



CENTRAL BUREAU INTELLIGENCE CORPS ASSOCIATION December 2011

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President's Annual Report

Unit History Completion

Nola Anderson, Acting Director of the Australian War Memorial, contacted Bill Rogers on Monday 12th December and gave her assurance that the completed manuscript would be submitted to her as Director on Friday 16th December in time for a meeting of the Memorial Committee. We will then be advised as to the necessary steps to be followed towards final publication. What a truly marvellous Christmas present for all who served under the aegis of Central Bureau whether with Australian Special Intelligence Personnel, Australian Special Wireless Groups or RAAF Wireless Units.

Girls' Own War Stories

Congratulations to Helen Kenny, Joy Granger and Noni Benn for their Television appearance in 'Girls' Own War Stories' on the ABC in April this year. For those who didn't see the program, it was exceedingly interesting to hear Helen, Joy and Noni recounting their memories and the role they played in W.W.II.

Anzac Day 2011

At the Anzac Eve Wreath Laying Ceremony we joined once again with AIA members but for the first time also with representatives of 2 Company 1 Intelligence Battalion who provided the Catafalque Party and whose Commanding Officer addressed us.

There were twenty five this year in the March, some of us proudly flaunting for the first time the badges commemorating the unpublicised but not entirely forgotten role of SIGINT in W.W.II.

A further distinction for four of us was to be interviewed by a Daily Telegraph reporter and have our photographs displayed in the next morning's edition. No record attendance at the

Luncheon this time but forty eight members, friends and relatives sounds pretty healthy after all these years. Delicious food and superb service were the order of the day in the "Windows" restaurant at the Marriott and proceedings came to an end with the usual rousing visit from the Australian Army Cadet Band.

Remembrance Day 11.11.11

Eighteen of our members attended the Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Roseville Memorial Club and on a fine sunny day were able to admire the beautiful Gallipoli Roses blooming above the CBICA Memorial Plaque. As usual the school children took charge of proceedings and the eloquence of the young man who gave the address was exemplary. After the sounding of the Last Post and Reveille we adjourned to the Club Restaurant where we had our own table for a convivial luncheon. Coral Hinds received a special welcome (all the way up from Melbourne) and Noelene and David Hansen were able to tell us all about their recent visit to that spot revered by all SIGINTERS - Bletchley Park.

Membership

Bruce Bentwitch informs me that we still have 110 on our mailing list only 10 fewer than last year, a pretty good record I would say, all things considered.

Executive Committee

On behalf of myself and all members and friends I express thanks to all Committee members with special appreciation of the work throughout the year done by Bruce Bentwitch, Joy Granger and Helen Kenny - also Bill Rogers our unofficial liaison officer with General Gower.



Vale

Sadly we have to record the passing during the year of Eric Saxon, Doug Trigar, Eric Fuller, Alan Langdon, Geoff Charlesworth and Ron Tabley. Our deepest sympathy to their families.

I wish you all a joyous Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year. All are cordially invited to our Annual General Meeting at the Roseville Memorial Club on Monday 6th February at 1.30pm.

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

HON. TREASURER'S REPORT

When I first joined RAAF Command Brisbane on 25 June 1943 I was mustered as a Clerk. On 1st June 1944 the mustering was changed to 'Recorder W'. At the time I was with No 2 Wireless Unit at Coomalie Creek which was just south of Batchelor in the N.T. We also received a slight increase in pay.

At no time did my pay book mention Central Bureau. In fact the first time I saw C.B. mentioned was on the issue of a photo identity card by the Americans on 13 July 1945 when we were at San Miguel, Tarlac Province, and Luzon. I was with 6 W.U.

Subscriptions

With 2012 here shortly subs for the year will be due – Members \$15, Associates \$10, the latter being relatives or friends of members past or present. Some have already paid 2012 subs. This was noted on receipts issued.

11.11.2011

Due to ill health neither Keith Carolan nor Alan Norton were able to attend the ceremony and luncheon at the Roseville R.S.L. Due to distance from North Bondi Les McClean sent his apology.

