



CENTRAL BUREAU INTELLIGENCE CORPS ASSOCIATION December 2007

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PRESIDENT'S PAR ANNUAL REPORT

This year 2007 saw CBICA involved in the celebration of two important anniversaries. To commemorate the Centenary of the formation of the Australian Intelligence Corps, the Australian Intelligence Association and the Central Bureau Intelligence Corps Association were given pride of place in the Anzac Day March and shared the distinction of leading Corps Troops. Our contingent comprised twenty four marchers and three who took advantage of the land-rover transport kindly arranged by Bob Batty (RSLHQ) and for which we shall probably have increasing need. We are also grateful as ever to our elegant banner-bearers Rob Moore and Ian McBride. At the Marriott we were delighted to find that the lovely restaurant overlooking Hyde Park had been prepared for our Reunion Luncheon. The delicious food and excellent service provided to the forty three CB'ers who attended were in keeping with the venue. A further highlight was the unexpected arrival of the Australian Army Cadet Band who regaled us with some rousing tunes.

To commemorate its Sixtieth Anniversary which fell on 1st April 2007 the Defence Signals Directorate of which Central Bureau was the precursor held an Open Day at its Russell Street Headquarters Canberra. CBICA was represented by eight members who received VIP treatment and thanks to Stewart Skelt and Kay Currey of DSD were given a special tour of "selected areas." All were greatly impressed by the massive increase in spending on high tech equipment, the level of corporate work done by DSD which is now competing with the IT industry and finally by the high regard in which the work of CB is still held.

Author Chris Clark expects to complete the writing of our Unit History before the end of the year. The manuscript will be referred to your Executive

Committee for consideration and then passed on to the Australian War Memorial for publication, so hopefully you will be reading it early in 2008. Meanwhile further publicity about our Unit's wartime activities continues to appear including the following:

The Ultra Experience (Nell Pyle as told by Doug Pyle); A Man of Intelligence: The Life of Captain Nave (Dr Ian Pfennigwerth); The Indicators of Cipher 2468 (a paper by Peter Donovan published in the Journal "Cryptologia"); The Central Bureau Technical Records which can now be accessed at item B5436 through the National Archives website; "Code Breakers Display" in the MacArthur Memorial Museum which has been expanded and upgraded since our last visit and the Australian Intelligence Hall of Fame at Kokoda Barracks, Canungra which was opened this year.

The Association's last activity for 2007 was the informal luncheon following the Remembrance Day Ceremony at the Roseville Memorial Club where fourteen of our members were guests of the Roseville RSL along with Brendan Nelson (now leader of the Federal Opposition), Barry O'Farrell (NSW Opposition Leader) and Member for Davidson Mr O'Dea. Representatives of local organisations including a large number of school children were there. Wreaths were laid and we all had the privilege of listening to a magnificent address on the significance of the day given by the head boy of Killara High School Patrick Deegan and another fine speech by Amy Davis, head girl of the same school. Deborah Fargher, also of Killara High, gave a faultless performance of Last Post and Reveille.

It is great to be able to report that in spite of the passing of all those years we still have one hundred and fifteen members on our mailing list, plus fifteen friends and associates. Those to whom we have (sadly) had to say "Vale" during the year are Roy Ward, Sandy Hinds, Margaret Nolan, Jim Williams,

John Shoebridge, John Hucker, Keith Lavers, and Ron Chidgey.

Finally let me express on your behalf our sincere thanks to all members of the Executive Committee, to Bill Rogers our unofficial liaison officer and of course to Les and Eunice Smith for their invaluable help with the newsletters.

I wish you all a joyous Christmas and very happy New Year. Next meeting is the Annual General Meeting, Monday 11th February, 2008, 2pm at Roseville Memorial Club. Do try to be there if you possibly can!

