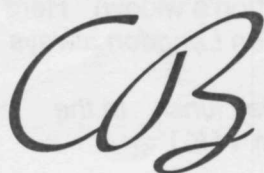


CENTRAL BUREAU INTELLIGENCE CORPS ASSOCIATION AUGUST 2013



Publicity Officer: Helen Kenny, 27/1-13 Mackenzie St, Lavender Bay NSW 2060 tel: 02 9954 0940

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

ANZAC Day Celebrations 2013

With a near record attendance of fifty-six members, relatives and friends, this year's ANZAC day Reunion was once again a huge success.

This was Central Bureau's 39th Annual Reunion, the first having been held on 18th October 1974, attended incidentally by forty odd ex CBers, who later became founding members of the CBICA.

President Gordon extended a warm welcome to all and Treasurer Bruce brought us up to date on those who had travelled long distances to be there and those who were sadly, not able to be with us. There were no lulls in the conversation at the luncheon tables especially with a fair sprinkling of patrons who had earlier been to the Macquarie Boutique Hotel, which incidentally seems to become more and more popular each year. Finally the Army Cadet Band marched in and topped off proceedings with some rousing and familiar tunes.

Prior to these festivities, fifteen of us had taken part in the ANZAC Day March. They were: Norm Allen, Col and Mark Brackley, Bruce Bentwitch, Alan Fookes, Joy Grace, Gordon Gibson, Frank Hughes, Ailsa Hale, Jacqui Keeling, Brian Lovett, Rob Moore, Allan Norton, Doug Pyle and Bill Rogers. The weather gods had smiled on us and though it was hard to hear a band we managed to keep in step most of the time and no one had to drop out. Once again our thanks to our stalwart banner bearers Rob and Mark (who had willingly stepped into the place of Ian who is now overseas).

On ANZAC Eve, the following members had gathered in Martin Place for the Wreath Laying Ceremony: Norm Allen, Alan Fookes, Gordon Gibson, Frank Hughes and Bill Rogers. Once again we were joined with the AIA in a brief but moving service at the Cenotaph.

Peter Court read the ANZAC Day Prayer and Brian Buckley recited the

Ode. Our thanks are due to 226 Army Cadet Unit who provided the Catafalque Party.

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

HON. TREASURER'S REPORT

The following is a list of the Interstate and Country Members with us on Anzac Day.

Victorians: Gwen Charlesworth, Alan Fookes, Diana Parker, Bill Rogers.

NSW Country: Stan Baylis, Joy Grace, Joan Harris, Frank Hughes, Jacqui Keeling, Brian Lovett, Pam Langdon, Doug & Nell Pyle.

Unfortunately a number of members health prevented them attending.

On the matter of health my GP sent me to the New North Shore Hospital at St Leonards for a nuclear scan of my lower back which has been giving me problems for some time.

The scan, which was performed under a new "Siemens" machine found I have degenerative arthritis affecting my lower spine. Other than gentle exercise, nothing can be done – no heavy lifting.

All the bestBruce Bentwitch
7 Holly St Castle Cove 2069
Ph: (02) 9417-1427

AROUND THE TABLES

On ANZAC Day CBers, family and friends gathered for lunch at the Pullman Sydney Hotel, overlooking Hyde Park.

Around the tables were:-

Freya O'Brien: (Joyce Grace's elder brother's younger daughter). She was born in Mackay, Qld, and now lives in North Sydney.

Joyce Grace: Happy to be among my Army mates once again.

Ailsa Hale: Lovely to be here today and see familiar faces even if our numbers have declined. Hope to see our friends for years to come.

Shirley Merchant: I am Helen Kenny's sister. It is lovely to meet her friends from Army days.

Helen Kenny: Secretary Joy Granger was too ill to come, sends wishes to all. We return them 100% Anzac Day is now a family gathering where CBers and descendants of those who served in WW1 and 11 meet to remember.

Angela Gladstone: (Ailsa Hale's granddaughter) wore her great-grandfather's medals. He was Arthur Hale, who served as a stretcher bearer at Gallipoli. One medal was the Gallipoli Star. Her other great grandfather, Sgt Les Hurley, was at The Somme and Villers Bretonneux.

Madeline Chidgey: Always special to be with old pals on Anzac Day.

Jacqui Keeling: Great to catch up. I missed seeing you all last year.

Noni Benn: Nice to be here again. Hope you are all well. I miss Peggy Teague and Joy Granger.