Wishing all a happy Christmas and healthy New Year,
Bruce Bentwitch,
Hon. Treasurer,
7 Holly Street
CASTLE COVE NSW 2069
(02) 9417-1427

HON. SECRETARY'S PAR

Having survived 36° some weeks ago, today it is 16° and raining (we do need it). What next I ask you with December all ready here. At least we had a lovely day for the Remembrance Service at Roseville. Two top students gave the eulogy – as always, thoughtfully aware of the Day's meaning. Our ever proficient bugler Alex gave a sterling performance. We then enjoyed morning tea and were able to inspect the Gallipoli Rose Garden. The roses were in full blush; we eventually found the little plaque commemorating our gift, kindly supplied by Ku-ring-gai Council.

Finally, everyone needing solid food (some had travelled extensive distances) we gathered for an excellent lunch. Those present were Coral Hinds (Vic) with son Anthony, Mary Hogan and visitor Shirley Cashman, Noelene and David Hanson, Helen Kenny, Brian Lovett, Noni Benn, Lou and Joan Harris, Joyce Grace, Madge Chidgey, Ailsa Hale, Gordon and Sue Gibson, Bruce Bentwitch, Joy Granger. Sadly, some stalwarts couldn't make it and our thoughts go especially to Keith and Joan Carolan, Stan and Maureen Baylis.

President Gordon welcomed all and passed to Committee members' a letter from Arthur Skimin re Unit History with his suggestion of further action we could take re same. Committee members present were not in favour. President then advised that he would write to all other Committee members, requesting their response to Arthur's suggestion and asking for their response (enclosing copy of his letter). Once again, we wait and see.

With 2011 drawing to a close, I send good wishes to you all. Time is now against some of us; hopefully we can use it well. May 2012 be kindly.

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



AROUND THE TABLES

Usually it is only C.B. members from NSW who can come to the Remembrance Day gathering at the Roseville Memorial Club. More's the pity.

This year, we had a surprise visit from two Melburnians, Coral Hinds (widow of Sandy), and her son Anthony. They received the warmest of welcomes.

For most of us it is hard to travel now. We are car-less, or limited to a set distance from home. We depend upon the kindness of relatives, friends, or pay expensive taxis to get us to Roseville. The station is close to the Club, but has no lift, no escalators – just a steep flight of stairs. Few can manage those,

In the park near the Club schoolchildren were readying to lay wreaths at the School Memorial.

The ceremony started. Boys and girls moved forward with dignity, laid wreaths, stood at attention. Some were of High School age.

I looked at them and thought of the late Barbara Kitching, who, illegally joined the AWAS at 15+, and became a gunner. She was a Sydney Harbour defender in 1942, before joining CB.

Nearby was Bruce Bentwitch, 18 on enlistment as was, I think, his mate Les McClean, who couldn't be with us but sent greetings. The late Sandy Hinds was 17½ in 1939 when he joined up. I believe Middle East veteran, Geoff Patience, was also 17½. I regarded the present day young, tried to imagine their fate, and hoped they would be spared war and suffering.

Last Post! Reveille! Then all moved inside. CBers gathering at a long table. Orders were taken. Meals were served. Talk started.

I interrupted this by passing around the notebook and asking everyone to write down any news. They did.

Here's the result

Coral Hinds Up from Melbourne with youngest son, Anthony. We are enjoying the old days again – six girls from the garage here.

Anthony Hinds With my mum. It's a great pleasure to be here and to meet all Mum's Services mates again. You're all full of life. Keep up the catching up as often and as long as you can!

Ailsa Hale So happy to be here today and back with the CB "girls."

Madeline Chidgey "Friendship is the philosopher's stone that turneth all it touches into gold."

Mary Hogan There's nothing like old friends. Today is a specially happy day – catching up is special to me. Thank you Coral for contacting me.

Joy Grace To see so many of us from the Henry St. garage was a great thrill. My best wishes to all – Helen, Coral, Ailsa, Madge (Madeline), Mary and self. May we meet again some future day. Keep well Helen.

Gordon and Sue Gibson We've had our usual visit to Noosa, and, of course, have seen Gordon's many, many friends made after 60 years of visiting this place.