Gordon Gibson, President
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Waitara NSW 2077
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HON. TREASURER'S REPORT

Jean Robertson of Toowoomba, Queensland, resigned as a member about three years ago, but on seeing the latest Newsletter decided to rejoin, and we welcome her return. Joan tells us she is not in the best of health – not on her own in this regard. For most of her time at Henry Street, she worked in the garage on “A” shift.

2007 is fast coming to an end. Unfortunately we have lost a few members, but I hope existing members have a happy Christmas and a healthy 2008.

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

HON. SECRETARY'S PAR

Hello to everyone....I hope this finds you if not in raging good health at least hanging in there like the rest of us. 2007 has passed in what I can only describe as a “holding pattern” a la Air Force. Maybe news re a completed Unit History will allow us back to earth.

Our final official commitment for the year was one to which we do look forward....the lovely

Remembrance Day Ceremony at the Roseville Memorial Club. As usual we were impressed by the maturity of the Senior student giving the Address, the solemnity of children with flowers, and the best ever tumpeter. All so well organised. We socialised over tea and scones while staff and volunteers cleared the area, then sojourned to our luncheon table. Those present were Gordon and Sue Gibson, Bruce Bentwitch and Faye Gilinsky, Les McClean, Helen Kenny, Madeline Chidgey with son Rex, Ailsa Hale, Noni Benn, Peg Teague, Brian Lovett (Tuncurry) Joy Granger, Joy Grace. Apologies were received from Frank Hughes, Stan and Maureen Baylis (hope you are feeling better now Maureen) and Bruce Lovett (not well), A very pleasant interlude.

As you will have seen from Newsletters we have lost valued members over the year but also received appreciative notes – good to know you are feeling in touch with the Newsletters. I wish you all a peaceful Christmas season and may 2008 be kind to you.

Joy Granger
Hon. Secretary
2/5 Endeavour Dr.
NARRABEEN NSW 2101
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CHRISTMAS FARE (KRISLEMUS WUFF!)

What are you having for Christmas dinner? Hot turkey, ham and plum pudding on a blazing hot day, or everything cold – oysters, prawns, turkey, salads, ice cream?

Perhaps you want nothing more than to go down the *frog and toad* (road) to the *rubbety dub* (pub) and sit there quietly drinking a few *lily of lagunas* (schooners) or *plonk* (vin blanc, white wine).

Cheers and Happy Christmas to CBers and families – and forgive this bout of rhyming slang. It was brought on by a wonderful email from George Aspden (ex Sgt, RAF) sent from England to Nell and Doug Pyle, who transmitted it to Newsletter.

George Aspden, whose last email was printed in the September issue under the heading “RAF in Australia,” was 19 and on his way to Australia and

Central Bureau when his plane stopped at Colombo, Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) on Christmas Day, 1944. There, in the Sergeant's Mess, R.A.F., B.H.Q, he had his Christmas Dinner and kept the menu which was all in rhyming slang.

It's reproduced here. Although I'm no translator, I'll attempt to decipher the menu. (Your corrections are welcome!)

Lily and Skinner.....dinner

Me-an-You.....menu

Loop The Loop.....soup

Lilian Gish.....fish

Rory O'Rourke, and Ye Olde Strife and

Stricken.....pork and chicken

Mistress McCuddin.....Christmas pudding

Standatease and Hard Tack.....cheese and biscuits

Fill Your Boots.....??????

