

CENTRAL BUREAU INTELLIGENCE CORPS ASSOCIATION SEPTEMBER 2013

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

PRESIDENT'S PAR

Remembrance Day Reunion 2013

The date and time for this event is Monday 11th November at 10.30 am. The venue is the Roseville Memorial Club on the Pacific Highway, a stone's throw (if you are still up to throwing them) from Roseville railway station. Coming by car from the city, turn left into MacLaurin Parade, then right into the parking lot just behind the club. The ceremony is held in the little park adjoining the club and is largely carried out by school-children who lay wreaths on behalf of their schools, deliver the Remembrance Day Oration, and sound the Last Post.

Ex-schoolboy and Roseville Club Member Bruce Bentwitch lays the wreath on behalf of CBICA. Before leaving the park you should try to locate the plaque commemorating Central Bureau's achievements in WWII hidden in a little garden specially planted with Gallipoli roses. On conclusion of the ceremony why not adjourn to the club for an informal luncheon at our own table? After all, it will have been a long time since Anzac Day when we last had a chance for a good chat together.

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

HON. TREASURER'S REPORT

Recently I had a telephone call from Gordon Swinney telling me he had spent several days in hospital with the result he is feeling much better than for many years.

The finding of one of the discs at Chermside reminded me of a member of the army stationed with 2WU.

2WU was on a hill and the Ops section was about a 10 minute walk from the camp.

One afternoon I was walking to the Ops section when the biggest goanna I have ever seen ran across the path chased by said army chap. I also recall this chap never had a shower when the sun was shining hence his skin was snow white. (? Memories)

A number of members have not as yet paid this year's subscription. This will be noted on this newsletter.

Kind RegardsBruce Bentwitch
7 Holly St Castle Cove 2069
Ph: (02) 9417-1427

A CBer's STORY (Part 2) – 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. Part 1 was in the previous Newsletter. H.K.

All medical students went back to Uni. Most of the rest, after the disbandment of Sydney Uni Regiment, went into the 110th Light Ack Ack

with guns on the Harbour Bridge. I wasn't on The Bridge – I was out at Bankstown Aerodrome. In 1939 & 40 I boarded in Petersham. The Landlady, Mrs Paulette, was the first woman in the NSW Police Force.

Her husband, a detective, had been murdered by the razor gangs in 1932. She had a wonderful story to tell.

Next I was transferred to MO RAAF – Bradfield Park for initial training – eventually over to Port Pirie. Then I applied for the course at Point Cook. Going from Port Pirie to Point Cook we stayed overnight in Adelaide.

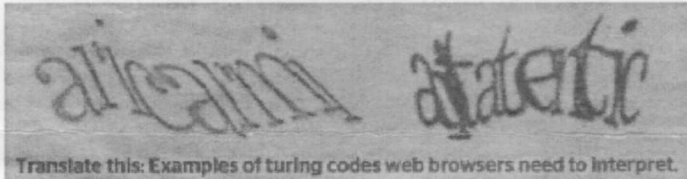
My palliasse was beside a fellow traveller – we talked – he lived in Melbourne. As I had nowhere to go at all for the week-end he invited me to his home in Hampton.

I went – he had two sisters. There I met Phillis so we corresponded during the war. To cut the story short, we were married on 1948 and so it goes on

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IN BRIEF

The name Turing is familiar to us and respected. Are you familiar though with CAPTCHA? (Completely Automated Public Turing test to tell Computers and Humans Apart?)



Here are some examples of Turing Codes (as shown in SMH, 6th August, 2013) The tests “aim to stop spam” by asking consumers to prove they are human by retyping jumbled letters when signing up for new online accounts or posting online messages.”

Can you translate? (Ex cryptographer Judy Carson might oblige.)

These distorted letters are troubling the blind and disabled – failing to recognise them as human.

There’s now a petition to kill CAPTCHA, which frustrates many.

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Secretary Joy Granger, still unable to write because of broken wrists, can’t get to reunions and misses seeing old friends. We miss her and send wishes back. Joyce is proud of her nephew, Julian Porteus, who has just been appointed as the new Archbishop of Hobart by Pope Francis.