Joy Granger Now on deck – hoping to keep going and great to see so many here today,

Noni Benn I visit Peg Teague regularly. She is not very well but does not complain. We watch all the movies of the 20s and 30s – so exciting – but enjoyable.

Bruce Bentwitch Still getting around, but some bones showing wear and tear. I'm still bowling, weather permitting.

Brian Lovett Great ceremony with the kids taking over. Trumpeter was tops.

Lou Harris Enjoyable ceremony as usual.

Noeline and David Hansen Lovely moving ceremony. Beautiful flowers.

Helen Kenny Much better thanks. Helped by my sister, a physio, had trip on the Manly ferry. Lovely day – wished we could have gone through the Heads to New Zealand. I watched the beachgoers, few “bronzed Aussies” now. Everyone has milky white legs, white faces, full cover up. Once we would have thought, “Poor Poms, how you’ll all burn,” or “They’re migrants.”

We burnt, with lasting effect. I’m off to the skin specialist again. We didn’t wear hats or sunscreen. See all those photos of shirtless soldiers, and think of damage to skin.

Happy Christmas and 2012 wishes to CBers, especially to those who are in hospital, ill or alone. XXOO

PROMISE KEPT

Many of us make New Year resolutions and fail to keep them. One who did – and persisted with his resolution, is the Rev. Dr John Bunyan, the Anglican priest who is Honorary Chaplain of the Australian Intelligence Association.

On January 1, 2010 he decided to write a sonnet a day, for the 31 days of January. He missed a few days, then caught up, and by January 31 had concluded what he terms “this odd little project.” Then he set a new target – 50 – to mark the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination as a priest of the Church of England. His 75th birthday came on Australia Day, 2011, and by now he has written – and published “A Sydney Anglican’s Seventy Five Sonnets.” Not all are religious, some are almost autobiographical. The last ends:

*You might make reading of this book
one choice
And hear beyond the storm a still
small voice.”*

{On Anzac Eve, 2011, Dr Bunyan again led the prayers at the Cenotaph.}

SUCCINCT SIGNALS

“Here are a few somewhat succinct naval signals from the past. Some were sent by

flags, some by Aldis light, most by wireless Morse Code.

(The following (shortened) text comes from the December 2010 issue of ‘Old Timers’ News. ‘Our thanks.’)

Most signals are from the British naval records of WW I and WW II, with a few from US ships and some from post WW II.

- From HMS *Formidable*, after being attacked by a Kamikaze pilot in the Pacific towards the end of the WW II, to HMS *Indomitable* (flying flag of Admiral Vian): “LITTLE YELLOW BASTARD.” The reply from HMS *Indomitable* was: “ARE YOU REFERRING TO ME?”

- A Battle Cruiser Squadron was being led to the anchorage by a Senior Captain who had not had much experience in handling the Squadron. The signal to stop engines was hoisted. When it was hauled down the leading ship did not stop her own engines, and soon began to draw away from the others. From the ship next astern to the leading ship: “WHAT SPEED ARE YOU STOPPED AT PLEASE.”

- From the very old HMS *Tenor* to HMS *Protector* off Sidi Barrani in 1941: “AM PROCEEDING AT FULL SPEED TO YOUR ASSISTANCE. MY SPEED 4 KNOTS.”

- A light naval force was on a sweep in the Skagerrak in World War I in hazy weather. Shortly after dawn the most northerly cruiser signalled: ‘ENEMY BATTLE SHIP BEARING NNE DISTANCE 2 MILES. AM PREPARING TO RAM.’ Later came: “CANCEL MY LAST SIGNAL. BATTLE SHIP TURNS OUT TO BE A LIGHTHOUSE.” (It seems that the lighthouses on the northern shores of the Skagerrak often had twin towers which looked like a superstructure and turrets.)

- When lying at Argostoli with all the Mediterranean Fleet, HMS *Royal Oak* received the following from the Fleet Signal Officer: “I HOPE THAT YOUR ADMIRAL IS WELL.” This puzzled the *Royal Oak* crew until, on investigation; it was found that the Admiral’s flag was flying at half mast.

