



CENTRAL BUREAU INTELLIGENCE CORPS ASSOCIATION DECEMBER 2012

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PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

Unit History

I hope this will prove to be the final word on this important project. Somehow I am still not too sure but here goes! Our book, entitled "Mac Arthur's Secret Bureau" will be in print by the third week of December. Its cost will be \$30 plus postage \$8. It can be ordered online at www.awm.gov.au/shop/. The printers (The War Bookshop – contact Mr Clive Baker, phone 9542 6771) have assured us that although there will be only 500 copies made in the initial run further copies will be quickly available should there be greater demand. If you are not in a position to place your order online our contacts at the AWM are: Cassandra Hobbs (phone 6243 4485) or Linda Ferguson (6243 4285).

Anzac Day 2012

Six hardy representatives of CBICA joined with their AIA counterparts for the Wreath Laying on Anzac Eve. As usual it was an impressive ceremony watched on this occasion by a quite large number of spectators at the Cenotaph in Martin Place.

Approximately twenty of us braved the gusty westerlies that prevailed during the Anzac Day March and completed the journey safely led by banner bearers Rob and Ian.

A near record number of fifty-six members, friends and relatives sat down to our usual delicious luncheon at the Marriott. A special welcome was extended to those who had travelled considerable distances to be with us: Alan Fookes and family, Bill and Jan Rogers, Doug and Nell Pyle, Brian Lovett, Roy Perry and family, Frank Hughes and Eileen, Gwen Charlesworth, Jacqui Keeling, Pam Langdon, Stan and Maureen Baylis. Our indefatigable Publicity Officer Helen Kenny also took the opportunity to obtain for us an update on the latest activities of all members present.

Remembrance Day 2012

There were fourteen of us at the Roseville Memorial Club on Sunday eleventh November: Madeline Chidgey, Rex Chidgey, Ailsa Hale, Jacqui Keeling, Helen Kenny, Joy Grace, Alan Norton, Doug and Nell Pyle, Mary Hogan, Noelene Hansen, Brian Lovett, Gordon and Sue Gibson and daughter Katy. We all received a warm welcome and were waited on at morning tea by students of the Killara High School. As usual, representatives of that and all the other schools in the local area laid wreaths and an incredibly self possessed young lady (again from Killara H.S.) delivered the oration with eloquence and aplomb worthy of Winston Churchill in those war years. We had our own table at the luncheon that followed and needless to say no one was short of a few words.

Executive Committee

On behalf of myself and all members and friends of CBICA, I express our thanks to the members of the Executive Committee with special appreciation of the way Helen Kenny, Bruce Bentwitch and Joy Granger have worked throughout the year under personal difficulties and well beyond the call of duty to keep our Association still sailing on a pretty even keel.

Membership

Bruce Bentwitch informs me that we still have over 100 members and friends on our mailing list after all these years. A pretty good record I would say.

Vale

Sadly I have to record the passing during the year of Les McClean, Keith Carolan, Joy Linnane, Geoff Patience, Geoff Milne and Les Smith. Our deep sympathy to their families.

Finally my very best wishes to you all for a joyous Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year. I hope to see you at the Annual General Meeting on Monday 4th February - Roseville Memorial Club 1.30pm.

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

HON. TREASURER'S REPORT

On 13/10/2012 I was at my eldest grandson's engagement party at his future in-laws home at West Ryde. I had been standing for some time eating supper when I sat on a low plastic chair. After some time I attempted to get up but fell forward. As it happened another guest was a paramedic who looked after me while we waited for an ambulance.

The ambulance took me to the hospital at Wahroonga where they found I had a heart problem. After an insertion of a machine I came home and now feel fine although could not attend the service on 11/11.

Recently I asked my younger son to google Clarrie Hermes whom I was with at WW2. What evolved was a 14 page report on No1 WU RAAF in Australia during WW2. Clarrie was one of 7 RAAF personnel trained as part of 1 WU in a special intelligence course at Victoria Barracks Melbourne in July 1941. Unfortunately it does not go beyond the war years although it mentions Jack Bleakley's "The Eavesdroppers" and Geoffrey Ballard's book. I do believe Clarrie had a distinguished career with the Aust Government service after the war. John Shoebridge mentioned when driving around a new estate in Canberra some years ago, he saw a street named "Clarrie Hermes Drive".

