



CENTRAL BUREAU INTELLIGENCE CORPS ASSOCIATION December 2009

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President's Par - Annual Report

Unit History

Looking back at our June Newsletter, I read the following; "six chapters down and nine to go!" Better than nothing I suppose. Sadly at time of writing the score is still the same. Nil desperandum! On 10th September at the instigation of our ever reliable and resourceful supporter, Group Captain Arthur Skimin, a letter was despatched to Air Vice Marshall Geoff Brown, Deputy Chief of Air Force, explaining in detail the background to our project and ending with this appeal; "I would be grateful if you could consider intervention on our behalf to release Dr Clark from Air Force tasks to complete the Australian WWII Signals Intelligence - Code Breaking History manuscript without further delay." On 12th November the long awaited but very welcome reply reached us from Air Vice Marshall Brown announcing that Dr Clark "will hand over the day to day running of his Office to the Deputy RAAF Historian for two days a week and devote that time to progressing the project" and adding that "this additional allocation of time should enable the unfinished chapters to be steadily completed over the next three months." Perhaps we should all ask Santa for a book for Christmas.

Commemorative Badge WWII SIGINT

Personnel

News of the British Government's decision to issue a Commemorative Badge to all British Commonwealth personnel engaged in signals intelligence activities in World War II was conveyed to us in a very gracious letter from Marg Larkin, Assistant Secretary Executive of Defence Signals Directorate. The letter indicated that A.S.W.G. and Frumel had also been notified but no mention was made of the RAAF Wireless Units so we took it upon ourselves to notify Harold Jones (Victorian W.U. Association) and Mac Jamieson (Queensland W.U. Association) who got the

message out to their members. All told we collected 107 applications for the badge and posted them on to Historian Robin Foot, our contact person at DSD who has forwarded them on by email to Government Communications Headquarters in UK. We are all indebted to Rob for his courtesy and promptness in dealing with this matter and his willingness to cut through any suggestion of "red tape" entanglement. The whole thing obviously came as a pleasant surprise and I think we were all more than a little chuffed at the thought of this (belated) recognition.

Rob sent a photo of the badge (seen below.)



Anzac Day and Remembrance Day

This year, by my calculations, we celebrated our 34th Anzac Day Reunion. There were 22 in the CB contingent at the March and 44 at the Marriott luncheon where the cuisine and service seem to improve every year. Numbers continue to grow at the Remembrance Day Ceremony held at the Roseville Memorial Club where this time a record 25 members and friends sat down to a highly convivial informal lunch. During the wreath laying which preceded the lunch some may have noticed the Gallipoli roses donated by CBICA last year now blooming in the gardens.

Your Committee

The thanks of all members are due to the Executive Committee which has planned and arranged the year's activities. Special mention should be made of Publicity Officer Helen who carried on indomitably in spite of having to combat far more than her fair share of health problems and to Bruce Bentwich

who stepped in to help whenever needed. Joy Granger attended to correspondence, got out the minutes for us and advised us of the time and place of the next meeting. Bill Rogers and Frank Hughes never gave up lobbying for you know who to complete you know what.

Vale

A sad farewell this year to; Bert De Mars, Gene Hicks, Alan Marsland, Dave Helleur, Keith Phillips, John Vasey, Geoff Howard, Don Laidlaw and Wynne (Chapman) Christmas. They will be greatly missed.

Membership

We still have just over 100 members and associates on our mailing list (102 to be exact) and in addition about 20 “friends of the association”. I regard this as a remarkable achievement in view of the late formation of the association and the many years that have since elapsed.

I wish you all a joyous Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year.

Gordon Gibson President

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HON. TREASURER'S REPORT

With 2009 coming to an end it is pleasing to note our membership is holding up, although many, if not most have health problems.

As 2010 is almost here this is a reminder subscriptions for the year will be due - \$15 for members and \$10 associates. Associates are relatives or friends of members, present or past. A number have paid subs in advance. This was noted on receipts.