Nell & Doug Pyle: Great to be here again to share some time with wonderful friends.

Lachlan Welsman: (Alan Langdon's grandson) Lovely to be here again.

Elizabeth Welsman: (Alan Langdon's daughter)

David Langdon: (Alan Langdon's son)

Pamela Langdon: (Alan Langdon's widow) Here for another year. (*The Rev. Alan Langdon always*

said grace before our Anzac Day lunch. In the silence we seemed to hear him. H.K.)

Diana Parker: So good to be with old friends again. (I came up from Melbourne.)

Bill & Jan Rogers: Crossed the Murray. Great to see everybody.

Frank Hughes, who's had much time in hospital, managed to make the train trip down from the far North Coast of NSW. Good to see him again.

Gwen Charlesworth: (another Melburnian!) Very best of luck to all members of CB. Very special to be here to remember my dear husband, Geoff Charlesworth, and great friend Alan Langdon. Great occasion.

Helen Charlesworth: (daughter of Geoff Charlesworth) Thank you for allowing us to share in this special day with you all.

Alan Fookes with Roslyn, Nina and Stephanie: Great to join the group for today's reunion. Thanks to the organisers. This has been a great day. Hope to come from Melbourne again next year.

Maureen & Sue Baylis: Lovely to be with you all again.

Gordon and Sue Gibson: Had the pleasure of being accompanied by our daughter Katy, son-in-law Chris and daughter-in-law's mother Dee Johnson. We cheered the loudest of all those in George St we are sure and encouraged the TV photographers to film the CB group. (Gordon led our marchers.)

Joan Harris: My first CB function without Lou and it was good to catch up with everyone. My sister, Shirley, came with me and enjoyed herself too.

Joan & Di Carolan: I came to remember Keith's friends, as Keith died during this last year. He is dearly loved and sorely missed by all of us, our beautiful and gracious husband and father.

Allan Norton: It is 71 years since I set eyes on any of my fellow members of 1 Wireless Unit in Pimlico, a Townsville suburb. On this day I remember the faces of the lads I knew. Today I particularly miss Keith Carolan and Lou Harris. God bless them all.

Margaret McCafferty: I'm very happy to meet some of Charlie's comrades on this commemorative Anzac Day celebration. Everyone is so welcoming and gracious.

David Lovett: (son of Brian) Very nice day with our friends at the Pullman.

Brian Lovett: Apologies from my brother Bruce. Due to medical reasons he wasn't able to march. My son David did march and was at the reunion which was tops. *(This CBer, an artist, gave a painting of 21 Henry Street, and his memoir "Life of Brian" to President Gordon. H.K.)*

Rob Moore: Great day, good weather, sorry not to see Don Dunn, Roy Perry and missing Les McClean.

Mark Brackley: This was my first year as Deputy Banner Holder to Rob Moore. I was amazed at the love and affection for the C.B.I.C.A. demonstrated by the deafening cheering of the public along George Street. Thanks to all who served.

Col Brackley, Mark's father, was welcomed at lunch after he marched.

PEOPLE

Illness prevented Kath Burns from marching with CBICA on Anzac Day. Her late husband, William Burns served with CB in the Philippines and she belongs to the Mosman War Widows' Guild which provides support and comfort to its members. Recently she and others were photographed by the "Mosman Daily".

Kath's father served at Villers Bretonneux, and her brother was a POW in Changi.

The phone rang. A voice said; "It's Anne – Jack Brown's widow. I'm calling from Tacloban, in the Philippines." Reception was loud and clear. As reported in Newsletter, Jack died in the Philippines last year. His ambition to return there was achieved, but what now for Anne?

"It's been lonely," she said, "but I'm staying. Our son Greg has a surfing business here, and a beautiful house."

Anne plans to come to Australia for a granddaughter's wedding, but Tacloban is now home.

Ivan Au Prince is in respite at The Uniting Care Facility, Peakhurst, NSW. His wife Nola is extremely ill in St George Public Hospital. *(Information from Allan Norton, who also passed on news of the RAAF Wireless Unit gathering. He*

sent wishes for good health. Reciprocated with thanks. H.K.)

RAAF WIRELESS UNITS - VICTORIA

Held their 68th annual reunion and luncheon at the Crest International Hotel-Motel, St Kilda on 24th April.

Present were Jack Bleakley, Wal Bullough, Ron Corr, Arthur Evans Stan Harper, Mick Manestar, Evan Nussing, Alwyn and Marie Petherbridge, Will and Joan Renshaw, Doug and Dorothy Smith and Harold Jones.