Clarrie who was a member of CBICA from 1986 when living at Hughes ACT moved to Coogee, NSW. In 1990 he attended an ANZAC Day luncheon at Phillips Foote Restaurant at The Rocks, Sydney, but died before the end of that year.

Subscriptions. With 2013 here shortly subs for the year will be owing – members \$15, Associates \$10, the latter are relatives or friends of members past or present.

Wishing everyone a Happy Christmas and healthy 2013.

Bruce Bentwitch
Hon Treasurer
9 Holly St, Castle Cove
NSW 2069
(02) 9417 1427

PS. The attached photo was part of the googled message. I remember the young Joy Linnane whom I think lived at Clovelly when I was at Coogee.



Photo:- via Ben Eagleton

Training at Ascot Vale:- L. to R. Back Row:- Phyllis Brownson, Dawn McMahon,
Front Row:- Joy Linnane, Molly Lask, Nancy Roberts

Standing at right:- Joyce Charles

The photographer's mother Nancy Eagleton (nee Roberts) was an operator with No. 1 Wireless Unit.

HON SECRETARY'S PAR

Secretary Joy dictated this, because 2012 has been for her a year full of accidents: falls, broken wrists, broken pelvis, pneumonia and broken ribs. She lives at War Vets, Narrabeen, NSW on a plateau close to bushland and the ocean, but where winds and gales blow strongly.

Joy, weakened by pneumonia, was feeling well enough to go for a short walk. The wind came suddenly and blew her off her feet. Result: more breakages, pain and more physiotherapy. "I'm sorry I missed Remembrance Day" says Joy, who sends Christmas wishes and hopes for better health to CBers, realising that old age is a hard time for many.

Our wishes to Joy, and hopes that 2013 will be an improvement on 2012 and that we see more of her when she feels up to it.

Her address is
WarVets, 2/5 Endeavour Drive
Narrabeen, NSW 2101
(02) 9981 2397

Letter From Tacloban

Anne and Jack Brown, who have moved from S.A to the Philippines, have a new address, P.O.Box 176, Tacloban City, Leyte.

"We live in a lovely home with a pretty garden", they wrote. "About 80% of the population speaks English. Yes, it was a big move but fortunately our son Greg handled 99% of this for us."

Jack was one of 24 Australians who landed on the island of Leyte on October 20, 1944 with approximately 200,000 U.S troops. General MacArthur ran the whole operation but the Australians immediate "boss" was the American General S.B.Akin.

The slouch-hatted Australians were dubbed 'The Foreign Legion'. Jack was like most of them – a "Kana" operator. Intercepting Japanese signals. After the war he published "Kata Kana Man", which won the RAAF Literature Prize in 2006. The author dedicated the book to the Kata Kana operators. Anne Brown says that her husband always loved the Philippines. She made her first visit to Leyte with him in 1979 & went back in 1982.

"Alf and Daisy Bobin were to have come with us, but sadly could not make it. Alf was one of the Foreign Legion men". Anne writes, "When our son decided to start the first ever water-ski business Jack wanted to retire here, & this eventuated in December 2011."

Most of Jack Brown's friends, met in the Philippines, have died or moved to the USA. Mail from Australia is slow to arrive in Tacloban. The Smiths read our March Newsletter which told of the death of Eric Nave's wife. "Sad" said Anne. "Jack always admired Eric. Actually Eric's parents and Anne's parents were friends".

The letter told of other friends – of the late American "Air Ace" Dick Bong who died just before the end of WW2. Jack Brown met him first in Nadzab, then at the Price family home in Tacloban where Dick played the clarinet and Jack the trumpet.

During the war the Japanese used the Price home as HQ. Later MacArthur took over. In 1944 Jack became friends with the Price family and his book describes how the friendship continued post war.

