



CENTRAL BUREAU INTELLIGENCE CORPS ASSOCIATION December 2008

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PRESIDENT'S PAR ANNUAL REPORT

The Unit History Saga

If you were to revisit the report on this subject given in the December 2007 newsletter you would read the following: "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." It is truly ironic (and sad) that after a recent long and earnest telephone conversation with Chris I have come away with exactly the same promise as we were given last year, simply substituting 2009 for 2008.

You have my assurance that members of your committee, especially Bill Rogers and Frank Hughes have been tireless in their efforts to have this project expedited and brought to a successful conclusion. The seriousness with which the situation is viewed may perhaps be best summed up in this letter to Major General Gower dated 7th November.

"I write to you on behalf of the still surviving members of Central Bureau Intelligence corps Association.

It is now seven years since Dr. Chris Coulthard-Clark first undertook the project of producing our Unit History. From time to time during the past few years Dr. Clark has been approached by senior members of our Executive requesting assurance of a firm date for completion of this work. These assurances have repeatedly been given and just as repeatedly ignored.

Although many of our members have made monetary contributions (some fairly substantial) towards the cost of launching the Unit's history project, we are not in a position to know of any legal or contractual conditions which might apply in this matter. What we do strongly feel, however, is that the time has now come for some type of ultimatum to be delivered to Dr. Clark and for a definite date line to be set.

To the best of our knowledge and belief you are the only person in the position to assist us. For this reason we ask you to please do all in your power to ensure the completion of our Unit History whilst some of us are still alive to read it."

As yet no reply has been received but we are well aware that as Director of the A.W.M. with responsibility for the final publication of the history Steve Gower is as deeply concerned as we all are.

ANZAC Day Celebrations 2008

On ANZAC Eve nine C.B.I.C.A. members joined with their A.I.A. colleagues in the dignified and moving wreath laying service at the Cenotaph in Martin Place. Our thanks are due to the A.I.A. Chaplain who gave the address and of course to the Pittwater House Grammar School Cadets who formed the Catafalque Party. The ceremony was well received by an unusually large gathering of the general public – a further indication of the ever growing interest in ANZAC Celebrations.

Our contingent in the ANZAC Day March numbered twenty-one and we had excellent television coverage as well as informed commentary which we don't always get. Treasurer Bruce Bentwitch had the added distinction of being sought out for an interview after the march and duly appeared on evening television. Forty-four members and friends sat down for luncheon in the lovely Windows Restaurant at The Marriott. As

usual this was a most convivial gathering and as it drew to a close we were once again entertained by the Army Cadet Band with melodies of our vintage.

Unfortunately and most unusually there was a down side to our 2008 ANZAC Celebrations. Owing to the new march regulations giving priority to WWII veterans the majority of the A.I.A. members did not commence the march until 11.40am. Consequently, the A.I.A. contingent which always marches along side us was reduced to two and worse still, the Pittwater House Cadet Band which always keeps us in step was nowhere to be heard. Brian Buckley (A.I.A.) and I attended the “wash-up” R.S.L. meeting always held following the march, both of us anxious for a return to the old system but could get nowhere. A meeting to discuss the 2009 arrangements has been convened for 22nd January. Perhaps we will have better luck then.

Remembrance Day 2008

Undoubtedly the outstanding feature of the Remembrance Day Ceremony at The Roseville Memorial Club is the involvement of the children of all ages, abilities and cultures representing the local schools. They take part by wreath laying, speech making, singing and also providing the bugler to sound Last Post and Reveille. As one of the speakers observed such participation increases their appreciation of the sacrifices of many and enhances their understanding of Australia's history. Seventeen C.B.I.C.A. members and friends attended and laid a floral tribute of Gallipoli Roses on the Cenotaph. Morning tea was provided for us by the club and we later had our own large table for an informal luncheon in the restaurant.

Membership

In spite of the passing years our membership count is still a creditable 110 and, amazingly, we are still acquiring new ones. A special welcome to new members Ian Pfennigwerth, George Aspden and Tony Estep, and to newly created members Les and Eunice Smith.

Vale

Those to whom we said a sad farewell in 2008 were: Peter Tankard, Jim Kennedy, Bob Leonard, Bill Estep, Syd Carey, Jack Douglass, Keith Price, Les Mannering and Pat Wheatley.

I wish you all a joyous Christmas and a very happy New Year. Next meeting is the Annual General Meeting on 2th February, 2009 at 1.30pm at Roseville Memorial Club. Do try to be there if you possibly can!