Apologies were received from Keith and Val Falconer, Ken McKenzie, John Skurner, George Rankin, Stan Clarke, Allan Norton and George McKinnon.

Serious health problems, travel difficulties and Anzac Day commitments were reasons given. There was one minute's silence for those who had died in the past year – Keith Carolan, Henry Atkinson, Bruce Cooper and Jack Brown (who died recently in the Philippines).

(Thanks to Secretary Harold Jones and to Allan Norton who passed on this information. RAAF Wireless Unit voted for another reunion next year. H.K.)

RHYTHM ON A DRUM

As usual, the Anzac Day lunch in Sydney had a splendid finale when the Australian Army Cadet Band came marching in.

This time the Band had a surprise for us. A drummer halted beside Shirley Merchant (H.K.'s sister) and handed her the drumsticks. As the music played on she "beat out that rhythm on the drum" with such fervent enjoyment that it was hard for her to hand the drumsticks back. Someone asked later if she'd ever been in a band.... No – regretfully.

At the other end of the table, Gordon Gibson's son-in-law Chris was also handed the drumsticks and put on a first rate performance. Thanks to the Band and the amateurs.

(Good thing they didn't hand anyone a bugle. I tried once and couldn't get a sound out of it. H.K.)

LETTERS

Phil Burrell of Bridgewater, Tasmania, wrote to say he hopes Joy Granger is better, and thinks she's had a harder time than he. Phil recently had flu, then broke his right leg. When he was "just about right", he broke the right hip.

He sent a cutting from the "Hobart Mercury" which told of the death of Elaine Pearce, 96, who came from a well-known Hobart family.

It said that she had received a medal (from Bletchley Park) and a letter from the former British Prime Minister, Gordon Brown. She had kept silent about her code-breaking work for 70 years, never telling her family.

Was Elaine with CB? Can anyone say?
(And best wishes to Phil, from a fellow "hippy" and hopes for no more falls! H.K.)

Noeline Hanson of Eastwood NSW wrote to say how sorry she was that she and David could not be with us on Anzac Day. "Pass on my love to everyone," she wrote.

Dave is now in a Baptist Nursing Home (Shalom) where a special Anzac Service was held. Noeline said he wore the Bletchley Park Medal of which he "is very proud".

Their daughter Debbie and husband Geoff flew to the U.K. in April. They plan to visit Bletchley Park.

Eunice Smith of Ipswich, Qld, and her late husband, Les, produced Newsletter for many years. She hasn't forgotten us and sent a cutting from the Brisbane "Sunday Mail" about Joy Core an AWAS cipher operator.

She worked on the 4th floor of MacArthur's HQ and remembers a message that gave details of the D-Day landing in June 1944.

Now Mrs Taylor, she remembers the "gorgeous young women" who visited the US Officers.
(Do CBers recall Joy Core? H.K.)

Jessie Flanders of Casterton, Vic, wrote a prize winning story "My Secret Life- helping to win the war" which appeared in "Take Five". A cutting was posted to Newsletter. *(Thanks to the sender, whose name I've lost. H.K.)*

Mrs Flanders, 92, was a WRAN who worked in the Special Intelligence Bureau, "Monterey" Melbourne deciphering Japanese transmissions. One planned a Japanese attack on allied ships. The ship was alerted and saved. Another message she remembers is the intercept about Yamamoto's schedule, which led to the shooting down of his aircraft and his death.

(There are many claimants to this intercept, including 1 WU.)

Mrs Flanders received the Bletchley Park Medal and wrote that, "my name was inscribed on the War Memorial in Harrow, U.K. as a living hero."

A CBer's STORY (Part 1) – GORDON SWINNEY

(Gordon Swinney of Gateshead NSW sent a tape with this letter. He tells of a boyhood and youth rarely experienced by others. Many thanks Gordon, and good wishes. Will have to run your letter in two parts. H.K.)

I was born 7th March, 1922 in the Maclean Hospital (on the Clarence River). The family lived on Hollywood Island as professional fisherman – when the fish were AWOL they worked in the Harwood Island Sugar Mill.

I think the reason for moving up there from Maitland, their home being in the Horseshoe Bend, was washed away in the 1893 flood – all they had left was their alarm clock.

About the same time in Queensland the Indooroopilly Bridge was also destroyed by 500 houses being washed downriver and a 2,000 ton ship was left high and dry in the Brissy Botanical Gardens.