- From HMS *Renown*: “AM BEING ATTACKED BY ELEVEN DIVE-BOMBERS.” Later HMS *Renown* sent: “SEVEN DIVE-BOMBERS WILL NOT BAT IN SECOND INNINGS.”

- From cruiser entering harbour to base: “HAVE YOU ANY NEWS OF LADY BLANCHE.” From base: “HAS LADY IN QUESTION LEGS OR PROPELLERS.”

- Two submarines were accompanying a Russian convoy. One submarine captain thought it would be a good idea to show himself if the convoy was attacked. He therefore made a signal to the senior officer of the escort: ‘IN THE EVENT OF ATTACK BY HEAVY SURFACE FORCES, INTEND TO REMAIN ON THE SURFACE.’ The destroyer Escort Commander replied immediately: ‘SO DO I.’

- Gibraltar Signal Station to passing ship: “WHAT SHIP?” The reply was: ‘WHAT ROCK.’

- From Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean, Admiral Cunningham, to Admiral Commanding Force H, Admiral Somerville, already a KBE, on the occasion of his receiving the KCB: “FANCY, TWICE A KNIGHT AND AT YOUR AGE. CONGRATULATIONS.”

- From first destroyer to second destroyer: “MY PORT SHAFT IS RUNNING HOT.” From second destroyer to the first destroyer: “AS THE SEWING MACHINE SAID IN THE NUDIST CAMP, SO WHAT.”

SANDY’S STORY

The word “teenagers” was not in use in 1941 or when war started on September 3, 1939, but Alexander Ernest Hinds – always called Sandy, was 17½ then so would have been in this group. He and his twin brother Alan, fresh from Scotch College, Melbourne, lived at Hawthorn, Victoria.

Sandy had joined the CMF (Citizen Military Force) which met at the local drill hall.

“On September 4” (writes Coral, Sandy’s widow) “his father went out to collect the milk. There was a brown envelope under the front door mat ordering Private Hinds to report for duty at the drill hall”

He served his CMF time at Seymour and was part of the 24/39th Battalion. After nearly two years in the CMF, he joined the R.A.A.F, did a W/T course at Frognall and was sent to Timor with one of the Wireless Units.

From there he went to Darwin, where he was actually on the aerodrome when the Japanese bombing raids started on February 19, 1942. Those raids cost the lives of over 400 – service and civilian, and destroyed eight ships.

Sandy, an eye witness, was part of this history, but was never interviewed. His memories have gone into the silence partly because silence was ordered to be kept for so long. Coral and the family have recalled what they could.

Sandy was always musical, had learnt the piano at school, and the pipe organ from the Church organist. George Findlay, whom he held in high regard.

So, even at Darwin, between raids and his duties, he played the organ at the Services’ Church for the Chaplain, Cliff Goy.

After Darwin he and his mate did a Kana course at 21 Henry St, where, in the garage he met 18 year old AWAS Coral Osborne, a cipher operator.

“He and his mate Harry Kroger were staying at our office,” says Coral, who remembers the day she met her “sweetheart” as one of the happiest in her life – the wedding day in 1945 being its rival.

Sandy served in Nadzab, Hollandia and the Philippines while his twin Alan, was in HMAS Shropshire, that cruiser being present at Japan’s surrender. “He was one of the few survivors from the sinking of the ‘Canberra’.”

Alan, Coral and the family have garnered what they could of Sandy's history. He became ill in the tropics and spent much time in hospital on return.

Eventually he studied accountancy, joined Defence Signals Branch (DSB) before it became DSD and after retirement went travelling. He and Coral spent "15 happy years at Village Baxter". They had four children, 10 grandchildren and four great grandchildren, and were married for 62 years. He died in 2007

IN BRIEF

Frank Hughes rang to say he'd be coming down from Tweed Heads for Remembrance Day and we looked forward to seeing him. Tragedy intervened. He rang again to say his daughter had died. He wouldn't be coming. CB sends its deepest sympathy to Frank and his family.

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David and Noeline Hansen's daughter, Ruth, lives in Cambridgeshire, U.K. In the school holidays she took her three boys aged 14, 12 and 10 to Bletchley Park for the day.