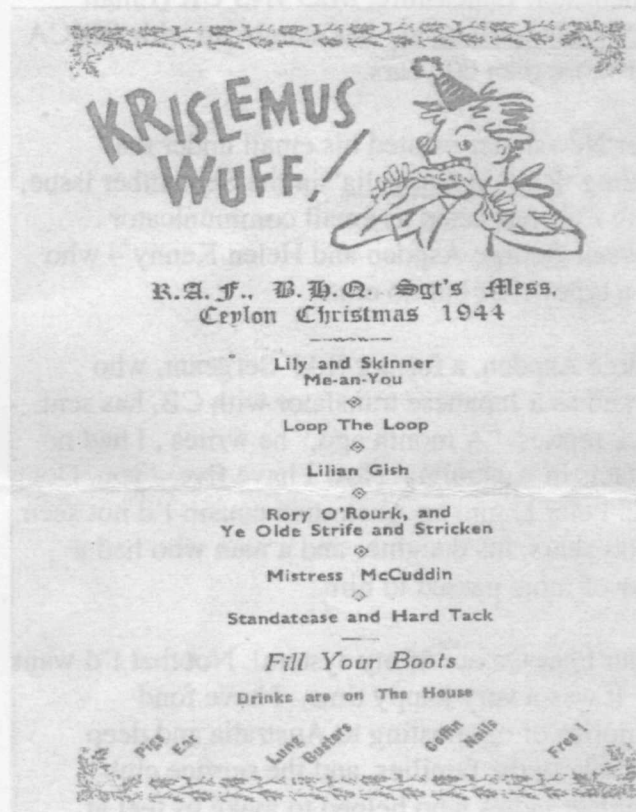
Drinks are on the House

Pig's ear.....beer

Lung busters.....cigarettes

Coffin Nails.....as above.

Free



Hope George and his mates enjoyed that meal. How ironic now to remember the time when cigarettes were handed out freely, with no

knowledge of the damage that would be caused in future years.

Other CBers must have memories of Christmas dinners eaten in strange circumstances and strange places. My own memory is of hot turkey served up on a hot day at Indooroopilly camp in Brisbane. That turkey was "on the nose" - we could smell it coming. No, we didn't eat it. H.K.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

In the last Newsletter, we asked CBers to think of possible titles for Chris Clark's forthcoming book. It has the tentative title – "SECRET BUREAU – The Story of Central Bureau – MacArthur's Signals Intelligence Organisation in the South-West Pacific during World War II."

Alan Flannery, of Cheltenham, Victoria, would like the title to be : "The Story of Central Bureau: Allied Signal Intelligence in World War II" dropping the word MacArthur because Sigint was in existence before the General's arrival, being used with great success against Germany in the Middle East.

Bruce Bentwitch, of Castle Cove, NSW, put forward: "Central Bureau – the Pacific War Signals Intelligence Organisation."

Doug Pyle, from Bolwarra Heights, NSW, submitted: "Shhhh – Central Bureau" because CB was such a hush hush organisation.



If you can even think of voting again after the national elections cast your votes for one of these titles. It's first past the post . . . 1 for Clark, 2 for Flannery, 3 for Bentwitch and 4 for Pyle. Send your votes to Newsletter, realising that this is all very informal, and that Chris Clark and/or his publisher could overrule the winning suggestion!



THE WORLD WAR ONE CODEBREAKER

(Part two and final.)

Continuing Frederick William Wheatley's account of how he broke the German HVB code on Melbourne Cup Day, 1914. The code, used by German merchant and naval ships, was solved by Wheatley who was attached to the War Staff at Navy Office, Melbourne. His account is held by the Australian Archives, in that city.

The Admiralty cabled out congratulations on the discovery of the code and instructed the Navy Office to send a copy of the code book and key to every ship in the British Fleet.

The Naval Board instructed me to take the matter in hand and find out the best way to do this. I first interviewed the Government Printer, but he hadn't enough type-setters familiar with the German script and could not promise it under six weeks.

The next idea was to have the pages photographed, but that proved unsatisfactory,

It was then decided to type-write on wax sheets and reproduce the requisite number of copies. Twenty girls from one of the typewriting agencies were engaged, sworn to secrecy and installed in a room at Navy Office. Their qualifications were to be able to read the German letters and type accurately.

The book of 300 pages was cut up and distributed. Each printed page required three typewritten pages.

Four men with knowledge of German were engaged to read the proofs and then two men with Roneo Duplicators printed two hundred copies of each page. The number of pages printed was therefore 300 X 3 X 200 i.e. 180,000.