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“Spring Is Sprung”

You know it’s spring when:-

1. The calls of love seeking birds wake you early in the morning – particularly the koel;
2. The din of lawn mowers and leaf blowers sounds on Saturdays;
3. Flowers blooming everywhere in home gardens and special shows;
4. Spring fashion week attacks shopper;
5. Joggers take over footpaths;

6. White-ribboned cars head for weddings;
7. Real Estate agents work overtime;
8. Hay fever replaces winter colds;
9. The Spring Racing Carnival leads up to the Melbourne Cup. Australia has 500 bookmakers, and 4,400 totalisators. Australians spend \$2.6 billion a year betting on races – and average of \$156 for every adult.

- from “Hearing Matters – the Journal of SHHH Australia”

(PS: Can you add to this list – the first blowfly, first funnel web and the sound of the first locust [correctly “cicadas”] in the gum trees?)

OTHERS’ NEWS

Reprieve for ASWG and its 71 year old newsletter Ink Emma Ink will be considered at a meeting this month. After a decision to wind up the Association and to cease publication, members were asked to vote on whether to keep going or not. President/Editor Steve Mason received 32 replies.

Five (“with reluctance”) were for winding up and 27 were for continuing, even if the IMI were reduced to two slimmer editions per year. (Tell us what’s happening please Steve.)

AIM: the Australian Intelligence Magazine gave a brief history of the Australian Intelligence Corps in its issue 183. In December, the Australian Intelligence Association will be 106 years old.

The Reserve Forces Day 2013 National Launch Parade was held on 24th November, 2012 in Observatory Hill Park, Upper Fort Street, in The Rocks, Sydney. Its theme focussed on the 23,000 Reservists and the 500 permanent soldiers who served in the Boer War (1899-1902).

Observatory Hill Park is the site of a Boer War Memorial bearing the names of the original Commanders of the Units that went to the war. In front of the memorial is a Krupp gun, built in Essen, Germany, in 1895 – one of eight provided by Germany to the Boers. A NSW Unit captured the gun, now the only one of its kind in the world. The National Parade for Reserve Forces Day, held in Sydney on 7th July 2013, reviewed by Her Excellency Marie Bashir AC. CVO, was a great success. The parade, down Macquarie Street, was held in brilliant winter sunshine. Leading the Lancers contingent was one of Australia’s most decorated reservists, Donald McHattie GM (George Medal).

FFFAIF

Families and Friends of the First AIF, which has the Governor-General, Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC, CVO as Patron in Chief, is "dedicated to Diggers' Heritage". It publishes the magazine "Digger", edited by Graeme Hosken - an 80 page magazine. Contributors send in photographs and documents about those who served in that dreadful conflict.

Now there is an offshoot. AWWOD (The Australian World War One Descendants Association), formed in 2000, has more than 100 members, all of whom must be descended from a family member who served in 1914 – 18. Those wishing to march on ANZAC Day or to ride an RSL-supplied jeep must be financial members. For information, go to the website www.awwod.org.au or email arlineronisvalle@bigpond.com. Some march outside Sydney, but in this city, boys from The King's School carry the banner.

NOTES FROM GENERAL YAMASHITA'S DIARIES

As extracted and discussed with a War Correspondent in New Bilibid Prison near Manila, Philippines, January 1946.

The comments of the overall Japanese Commander in Chief in the Malayan Campaign may be of interest in retrospect.

Yamashita discussed a significant piece of secret history with me. He said that after Singapore had fallen he wanted to discuss a plan with Tojo for the invasion of Australia. This had been the original War plan for the continuation of the line of advance through the Indonesian Islands to Australia, through New Guinea, but because of pressures from Germany to push into India and to link up the axis in Western Indian "the Punjab" area, the main thrust was taken away from me and given to the Burmese front. This coupled with the jealousies from Tojo, that I was becoming too popular and more power was leaning towards me that might have upset his own position in the hierarchy at home in Japan. I sent Tojo a message which said "Singapore the great British bastion in the Far East has fallen into our hands. The Allies are effectively sealed off. Can now continue to Australia". Instead of advancing further West, as Tojo wanted, into Burma and perhaps India, my plan was to leave a

strong garrison in Malaya and Burma and strike down the Pacific to the coast of Australia.

Tojo turned down the plan, making the excuse of extended supply lines which would be precarious and open to enemy attack. But his real reason apparently, was that he wanted to keep on driving West to try and affect a junction with Hitler. In those days when the Axis seemed unbeatable Tojo thought that this was the easiest of the plans.