Gordon Gibson, President
67/1-9 Yardley Avenue
WAITARA NSW 2077
Ph (02) 9487 3029

HON TREASURER'S REPORT

Having seen a Gallipoli Rose growing very well in a large pot at a relative's home at Willoughby, about 8 kilometres north of the Sydney harbour Bridge, Helen Kenny thought it might be a nice gesture to present plants to the Roseville Club. (This is where we hold mini-reunions after the service on Remembrance Day.

She was able to order four plants from the Yarralumla Nursery (ACT) and to have them delivered to me. There is a long waiting list for the roses. They arrived, beautifully wrapped, in a large cardboard carton and within three days of removal from the carton they started to flower. The flower does not look like a rose more like a single daisy. It has five white petals, yellow stamens and grey-green foliage. It is very bushy, and the flowers have no scent.

First War diggers brought seeds of the rose back from Gallipoli and the Australian War Memorial regards the plant as a symbol of peace. At the Remembrance Day service, at the wreath laying ceremony, Gordon Gibson and I placed the roses beside the club's memorial.

With year's end fast approaching. (Where has it gone?). I would like to wish you all a happy Christmas and healthy 2009.

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



HON. SECRETARY'S PAR

Hello everyone.... On a lovely spring morning (**20 degrees**) we attended the other important event for the year – the Remembrance Day ceremony at the Roseville Memorial Club. Roseville RSL President Mike Ashby welcomed representatives from local government, Amity Nursing Home residents/friends, Intelligence Corps members and pupils from primary, secondary and special schools in the area, 20 schools in all, bearing their beautiful flowers and gifts.

In his address president Ashby briefly described his recent visit to the village of Villers-Brettonneux, recaptured twice with appalling casualties. Australian soldiers billeted there became closely attached to the residents and just prior to return to Australia collected money for a school to be built. Opposite the school is a bronze statue of a Digger and over the school's entrance are the words "Never Forget Australia". Mr. Ashby said any Australian visiting the village is assured of a warm welcome.

President Ashby then called upon Serena Dyas and Sam Marcovich (Killara High School) to deliver the Remembrance address. It was very obvious that the TRUE Australian history is well and truly on the home and school agendas. Unfortunately, due to heavy traffic on the highway and impaired hearing, I couldn't take down everything said but they covered not only what they have learned about life/death in the trenches but the home front situation (knitting groups, food parcels, worried families). Well done and received with appreciation.

Pupils were called on to lay flowers and gifts on the cenotaph, done with great respect; Bugler Alex Batt sounded a moving Last Post, the Ode was spoken, then Reveille. We all sang the National Anthem (some confusion over the second verse),

We then dispersed to a welcome morning tea and finally to our informal lunch. Those present for the entire morning tea were Gordon and Sue Gibson, Helen Kenny, Bruce Bentwitch, Brian and Bruce Lovett, Noni Benn, Peg Teague, Keith Carolan, Lou and Joan Harris, Les McClean, Ailsa Hale, Madge Chidgey with son Rex, Faye Gilinsky, Joy Granger. A truly memorable day.

Conditions at the time of typing this are gale force winds and **12 degrees!** Ah well, summer (?) will bring us all into line again.

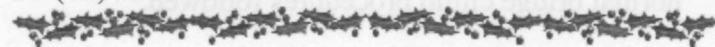
May you all have a Happy Christmas and Let There Be Peace on Earth.

Joy Granger

2/5 Endeavour Dr

NARRABEEN NSW 2101

Ph (02) 9981 2397



WE WERE THERE

Letter to the Editor Sun Herald

Dear Sir

I write in response to the article "Setting the war record straight" (Sun-Herald Sept. 14) which implies that no Australian troops were involved in the World War II Philippines campaign.

As a proud holder of the Philippines Liberation Medal I wish to point out that Australian Army and Air Force personnel belonging to the RAAF Wireless Units, the Australian Special Wireless Group and the Australian Special Intelligence Sections were involved in the Philippines campaign under the aegis of Central Bureau, the organisation set up by General MacArthur immediately after his arrival in Melbourne in 1942.

Central Bureau operated in conjunction with the U.S. radio intelligence units. A detachment from the RAAF intelligence units went ashore with the first wave of troops in the Leyte invasion. A combined Signals Intelligence HQ was later set up at San Miguel, about 50 miles from Manila.

Incidentally, units of the Royal Australian Navy also took part in the Battle of Leyte Gulf which preceded the invasion of the Philippines.