These 180,000 sheets had to be collected, arranged in proper order and bound in book form.

Shelves were hurriedly built along one wall and my daughter and a trusted small boy arranged the sheets on the shelves, and when the first fifty pages were printed they were collected and pinned together with staples.

The 200 books were finished in 10 days; 100 were sent to the Admiralty, 50 to the Commander in Chief of the American Station, and the others sent to the different ships of the China Squadron and the Australian Navy. Every one reached its destination safely.

There were many messages of international importance deciphered including one which exonerated the "Kent" from the charge of offending against Chilean neutrality when she destroyed the "Dresden" in the harbour of Mas-e-fuera.

The cipher was changed twice before the German squadron was destroyed, but it was a comparatively easy matter to find the key in both cases.

The same cipher was used by the German troops in West Africa.

(Wheatley had a win in code-breaking on Melbourne Cup Day, 1914, after he'd seen the Cup run. He neglects, however, to tell us whether he backed the winner, Kingsburgh, who carried six stone 12 pounds weight. Kingsburgh, ridden by jockey G. Meddick, won the race in three minutes, 26 seconds. Did any CB codebreakers have luck in this year's Cup?

H.K.

MAIL AND EMAIL

George Aspden, ex RAF, of 3 Bland rd, Prestwich, Manchester, Lancashire, M25 9NS UK (Email gaspden@tiscali.co.uk) has caught up with CBICA after more than 60 years.

After Newsletter printed his email under the heading :RAF in Australia in the September issue, Doug Pyle has acted as email communicator between George Aspden and Helen Kenny – who has a typewriter but no email.

George Aspden, a former RAF Sergeant, who worked as a Japanese translator with CB, has sent quick replies. "A month ago," he writes, I had no contacts in Australia. Now I have five – you, Doug Pyle, Peter Dunn, an Australian cousin I'd not seen for 60 years, his daughter and a man who had a letter of mine passed to him.

"I can't get Oz out of my system! Not that I'd want to. It was a very happy time. I have fond memories of my posting to Australia and deep gratitude to the families and the service club volunteer ladies who helped to make us feel at home when we were so far from home... I'll always feel very much attached to Australia. Even now I would cheer for the Aussie Rugby team (unless they were playing England!)

George was in his last year of school (1942-43) when a RAF recruiting officer came to speak the sixth form. There was talk of Japanese language training. George showed interest. Would he like an interview? He agreed, was accepted, and at the end of the school year was ordered to present himself at a recruiting centre. As he told a RAF Linguists Group (Rafling) he was sent to the School of Oriental and African Studies, London University. Japanese linguists were needed urgently. Training was intensive.

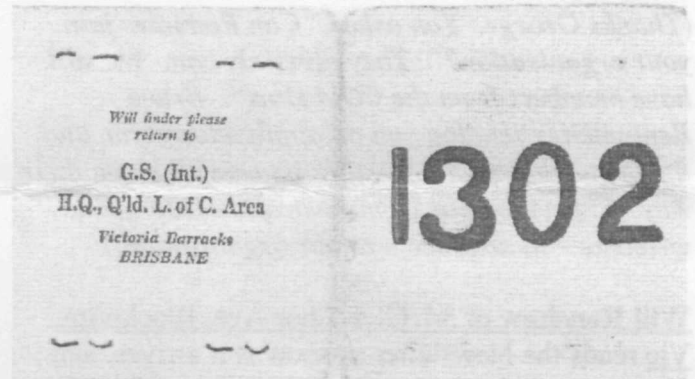
He still remembers lessons from a Scottish RAF Sergeant ... the first sentence being “Our aircraft have bombed Tokyo.” It was wishful thinking at that date, he says.

Other words were – heavy bomber (*juubakugekiki*), parachute troops (*rakkasenbutai*), and a strange sentence “*biiru wo ippai motte kite kudassi*”, meaning “please bring me a glass of beer.” He comments – “Obviously an essential military phrase!”