Nancy Goldsteen advises she is having an operation on her hand.

I hope all have an enjoyable Christmas and all the best for 2010. It seems only recently we were saying the same at the turn of the century.

Bruce Bentwitch

7 Holly Street

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HON. SECRETARY'S PAR

A beautiful morning for the Remembrance Day ceremony at Roseville Memorial Club. The Gallipoli pine has doubled in size and “our” Gallipoli roses modestly flowering well.

President Mike Ashby welcomed all present residents and carers from Amity Nursing Home, student reps from 12 primary and secondary schools and C.B. members. During his address Mike drew attention to the two flags flying – Australian and Union Jack; the latter as all Empire troops served under it during WW1. He also described the Armistice terms under which Germany was required to hand over all the remaining Navy, Army and Air Force hardware; the list was mind-boggling. Too vast to mention here.

Preceding the Ceremony, Mr. John Wentworth, who had visited the WW1 battlefields and war graves, read a poem composed by one of his group, dedicated to the “Unknown Soldier” – very moving. He kindly gave me a copy which I'm placing in the War Museum here at the War Vets Village. The Ceremony proceeded with all representatives placing their wreath and gifts with dignity and respect. Bugler Matthew rendered an excellent Last Post and after the silence, a new and long version of Reveille. Learned later it is known as ROUSE. Sadly I didn't like it – probably so used to the former which is so evocative.

A very welcome morning tea followed and eventually we proceeded to an excellent lunch – each to his/her own taste. A great roll-up: Norm Allen, Noni Benn, Bruce Bentwitch and Faye Gilinsky, Keith Carolan, Madge Chidgey, Gordon and Sue Gibson, Joy Granger, Ailsa Hale, David and Noeline Hansen, Lou and Joan Harris, Frank Hughes and Eileen Hazzard, Jacqui Keeling, Helen Kenny (to much rejoicing), Brian Lovett, Les McClean and son David, Alan Norton, Doug and Nell Pyle, Peg Teague.

A very brief meeting was held, then all dispersed to their plane, train, etc. A thoroughly lovely day.

Joy Granger

Hon. Secretary

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MacArthur Stories

Arthur MacArthur

When General MacArthur arrived in Brisbane he was accompanied by his wife Jean and his son Arthur. Arthur at the time was four years old. The MacArthur's lived at Lennon's Hotel. At the side of the hotel there were four floors of apartments, sixteen in all. The MacArthur's had the four apartments on the top floor.

Across the road there was a small park out side the Supreme Court buildings. Arthur played there with the hotel manager's son and other children. He had a sand pile under a jacaranda tree. There were quite a few weddings at Lennon's and Arthur was fascinated by the brides in their long trains and veils.

In April 1944 the people of Rockhampton and Longreach presented Arthur with a goat, harness and cart. Mr Justice Brennan, whose idea it was, undertook the presentation in Brisbane. Arthur went to kindergarten, most probably at Kelvin Grove. In the oral history done with Jean she remembers coming back from dropping Arthur at kindergarten when there was an alert. When she discovered that Arthur had been in a slit trench with cotton wool in his ears and a cork between his teeth she was horrified and decided that he would have a tutor instead of going to kindergarten.

From his early years Arthur showed marked musical ability. He learned the piano in Brisbane and enjoyed improvising. He was eventually to study music at Columbia. Jean said that Arthur was a very private person who didn't enjoy publicity. He currently lives in New York City.

General MacArthur's Cap

MacArthur designed his own cap when he was made chief of staff of the United States Army in 1930.

When MacArthur and his party left Corregidor in 1942 on a PT boat the waves were high and spray was constantly dashed over the boat. MacArthur had put his cap on a small ledge in the cockpit. The next morning when he picked it up it was soaked through and when it dried it shrank and he couldn't get it on his head.