So much for history ---

When I was two years old the family moved down south to Speers Point on Lake Macquarie.

My natural mother passed away when I was two years old. I was raised by my grandparents – my uncles and aunts became brothers and sisters until later in life. I had an older uncle or brother, but he was drowned when one year old, falling out of the boat on the river, but his body was never found.

Eventually I went to school, when six years old, at Boolaroo. We lived on The Esplanade at Speers Point. Naturally, Grandad bought a piece of land

well above the water. My family in later times always built or bought houses on high ground. I think we were all conscious of the alarm clock episode.

Back to school! I caught the bus just in front of our house – a two mile trip to school. The very young ones of us had a turn on the driver's knee helping keep the bus safe – FANCY doing that today!! When I reached 5th Class we had a lady Welsh teacher. When the lesson was music, I and two other boys went outside to do gardening.

When in 6th Class I had the Deputy Master, Sid Grant, for a teacher – one of the best!

I will never forget he always filled the blackboard with phrases and sentences – we had to pick out subjects and predicates. Among them he always had, "Jesus wept".

Next I graduated to Newcastle Boys' High – bus trip to Cockle Creek Station, train to Hamilton St, changed trains to Waratah Station and walked through the park to the school - I reversed the system in the afternoon. In the winter months I left home and returned in the dark.

Five years at High School. Latin and French throughout; German for six months and Greek for a day and a half. I went to Sydney to become a teacher.

1939 – the war in Europe so we students all went into the Sydney University Regiment to play soldiers, but then the Japs upset the systems

(Part 2 follows in the next issue!)

Vale

LOUIS WILLIAM HARRIS (1924-2012)

Lou Harris was born in Narrabri in 1924, and lived in various country towns in NSW where his father worked as a postmaster. After he left school, Lou initially followed his father into post office work, but soon went on to serve his country during World War II and was later instrumental in the development of Newcastle University from its fledgling days to the remarkable institution it is today.

Lou joined the Royal Australian Air Force in 1942, as soon as he turned 18, but his stories of his wartime experiences were untold for many years. Nearly 50 years later in 1991, when Jack Bleakley's book 'The Eavesdroppers' was published, the author was interviewed on ABC radio. Lou came to Joan saying, 'Listen to this, it's about us, this is what we did in the war'. He was finally able to tell the family stories of his wartime experiences. He had been selected for training in the Japanese kana code and became a wireless operator intercepting Japanese radio messages. He was included in the group selected to accompany MacArthur's forces to the Philippines, the only non-American forces included, as it was a matter of American pride to retake the Philippines alone. Unfortunately Lou became very sick with dengue fever, and was extremely disappointed he was forced to return to Brisbane for treatment instead of staying with his unit.

Lou and Keith Carolan were in the same aircraft accident at Merauke in 1945 that was mentioned in a recent CB newsletter. The following is an extract of a letter dated 6 December 1991 that Lou received from the Department of Defence, Air Force Office regarding this incident:

'The Dakota in question was A65-60 (VH-CUS) which blew its starboard tyre on take-off from Merauke on 31 March 1945. The aircraft ground looped, just missing a tractor which was parked 25 feet off the edge of the airstrip. The aircraft... was operated by 38 Squadron.'

After the war, Lou studied accounting and worked in Sydney, where he and Joan were

married in 1948. Two sons and a daughter (Chris, John and Annemarie) were born in Sydney, and later they moved to Canberra, where the second daughter (Cathy) was born just before the family moved to Newcastle in 1963, as the university was being established.

Lou Harris was the Bursar at Newcastle University for over 20 years, playing a significant role in the development of the Newcastle campus. He was very proud of the university and developed many friendships there. In the early days, the university was small enough for most of the staff to know each other. At that time Christmases usually involved the extended University family, and the university played a big part in the lives of Lou's family. He took up playing golf regularly with a University group, and for many years Saturday mornings were sacred to the game. In his retirement, he continued to enjoy playing golf (and even achieved that elusive 'hole in one').

Lou had a strong sense of social justice and equality and, after his retirement in 1986, he was a volunteer for Legacy for a number of years, providing financial advice to war widows.

The ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day get-togethers were important to Lou and he regretted being unable to attend in 2012.

- Joan Harris

CHOOKS AT CHERMSIDE (A CB Mystery)

During the war, young AWAS – including CBers were put into camp at 67 AWAS Barracks, Chermside (a Brisbane suburb).