Yours faithfully

Gordon R. Gibson
President

[The Sun-Herald published this letter on September 28th 2008

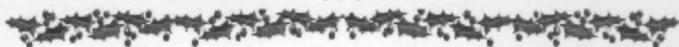
IN BRIEF

The dawn service to top all must have been that held by the Kirribilli Ex-Services Club Ltd last Anzac Day. The Club's Annual report says: "At the invitation of Bridge Climb 15 of the Sub Branch members were involved in the first ever dawn service held on top of the Sydney Harbour Bridge. It was an extremely early start to the day with the normal bridge climb procedures followed.

"All members wore their medals which were safely clipped on along with all the other equipment carried for the climb. Our bugler, Craig Chapman, was positioned in the cage which houses the red light on top of the bridge, and I can say that it was a spectacular yet moving start to Anzac Day."

Books received. A CBer posted four books to Newsletter this month. They were: "Operation Pelican; The Royal Australian Air Force in the Berlin Airlift, 1948-1949" by Dr Chris Clark; "Pathfinder Collection, Volumes 1 and 2" edited by Dr Chris Clark and Dr Sainu Kainikara, and "Katakana Man" by A. Jack Brown. The publisher for all was Air Power Development Centre, and publication dates were 2008, 2007, and 2005.

"Pathfinder" takes its name from the World War II Pathfinder Force that operated within RAF Bomber Command, and is a attribute to this "elite navigational group". Now it is the title of a fortnightly bulletin which has been produced since 2004. The Pathfinder volumes contain selected articles from the bulletin. Chris Clark has contributed many articles to Pathfinder, one being on "Katakana Man". This book won the main prize for Literature in the RAAF Heritage Awards Scheme for 2005, and mention of it was made in Newsletter for September 05. Dr Clark, as RAAF Historian, has been prolific.



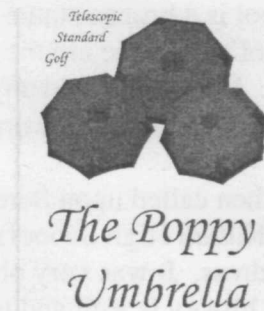
The red poppy is a symbol of Remembrance Day, and is pinned to lapels and dresses. A "Rembrella" – remembrance umbrella – known as the Poppy Umbrella is a new symbol. When a relative visited the battlefields of France and Belgium, she returned with a Poppy Umbrella.

it is telescopic, of standard golf size, and depicts a red Flanders poppy upon a black background.

Its designer was retired Lieutenant-Colonel Graham Parker, OBE. He served for 32 years in Britain's Regular Army Service, then remained on the British Army Staff in Belgium for another 12.

On November 11, 1995 he was in Ieper (Ypres) leading the Poppy Parade to the Menin Gate. Rain poured down, and bystanders raised their umbrellas. This sight, and the poem beginning "In Flanders Fields the poppies grow/Between the crosses, row on row," inspired the Poppy Umbrella, sales of which support the Royal British Legion Industries.

Email for Rembrella is rembrella@greatwar.co.uk



CRICKET IN CAIRO – CHRISTMAS 1941

Geoff Patience, then an 18 year old Army Corporal, now Geoffrey S. Patience, OAM, BEM, JP, described Christmas dinner in Cairo for Newsletter last December. We asked for more – and Geoff, just out of hospital – took the trouble to reply. With his letter came photos of St. Andrew's Church, Cairo, where he went with a Scottish family to a service, and a card admitting him to the YWCA (Young Women's Christian Association) which he and an AIF mate joined. The benefits? A free supper once a week, and dances with French girls.

Unfortunately there's no picture of the cricket match in which he played. "Being young, I fancied myself as a cricketer," he writes, "so when a side was selected my name was in the eleven. The match was played at the Heliopolis Sporting Club.

"Our captain was a redhead who played for NSW – Bluey Beattie. I came in to bat, five down. The

first ball flew around my ears, the second I smacked and got two runs. I then went up the other end. Bluey said 'The bowler is slow – don't worry.' The first ball went all around, the second went through my legs and bowled me! The fast bowler was Bill Bowes, the slow one Hedley Verity, both test cricketers for England. Both were killed in Italy

At the dinner afterwards I met General de Gaulle, General Smuts, Sir Miles Lampson, Anthony Eden and lots of brass hats. I still have the knife, spoon and fork from that dinner. My children learnt to eat out of them."