When they reached Melbourne he asked Colonel Sid Huff to get the cap stretched so it would fit him. Huff later wrote, *I think I've had my share of difficult orders in my time but none was quite like the cap stretching job.*

He couldn't find a hat stretcher for sale, but managed to persuade the people at a hat shop to lend him one while he had a new hat made. He stretched the cap, but it was still tight and MacArthur's orderly had to put it on the stretcher each night.

Huff found what was reputed to be the best cap maker in Australia, who produced a cap which looked exactly like the original one. MacArthur didn't like it. It didn't have the same feeling as the old cap. Huff tried again and again with other cap makers but nothing was right. MacArthur continued to wear the old cap and every night it went on a hat stretcher.

Jean had tried to persuade him to get a new one, but it was not until his seventieth birthday in Tokyo when he noticed in the news pictures that there was a dark spot on the cap where his hair oil had soaked through, that he finally agreed, not to buy a new cap, but to have a new cover put over the old one. Sid Huff was called in again. The new cover had to match the old one exactly and he spent two days looking for the right faded khaki cloth. The cover was made early in the morning at MacArthur's house. It was ready for him to wear when he walked out to his car about **10.30am.**

According to Jean the General was pleased. (**Below MacArthur in "The Cap."**)



Faye Schutt Curator of the MacArthur Museum, contributed this article. It is based on Colonel Sid Huff's "My Fifteen Years with General MacArthur."

BLETCHLEY PARK

After 64 years since the war's end it comes as a surprise that Bletchley Park/GCCS/Station X is issuing some of us with a special badge.

On its front are the words "GC&CS Bletchley Park and its outstations 1939-45" and on the back "We also served" – reminiscent of Milton's "They also serve who only stand and wait."

Members of ASWG, CB, Special Liaison Units, Wireless Units, and Intelligence will receive badges through the post if they made application.

From the garage of 21 Henry Street many messages came and went to what we knew as GCCS in England. Now GCCS – Government Code and Cipher School – is GCHQ.

Bletchley Park is known world-wide. Films and documentaries have been made about it. Now it is being preserved and has financial backing from the British Heritage Trust and from the city of Milton Keynes.



Bletchley Park

People including CBers – have toured "Bletchley Park – Britain's Best Kept Secret". They see the rebuilt Colossus, the huts where Enigma was broken, the block where Japanese code-breaking went on.

Go back to 2002, when Peter Wescombe gave a talk at Sydney's Powerhouse Museum. Its title was

"Bletchley Park and the Allied Intelligence Network: the World's First Internet".

Matthew Connell, now Principal Curator of Physical Sciences and Information Technology, introduced Peter Wescombe, who was a founding member of the Bletchley Park Trust.

This former British diplomat, who served for 33 years including postings in Moscow and Baghdad, worked for the preservation of Bletchley Park. Peter began his talk which was accompanied by illustrations shown on a screen to which he pointed. "Bletchley Park is one of those names which appears so regularly in stories about Allied Intelligence of the Second World War.

Bletchley Park is an 1883 mansion built for a chap called Sir Herbert Samuel Leon, who was a banker, a young man of 33. He built it in Rothschild country – because the Rothschilds – bankers – had big estates nearby. Sir Herbert died in 1927 and his wife lived on until 1937.

After her death, the site was about to be demolished for a building estate, when, in fact Hitler stepped in and saved it. This was in March 1938, when he moved into Austria. Then the Government Code and Ciphers call in London and said: "Hello, hello, our little man is up to something, we are going to have to get into wartime mode."

So Sir Stewart Menzies, head of the British MI5, bought Bletchley Park for them and said "This is going to be your new home." In August 1939, 120 staff moved from London to Bletchley Park and stayed right through the war. At the end of the War they were starting to demob over 10,000 people so it was quite a sight.

