



CENTRAL BUREAU INTELLIGENCE CORPS ASSOCIATION September 07

Publicity Officer: Helen Kenny, 27/1-13 Mackenzie St, Lavender Bay NSW 2060 Tel 02 9954 0940

PRESIDENT'S PAR

Vale Jim Williams

The funeral service and "celebration of the life" of Jim Williams took place on Friday 20th July, incidentally a bitterly cold and windy Sydney winter's day. Representing our Association at St Jude's Church Randwick were Bruce Bentwitch, Les McClean, Sheila Gregory and Sue and Gordon Gibson. Eulogies were given by Jim's daughter Deborah and by the Vice President of the Clovelly R.S.L. whose members carried out a moving ceremony ending with the laying of poppies on the coffin (in which we joined) and formed a guard of honour at the conclusion of the service.

Jim Williams was a very active and enthusiastic member of CBICA and served for a number of years first as our Secretary and later as President. Jim set himself high standards in everything he did and showed this by the manner in which he carried out his secretarial duties and by the dignity and style he brought to the Presidency. In recognition of his services to the Association he was, very fittingly, awarded Life Membership in 2003. Sadly in his later years Jim was confronted by a severe and crippling physical condition which left him confined to a wheel chair. The courage with which he confronted this situation was evidenced by his arriving at his last three Anzac Day Reunions in this conveyance.

Unit History

In a recent telephone conversation Chris Clark explained that his duties as Chief RAAF Historian are so demanding that it is impossible for him to devote any time during office hours to the writing of the CB Unit History. He is, however, making progress on weekends and still hopes to finish within a few months. Chris has also sent an outline of the contents of the book which will comprise fifteen chapters each containing 4,000-5,000 words

plus illustrations, Foreword, Acknowledgement, Appendices, Glossary, References, Bibliography and Index.

So, it should prove a book of reasonable size. A subject of considerable interest is the title which Chris suggests as – SECRET BUREAU – The Story of Central Bureau – MacArthur's Signals Intelligence Organisation in the South-West Pacific during World War II.

Your committee thinks the title will be very important from the point of view of creating interest, that it could be improved, but cannot suggest a better one. Perhaps you can! If so please let our N.L. Editor Helen Kenny have your suggestion.

Remembrance Day Reunion Friday 9th November

Please note that as Remembrance Day actually falls on a Sunday and the Ceremony at the Roseville RSL involves school children it will now be held on the above date commencing at 10.30am. As usual, there will be an informal lunch and get together after the official ceremony which is very interesting and worthwhile so try to make it if you can.

Gordon Gibson

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WAITARA NSW 2077

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HON. TREASURER'S REPORT

Vale

In the June Newsletter mention was made of the death of Roslyn Mahon, the daughter of John Shoebridge. It is with deep regret that we announce John's death on 1st July after a short period in hospital. He was 86.

I first met John in mid 1943 when we trained on the balcony at 21 Henry Street. Later that year he was posted to 2WU at Townsville and then travelled overland to set up camp at Coomallie Creek, N.T.

Mid September 1944 we were posted back to Brisbane, travelling by train (cattle truck) from Adelaide River to Larrimah, only to find that the road convoy to the east had left the day before our arrival. This meant that we were sent by convoy to Alice Springs, then rail to Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney- destination Brisbane.

When we reached Melbourne, standing on Spencer Street Station was John's future wife, Winsome, resplendent in her AWAS winter uniform.

Back in Brisbane John found himself office boy/paper shuffler (his term) to Eric Nave, a position he held to war's end. I went to 6 WU in the Philippines and lost contact with John (who lived in Melbourne) until 1951. Early that year my wife and I were enjoying a few days at Terrigal, a beachside resort about 1 1/2 hours drive north of Sydney. We were relaxing on the beach when I noticed John on the promenade looking out to sea. He was visiting a relative at Avoca. Since that time we have been in regular contact.

John did not like Melbourne winter weather so arranged a transfer with his employer, Ansett Airlines, to their Mascot (Sydney) office, and bought a house at Connell's Point. On leaving Ansett, he joined Ocean Salt and then B.H.P.'s Sydney office until his retirement.

In 1980 he read a notice of CBICA participation in the Anzac Day march and reunion to which we went along and have done so every year when in Sydney.