(Geoff sent wishes for a merry Christmas and Happy New Year. The same to you, Geoff. Keep well. Keep batting! HK)



Mac Jamieson, of Kenmore, Queensland, says he enjoys the Newsletter, the only link he has nowadays, because there aren't enough Queensland Wireless Unit members left to hold a reunion. He and his wife Irene celebrated their diamond wedding last June, and set off in November for Bairnsdale, Victoria. They plan to stay there over Christmas and New Year, renewing friendships.

Then he told of a coincidence. Just before Remembrance Day, he was asked to help with Poppy sales. The caller, Chris Stephens, said that his father was in a Catalina which crashed on landing at Cleveland Bay, Townsville, in 1943.

Mac writes: "As it happened a party of us were on the deck of a Dutch ship, the Van Der Lyn, ready to go to New Guinea. The crash was about 100 yards from us. Thirteen were killed."

Thanks to Mac, we were able to get in touch with Mr. Stephens, of Bellbowrie QLD. The story of the Catalina follows.

THE CATALINA CRASH

RAAF PBY-5 Catalina A24-52 was returning from Merauke (Dutch New Guinea) when it attempted to set down at Cleveland Bay, Townsville, on September 7, 1943.

Conditions were rough as the Catalina touched down at 0648/Z (or GMT.) That was 1648 EST. It travelled a short way, struck a large wave and sank.

One or both of the depth charges blew up, and an anti-submarine mine detonated. Thirteen of the 19 RAAF passengers and crew were killed, including the pilot, A/Flt/Lt Charles (Jack) Miles, a newly married man, who had a premonition (unfortunately right) that he would die before he was 30. He was an amateur boxer who had been chosen for the Olympic Games. Other fine men were lost.

There were only six survivors, among them Air Commodore A.H. Cobby, AOC North-Eastern Area, Wing Commander Bruce MacFarlan (later a High Court judge) and Wing Commander William Lodewyk Bosschart Stephens, Principal Medical Officer, North-Eastern Area.

When the Catalina went into the sea, Air Commodore Cobby managed to get out, but although injured, re-entered the submerged hull three times, rescuing MacFarlan and Stephens. For these deeds Cobby was to receive the George Medal.

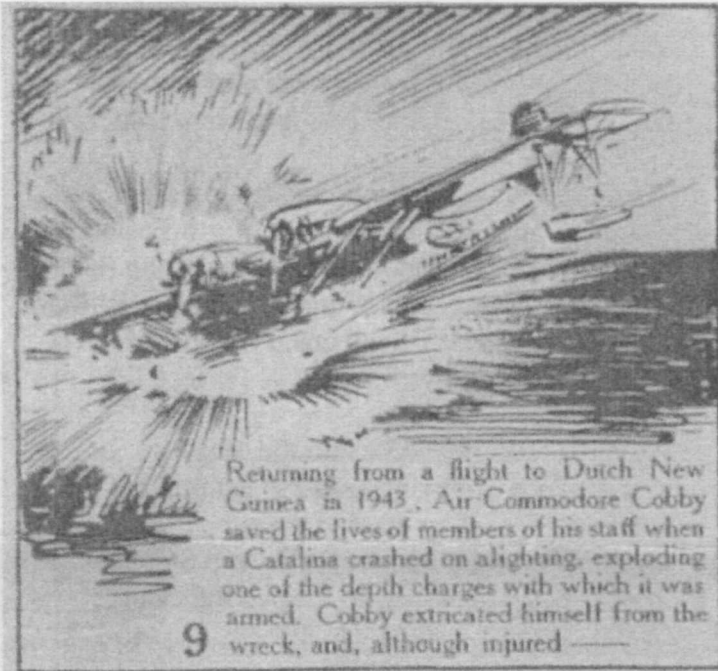
Chris Stephens, son of William Stephens says: "I was at home with Mum in Melbourne when we got a call from one of the nurses at the hospital where Dad worked. She said everyone had died in the crash. Half an hour later an Army doctor rang my mother, saying, 'Maisie, Bill's alive, but he's knocked around'".

The badly injured Wing Commander Stephens reached Melbourne by hospital train. The depth charge had damaged his arm. After the war, he

became Repatriation Senior Administrator for the Commonwealth, but his specialist career was wrecked.

In the 1960s, he suffered a stroke and spent over 12 years in hospital before dying in 1971.