Jack Brown also helped to restore the home which had fallen into disuse and found and put back in place the statue of a Boy Scout.

Letter from Marney Dunn of Taringa, Queensland

Writes; "How wonderful (if it proves to be true) is the news that the Unit history might be published before the end of the year. Congratulations to you all for fighting so hard for it.

"I'm especially grateful for newsletter's reports of all the activities surrounding the MacArthur celebrations in July. I had no idea of them apart from a chance social encounter on that very day." Marney knew nothing of the other activities & would have loved to attend the seminar. She asked who organised the activities.

Mostly the MacArthur Museum which jointly hosted the seminar with the Royal United Service Institute Queensland. She would like to know if there's any CB group in Queensland. Members – yes...a group – no.

Marney's late husband Hugh Dunn served in the Army with CB. After the war he won a Rhodes Scholarship then became a diplomat posted to many countries, his last appointment being Ambassador to Beijing. Marney, an anthropologist, had her own Pacific journeys, before joining Hugh in his.

Coral Hinds, of Village Baxter, South Frankston, Victoria answered Newsletter's appeal for interstate news with a letter. This "garage girl", flashed back in time by signing herself NF463296, Sgt C.N.Hinds (nee Osborne.)

She met her husband Alexander (Sandy) during the war when he was in the RAAF and worked for a while in the Henry Street garage. (He'd already served in Timor) After Henry Street he went to the Philippines. He & Coral managed to exchange some enciphered messages. They married on his return.

"I have a new great grandson" Coral writes. "He is the fourth generation Alexander Hinds. My late husband Sandy was the second, and this baby is my youngest son's grandchild. How my Sandy would have loved to know the latest Sandy who is called after him".

Coral still has the photo of young Sandy in uniform which she kept in the cupboard of her Chermshire hut. Now it's framed, and she's added his Bletchley Park medal & CB badge to his photo.

Memories of Joy Linnane

Allan Norton ("Farmer Giles") worked at 1 WU, Townsville, with the late Joy Linnane, WAAAF Kana operator. He kept a letter of hers, written in 1998, congratulating him on his marriage.

She said: "I never did marry, and I sometimes wonder if I was spoiled for interest in others when I held all the 1 WU boys in special affection. What a great group we were!"

Joy asked if he remembered the other Kana girls: Stella Saunders, Dot (Blundell) Lee, Phyl Brownson, Joyce Charles, Laurie Dale, Connie Giovanetti (deceased) Dawn (McMahon) Jobson (deceased) & Nikki Nicholson?

Looking back, she recalled the blockhouse at Stuart out of Townsville & its clever disguise as a farmhouse. "Remarkable", she wrote, "but I can't remember how we breathed with no windows & no air conditioning."

Her letter recommended a book of poetry, "Provocative Echoes" by Keith ("Zero") Falconer of 1 WU. Some of the poems deal with intercept operations.

Thanks Allan for passing on Joy's letter & for telling us you once shared a tent with "Zero" at Batchelor N.T. Newsletter has just heard from Keith Falconer, with whom we'd lost touch as he'd changed his address, his letter follows...