Unfortunately both our wives died in the second half of the 80s. On retirement John became interested in hiking and with an American friend hiked locally, in Tasmania, NZ (Milford Sound), North America (the Rockies) just to mention a few. With the travel bug he made several flights to the UK, and in latter years Norway, after a distant relative there contacted him.

On his last visit to Norway a couple of years ago he went to the north of that country near the Russian

border, but on returning to Oslo was unwell and entered hospital. This necessitated his younger daughter Jan departing on a rescue mission and escorting him home.

Since joining CB we both attended reunions in Brisbane, Melbourne, Canberra, Sydney and country NSW, but not the most recent in Melbourne or Canberra.

Due to deteriorating health and inclement weather John did not attend this year's Anzac Day March.

He was Vice-President of CBICA and will be missed.

Bruce Bentwitch

Hon. Treasurer

7 Holly Street

CASTLE COVE NSW 2069

Ph: (02) 9417 1427

HON. SECRETARY'S PAR

Happy springtime to you all. Hope winter has gone. As opposed to my social marathon in June, have little to say this time. However, your committee still hangs in there, hoping to bring good news one day re the history, and generally dealing with matters as they arrive.

With regard to the Remembrance Day service on 9th November, you'd be most welcome to join us at the informal lunch and meeting to follow. Just let me or Bruce know if you're coming.

The address of the Roseville Returned Services Memorial Club is 64 Pacific Highway, Roseville. It's close to Roseville station. Just cross at the lights on the Pacific Highway, turn left and you're there.

Now that was easy to read, wasn't it?

Joy Granger

2/5 Endeavour Drive

NARRABEEN NSW 2101

Ph: (02) 9981 2397 (after 5.00pm)

VALE

Alexander (Sandy) Ernest Hinds (13/1/22 – 6/7/07) joined the 24/39 Battalion on the day World War II broke out, September 3, 1939. He transferred to the RAAF on May 16, 1941, and did his wireless school at Frogmal, in Victoria. He served with 1 WU and 6 WU in East Timor, Darwin – during all the raids – Biak, Koepang, and Tacloban and Leyte in the Philippines.

While at Central Bureau he met Coral Osborne, who was one of the cipher girls in the garage. They married on June 2, 1945. Sandy is survived by Coral, four children, 10 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Coral says that not long before Sandy died he enjoyed the Wireless Units luncheon and the CB luncheon at the RSL Club, Toorak.

He enjoyed his 15 years living at The Village, Baxter, Victoria, and also loved his bowls. Coral kindly wrote an account of Sandy's life for Newsletter.

Deepest sympathy to Coral and family from her old colleagues.

Margaret (Kennedy) Nolan died at Geelong, Victoria, on July 26. She was the widow of Daniel, mother of Celie, Dan (dec'd) and Mark, and was grandmother of eight.

A former schoolteacher, she joined the AWAS, and came to CB in 1943. She became one of three AWAS cipher officers in the garage, the others being the late Betty (Tough) Chessell and Jeanette Key. She was clever and talented. Before she went to Officer School I shared a tent with her at Kalinga, then a hut at Chermshire. She was in charge of B shift in II Aust. Cipher Section. Thanks to Diana Parker for the information. H.K.

RAF IN AUSTRALIA

This interesting email from George Aspden (ex-Sgt 2219136 RAF) was sent to historian Peter Dunn (pdunn@st.net.au) who passed it on to Peggy Moore, who, in turn, passed it to Gordon Gibson, who gave it to Newsletter. (As Peg Moore commented "Pity Helen isn't online." HK agrees.)

Here is the text – which has also been sent to historian Chris Clark. It begins:

Dear Peter

I was thrilled to discover your website (via Wikipedia), and wallow in nostalgia. It took me back over 60 years!

I was in the RAF, trained as a Japanese translator, and was posted to Central Bureau, Brisbane in December 1944, one of the first 3 RAF sergeants to be stationed there as translators of Japanese intercepts. There were about a dozen of us RAF posted to Central Bureau eventually; before us, I believe, there had been others who had passed through to go north to outstations. (There were also about a dozen or so Canadian Intelligence Corps personnel service at CB, as well as a number of British Intelligence Corps warrant officers.) Later, a Special Liaison Unit (SLU) also arrived in Brisbane to operate typex machines for transmitting Ultra to the UK. So the RAF presence was not confined to operational squadrons!