His son advised us to google “Catalina crash 7 September 1943, Townsville” for information about the crash, the crew, and their graves. Mosman Library provided many pages of text and photos. Chris Stephens organised a memorial service at Townsville in 2005. Hundreds came to this, including 56 relatives of those who had crashed in the Catalina. The Lord Mayor of Townsville, Tony Mooney, chartered a boat. From this, rose petals were scattered in Townsville Harbour, and a memorial stone cairn has been built near the rock pool where the plane was pulled ashore. The men of the Catalina are not forgotten.



via Chris Stephens

Cartoon in "The Argus" Saturday 1 April 1944

PEDAL WIRELESS GAVE WARNING

Recently in the Daily Telegraph, Troy Lennon wrote “On February 19 (1942) at 9.37am, the RAAF operations room in Darwin received a message from Father John McGrath on Bathurst

Island that many aircraft had flown over his mission. The operations room thought it must be Kittyhawks so took no notice.

“It was a big mistake. About 9.55am, 188 aircraft arrived over Darwin and began to bomb and machine gun the city’s port, airfields and buildings.”

This month Wynne (Chapman) Christmas, a former CBer, put Newsletter in touch with Peter McGrath, nephew of the priest who sent the message.

Father John McGrath, a priest at the Sacred Heart Mission on Bathurst Island had gone there before the war.

Peter McGrath says: “When my uncle saw the planes he recognised them as Japanese, jumped on the pedal radio and sent the first message. It was ignored. He sent the second. It was received when the bombs were dropping.”

Father McGrath continued his missionary work until the mid 1970s, when he retired to the Sacred Heart Convent at Baulkham Hills, NSW, dying in about 1982. Peter McGrath says that his uncle loved Bathurst Island and the islanders, and that his dying wish was that his body should be interred there. This was done, and the Tiwi people placed one of their beautifully carved and painted “pukamini posts” over his grave.

Footnotes: Shirley McGlynn, a neighbour of Helen Kenny’s visited Bathurst Island with a National Trust tour in 1988. She went to the mission, and took colour photographs. One showed the wooden hut – the radio room – from which the message was sent. A propeller is propped against the door.

Newsletter for September 2002 had an article by the late Ted Cook, one of the original seven with One Wireless Unit. The group went to Darwin in September 1941 after training with Commander Newman. Ted Cook described the poor performance of the radio equipment provided and the spate of Japanese morse on all frequencies the night before the bombing, but added: “As we had no way of getting bearings on their whereabouts there was little we could do.”

VALE

Jack Douglass (15/9/23-14/9/08) born in Wentworthville, NSW, was the fourth child of Elsie and Archibald (“Jack”) Douglass, and lived with his parents and three sisters on a property in Maraylya. He left school at 14 to help on the farm.

War broke out and at 18 he joined the 7th Field Artillery Regiment, became a wireless operator, spend two years in Western Australia, then returned to NSW after the unit was disbanded. He was given the opportunity to join any unit he wanted, and decided on the RAAF. At Point Cook in Victoria he learnt Japanese Morse code (Kana), and went to the Philippines, when General MacArthur took two wireless units with him. He spent the rest of the war intercepting messages from Japanese naval headquarters.

Discharge for Jack came in 1946. He met his future wife, Melba, at a dance in Richmond. In 1952 he bought a block of land at South Maroota, and he and Melba lived in a small fibro building on the property. They grew mushrooms, beans and peas, also watermelons which they sold on the side of the Windsor Road.

In 1958 Jack got a job as a ploughing instructor at Hawkesbury Agriculture College. He did many jobs there, and was research assistant for Stan Grimmatt who obtained his doctorate for raising fat lambs on Australia’s east coast. Jack later moved to agronomy and spent years in tomato breeding research programmes.

He retired in 1983 – but was active in so many things. He received the National Medal for over 25 years of service with the South Maroota Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade.

He was also awarded a certificate for 50 years of service to the RSL

He joined CBICA some years ago, and his widow, Melba writes: “The short time with you made him very proud and happy.”

Syd Carey, well-remembered by CBers, has died at Alfred Cove, W.A., where he and his wife Norma, moved a few years ago from Bayview, NSW. Norma writes: “Syd was a sergeant in the Air Force and belonged to the Darwin Defenders, 1942-45. He often spoke of the airmen who defended our country.”

Norma did not know Syd during the war years, but married him 57 years ago. Syd, a builder, designed and made furniture for their home, including fine wall clock cases.

His pastime in recent years was playing his concertina. It was old, but he remade it to look new. Norma and Syd both loved music. Syd would have turned 93 in February 09.