Yamashita's plan to conquer Australia, which he discussed with me, was practically identical with his successful campaign in Malaya. He planned to land on each side of the major Australian cities and cut them off, after first making a series of dummy landings to draw off the pitifully small number of Australian troops. "Why, there are hardly enough Australians to have organised an effective resistance to the Japanese Army", Yamashita said. "All they could ever hope to do was to make a guerrilla resistance in the bush. With only Sydney and Brisbane in my hands it would have been comparatively simple to subdue Australia. I never visualised occupying it entirely. It was too large.

With its coastline anyone can always land there exactly as they want.

But it is a long way from anywhere and I could have poured in enough troops to effectively resist any Anglo-American invasion. Although the Japanese General Staff felt that my supply lines might have been too long so would the American and British. They might never have been able to reach the place at all. We could have been safe there forever."

The Japanese Governmental machinery for ruling Australia was all prepared and all Currency and Governmental orders had been printed. Several diplomats who had represented Japan in Australia were all briefed and standing by to follow the Japanese Armies into Australia and rule the country. The Governor-General elect had even been appointed.

This article about Yamashita's invasion plans comes from Dennis O'Leary's book "Kittyhawks Beyond The Gap". (Copyright, 10th May 2011, Denis O'Leary pdoleary@bigpond.com.au) This book was written "So that the youth of today may know what the youth of yesterday did for them".

A note on Yamashita's Execution

Following the Supreme Court decision, an appeal for clemency was made to U.S. President Harry S Truman; Truman, however, declined to intervene and left the matter entirely in the hands of the military authorities. In due course, General MacArthur confirmed the sentence of the Commission.

On 23 February 1946, at Los Baños, Laguna Prison Camp, 30 miles (48 km) south of Manila, Yamashita was hanged. H.K.



LETTER FROM DR IAN PFENNIGWERTH

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I received the CBICA Newsletter the other day. It is sad to see the years taking their toll, but your members would be pleased to know that there seems to be a resurgence of interest in the whole issue of codebreaking during WW2. At least, that's how it appears to me, because I'm taking lots of calls on the subject. I always put in a plug for the CBers.

There was one thing I noted, however, in the Newsletter which was not correct, and that was oft-repeated claim that MacArthur took no foreign nationals to the Philippines except, of course, his RAAF wireless unit.

I believe that the 3,000-odd RAN personnel at Leyte and Lingayen and those who participated in other assaults in the Philippines would have a right to be upset by this claim. Whoever else represented Australia in the recapture of the archipelago, I think the Navy's claim would be pre-eminent. Before the landings took place, the beaches and their approaches had to be surveyed, under fire, and this task was undertaken by the RAN. Pre-landing bombardments and supporting

fire once the troops had landed were provided by the RAN cruisers and destroyers. Many of the troops landed from the three Australian Landing Ships Infantry. Least known is the role of the RAN mine and bomb disposal personnel who went in with the assault waves to defuse and destroy unexploded ordnance and Japanese booby traps. Probably unnoticed by the RAAF personnel in their little ship was the escort force keeping the convoys safe on their way to the Philippines, in which the RAN took a prominent role.

I don't want to belabour the point. I'm chuffed that MacArthur and his generals didn't feel safe without their ace Australian intercept operators and code breakers, but the RAAF personnel were far from being the only representatives of this nation when The General waded ashore on that beach at Tacloban.

Keep up the good work and your recovery to full health,

Best wishes

Ian Pfennigwerth

Dr Pfennigwerth is the retired Director of Naval Intelligence and author of "A Man of Intelligence" - the biography of Captain Eric Nave. The RAN celebrates its 100th Anniversary in October. H.K.

COOMALIE CREEK

There was an outback airstrip at Coomalie Creek (N.T.) 110 miles south of Darwin in 1943. (CBers would recall it.) An article and photo by David Hancock in the April/May 2013 issue of R.M. Williams "Outback Magazine" tells how Richard Luxton owns the 5000 hectare property, which he planned to farm, but has now decided to restore for its past in aviation. The strip is heritage listed, and Luxton, who was head of Architecture at Charles Darwin University, says heritage buildings such as the chapel and hospital have been restored.



The tarmac is painted with silhouettes of Bristol Beaufighters called "Whispering Death" by the Japanese. Mosquitos, Lightning and Harvard aircraft flew from here to attack Japanese bases in Indonesia and Timor. Modern aircraft can land there.

31 Squadron attacked and the Japanese retaliated with Zeros and bombings.

In the airstrip surrounds were 2,000 service personnel. This article does not mention ASIPS & 51 Special W/T and 2WU, Sigint specialists who listened to the Japanese for the invasion that never came.