As I remember it, while the HQ was undoubtedly at 21 Henry Street at that time (we were taken there straight off the train, and photographed for our passes), our working site was in the small park on the corner adjoining the Ascot Park race course. The race course was home to many of our American colleagues; I was taken in there by one of them to make a purchase at the PX which they had there among their tents.

Captured documents were normally dealt with at Allied Translator and Interpreter Service (ATIS) situated elsewhere in Brisbane. However, if they were deemed to be of signals interest, or contain signals matter, they were sent to Central Bureau, where we had a small captured documents translation section. After a short time, I got myself transferred to this section, consisting of three Australian army, one RAAF, one US army, myself and later an RAF colleague who had flown out from UK with me. One of the documents (probably lecture notes) I had to translate contained details of how the Japanese planned to conquer the whole world piecemeal. I believe Australia came after India, and before Africa. What I do remember clearly was that South America would be the final piece in the world jigsaw of conquest. They were serious about their ultimate aims.

About May or June 1945, after General MacArthur had left for the Philippines, Central Bureau was planned to move to Luzon. The move would take

place in three phases. Apart from a small cadre of key personnel, the Bureau was divided into two halves. To minimize disruption, the first half, with S/Ldr Roy Linton as CO, would move up by sea; then the key personnel would be flown up; and finally the rearguard would rejoin the rest by sea. The place chosen was the village of San Miguel in Tarlac province, not far from Manila. The forward unit duly arrived, settled in and was working; then the key personnel flew up as scheduled; however, the rearguard never made it, as two atomic bombs were dropped, and the war unexpectedly came to an end. The Japanese were ordered to send all their messages in plain Japanese. Our last job there was parceling up the captured documents to be forwarded to Washington, where they are no doubt buried in some deep vault of the Pentagon. (including my translations!) It was apparently decided in high quarters that the occupation army would be American only, so non-Americans were returned to Australia. We arrived in Brisbane to find the unit in process of closing down; the incinerator was working overtime; even blank forms were destroyed, lest their headings gave any clue to the work that had been done by the Bureau. We RAF personnel were shipped back to Southampton on the Stratheden in December 1945, so I have no later knowledge of what happened to the Canadians, or the British I. Corps WOs.

I have a few photos, as well as a Philippine Japanese occupation banknote, and a leaflet such as were dropped over the Japanese occupied territories telling them that the war was over. If you are interested, I would gladly email copies to you.

George Aspden

[CBers can reach him at gaspden@tiscali.co.uk]

MACARTHUR MUSEUM

Lieut-Col Ian Willoughby (Retd), executive officer of the General Douglas MacArthur Memorial Trust, sent an e-mail in July to President Gordon Gibson. It showed a photo of the new “Code Breakers Display” installed in the Museum as part of the first stage of the Museum development. The display is between a cabinet containing the control column of the Betty bomber in which Admiral Yamamoto was shot down, and another showing the Sigsaly system. This was installed in the basement of the old AMP building for secure communication between the General and his staff.

The Code Breakers display contains photos of General Akin, Colonel Sandford and others, and of Henry Street.

The introduction begins: “Perhaps the best kept secret of World War II was Sigint, or signals intelligence. Through the interception and decoding of secret Japanese radio messages, intelligence was provided to Allied Commanders which gave them crucial tactical advantages and possibly *chopped two years off the war in the Pacific*. (General C.A. Willoughby.)” [He was MacArthur’s Intelligence Chief, G2.]

Then comes the heading Central Bureau, and six short paragraphs which attempt to summarise the work done by CB, the Wireless Units, ASIPS and ASWG.

The text will be published in the December issue of Newsletter. Lieut-Col Ian Willoughby points out that a lot more could have been displayed on Central Bureau, “but we must limit the amount a visitor will read within an hour-or-so visit to the Museum. If they want more, volunteers will point to more detailed sources in our library or elsewhere.”

He hopes CBers will be able to visit the museum and see the display.

WELL DONE, DUNN

In the June issue of Newsletter, we mentioned Don Dunn’s witty account of how he sailed from Sydney to Queensland and back in June/July/August 2006. He called it “Another Jaunt by Nicely Done II” (his boat). We said we hoped to run some excerpts. Here they are – although this is an edited summary.