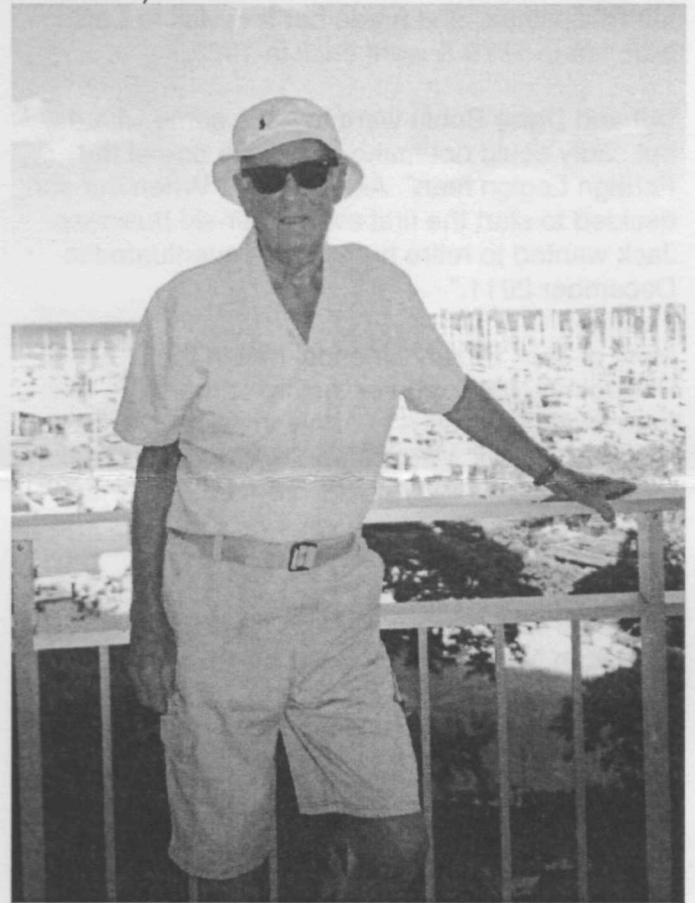
Dear Helen,
Thanks for fixing up my postal address problem. I enjoy reading the newsletters & from now on they'll get to me a bit faster!

It's always sad to read of those old comrades who've become ill and those who've passed away. I was particularly sorry to note that Keith Carolan and now Joy Linnane have died. Keith was in our group at Ascot Vale Showgrounds in Melbourne when Taff Davis taught us to read kana. And I recall a terrific trip to Magnetic Island with Joy and a bunch of the 1 WU operators.

I can't complain about my own health – I have a couple of stents (doesn't everyone!) and my emphysema is well under control. I used to run a few k's every day until I reached 75 years, and now I walk a minimum of 3k's daily. I also pump 2 ½ k iron and am forced to do special pilates exercises daily due to falling arse-over-head on a wheelbarrow in our garden last April and thereby totally smashing my right shoulder rotary cuff to bits. Naturally they can't even think of operating on

an old derro of 88 years! However Valerie and I have just returned from three months in Honolulu, where I spent hours of each day doing exercises in the hotel pool or on Waikiki and now I can do just about anything with my right arm, despite lacking my main right tendon. (We go to either Honolulu or Thailand every year for three months because my emphysema means I have to avoid the Melbourne winter. So since I retired from advertising agencies and moved up here to the bush we've lived overseas for a total of 5 years or so.)

Do any of our kana operators remember the joy we felt on some stormy night when half-way through a message static drowned out everything until weakly in the background of hash we'd hear a plaintive "DARDY DARDY DAR DIDDADIT" as some Jap also missed the message and wanted a repeat? Then there were the times when the Jap operator broke into whatever he was sending to suddenly bash out "DARDARDIDDA DAR" meaning he was being attacked, bombed or otherwise getting into strife. Oddly, I sometimes felt sorry for the guy. After all, he was just another radio operator like us! Hope you eventually hear from Jack Brown's wife in the Philippines – I'd be interested to learn what Tolosa looks like these days. (I recall it as a bunch of shattered coconut palms and wrecked LCI's on the beach).



Sincerely Keith ("Zero") Falconer

INK EMMA INK

After 70 years, this official newsletter of the Australian Special Wireless Group will have its final issue in 2013.

Ink Emma Ink (Morse for question mark) was founded at Bonegilla Camp in 1942, the first editor being the late Maurice Biggs. Since 1949, Steve Mason, President of ASWG who calls himself 'this editor fellow', has been bringing out the 16-page quarterly newsletter.

It has outlived many commercially published newspapers such as The Sun, Mirror and Argus and the famous old magazine The Bulletin.

How many newsletters exist today that date back to WW2? "Harry Peck's Post", put out by the 2/5 Field Regiment, started in the Middle East. Members of that regiment also served in Syria and returned to fight at Milne Bay. The Post is still going.

The readers of Ink Emma Ink include veterans of 1 Special Wireless Unit, 4 W/T Section & 5 W/T Section who sailed to the Middle East, then to Greece, Crete and Syria.