Why was Bletchley Park chosen? Because it is only about 70 kilometres or so north of London. Also, the other thing too, is that it has the basic requirements for an intelligence network. You need information in and out. The information, of course, was provided by intercept stations around the coast of England intercepting down here in Cornwall, U-boat traffic, up here traffic from Germany and so forth. Up here, the traffic from Norway and Denmark and ships going round up though here, German ships. It all had to come into Bletchley Park and it came in by telephone lines, by

teleprinter, but there was only one telephone in Bletchley Park when we took over.

The GPO, when it started, put all main trunk lines of telephones alongside the railways and the railway goes from Euston to Bletchley Park to Birmingham and up to Glasgow. So therefore, as Bletchley Park is right beside the railway line, they just tapped in and hey presto got all the information circuits coming in you need. Secondly, you need staff. You need heads of department and they looked at Oxford and Cambridge. Bletchley there, the cross railway link was there so you could tap into both of these establishments and draw from them the great heads of department from these mathematics sectors on there.



Bletchley Park Post Office

The next thing you need to do is get your information in bulk down to London and where it has to go, and, of course, in wartime, your railways can be bombed which indeed it was with the railway going down to London to Euston. If that was bombed, you had the A5 which is the old Watling Street, the Roman Watling Street which goes straight into Marble Arch. So, you've got the choice of either of those to move bulk papers down. On that basis, of course, they moved into Bletchley Park and they started their work.

The other cable you are probably interested in is the great undersea cable of the old Eastern Telegraph Company, later Cable and Wireless, which was used to contact the whole of the Allied network by using the cable and not radio for reasons I will come across later on.

Well, what were the rooms used for then? Well, very quickly, Lady Fanny's old suite up here, Italian Naval Decrypt in the early days of the War.

These two rooms here, Royal Air Force intelligence, breaking the German day and night fighter ciphers which they were using to home in on our bomber streams at night and later the United States 8th Army Airforce by day. Boss's office along the end here. That window there is Churchill's favourite window. He used to stand and look out over the Park. These two were secretaries' windows. This was a general admin office. The old Morning Room plus the conservatory and on the other side of the arch, of course. You have the Withdrawing Room here and the old dining room.

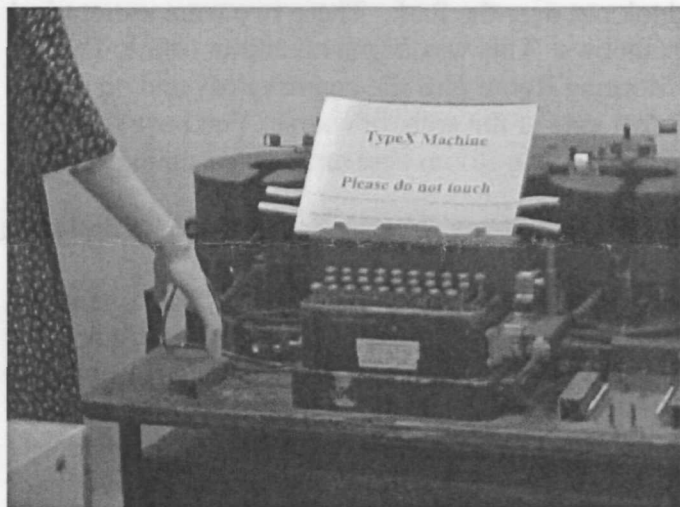
The Withdrawing Room in fact was where basically new entries who were going to be heads of department were taken in and said, "Right, here you are, this is an intelligence site, you are not going to leave this site in the War unless you go to another intelligence site, such as Colombo or Cairo. So there are no VCs for you, no deeds of derring do. It's going to be a hard slog throughout the War and I'll bet you don't even get thanked afterwards" and they were dead right.