George flew off to Australia in December 1944 (see the Christmas menu in this issue.) CB lay ahead. The pass authorising his entry to Ascot Park shows a smiling, dark-haired teenager, “I don’t look like that now – and my hair was never black,” he states.



L to R: Dave Eunson, George Aspdon, Jamie Tait (Taken in Ascot Park)



Pass authorising entry to Central Bureau, Ascot Park, Brisbane, issued January 1945 to Sgt George Aspdon, RAF

I don't look like that now. And my hair never was black

He sent many email photos, taken in the Park, around Brisbane and in the Philippines, at San Miguel. Those shown in the photos are George, Dave Eunson, Jamie Tate, Sandy Duguid, Norman Lucas, and Norman Spooner (all pictured in Brisbane

After the move to the Philippines:



Standing, L to R: Ray Lawrence, Jamie Tait, Ray Edolls, Geoff Spencer, Bill Wilkes.
Seated, L to R: Norman Spooner, Benny Polack, George Aspdon
(In front of the corner Air Force tent at San Miguel de Teriac, Luzon, the home of RAF Sgts Aspdon, Eunson, Spooner and Tait)

Outside the RAF tent at San Miguel were Ray Lawrence, Jamie Tait, Ray Edolls, Geoff Spencer, Bill Wilkes, Norman Spooner and Benny Polack.

After working on intercepts, George Aspden was transferred to the captured documents section. He has “happy memories” of those he worked with there – Alan Gillies, Eric Saxon, Bill Eggington (all Aust Army) Leon Taylor of the US Army and Doug (surname forgotten) an RAAF LAC.

(Thanks George. You asked “Can Pommies join your organisation?” They certainly can. We still have members from the “Old Dart”. Bruce Bentwitch is sending you an application form, and the September and December issues will be on their way. Expect to hear from Australian CBers, and welcome – in advance – to our organisation.)

Will Renshaw of 34, Glen Ebor Ave, Blackburn, Vic reads the Newsletter as soon as it arrives, and says he identifies with Alan Langdon’s article about loud music in the last issue. He was particularly interested in George Aspden’s letter headed “RAF in Australia.”

Renshaw, who was with No. 5 Wireless Unit as a Kana code intercept operator, was at Strathpine before leaving for the Philippines.

It reminded him of a letter he’d read in an edition of the English magazine “*This England*” which claims an international circulation of two million. The letter from Keith Bowerman, of Ferny Creek, Queensland, referred to an RAF Spitfire Squadron that was based at Strathpine in early 1944, and to a mid-air collision which resulted in the deaths of two British pilots.

The graves of Squadron Leader William Henry Wright, 26, and of Flight Sergeant Alan Chandler, 22, are in the military section of Lutwyche cemetery. Both belonged to 458 Squadron, and the Strathpine airstrip from which they flew is now a suburban road called Spitfire Avenue.

Will Renshaw has corresponded with Keith Bowerman, and has information from David Dwyer, a Pine Rivers shire councillor. The latter wrote that there is a memorial to the pilots at the

Merv Ewart Reserve, and that former members of 548 and 549 Spitfire Squadrons hold reunions there.

The Spitfire Squadron left for Darwin in May 1944. Will Renshaw wants to know whether the Spitfire squadrons shared the Strathpine camp with our Wireless Units.

He was there when two Beaufighters crashed, with the fliers surviving. He sailed for the Philippines on the USN Liberty troopship, *John B. Floyd*. “I was originally intercepting on the Tokyo-Singapore network,” he writes. “Towards the finish of the war I was copying a network that was operating on three different frequencies – Tachikawa (Japan), Mukden (Manchuria) and Nanking (China). Jack Bleakley, the author of that very remarkable book, “*The Eavesdroppers*”, was my supervisor in the sugar mill operations at San Miguel at the time.”