They sailed from what he terms “Syd-Arb” to the Basin, to Lake Macquarie, then Newcastle.

“My mate ran out of fingers and toes so could not tell me how many freighters were in the queue on anchor. The trip along Stockton Bight I still love. In close to the Signa wreck, plenty of dolphin and bird life. On anchor in Sugarloaf Bay is being in dreamland ... Oh yes, forgot to tell you about the two willy-wagtails at Wangi. One at a time they zoomed into our cabin, perched on the table and

cheekily demanded to be fed. We were having coffee and shortbread. So shortbread they had. Sitting on our fingers and pecking crumbs from our palms.”

Up north they went for an overnight sail to Byron Bay, and “spent more than a fortnight in a berth at Mariner’s Cove marine. \$40 per night ... Here we acted like bloody tourists. Had a para-glide and enjoyed it.”

Then to the Clarence River pulling in to “whistle stops” and inspecting the local pubs. Heading back from Grafton to Iluka they tied up alongside the wharf at Lawrence. There, the “idyllic calm” was shattered by a large twin hull cruiser powering up stream. An enormous wash bashed “Nicely Done II” against the wharf (“thank heavens for solid fender boards.”) Two fishermen, minding their own business in a tinnie were washed up under the mangroves. “The punch line was that the boat was manned by officers of the Marine National Parks! The name was on the boat in big letters.”

Don saw the eagle’s nest on Harwood Bridge, another on a pole. At sea he saw more alarming things, “In the wee hours, no moon and between Norah Head and Tuggerah Reef I spy astern a green, red and a white light heading my way. Wow. On go every light and a torch on the sail. And I turn to starboard to give more room for the freighter to pass. But it goes to starboard too. No need to guess. I made a quick turn to port and headed for New Zealand.”

And a scare going out of Swansea in the dark. “We were just half way to Moon Island when white water erupted almost alongside. We had run over a football-field size swarm of sleeping seagulls and gee, they make a racket when squawking and getting airborne. Probably it is moments like these that keep me going. “Like giving my heart a kick along.”

PS. Don’s most recent sail was from Vacluse back home to Drummoyne during APEC. Sydney was in “lockdown” but Don said that from the water it looked wonderful, with every building and every ship lit up. Helicopters overhead shone their beams on harbour craft – including Don’s. He had no security worries.

THE WORLD WAR ONE CODEBREAKER

The life and achievements of Captain Eric Nave, “code breaker extraordinary” are now well known, thanks to Ian Pfennigwerth’s book, “A Man of Intelligence.” CBers who worked with him remember his quiet and brilliant persistence.

In 1914, however, there was another “code breaker extraordinary”, who deserves to be remembered. He was Frederick William Wheatley (1871-1955), the South Australian born cryptographer who, on Melbourne Cup Day, 1914, broke the key to the German H.V.B. code, used by German merchant ships, which could also communicate with warships of the German Fleet.

On the outbreak of war on August 4, 1914, Australia already had a network of wireless stations around the coast, and in New Guinea, and, to use Jack Bleakley’s term, “Eavesdroppers” who could intercept the German messages.

To my knowledge, no book has been written yet about Wheatley, although there are many references to him in records. The Australian Dictionary of Biography, gives an account of his career and education. He was to become headmaster of the Royal Australian Naval College from 1920 to 1930, and followed this with a year as director of studies at Cranbrook School, Sydney, after which he retired. His knowledge was not used in World War II. Robert Hyslop’s account in the ADB claims that Wheatley was to “exaggerate the impact of his code-breaking” on the outcome of the Battle of the Falkland Islands, World War I.

Some years ago I sought information from the Australian War Memorial Research centre, and from the Australian Archives, Melbourne. H.K.

Following is Part 1 of an account written by Frederick William Wheatley, CBE, B.Sc (Oxon), B.A., D.Sc (Adel) A.S.A.S.M.

“In January 1914, I was appointed Senior Naval Instructor at the Royal Australian Naval College, Geelong, Victoria, having just returned from two years Research Work in Physics at Oxford.