The second boss was Sir Edward Travis, Commander Royal Navy. Took over from a chap called (Commander) Alistair Denniston when we moved the Diplomatic Net down to London. All diplomatic ciphers, that's intercept, copy from Australia and places like that, big intercept nets here going into London and there above Peggy Carter's hat shop in No. 8 Berkley Street, there was the breaking of all the Japanese diplomatic ciphers. So downstairs Peggy was selling hats, on next door or the next floor up, a chap was making silver jewellery, by the side of him was the hairdresser. From the third floor up, they were breaking Japanese ciphers and nobody knew anything about it. **(The next instalment of Bletchley will follow.)**

CIPHER WAR

"The Cipher War in the Pacific" is the title of the forthcoming book by mathematicians, Professor John Mack and Dr Peter Donovan. The 28 chapter book, to be published by the U.S. Navy, is undergoing final checking and indexation in the States. Newsletter has seen several chapters of the book which covers the years from 1843 to 1943. They write that the invention of the telegraph and subsequently the overseas telegraph changed

communications forever. It was Samuel Morse, inventor of Morse Code who in 1843 had U.S. Congress permission to operate a telegraph line between Washington and Baltimore. The first trans-Atlantic cable was in use from 1866. Commercial codes were used, one being the Chinese Telegraphic Code.



Type X Machine

The book tells of British Intelligence in World War 1, and of the famous Room 40 in the Admiralty. Alistair Dennison, one of the code breakers there was to head GCCS at Bletchley Park in WW11. Immense research has gone into the book, which is of technical and human interest. Here are U.S. code breakers William Friedman, Herbert Yardley of the American Black Chamber, and names CBers know – Eric Nave, Abe Sinkov, Sandford, and Room.

Fabian of FRUMEL, and the Navy's role are stressed. The book tells of the contribution by many nations to SIGINT: Britain, the U.S., New Zealand, Canada, and the Dutch. This brief summary gives only a hint of what the book holds. We wait for it.

PEOPLE

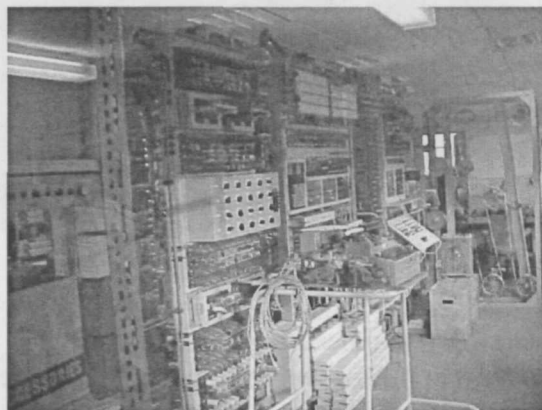
Jennifer Ainge of Iguana Films now has funding for her documentary, "Girls' Own War Stories." Screen Australia and the ABC are backing the film which will be shown eventually on the ABC. She has interviewed CBers Joy Granger, cryptographer Judy Carson, Noni Benn, Peg Teague and Helen Kenny.

The documentary deals not only with CBers, but with other servicewomen, and those in the Medical

branches. Office workers and those in factories, and on the land come into it, as do those civilians who cared for families, or waited in hope for the men to return.

Of the many interviewed, only a few will be shown. Watch for me on the cutting room floor! H.K. Geoff Patience, of Caulfield, Victoria, sent Newsletter a copy of stamps (a limited edition) from the Bletchley Park Post Office. One showed a replica of Colossus, "the world's first semi-programmable electronic computer." The first Colossus – used for code breaking, started work in 1943.

The other stamp is a montage made from wartime photographs. It depicts Tommy Flowers and Allen Coombs, GPO engineers responsible for the design and building of Colossus, and "Alan Turing who contributed so much to the theory of computing". [Thanks Geoff.]



the Colossus Room Today - Bletchley Park

Doug and Nell Pyle, stalwarts of the Maitland Repertory Society, where they first met, will celebrate their diamond wedding on August 27. Nell was a founder of the Maitland Museum of Clothing and Textiles in 2005. The museum is in the former Lieutenant-Governor's house, just outside the old Maitland Gaol. Antique clothing, and old bonnets are on display. Nell seeks more. What have CBers got hidden away in cupboards? Don Dunn, of Drummoyne, wrote to Gordon Gibson, saying he has not been "travelling well", but hopes to be at the "Armistice Day" reunion. Unfortunately, he didn't get there, but is home again after weeks at the Mater Hospital having treatment for an embolism in the aorta.