Nancy (Nelson) Goldsteen of 8/109 Allied Drive, Arundel, Qld, says she looks forward to receiving the Newsletter. She often thinks of “Bunny” Radburn, who worked as punch card operator in the fire station, and asks if anyone knows what happened to her.

(Yes, Nancy. The news is sad. The August 1990 issue of Newsletter reported that Elizabeth (“Bunny”) died earlier that year at New Farm.)



Another CBer catches up

Darrel Keep, of 703A Sandy Bay, Hobart, Tasmania (email DarrelKeep@netspace.net.au) writes:

I was originally a school teacher in Tas. I did National Service training, then on outbreak of war with Japan I enlisted ... first in Unit intelligence then in Field Security. In 42 I was transferred to FSS Brisbane where I enlisted in AIF, up to then I had been CMF. I was interviewed and then posted to Central Bureau where I was trained in decoding Japanese cipher ... and then posted to the established unit at Coomalie, NT.

At Coomalie the intelligence unit worked with a wireless unit ... 3WU I think it was called. My memory is fairly good but I am 86 and I was 21

when I enlisted. So what I give from here could be patchy.

AASIPG Coomalie consisted of one officer Lieut, one staff Sgt, the rest of us had rank of Cpl or L/Cpl. About 35/37 men all trained at Central Bureau.

Most were Uni Graduates, a couple of undergraduates like myself.

The WU had a very wide coverage of Jap army transmissions from Manchuria to Pacific Islands. And all transmissions were taken down by hand by the sigs men either in numbers code or Kana. The Int group had Jap code books, and schedules of station wavelengths. Localities, and details on how to follow scheduled changes of call sign, cipher change etc, As messages came in they were passed to nearby Int. personnel who established the origin of the message ... E.g. It could have originated from Tokyo but intercepted in the relay from Manila to Rabaul ... The priority of each message and final destination were recorded on it and as far as we were able the subject of the message. Messages were sorted by urgency, subject and destination ... The most Urgent were sent in an early form of Fax to Central Bureau immediately, the rest, many hundreds daily were taken to Darwin airstrip and put on a plane and met at Brisbane leaving at 2am.

Four groups of men worked 3 shifts covering 24 hours of the day 7 days a week. Bloody uncomfortable during the wet, sweat and insects in the eyes 100 percent humidity and the messages pouring in. And of course in the early days risk of being strafed if the Japs recognised the significance of the huge aerals.

Int personnel had to memorise hundreds of pieces of cipher as there was no time to be looking up cipher sheets all the time. For some reason deciphering was referred to as "de-cheesing." Among my comrades at Coomalie were:- Kenneth J. Marlowe, High School teacher, Ian Harding, son of then Lord Mayor of Sydney ... a lawyer who after the war became one of Aust leading authorities on International Law, Eric Dunlop, Uni lecturer, Brian Southwell, later chief librarian Monash Uni, Douglas Page, son of Sir Earle Page, and Charles Archer, Robert Goode,

and many others whose names now elude me. As I said earlier we were relieved by a Canadian Unit which shifted to Casuarina Beach ... We were posted to Manila but didn't get established there as the war ended.

I would of course like to contact any of the men I worked with ... but am now quite out of touch. My memories these days are more of the comradeship and off duty discussions. **My main thought is on how a young undergraduate gained a terrific education living and working for years with seasoned academic/soldiers.**

(This email was sent to historian Peter Dunn who is researching Army Intelligence in Australia. It reached us through his help.)

IN BRIEF

Yamamoto was in Australia last October. The Sydney Morning Herald reported this in its "Drive Life" section of November 2.

The Admiral's namesake (relationship unknown) is Hisahiro Yamamoto, who took part in the Solar Car Challenge Drive from Darwin to Adelaide.

His car "Little Jona Sun", was Canadian built, and the hydrogen fuel-cell car was part of the Greenfleet Demonstration Class. He drove it for 3000 kilometres, backed by a support team, and "was responsible for the car's aesthetics," the engineering being done by others.