Leslie (Les) Mannering, a former cipher mechanic in the Henry Street garage, died at his St. Mary’s home, NSW in October, aged 94. He and his late wife Jeannie (Jago) had three children, Peter, Ruth and Sue. Jeannie had been a CB AWAS cipher operator. Les was a clever and witty man. This is instanced by an anecdote about him in Geoff Ballard’s “On ULTRA Active Service.”

Pat Wheatley, although not a CBer was certainly a friend of CB. On December 2, 2003. at Parliament House, Canberra, she went with Frank Hughes, his wife, Betty, and Senator Jeannie Ferris to meet the Prime Minister, Mr Howard. It was quite a day. The new Labor leader, Mark Latham, was making his first appearance. The PM received from Frank a coloured photo of 21 Henry St, plus plaque, said he would be interested in receiving a copy of the CB history, and . . .

Time has passed. Betty Hughes and Senator Ferris have died. Mr Howard is no longer PM. No book has been sighted, and now Pat Wheatley (1944-2008) has died. She lived in retirement at Bowral, but was termed “Miss Moneypenny in Packer’s shadow” in the SMH Timelines obituary. She was secretary executive assistant to the former PM Billy McMahon, to the founding editor of the Australian, Max Newton, and to Kerry Packer for 18 years. She knew the powerful, but disclosed no secrets. The obituary said that Packer was a big punter and it was reputed (although never confirmed by Pat Wheatley) “that she was required to carry \$US 100,000 in her handbag in case he felt like a flutter.”

Bob Leonard

More than 200 people crowded the Scots Kirk, Mosman, on November 29. Family, relatives, friends, bankers, and ex-servicemen and women were there to attend the Celebration Service for the life of Robert Dudley Leonard, OAM, BEM (21/1/26 to 23/9/08)

Bob (pictured above in RAAF uniform when a teenager), joined 5 Wireless Unit, and went to San Miguel in the Philippines where he intercepted Japanese signals.

He came from a banking family, and after the war, joined the Bank of New South Wales in 1946. His wife, Pam, was an “ex-bank girl.” She writes: “His funeral was a true testament to the life he had lived. Those who gathered to say goodbye included two former CEOs of Westpac, Mr Bob White, AO and Mr Frank Conroy. He (Bob) would have been absolutely amazed by the out-pouring of grief, and the volume of cards and flowers that just kept coming . . . even the handwritten letter to me from the new CEO of Westpac, Gail Kelly.

Bob’s daughter Kate could not be at the service. Last March she gave birth to triplets in England, and was in Dubai at the time of her father’s death.

For many years Bob was a member of the Bank’s RSL sub-branch. He was concerned about veterans, and the welfare of war widows.

But history was his greatest interest – not just the bank’s long history, but the history of Australia. He became historian/archivist and preservationist. He was appointed Group Activities Officer for the Bank. By the 1960, he had at least 14,000 pictures

depicting Australia’s military history, banking history, flight and seafaring. Some photographs showed bullet-riddled name plates from the Bank of NSW, Darwin, hit during the Japanese air raids.

From 1965, he set up a displays on Anzac Day in the bank’s central Sydney Wynyard branch. He wanted to tell young children of their heritage, and thought this display would be a “one-off. In 1987 when the Westpac Museum opened to celebrate the bank’s 170th birthday, Bob was the Museum’s Project Manager. By 1992, he had arranged for the Sub-Branch to march as a unit on Anzac Day. He produced Sub-Branch newsletters each quarter.

Christmas wishes to all CBers, here and overseas, and May 2009 – for a change – bring peace, health and prosperity. Many thanks to those who contributed to Newsletter, and helped with the labels and letter posting. To Eunice and Les Smith, and their computer skills, gratitude. H.K.

From the Desk of Eunice and Les Smith

It was a surprise indeed to both of us to be awarded Honorary Membership of the Association. Both Eunice and I feel very honoured. Although we have met only a few CBers, over the years we feel that we have come to know many of you through the Newsletter.

Eunice and I met in the RAAF in January 1966, at RAAF Amberley, Queensland. We married in 1967, at which time Eunice had to leave the service (married women not allowed). For the majority of my service I served as a RAAF Police Investigator (SIB) until 1985 when I took my discharge.

Eunice and I have two children, a daughter Fiona (a photographer) and a son Christopher (police officer), 4 grand children and a 5th due in March 2009.

Since leaving the Air Force Eunice has worked as a High School bursar, Club Secretary of a Golf Club and a number of office positions.

I currently work part time at QUT and still have an involvement with the RAAF training specialists in “Computer Security”.

Both Eunice and I enjoy putting the Newsletter together and would like to wish all CBers the Compliments of the Season.