On return to Australia they joined the newly formed ASWG & served in Australia and the Pacific. Some went to Central Bureau, famous names being Sandford, Ballard, Kelson and Winn.

Ink Emma Ink's symbol is The Crown, Mercury balanced on a globe of the world, the Latin words "Certa Cita" – Swift & Sure (for signals) and a boomerang marked Australia.

This newsletter has a keen readership of Aswegians – men & women and their families. However the youngest member of ASWG would be 87 and many are over 90..

In the last 12 months, 13 members of ASWG have died, the last being Geoff Patience, OAM..... This veteran of Greece, Crete & the Middle East, also belonged to CB & helped to arrange a reunion in Carlton, Victoria for us. He had been Mayor of that city. Mailing list of ASWG has dropped from 500 plus to less than 150. Some Anzac Day gatherings are reduced to single figures. This applies to Annual General Meetings.

No longer will there be an Anzac Day march or lunch. Members will meet at the Pumphouse Hotel, Carlton. The final meeting of ASWG will be in

September 2013, after which the organisation will close down, and Ink Emma Ink will end. Surplus ASWG funds will be divided between the 7th Sig. Regiment Association and Legacy. The ASWG shield will be given to the Regiment at Cabarlah, books to the Signals Museum, letters & documents to the Australian War Memorial & other archives.

Steve Mason says: "Ink Emma Ink has been an important part of my life & the life of my family, extending over 60 years. It has been a rewarding experience to maintain communications with members. Thank you all for your friendship, co-operation & understanding.

That "editor fellow" was willing to carry on with help from "next generation" members, but the decision has been made. By September ASWG & Ink Emma Ink will be no more.

CBers wish you good luck & admire your outstanding newsletter.

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IN BRIEF

Earlier in 2012 the Year of Turing the British Government released two 70 year old papers to mark the centenary of the mathematician's birth.

GCHQ says the typed papers with handwritten notes had been restricted because of their "tremendous importance"

One paper "The Application of Probability to Crypt, and another "Paper on the Statistics of Definitions discuss "the mathematical foundations of modern code breaking."

At Bletchley Park Turing was instrumental in breaking the German Enigma codes. He was involved in the creation of machines known as Turing bombs, and considered father of the computers.

New AWM Directors

In August the Minister for Veterans Affairs, Warren Snowdon announced that the Hon. Dr. Brendan Nelson had been appointed as the new Director of the Australian War Memorial. He was due to take up his appointment on December 17.

Major General Steve Gower, AO, AO(Mil) (Retd) is stepping down after 16 years as Director. The media release says that during his tenure General Gower has done a tremendous job serving The

Memorial and through it the people of Australia in preserving the memory of those who fought for this country. He has redeveloped the Hall of Valour and introduced new interactive technology.

Ms Nola Anderson is thanked for her commitment and leadership as acting Director for the past nine months. She will continue in this role until December. Dr Brendan Nelson, a doctor by profession born in 1958 is a former Australian politician and former Federal Opposition Leader.

He is a former Minister for Defence and former President of the Australian Medical Association.

After he retired from politics in 2009, the foreign Minister Stephen Smith appointed him as Ambassador to Belgium Luxembourg. The EU and NATO.

He has been involved in planning for the commemoration of the Anzac centenary in 1915.

After the Battle of Passchendaele the people of Ypres gave Australia the "Menin Lions" in gratitude for the bravery of the soldiers. Dr Nelson has arranged for these lions to return as a loan to the Menin Gate in Belgium for the 2017 Centenary of Passchendaele

The Last Post

Article by Graham Handley, Secretary, Castle Hill RSL, from the Castle Hill RSL Magazine "The Veteran", and also in AIM- The Australian Intelligence Magazine.

If any of you have been to a military funeral in which The Last Post was played; this brings out a new meaning. Here is something everyone should know. Until I read this I didn't know, but I checked it out and it's true. We have all heard the haunting song "The Last Post". It's the song that gives us a lump in our throats and usually tears in our eyes. But, do you know the story behind the song?