Recently Don was able to row a dinghy out to his boat, moored not far from his house at Drummoyne. He lifted the cover and saw a swallow's nest. As he says: "A 'bub' fluttered out and fell in the water. It's mother swore at me in swallowese. The bub hadn't learnt to fly. I couldn't save it".

Les McClean, another keen sailor, managed to get to the lunch. His boat, the Merry Mac – a 30 foot Clansman – is kept at the Cruising Yacht Club at Rushcutter's Bay, Sydney. Les has sailed for 70 years, since he was 16. Soon after our November reunion he went to hospital, and had a pacemaker put in, but is home again now. To Les, and all others on the sick list, our wishes for better health.

Nancy Goldsteen of Arundel, Queensland, (formerly Nancy Nelson) is skilled with the computer. A letter received says that she has not been well since her last visit to Sydney, for a CB luncheon. She's not travelling as much as before but is "saving up for a good holiday."

Robert Brown and his wife Edith, both Queenslanders, married in 1945 and have had 64 years together. After the war Robert became a Baptist minister, educationalist and author. His first pastoral appointment was to outback Queensland, with responsibility for two churches and two outstations, as well as visiting families. In one family, the father was known for his opposition to the Christian faith. Although he shook hands "with a grip like iron", he was hostile.

Years later, when ill, he was confined to bed, and allowed Robert to pray with him. Only last month did this man's family write thanking Edith and Robert for their support. The farmer had given up his bitter attitude to faith, and it was Robert Brown who took the funeral service.

Brian Lovett of Tuncurry, came to the Roseville lunch, bringing with him a copy of the late Bob Leonard's book, "The story of the Medicos," a project of the Westpac Sub-Branch of the RSL. It was inscribed, "To my old tent mate." Brian and Bob both 5 W.U. shared a tent at San Miguel in the Philippines. Bob, historian and archivist, used to arrange such displays each Anzac Day. His widow Pam, now a CBICA associate, met her husbands old "tent mate" on November 11.

Certa Cito (Swift and Sure) the newsletter of the Royal Australian Signals Association (Vic) had some alarming reports in its August issue. Under the heading "Papers claim Simpson Barracks are under threat," it published articles saying that many military bases were earmarked for sale, including the Army's School of Signals at Watsonia.

At the latter site is the Signals Museum, which CBers visited some years ago. Newsletter rang Jim Gordon, editor of Certa Cito, to find out what would happen to the Museum, Jim Gordon, curator, said that the sites seemed to be safe, that the Museum had many new acquisitions. Let's hope that the Department of Defence does not send in the "razor gang."

The Australian Intelligence Magazine, (AIM), journal of the Australian Intelligence Association, described in its spring issue that the December 4 would be an important date.

The Museum of Australian Military Intelligence was to be officially re-opened by Major-General J.C. Caligari, DSC, AM in the grounds of Kokoda Barracks, Canungra. The Museum manager is WO2 Steve Crawford, but our old friend, David Parker, is still there. It was he who showed us around, and got together such interesting displays. We rang David, who said that the Memorial Stone is now the centre of a memorial garden, and that one of the new exhibits is a mock up of a signal intercept station of the Vietnam era.

VALE

Alan Marsland died in Greenslopes Hospital last July. His widow, Marge Marsland, of Mitchelton, Queensland, says that he joined the RAAF in 1941 when 20, hoping to be a pilot.