Noelene says "They all had a wonderful time. The boys were allowed to press all the buttons and explore everywhere. The 1½ hours tour was as interesting. Afterwards the guide asked "Any questions?" and Ruth said "My father was involved in the Japanese decoding."

She was promptly invited to the main house to fill in forms and asked all sorts of things. Caleb, aged 12, said happily: "Grandpa's famous!" ("Grandpa" Dave, enlisted in the R.A.A.F. at 18, was sent to Point Cook, Tocumwal, to Brisbane where he learned Kana, upstairs at 21 Henry Street. Then came the Philippines, in the Tarlac – San Miguel area. He was there when the war ended.)

At Bletchley Park Noelene's daughter received puzzle books for the boys, and sent her father booklets about work done there.

One was called "**Japanese Codes**" by Sue Jarvis, a Trustee of the Bletchley Park Trust. It is number 6 in a series of Bletchley Park booklets.

Royal Holloway, one of the major colleges of the University of London, has an Information Security Group.

This is associated with the publication of the booklets. This booklet has a bibliography, but books by Jack Bleakley and Geoff Ballard are not in it. I saw no mention of CB, ASWG or WUs. The Hansens have sent Newsletter the booklet and we are asking the Rev. Robert Brown, who compiled "The Technical Records of CB" to review it.

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A Gold Card would be a great help- if you had one. There are many discrepancies in the granting of gold cards.

Take the case of a soldier in the AIF who volunteered for overseas service. He was sent to a remote part of Western Australia, was in the Army for years, but was never sent out of Australia. He's a very sick man now, but had no Gold Card to give him the help he needs.

Case 2. Remember the late Geoff Day? He was English, served with FECB in Singapore and was intercepting Japanese signals before Japan bombed Pearl Harbour and invaded Singapore, Malaya, Hong Kong, the Philippines and other islands. Geoff and his fellows were ordered to leave. He had a hazardous trip to Perth, joined the Australian Army and became a CBer. CB supported his efforts to get a Gold Card. No result. He married an AWAS. Only after her death did he receive the Gold Card.

Then there's Ken (not his real name). He was born in N.Z., lived for years in Australia and was a keen sailor on Sydney Harbour.

He was in the RANVR and in 1939 when war broke out went to England. This Naval Officer was away from Australia for

six years. He was in the Pacific and survived the submarines in the Atlantic.

Eventually he came home to Sydney. There was no Gold Card for him in old age, although his wife pleaded for one. Why?

So – what's your position about Gold Cards? Do you have one? Do you need one? Please tell Newsletter your thoughts on this.

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ANNIVERSARIES

This has been a year of anniversaries – good and bad.

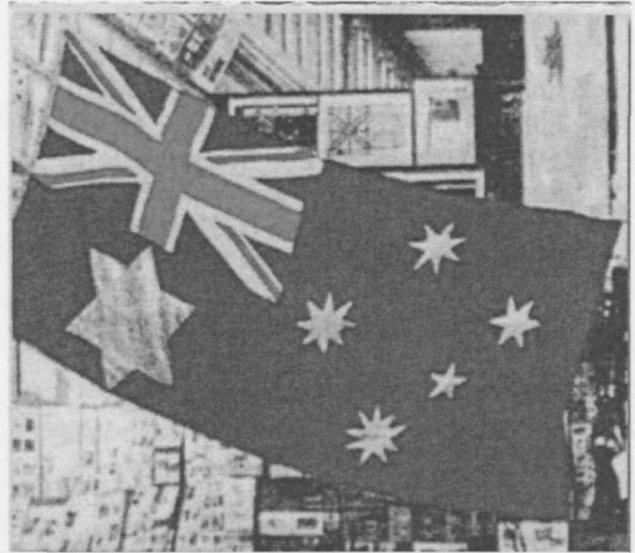
It's 110 years since Federation – since the Federal Constitution was proclaimed in Centennial Park on New Year's Day. Lord Hopetoun was sworn in as Governor-General and *Edmund* Edward Barton headed the first Commonwealth Ministry.