Geoffrey Ballard's "On ULTRA Active Service" describes how he was sent there to relieve linguist "Nobby" Clarke. Bomb craters were everywhere. Grass grew head high. Japanese planes sent out an obliging "gobble gobble" sound when releasing their bombs.

Men took to trenches. Wallabies bounded past. There was the normal 4.00 p.m. thunderstorm. Wildlife sent some men "troppo". "When I first went to Darwin I would have been incredulous at the thought of cultivating an insect." said Ballard, "but months later I was not incredulous at talking to my favourite mantis which used to prey on my telephone calls."

Another book, "Anecdotes of a Japanese Translator" – 1941-1945 by D.H. Laidlaw, shows on the cover a newly created Lieutenant Laidlaw. He'd just turned twenty.

Laidlaw, fresh from Henry St and Adelaide found himself sharing a tent with Communist journalist Alan Clifton, a Japanese translator and with Sgt Ian Paton.

Laidlaw went up to replace Joe da Costa, a senior translator. At this stage the officers Capt. Dodd, Lieut. Litchfield and Capt. Ballard decided it would be an interesting part-time diversion if men were to build their own huts. In Laidlaw's tent the two

argued about the use of natural materials such as palm trees, bamboos and twine, no nails or screws.

An air raid came.

Laidlaw dove into a slit trench forgetting to wear his helmet – "Alan, who for some reason wore his boots to bed, landed in a free fall on my head, knocking me unconscious," wrote Laidlaw. Eventually the two finished the hut, and made beds with log frames and slats of bamboo. Also a table and a kerosene lamp added to the furnishings.

"The hut stood comparison with others unfortunately we did not anticipate the intrusion of white ants and used to listen to them in the still of the night boring into the hut," Laidlaw added, "It is sad it should have fallen victim so early to white ants."

White ants and years have destroyed huts and taken their toll of those who served at Coomalie. President Gordon Gibson was nearby with 51 W/T. Treasurer Bruce Bentwitch was in the area with 2WU.

No AWAS were there. I just white-anted with ciphers around the Henry Street Garage. Those who served in the Northern Territory might be interested in more details about the Coomalie Creek airstrip, which was 11.63 km East of Batchelor and 25.4 km north of the Adelaide River. If you're not computer literate ask your grandchildren to find these sites:-
<http://www.ozatwar.com/airfields/coomalie.htm>
<http://www.exploroz.com/Places/25801/NT/WorldWarIIAirstripCoomalie.aspx>
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coomalie_Creek_Airfield

The airstrip, now restored, was home to 31 Squadron RAAF (Beaufighters) and Number One Photographic Reconnaissance Unit. (IPRU) RAAF, Wirraway, Buffalos, Lancings, Lightning and Mosquitoes.

The first operational mission out of Coomalie Creek was on 17th November, 1942, when six Beaufighters strafed Timor – then Japanese occupied. The last was on 15th August, 1945, when No 87 Squadron launched the last Australia-based operational mission of WWII from Coomalie Creek.

News of Japan's surrender came through. The PR MKXVI Mosquito aborted its mission and returned to base. Celebrations began. This was the start of a tradition because ever since on 15th August

people have gathered at Coomalie Creek to commemorate the day. Members of 31 Squadron, RAAF revisited the site in August 1995 to mark the

fiftieth anniversary; in 1998 they laid a memorial plaque in the restored chapel.

Now that the airstrip has been made suitable for landings and take-offs, modern and vintage aircraft can fly passengers in on that day and at other times.



D.H.LAIDLAW A.O.

VALE

Peg (McLachlan) Teague died last January 31st and is missed by her son Chris and her great friend Noni Benn whose birthday this was.

Noni and Peg were early members of the WAAAF and had trained voluntarily after work four times a week in Morse Code. (Peg had been a hairdresser.) First posting for Peg after enlistment

was Southern Area, Melbourne, where she and Noni first met. Then came Sydney, followed by the long troop train journey to Brisbane, where Peg was in RAAF Command.

After this Peg worked in The Park, and lastly at MacArthur's HQ, in the old AMP Building. She saw MacArthur once!

At War's end Peg returned to the surfside suburb of Manly, NSW, where she grew up and where she was to die.

Peg had sadness in her life, (the death of her daughter), but enjoyed travel and those CB reunions.

Noni, Peg and Noni's sister Hope Creary, never missed Anzac Day. Hope died in 2012.

Ex members of the WAAAF and Cbers will miss their friend Peg.