The SMH said that Yamamoto, a former Hollywood hairdresser, was a part-time solar car driver and designer. He is quoted as saying: "We make human beautiful ... we also make human happy for the future."



Another publication is on the way. It is "The Diplomatic Special Intelligence Section – Its origins and history," by the late D.C.S. Sissons. Dr Peter Donovan understands that Professor Des Ball has edited the papers, and that the publisher will be the Australian National University Press.

David Sissons, of the ANU, had researched this subject for many years, as mentioned in Ian Pfennigwerth's book about Captain Nave "A Man of Intelligence."

Newsletter gathers that Sissons died before his work was quite complete. We were unable to contact Professor Ball to get full information.



On **Remembrance Day** Sydney gardens had a good soaking from a much needed downpour. CBers at Roseville Returned Services Memorial Club could have been drenched too, had not one club officials heeded the weather reports and moved the ceremony from outdoors to indoors. Thank you Michael Askey, sub-branch president, Harry Wilkinson, secretary-manager, and Jim Smith, vice-president, for keeping children from 18 schools, their teachers, CBers and other ex-service people dry!

A main speaker was Jim Smith, who told the story of Corporal Arthur Sullivan, V.C., an ordinary man who in extraordinary circumstances showed extraordinary bravery as he helped to save his mates' lives.

Sullivan (1891-1937) was an Adelaide bank clerk, who enlisted in the AIF in 1918, but reached Europe when the war with Germany was over. He volunteered with other Australians to join the British North Russia Relief Force, which was trying to rescue British and Australians in Russia. That country was in a state of civil war between the Bolsheviks and forces loyal to the murdered Tsar.

Corporal Sullivan landed at Archangel. He was now with the 45th Battalion of the Royal Fusiliers. They moved to the Dvina front, and became involved in a fight with the Bolsheviks. At the Sheika River, an officer and three men were sinking in a swamp. Enemy fire was heavy but Sullivan jumped in and rescued all four. For this he was awarded the VC – the only VC to be given in 1919. He should have received it from King George V, but came back to Australia.

In 1920 the Prince of Wales visited Australia, and in Adelaide gave the decoration to Sullivan, saying: *"Aren't you the man who ran away from my father?"*

Jim Smith's story of Sullivan was of deep interest. Most of us had never heard of him. His life's end

was ironic and tragic. In 1937 Arthur Sullivan travelled to England with the Australian Coronation Contingent, to take part in the Coronation ceremonies for the new King George VI. On April 9, 1937, he slipped in Birdcage Walk, London, hit his head on the kerb near Wellington Barracks, and died. His ashes were returned to Australia. A plaque commemorates this VC on the walls of Wellington Barracks, and his widow, years later, gave the VC to the Australian War Memorial. It is displayed there in the Hall of Valour.

VALE

Ron Chidgey died early this month after a long illness. We send deep sympathy to his wife Madeline and adult children – Margaret, Adele and Rex.

Ron and Madeline were married for 62 years. Theirs was a wartime romance. They met at Bonegilla when both were in the Army, before the young Madeline Bell, a member of the AWAS, went to Central Bureau where she worked as a cipher operator in the garage.

After the war Ron joined QANTAS and worked there for many years. His son, Rex, is with QANTAS today.

The Chidgeys lived at Dolans Bay, NSW, in the Sutherland Shire. Their garden was beautiful. They left it only a few years ago for the Frank Vickery Village, Sylvania.

Madeline was publicity officer/editor of Newsletter in the early 1980s. She was as skilled at that as with her art and craft work. She worked tirelessly for CBICA and was its Vice President.

Although Ron never served with CB, he took on the role of our honorary auditor, and was an honorary member of CBICA. He was a kind and gentle man who will be mourned.



Seasons Greetings



From
Eunice & Les Smith