In May, the Duke of York, later King George V, opened the first Commonwealth Parliament in the Royal Exhibition Hall, Melbourne – then the seat of Government. His mother, Queen Victoria, was still on the throne.

On September 3, 10-1, the “first pattern” Australian flag, flew from the Royal Exhibition building, Melbourne. There was a public contest to design the flag, and 32,823 entries came in. Five winners were chosen – including three “youths” – schoolboys.

The blue flag, with the Union Jack in the upper quarter carried a white seven-pointed star, representing the six states and territories of the Commonwealth.

The stars of the Southern Cross, Alpha, Beta, Gamma, Delta and Epsilon also featured.



The twentieth century started with war – the Boer War (1899-1902). Australia sent 848 officers and 15,327 men – all volunteers – to that war. Over 15,000 horses went too. Six VCs were won. Casualties were 38 officers and 480 other ranks, who were killed or died of wounds. Nursing sisters from Australia also went to the war zone.

The Royal Australian Navy celebrated its centenary this year as did The Royal Military College, Duntroon.

But now let us go to 1941 - that dreadful year, remembered by us. Britain and its Empire allies stood alone against Germany, battling in the air, on land and confronting submarines in the oceans.

Germany, which had formed an alliance with the USSR invaded that country. Italy invaded Greece.

Meanwhile Australians in the Middle East fought their way to Benghazi – now undergoing turmoil. The siege of Tobruk was to follow, those who survived this becoming the famous “Rats.”

In Greece and Crete – 70 years ago – British, Australians and New Zealanders fought and were forced to retreat. Although SIGINT informed them about German manouvers, there was not enough back up.

Many were taken prisoner. The others eventually were evacuated.

[A new book, “Unbroken – The heroic true story of a group of Anzac POWs in WWII Europe” by W.R. Beecroft, will be reviewed in a future Newsletter. Bob Beecroft tells the story of his father who was captured at Tobruk and became a prisoner in PG57, Italy and Oflag V111A in Germany.]

Australians fought the Vichy French in Syria.

HMAS Waterhen, attacked by German aircraft, sank off the Libyan Coast in June '41. In November HMAS Sydney and German cruiser Kormoran engaged off the W.A. coast. Sydney went down with the loss of all hands – 645 officers and men. The wreck of the cruiser was found only recently.

On the 11th day of the 11th month at the 11th hour, 1918, the Great War ended. It had begun on August 4, 1914. Millions of lives were lost, empires destroyed – November 11 became Armistice Day, now Remembrance Day. “The war to end wars”.

It has been the 10th anniversary of 9/11 – September 11, 2001, when America was attacked and the Twin Towers destroyed.

But revert to 1941 – the Women’s Services founded, our troops were overseas.

Then came Pearl Harbour – Japan striking there on December 7th – 8th. **The USA immediately declared war on Japan & Germany.** Japanese troops landed in Thailand and Malaya. On 10th December the Prince of Wales and Repulse – just out from Britain to defend Singapore and the East were sunk. By the end of December Hong Kong, Wake Island, Borneo and the Philippines were invaded.

The Pacific seemed lost. Australia was isolated – and 1942 was to come.



Brian Lovett brews up another cartoon

VALE

The Age of November 24, carried this death notice:

NAVE, Margaret, loved wife of Theodore Eric (dec'd) caring stepmother of Elizabeth and Trevor Neal, David and Catherine Nave, Margaret and Ian Forbes, special friend of their families.

Many thanks to the Rev. Robert Brown for this information about the death of Captain Nave's widow. There was no funeral notice. For the next Newsletter Robert will write a short VALE. He worked closely with the codebreaker at CB.

Doug Trigar, of Paddington, Queensland, died in November, aged almost 88. This CBER, born in Adelaide, served in the Army. His son, Lindsay, rang from Queensland to let us know of Doug's death. Our condolences, and we would be glad to hear about Doug's work in war and in peace.

Gratitude to Eunice & Les Smith for bringing out the newsletter year after year. Best wishes for Christmas and good health in 2012.



*And
A Happy New Year
From
Eunice & Les Smith*