They were driven in three ton trucks to work at 21 Henry St, Ascot Park, and most belonged to 11 Aust Cipher Section.

A young officer, Helen Rex, now Bond, ran the camp, which was in bushland among gum trees. The road to the camp was dirt, and crossed a gully, sometimes flooded. A cattle grid at the entrance and barbed wire fence were more farm-like than military. Each fibro hut held three girls.

The only men on the site were those who cooked and chopped wood for coppers in which we washed our clothes. Cooking was done on fuel or Soyer stoves. Lavatories were unsewered, and green snakes and frogs frequented the rec. hut and latrines, much to the surprise of many, including Madeline Chidgey and Coral Hinds.

After the war the land was sub-divided and a hospital and new homes went up. The Hills family bought a block at 97 Memar St, Chermside and made a home there, with garden and chookyard.

One day, young Peter, aged 12, saw the chooks scratching up 47 objects that turned out to be Army Identity discs worn by Australian soldiers in WWII.

Identity discs worn by men and women of the Australian Army were of a material strong enough to withstand the wearer's death. The discs gave little information other than name, date of birth, rank, serial number, blood group and religion.

Peter cleaned up the tags and put them away in an album as neatly as if they were stamps. Recently he handed the discs to Mr Rob. Isdale and his wife Beverley, of the Chermside and District Historical Society.

The discs scratched up by the chooks in that Chermside backyard are a puzzle for local historians who went to the records to find out who the wearers were, and in which units they worked.

The list provided shows these CBers and members of ASIPs and ASWG:-

BAKER, Charles: b 1915, enlisted Nyngan, NSW and was a Lance Sergeant in CBIC;

DAY, John: b 1925, enlisted Melbourne in CBIC, rank corporal;

DENTON, Frederick: b 1912, enlisted Adelaide River N.T., in ASWG as a signalman;

EMERSON, Donald: b 1915, enlisted in Victoria and was a Lance Sergeant with 1 ASIP GP;

GILLIGAN, Albert Flanders: b 1910, enlisted Brisbane Qld, corporal, CBIC;

HARRISON, Milton Roy: b 1918, enlisted Brisbane Qld, private, CBIC;

LIDLAW, Donald Hope: b 1923, enlisted Loveday, SA, Captain in CBIC;

LEDERER, Victor Edgar: b 1914, enlisted
Paddington NSW, Captain, CB;

LOVELL, John Irving: b 1923, enlisted
Paddington NSW, Private CBICPS;

MATTHEWS, Mervyn: b 1917, enlisted Brisbane
Qld, corporal at HQ in Central Bureau;

McKEOWN, William Mark: b 1923, enlisted
Brisbane Qld, Sgt in CBIC;

PURNELL, Colin Bruce: b 1915, enlisted Royal
Park Vic, Captain in 1 ASPIP GP;

REEVE, John Kenneth: b 1922, enlisted
Melbourne Vic, Lieut in CBCB GHQ ATT ADV
LHQ;

RYAN, William: b 1911, enlisted Bonegilla Vic,
Staff Sergeant, ASWG;

SANDFORD, Alastair Wallace: b 1916, enlisted
Wayville SA, Lieutenant Colonel in CBIC & TSPS.

(Colonel "Mic" Sandford, veteran of Greece, Crete, the Middle East and Pacific, was the brilliant head of CB. He survived the war, lived in Italy afterwards, and died there only in his 50s.

Can anyone explain why the identity discs of Lt Colonel "Mic" Sandford and Capt. Don Laidlaw and others should turn up in a Chermside Qld backyard after the war? Help please?

Coral (Osborne) Hinds heard of the Chermside and Districts Historical Society through the Hamilton family whom she had known in Chermside during the war. She got in touch with Beverley and Rob Isdale of the Society, and sent photos of the girls in the camp and reminiscences of life there.

This started the Isdales on a trek that led to Bletchley Park and The Philippines, by finding many CB names on the discs.

If you can solve the mystery of the identity discs or if you were in Camp in Chermside, please get in touch with Rob and Beverley Isdale of the Chermside and Districts Historical Society Inc: Ph: (07) 3350 2874 , or email robev@zipworld.com.au H.K.)

(Sorry this Newsletter is late. Clogged arteries in leg are now being unclogged. Hospital treating me very well and son-in-law Bruce Goudge at bedside putting this onto computer. Step-daughter Judith and niece Sally Gibson doing a lot of putting up with a lot.

P.S. Home again – end of July! XXOO H.K.)