Reportedly, it all began in 1862 during the American Civil War, when Union Army Captain Robert Ellicombe was with his men near Harrison's Landing in Virginia. The Confederate Army was on the other side of the narrow strip of land. During the night, Captain Ellicombe heard themoans of a soldier who lay severely wounded on the field. Not knowing whether it was a Union or Confederate soldier, the captain decided to risk his life and bring the stricken man back for medical attention.

Crawling on his stomach through the gunfire, the Captain reached the stricken soldier and began pulling him towards his encampment. When the Captain finally reached his own lines, he discovered it was actually a Confederate soldier, but the soldier was dead. The Captain lit a lantern and suddenly caught his breath and went numb with shock. In the dim light he saw the face of the soldier. It was his own son. The boy had been studying music in the South when the war broke out. Without telling his father, the boy enlisted in the Confederate Army.

The following morning, heartbroken, the father asked permission of his superiors to give his son a full military burial, despite his enemy status. His request was only partly granted. The Captain had asked if he could have a group of Army band members play a funeral dirge for his son at the funeral. The request was turned down since the soldier was a confederate. But, out of respect for the father, they did say they could give him only one musician. The Captain chose a bugler. He asked the bugler to play a series of musical notes he had found on a piece of paper in the pocket of the dead youth's uniform. This wish was granted. The haunting melody, we now know as "The Last Post" used at military funerals was born.

The words are:-

*Day is done.
Gone the sun.
From the lakes.
From the hills. All is well.
Safely rest.
God is nigh.*

*Fading light.
Dims the sight.
And a star.
Gems the sky.
Gleaming bright.
From afar.
Drawing nigh.
Falls the night.*

*Thanks and praise.
For our days.
Neath the sun.
Neath the stars.
As we go.
This we know.
God is nigh.*

I too have felt the chills while listening to "The Last Post" but I have never seen all the words to the song until now. I didn't even know there was more

than one verse. I also never knew the story behind the song and I didn't know if you had either so I thought that I would pass it along. I now have an even deeper respect for the song than I did before.

Remember Those Lost and Harmed While Serving Their Country. Also Remember Those Who Have Served and Returned. And For Those Presently Serving In The Armed Forces.

Editor's Comment

It was surprising to read that the Last Post had an American origin. I think most of us would have presumed it was British.

Pre-war Girl Guides in Australia called it "TAPS" and sang this verse:

*"Day is done.
Gone the sun
From the earth
From the sea
From the sky.
All is well,
Safely rest,
God is nigh.*

Collins Dictionary defines "TAPS": "In army camps it is a signal given on a bugle, drum etc indicating lights are to be put out."

It can be "any similar signal at a military funeral."

Can any CBer sort out the discrepancy?

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The Dickin Medal

When did you last clean out your attic or junk room? You might find something surprising.

Mr David Martin, of Bletchingley, South of London, recently found the skeleton of a carrier pigeon in the attic of his 17th century home. A coded message was fastened to the pigeon's leg.

Pigeon specialists thought that the bird might have flown from France in 1944, sent by the British forces in the time of the Normandy landings, 68 years ago.

The message was sent to GCHQ in Gloucestershire this year for decipherment. An historian replied that the code couldn't be worked out because it was designed to be read only by the sender and recipient.

News of the pigeon's message went round the

world. Mr Morton, the attic cleaner, wonders if GCHQ did crack the code and found something too sensitive to reveal.

The Sun-Herald of 25/11/12 published news of that code – carrying British pigeon. Perhaps that bird should receive a posthumous Dickin Medal. In WW2 Australian pigeon fanciers donated 20,000 pigeons to the A.I.F pigeon service. The Australian Encyclopedia says that the bird went to all branches of the armed services. They were used when wireless silence was essential, especially in Commando operations.

Two Australian pigeons were awarded the Dickin Medal – the animal VC – for service in the Pacific War.

Wording on the pigeons' medals reads: "We also served". These words are identical with those on the handsome badges we received from the GCHQ. They are derived from the poet, Milton.