Towards the end of 1913, I had been invited to Germany to confer with a professor of the University of Freiburg about the work on which I had been engaged. Whilst a guest in his house, he was called up to attend the manoeuvres of the German Army in the Black Forest and he asked me if I would care to go with him. He obtained the consent of the Kaiser, a personal friend of his, and for a month I travelled with the army as an honoured guest. During this time I had several lengthy conversations with the Crown Prince, Admiral von Tirpitz and General von Hindenburg.

This enabled me to perfect my knowledge of German and when war broke out I was immediately seconded from the Naval College and attached to the War Staff at Navy Office, and put in charge of all intercepted wireless messages.

All the wireless stations in Australia were taken over by the Navy and placed under the control of Mr Balsillie, a wireless expert. He sent me every wireless message that was intercepted, but as most of them were in an unknown code, nothing could be done but file them for future reference.

On August 4th 1914, the Nord Deutsche Lloyd steamer "Seydlitz" left Sydney hurriedly without her clearance papers, and when news of the declaration of War came we were convinced that she would endeavour to warn German vessels on their way to Australia. The "Hobart" another German vessel had left Fremantle, her next port of call being Melbourne, and in order to prevent her receiving messages of the "Seydlitz" every wireless station from Sydney to Fremantle sent out messages continuously day and night.

We were successful and the "Hobart" steamed into Port Phillip Bay. She was boarded by the pilot at the Heads, and with him was Capt Richardson RAN who placed the captain under arrest, informing him that we were at war with Germany. The "Hobart" was taken up the harbour and Captain Richardson slept the night in the captain's cabin. The captain was given one of the other Officer's cabins and allowed his Liberty. During the night he came quietly into his own cabin and went to a secret cupboard in the wall. Richardson was ready with his torch and revolver and found the captain trying to get possession of a code book.

This was the code book H.V.B., (Handels Verkehr Buch) which was issued to all important merchant ships. With it was a sealed envelope, only to be opened on the outbreak of war, and this gave the cipher key to be used for communication with war ships.

This book, with the key, was sent to me, and I went through all the messages that had been intercepted, but the information received was of little value.

The German Pacific Squadron had come down from Wai Hai Wee in China and was being searched for by the Australian Squadron. We were able to locate the occasionally by the sound of their telefunken wireless, but were unable to decode any of the messages intercepted.

Towards the end of October the naval intelligence Officer at Montevideo, Uruguay, began to send us messages which evidently came from the German Pacific Squadron. Admiral Craddock of the "Good Hope" also intercepted a number of messages a few days before Coronel. These were also received. Although they would not decode with the key to H.V.B., it was evident that this book was still in use, but that the key had been altered. My duty was to find the new key.

The messages were in ten letter groups made up of two separate five letter combinations. The similarity in different messages was noted and compared with words in the Code Book. After working day and night for three days and two nights and filling thousands of sheets of foolscap with Letters, I discovered the key.

Method of Attack

It was impossible to try all the changes that could be made because the letter could be altered to any letter and there were 52 million, million, million, million different ways of doing this. At the rate of one a second it would take two million, million, million years to try them all.

The system adopted therefore was as follows:-

One group from the message was taken i.e.,
LIKIS IMOFI - You will notice that the 2nd, 4th, 6th and 10th letters are all the same, i.e., **I**.

It was therefore necessary to find all the combinations in the code book with the 2nd, 4th, 6th

and 10th letters alike. On searching through the code book hundreds of groups with this similarity were found and each one tested.

Some of these could be struck out at once, because in **LIKIS IMOFI** there were no other duplicated letters except these four. A table was made of the possible changes of the 10 letter combinations which were retained.

The next thing was to take these groups and see what their meaning was in the code book. Some meanings were so utterly absurd that they could be discarded at once. In this way further groups were eliminated

On the third day, which happened to be Melbourne Cup day, I was so wearied and fuddled that at 2.30 I made up my mind to go and see the Cup run. I was back at the office at 4.40 and at 6 O'clock was satisfied that I had solved the problem. All that night had to be spent in decoding and translating the messages, which of course, were in German.

These messages, which cannot be made public, were all from the German Pacific Squadron, and gave their itinerary through the Magellan Straits, up to the Abrolhos Islands off Brazil to meet the "Elinor Wöhrman" (afterwards sunk by HMAS Australia) and then to West Africa.

