for it.

Ink Emma Ink, the ASWG Newsletter, says that a commemorative plaque was to be unveiled at Mornington Racecourse on February 1.

Peg Gillies, Roy Ward, Stan Lovell, Peg and Alan Flannery were among others who worked out the wording for the plaque, which is fixed to a rock. The wording reads:

Mornington Racecourse - October 1942-October 1946.

This Commemorative Plaque marks the World War 11 location of the Australian Special Wireless Group, Australian Corps of Signals, AMF

The Section, which was responsible for intercepting coded Japanese diplomatic communications between Tokyo and Japanese embassies throughout the Pacific region, was recognised by the High

Command as having played a significant role not only in the Allied Victory, but together with other sections of ASWG, in shortening the war in the Pacific.

An important contribution towards this effort was provided by specialised and dedicated signalwomen from the Australian Women's Army Service (AWAS).

Mac Jamieson, Hon. Secretary of the Wireless Units Association sent the December Newsletter. It mentions his caravan trip to Maroochydore, also gives news of members' health, saying Al Jenkin has not been well for some time. (We're sorry about that, and well remember how Al worked so hard in organising CB's last reunion in Brisbane.) Of course, he talks of The Book, and says WU members should contribute to it by writing authentic stories of the war years and humorous anecdotes too.

Newsletter sends wishes to all members, particularly to those just out of hospital or in it (including Betty Chessell and Diana Parker), and to those who "don't get around much any more" - to quote a wartime song.

Please keep in touch, let us know how you are, and do pass on any news.

VISIT TO BLETCHLEY PARK

By Les Smith

In February my wife and I were fortunate to be able to spend two days at Bletchley Park. Day one was spent meeting members of the Bletchley Park Trust and taking a guided tour of the park with day two spent in the archives.

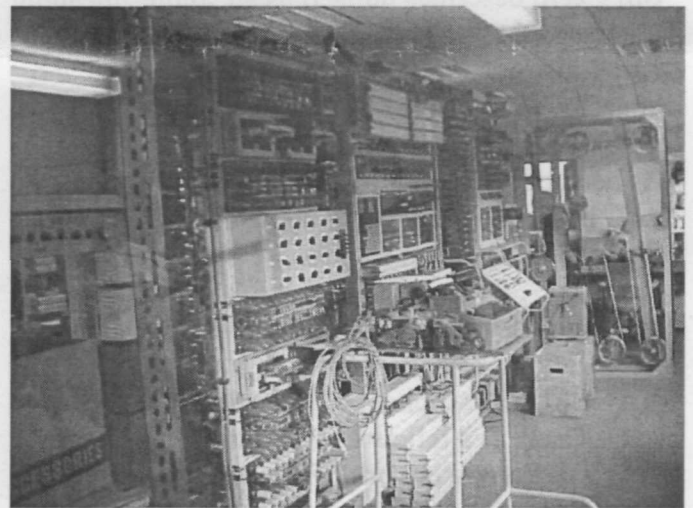
One of the highlights of the tour was the Colossus Room with its fully working rebuild of Colossus.

The German Army High Command did not rely on Enigma; they used a more complex system based on encoded teleprinter traffic using a machine developed by the Lorenz Company. Max Newman, the famous mathematician devised an automated way to find the Lorenz machines settings. The result – **Colossus**.

A total of 10 Colossus machines was built, the design being improved & upgraded throughout the war.

At the end of the war, to keep their existence secret all 10 machines were dismantled and all the technical drawings and diagrams were burned. Their existence was to remain a secret for nearly 30 years.

In 1994, a project to rebuild Colossus was commenced. Two years later Colossus was switched on.



The Colossus Room



The LORENZ Cipher Machine