Remembrance Day

On November 11, young & old gathered in the small but beautiful park outside the Roseville Memorial Club. There we were addressed by Mr W Asbey, President of the Roseville Sub-Branch of the RSL, who said:

"Good Morning all and welcome to the Roseville RSL Sub-Branch Commemoration of Remembrance Day. This spot is located where three streets meet, each of which is named after a World War 1 local identity: MacLaurin Parade, Pockley Avenue and Larkin Lane. These three individuals can be thought of as we come & go to this Memorial Park. [Can we have more information about this trio please?]

Mr Asbey continued: "In welcoming you all I wish to thank Killara High School for being a large part of today's proceedings: School Captains Alex Mura & Roxie Swart, the speaker, Estelle Holden &

Trumpeter Daniel Brini. Welcome too, to the Roseville Scout group.”

The Scouts all stood to attention & gave their three finger salute. Youngsters from state & private schools went forward and laid wreaths on the memorial.

After the ceremony was over we went inside and the Killara High School students – all aged about 17, waited on us, bringing tea, coffee & biscuits. Looking on were a couple of CBers who'd been 17 on enlistment – one being Allan Norton who lived on a farm hundreds of miles from Albany W.A. We remembered the late Barbara Kitching who was 15, put her age up and was stationed with Ack Ack defences on Sydney Harbour at the time of the Japanese intrusion. She was to join CB. Congratulations to the Roseville Club & to the 17 yr olds of Killara High. May fate be kind to them.

CBICA thanks Mr John Wheelie, President of the Roseville Club and all staff for arranging our visits there over the years.

Vale

Keith Carolan was a quiet man. Growing up in Coogee he loved the beach, surfed until he was 85 and in his latter years with a boogie board, which he even carried on the plane with us when we went north every year.

All his school years were spent at Waverley College where he did well scholastically and represented the school in cricket, rugby and especially handball.

This was the time of the Great Depression, however, and Keith left school after the intermediate exam and joined the Public State Service believing his expensive schooling was too much of a burden for his parents as his father had had a stroke.

When war broke out in the Pacific, he was working in the Child Welfare Dept. He applied to join the Air Force but was told to come back when he turned 18.. By the time he turned 18 he was working in the Taxation Dept which was a Restricted Industry. So it was with some difficulty he was allowed to leave & finally joined what he expected to be Air Crew. Finding that the waiting list for Air Crew was 10 months he was told to join Wireless Operator ground staff.

He was sent by troop train to Melbourne then to Ballarat for his Rookies where he and all the other young men were subjected to harsh training

conditions. At this stage Keith developed a severe reaction to a very rough inoculation & spent a week in hospital. Consequently his Unit passed out & he had to train with a new unit to finally start learning Morse. During this time about 30 of the boys were approached about joining a secret mission to be dropped behind enemy lines – totally ridiculous as the receiving sets they were to use took 2 people to lift them.

They volunteered however, and were sent to Melbourne to learn Japanese Kana code with its 76 letters, so as to intercept Japanese messages. Finally after all obtaining excellent passes they were sent to Townsville. Their Operation room was the wonderfully camouflaged Queensland house which has been described here before.

Moved to NADZAB their campsite overlooked the American cemetery. Here the Americans & our boys were visited by John Wayne & Carole Landis with guns firing during the performance to let the folks back in the U.S know how brave these entertainers were!

After about 6 months in NADZAB they moved on with the American Air Force to Biak. There had been extreme fighting on this island with great loss of life – at least 2000 Japanese. The island was totally coral so no bodies could be buried.

After some time on Biak they were flown, courtesy of the Americans again as they were held in high regard, back to NADZAB. Returning to Brisbane however, Keith had his first attack of malaria & was 3 weeks in hospital.

Finally they had their orders North again. From Townsville to their destination on Morotai their journey was extremely hazardous including one crash landing. Here they discovered they would be going to Borneo in a convoy with the 9th Australian Infantry.

After 4days at anchor they joined the 6 lines of ships & spent 5 days at sea where they were joined by General MacArthur for the bombardment of the Island of Labuan in Borneo.