That night the Admiralty was informed by cable and Lord Fisher immediately ordered the Invincible and Inflexible to refit hurriedly and proceed to the Falkland Islands. They reached there a few hours before the German Squadron and the Scharnhorst and Gneisenau, Nurnberg and Leipsig were sunk.

These ships were under the command of Vice Admiral Graf von Spee. [In WWII Germany had two battle cruisers also named Scharnhorst and Gneisenau. **Part 11 follows.**]

End of Part 1

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MUSIC, MUSIC, MUSIC ?

A thoughtful article by Alan Langdon, well known CBer and Canon of the Anglican Church, appeared in the August issue of "Southern Cross", a publication of the Anglican diocese of Sydney. The article "Reaching the Once-were-churched" is an

excerpt from Alan's new booklet "Ministry with Seniors plus or minus Baby Boomers". It makes interesting - and controversial - reading for all seniors whether churchgoers or not.

Alan points out that our generation predates the "listening culture" of transistors, Walkmans and rock concerts. Not only are seniors pre-TV. Some are even pre-radio.

Most of us grew up singing around the piano, around camp fires, and belonged to youth groups and church choirs. He says that many churches today cater for the sub-culture of youth, causing seniors, even baby boomers, to become "dechurched." Ministry to seniors is not even mentioned in some parishes.

"Those who are invited to come back ... often find nothing that accords with their memory, nothing familiar, nothing they recognize and not one hymn, song or chorus they can even follow, let alone attempt to sing."

"They cannot join in because of the unsingsable, syncopated metres of many modern hymns and choruses ... By some odd form of logic choral evensong, a choir singing an anthem or a cantata, even the playing of an organ, are seen as signs of senile self-indulgence ... Yet the domination of a service by a band with strong beat and loud amplification is an indication of vitality in worship."

This amplification is a huge "turn-off" for those whose hearing is failing - even for those who can hear.

Speaking to Newsletter, Alan said that one word lost to today's generation is "silence". There is no provision for quietness. Radio is turned on day and night. Ears are plugged into sound.

He makes other points about the timing of services, the need to arrange transport for the elderly...

(Those who are blasted out of churches - and restaurants - by amplified "music" would probably enjoy Alan's booklet. It is published by CEP, costs \$8 and is available from St. Andrew's House, P.O. Box A287, Sydney South, NSW 1235, phone (02) 8268 3333. For those with email the address is sales@youthworks.net)

INVITATIONS

THE AUSTRALIAN INTELLIGENCE CORPS
(celebrating in this year 2007, the 100 th. Anniversary of its formation)

INVITES

Current and ex-service Intelligence personnel, with Family and friends.

The Olds & the Bolds will be part of the formalities Marching on Parade under our Banner.

Dress Standard, Int Corps Tie, Black Beret & Badge, Coat with gongs, (or at least Tie & Coat)

To join us in an important Army ceremony

“BEATING the RETREAT”

(Supported by the Eastern Command Army Band, in the presence of the Governor - General and Chief of Army.)

At VICTORIA BARRACKS, SYDNEY

At 5 pm, Saturday, September 29, 2007

Entry is FREE, Enter via main entrance gate on Oxford St.

Paddington.

(after the ceremony there will be a reception & finger food, under the marquee. Cost \$ 25 per head,)

Bookings payment required in advance, Brian Buckley, 02-94891276
PO Box 13, 174 Fox Valley Rd. Wahroonga. 2076

Australian Intelligence Association. Inc

Dr Roger Lee, Historian and Head of the Army History Unit, sends an invitation to the

2007 Chief of Army's Military History Conference.

The theme 1917: Tactics, Training and Technology.

The place – Canberra's National Convention Centre, on 1-2 November, with Conference Dinner on 31 October (limited places).

A range of internationally renowned speakers will discuss the Western Front in 1917. 2007 is the 90th anniversary of the operations that included the advance to the Hindenburg Line, culminating in the Third Battle of Ypres-Passchendaele became for many the defining battle of the war. This was also the year of the first offensive using massed tanks at Cambrai.

For registration forms and fees email Roger.Lee@defence.gov.au or telephone 02 6266 4248. There is an Early Bird special for registrations received before 30 September. For full details contact the Army History Unit as above.