
Central Bureau Intelligence Corps Association Mini Newsletter, April 2012

PRESIDENT'S PAR

Unit History

President Gordon reports that in a telephone conversation with Nola Anderson, Acting Director of the Australian War Memorial, he had been given an assurance that the Unit History will be published at no cost by the Army History Unit's Publication Program after final vetting by Ian Pfenningwerth and Army History editor, Dr Robert Nichols and that CBICA will receive a courtesy copy of the manuscript prior to publication. All the above will be subject to final approval by the Director of the A.W.M, General Gower.

SIGNALS

One of the saddest signals ever sent must have been that of January 20, 1942; just before eight Wirraways took off from Rabaul airport in a futile attempt to defend it from an attack by about 120 Japanese aircraft.

The signal, in Latin, read: "*Morituri te salutand*". This was the salutation of Roman gladiators to Caesar on entering the arena. It meant "*We who are about to die salute you.*"

According to the Australian Encyclopedia six of the aerial gladiators were killed and five wounded. WgCdr John Lerew, DFC sent the encyphered message form which is now on display in the *Airpower in the Pacific 1941 – 1953 Gallery*.

Rabaul endured Japanese occupation and great tragedy. Many soldiers and civilians put aboard the *Montevideo Maru* died when an American submarine torpedoed the ship, not knowing that prisoners-of-war were aboard.

(Can any CBers who know of this signal please tell H.K.)

IN BRIEF

This, officially, is The Year of Turing, marking the centenary of the code breaker's birth. (More in June Newsletter.)

It is 70 years since 1942 – since February 19 when Darwin was bombed.

Jack Bleakley's "The Eavesdroppers" names Clarrie Hermes, "Snow" Bradshaw, Alf Towers, and Taff Davis as the RAAF kana operators on duty then. These skilled men had been in Darwin since 1941.

On the morning shift of February 19, there was abnormal traffic increase from Japanese aircraft to carriers.

Central Bureau Intelligence Corps Association Mini Newsletter, April 2012

Sensing that something unusual was happening, they reported this to the Commanding Officer, R.A.A.F. Darwin, Group Captain Scherger.

Author Jack Bleakley told Newsletter recently: "All he said thank you."

There is no record of action taken. Then in came 190 Zeros and dive bombers led by Commander Mitsuo Fushida, the same pilot who led the Pearl Harbour raid. This is history. Jack Bleakley says no one has ever interviewed him for the drawn out CB history saga.

ANZAC DAY

As always, Gordon Gibson suggests that if you finish the march early, and find the room at the Marriott not ready, you could meet first at a quiet and pleasant pub nearby. It's the Macquarie Boutique Hotel, 42 Wentworth Avenue, just across Oxford Street.

VALE

The December 2011 Newsletter noted the death of Margaret, widow of Eric Nave.

Robert Brown writes "Dr David Nave speaks of the pleasure with which he and his sisters welcomed Margaret, who was one of a number of valued family friends. Their mother, Helena, had died in 1969 after a painful illness.

Eric was 71. Margaret was single and had cared faithfully for her parents throughout their lifetime. A huge new chapter was opened in her life as she accompanied Eric on overseas trips and as he led the Naval Association and discharged a number of important civilian responsibilities. The second marriage was longer than the first.

The death notice in *The Age* of 24 November 2011 paid sincere tribute to Margaret's love and caring."

.....

With little space in this mini Newsletter, I send wishes to CBers, particularly to secretary Joy Granger, who had a bad fall, broke her left hip and right wrist, and is only just home after a long spell in hospital. She hopes to make the ANZAC Day lunch. More 90th birthdays – Gordon Swinney received an unusual present – a poem of 90 lines written by his daughter Robyn.

Another who plans a 90th party is former cryptographer Judy Carson.

Thanks again to Eunice & Les Smith for helping me to get this out. H.K.

Central Bureau Intelligence Corps Association Mini Newsletter, April 2012

CBICA – ANZAC ARRANGEMENTS – 2012

Wreath laying Ceremony, Tuesday 24 April.

Members to assemble 1815 hours, cnr Pitt St and Martin Place (near old GPO) for wreath laying Parade. Medals to be worn.

March arrangements, Wednesday 25 April

Please assemble 0900 hours cnr Hunter and Elizabeth Sts (South side) under our green and gold banner. Those needing transport meet at Pitt & Hunter.

Formation will be 8 abreast. Transport will be available for those requiring it (see form below – we need to know how many).

Reunion lunch

After the march, from 1200 hours, lunch again will be in the "Windows" room, Marriott Hotel, College St, opposite the War Memorial. **Parking will be free for CBers ANZAC DAY only.** Cost of lunch will be \$47/head (drinks extra of course). Members are welcome to bring wives, husbands, family and friends to the lunch. AIA and ex-ASWG personnel are also welcome. **Please wear name tags and RSVP all functions** (including need for transport) in the form below. We'd appreciate the RSVP for the lunch (plus appropriate cheque) by 6 April 2012.

Membership fees for 2012 are due. If you haven't paid yet please send your \$15 to the Hon. Treasurer, Bruce Bentwitch, 7 Holly St, CASTLE COVE, NSW 2069. All cheques to be made out to CBICA.

*cheque sent
3/4/2012
Lunch \$47.00
Membership \$15.00
\$62.00*

*Will march
Will attend
Reunion
Bruce*

**CENTRAL BUREAU INTELLIGENCE CORPS ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held on Monday, 6th February, 2012, at 1:30pm at the Roseville Memorial Club, 64 Pacific Highway, Roseville, NSW

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Confirmation of Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 8th February, 2011
3. President's Report
4. Hon. Treasurer's Report
5. Election of Officers. (All positions will be declared vacant. Any member wishing to nominate a member for the Executive Committee should complete the nomination form below, and forward it to the Hon. Secretary, Joy Granger, at 2/5 Endeavour Drive, NARRABEEN NSW 2101. Both nominator and nominee must be financial members).
6. Hon. Auditor
7. General Business

The annual membership fee of \$15 for 2012 is now due (\$10:00 for Associates) and should be forwarded to Bruce Bentwitch, Hon. Treasurer, 7 Holly St., CASTLE COVE NSW 2069.

Joy Granger, Hon. Secretary

CENTRAL BUREAU INTELLIGENCE CORPS ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT

VICE PRESIDENTS (2)

.....

HON. SECRETARY

HON. TREASURER.....

PUBLICITY OFFICER.....

EXECUTIVE (3)

.....

.....

SIGNED DATE

PLEASE PRINT

Attached please find remittance of \$being subscription for 2012.

Signed

Kindly send your subscription to Bruce Bentwitch (address above).