His eyes weren't good enough for this so he became a kana operator, working at CB before moving to Townsville, Milne Bay, Port Moresby, Batchelor (NT), Morotai and Borneo. When loading at Labuan, the landing master asked "Which unit are you from?" When told, he replied "Don't ask me mate. You're too hush hush for me!" Alan left a wife, three children and many grand children and great-grandchildren.

Mac Jamieson, of Queensland Wireless Unit remembers the Stuart Street, Townsville, blockhouse disguised as a farmhouse. He worked there as did Alan Marsland, who, one day, intercepted a Japanese signal. It was so important that Alan was taken by car to American HQ. Was the message about Yamamoto? Mac wasn't sure, but it was certainly "hush hush."

John Vasey, a veteran of 4WT and 55 Section, served in the Middle East, Greece, Crete, then the Pacific. He rose from Corporal to Captain, and was O.C. 55 Section, the pioneering SIGINT Unit at Fairfax Harbour, Port Moresby in September 1942. Their intercepts were invaluable.

Geoff Ballard's book, "On ULTRA Active Service," has much to say about John Vasey, mentioning the time when his uncle, Major-General Vasey decided to visit the camp. "Do you think you could run up a few scones?" John Vasey asked the cook, Doug Miller.

Doug did, and was complimented. He received more compliments at Christmas. After weeks of bully beef, "gold fish" and baked beans, the men had a Christmas dinner of turkey, pork, fruit salad and Christmas pudding. Tents were decorated with flowers and palm fronds, and some drank a "jungle juice" based on blackcurrant jam, raisins and secret ingredients. Someone later wrote in 'Ink Emma Ink' "We will tell our grandchildren of turkey in the tropics, of comradeship and co-operation."

Don Laidlaw, A.O. has died. His book "Anecdotes of a Japanese Translator – 1941-1945", tells of his training in Japanese, and of his time with CB in Brisbane, the NT and the Philippines.

At Ascot Park he was 21, and a Final Checker, correcting translations or interpretations of partly decoded messages. Hugh Erskine was in charge but one night in May 1944, Don Laidlaw was the only officer on duty. One message in kana was unusual. He reported it to a US Major at Intelligence HQ in the AMP.

Events moved swiftly. At 1 am Laidlaw was driven to Lennon's Hotel, where he met the pyjama clad Major General Akin. The message concerned Bamboo No 1 – the code name given to the Take convoy (pronounced Tar-Care) which left Shanghai on April 17 bound for Port Moresby. The convoy

of nine troop transports escorted by 12 warships, carried over 11,000 men. US Navy Intelligence and CB had been partially successful in breaking the MARU code. Laidlaw played a part in its detection. The convoy did not get through. The Japanese had many casualties. They changed their strategy.

After the war Don Laidlaw became a Bachelor of Laws, a Bachelor of Letters (Magdalen College Oxford) and a director of many companies. In 1975 he was Liberal Member of the Legislative Council in South Australia, and later Founding Chairman of the Playford Trust. He leaves a wife Peg and three daughters one of whom, Dianna became Minister of Transport, the Arts and Planning in a South Australian Liberal Government.

Wynne (Chapman) Christmas, an AWAS cipher operator died recently. She joined the Army in April '42, and served in Sydney, New Lambton, Tamworth and Brisbane – first at Advanced LHQ, then briefly at CB. Her husband (Royal Navy) died, and her daughter Jennifer and son Richard survived her.

Editor's Message

Christmas New Year wishes to Cber's and my thanks to those who were so kind to me this year when I was in and out of hospital. Brian Lovett cheered the day with clever cartoons, old friend sent flowers and cards, and Joy even brought stewed apple. Bruce Bentwitch got the last newsletter out aided by Eunice and Les Smith. Sorry if this newsletter is a bit scatty. My first outing for months was on Remembrance Day when Noeline Hanson came to my rescue. Long story. Keep well and keep in touch.

Helen Kenny

To all CBer's

*A very healthy and wealthy New Year
Eunice & Les Smith*