The Japanese had retreated to the middle of the island but there were many woodpeckers (snipers) and still more loss of life. One night the bullets passed through Keith's tent netting before hitting one of his companion's arm. Another time in a queue from a field kitchen the man 2 in front of him was shot & killed – Keith was blessed.

After the war however Keith joined another 'hush hush' organisation, The Taxation Dept!! So literally Keith's entire adult life was secret.

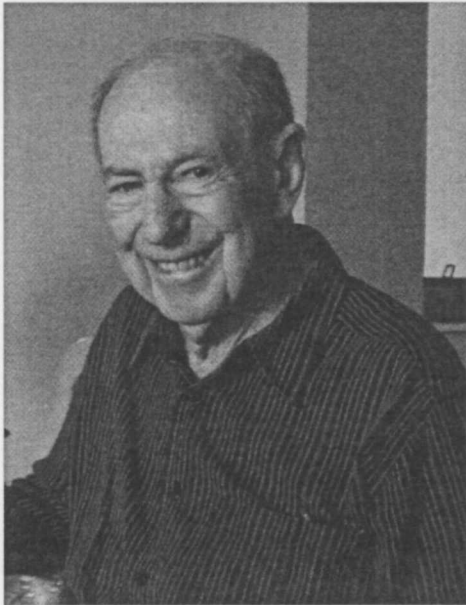
On his first holiday after the war, he went to Bundanoon and stayed at Rosnel Guest House where my father was manager and I was a 19yr old receptionist. We married 2 years later after Keith finished studying accountancy.

We built a house at Kingsgrove & raised 3 daughters & 3 sons. Educating a large family who all went on to university was expensive so he also (at night) lectured TAFE students in Taxation Law & Practice.

He taught all the children & some grandchildren to surf, played squash until his 70's, helped in many capacities at Church & was at all times a very busy, very charitable man.

At the time of his death he left 6 children, 14 grandchildren, 6 great grandchildren – and me. Joan Carolan. We were married for 63 years.

- Joan Carolan



Les McClean (1923-2012) has died. Last Anzac Day, he finished the march and wrote a triumphant "I made it". He marched for some years with difficulty but never gave up. That wasn't his style. His daughter Sandra Bullon said that her father joined up at 18. Eventually the army sent him to CB where he trained at Henry Street before going to New Guinea and the Philippines. Les was born in Sydney, went to a boarding school in the country, then found a happier place at Sydney Grammar. From boyhood he loved sailing, first at Kogarah Bay, then Sydney Harbour. He taught his children & nephew to sail. Les took part in several Sydney to Hobart races as did his son David & nephew Luke.

His favourite place was the Cruising Yacht Club, of which he was once Commodore. He always called his boats "Merry Mac".

For all his life he got used to people mispronouncing his name. It is McClean – said as "clean" not "clane".

Les & his wife Maida had three children, Sandra, David and Jeanette. They & CBers remember him as a kind & generous man, a handyman too, who could fix anything.

For years he presided at Phillips Foote Restaurant in the Rocks – where CBers met on Anzac & Remembrance Days. There was a particularly happy gathering there in Australia's Bicentennial Year when Americans, including General Akin, came out to join old comrades.

Les spent the last decades of his life at Bondi. Now he's gone – but will ever be remembered by his family & CBers.

Geoff Patience, a veteran of Greece, Crete and the Middle East died in November. He lived in Caulfield, Victoria and was once Mayor of that city.

His daughter, Jenny Dean, informed us of his death and we hope she can give us more information about his life for another newsletter. He held an O.A.M & B.E.M & did much for charity. He also submitted interesting articles to newsletters about wartime Christmas in the Middle East.

Our sympathy to his family.

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Because my computer-wise relatives were away overseas or occupied with family matters, it's been left to Scott McSkimming and Kwik Kopy North Sydney (Pacific Hwy) to turn my bad handwriting into print. They put the newsletter in order. Many thanks.

This was the job so well done by the late Les Smith. Wasn't there a saying: "The mail must go through" It also applies to newsletters.

Good Luck to all and Happy Christmas...H.K