



CENTRAL BUREAU INTELLIGENCE CORPS ASSOCIATION DECEMBER 2014

Publicity Officer: Helen Kenny, Room 1, St Paul's Aged Care, 27 Eastern Valley Way, Northbridge, NSW, 2063. Ph: (02) 8405 1051

PRESIDENT'S PAR

REMEMBRANCE DAY 2014

Comprising as it did, VIP's, representatives of local schools – primary and secondary, public and private – members of Roseville RSL, Memorial Clubs and last but not least, CBICA, and their friends, the attendance at this dignified and moving ceremony must surely have been a record. Because of the threatening weather it was held indoors, but to tell the truth I think most CBers were grateful to be seated in the rows and rows of comfortable chairs provided. As usual, we listened in awe to the eloquence of a senior student of Killara High School, on the occasion Ryan Fitzpatrick. Later Daniel Brini sounded the Last Post and Reveille for us. Mr Paul Fletcher, Federal Member for Bradfield, also delivered a speech in which he made special mention of the work of the Volunteer Defence Corps during World War II. Wreaths and red poppies were laid. The poppies were handed to us by Scouts as our names were called out and we solemnly marched down the hall to "plant" them in a sand tray at the front of the room. The former Premier of NSW, Mr Barry O'Farrell and the Deputy Mayor of Ku-ring-gai Council also laid poppies.

On behalf of all members and friends of CBICA I wish to extend to Mr Mike Askey, President of Roseville RSL Sub-Branch, Mr John Whitworth, President of the Roseville Memorial Club and Mr Malcolm Whitney, Trustee, our sincere thanks for their organisation of, and their regular invitations to CBICA members to attend, these valued Remembrance Day Ceremonies.

INFORMAL LUNCHEON MEETING

This was held at our own private table following the formal ceremony. President Gordon said how heartening it was to see so many CBICA members and friends attending this function, as well as the ANZAC Day reunion. He also expressed his appreciation of the dedicated work of our Publicity Officer, Helen Kenny, continuing to edit and produce our Newsletter, and of Bruce Bentwitch, who unfortunately indicated he would be unable to continue as Treasurer from 1st January, 2015. Although there had been no response to his appeal for volunteers to fill the vacant positions of Treasurer and Secretary, it was the President's opinion that CBICA should carry on while ever the Newsletters were being published, and there are good attendances at ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day reunions.

STOP PRESS

I am delighted to be able to report that after conferring with Bruce Bentwitch, Annette Salmon, who is the daughter of a former Kana Intercept Operator, Jan Roberts, has generously agreed to take over as our Treasurer next year. Annette's postal address is:-

Mrs A. Salmon,
20 Marcella Street,
NORTH EPPING NSW 2121
Ph: 9876-8056 and mobile 0413 137779

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

I wish you all a very happy Christmas and the best of health throughout the New Year.
Gordon Gibson (President)
67/1-9 Yardley Avenue,
WAITARA 2077
Ph: (02) 9487-3029

AROUND THE TABLES

NELL PYLE: Wonderful to catch up with such dear friends and to catch up with the news. We caught a train from Maitland at 5.30 a.m. to be here. Well worth it!

DOUG PYLE: We have been busy with Nell's Museum and our activities as "Friends of Tocal" – a local old home and the Agricultural College. We also are working on a Regional Museum for Maitland, which will include Nell's Clothing and Textile Museum. Nell has a book ready to publish soon - "History Hidden in Hunter Wardrobes".

NONI BENN: Lovely to see you all. Sorry so many are unwell. Love to you all. My nephew drove me here, but couldn't stay for the lunch as had a meeting to attend. I'm just happy to be here, but sorry that Joy Granger couldn't be. Happiness to everyone. Hope to see you all next year. Love.

AILSA HALE: Wonderful to meet up with dear friends – all such lovely girls. Am thankful to think we are still here.

MARY HOGAN: So happy to be here with the best of friends. Thank you for the opportunity to honour those who fought and died for our freedom. I did feel happy to see the Cross with poppies.

BRUCE LOVETT: Today is a very special day to honour those who joined our forces 100 years ago, who fought and died that we can enjoy our freedom today. Lest We Forget.

BRIAN LOVETT: The ceremony was beautifully done by the school kids. Glad to see the VDC memorial as our Dad, a WWI vet, was a member.

ANNETTE SALMON: Thank you for the opportunity to chat with you all. My Mum was a Kana operator in Townsville (Nan Roberts) and had the time of her life working there. It is lovely to meet you all and I hope to keep in touch.

GORDON AND SUE GIBSON: Enjoyed today as much as ever. Such a good roll up and most impressive service.

Lovely to have 18 at the luncheon which was a real treat.

NOELENE HANSEN: Lovely to see everyone again. Beautiful Service. David is in "Shalom" and unable to walk. He is cheerful and loves to see me. Sends his best wishes to all. Our daughter, from England, has been to Bletchley Park twice. We recommend "The Bletchley Circle" on TV and Video. (English girl code breakers using their skills to solve crimes.) Much love to all.

BRUCE BENTWITCH: It is nice to see so many of the CB members at the Roseville RSL.

ALLAN NORTON: A very happy and momentous occasion and exciting to see familiar faces again. It was a pleasure to see the maturity of the children from about twenty schools at the Service. My health is wonderful and I am sincerely grateful for my daily intake of apple cider vinegar. I spend a lot of time these days as a volunteer, helping Hammond Care Dementia and find it very rewarding. Good health and happiness to all. Kana operator IWU, 3WU, and I think 7WU in Tarlac.

JUDITH & BRUCE GOUDGE: [H.K.'s step daughter and son-in-law] expressed their high regard for the school students' mature and respectful behaviour, and their powerful message.

JOYCE GRACE: Bought a new car last year and drove it from Berkeley Vale to Roseville for Remembrance Day. She has offered to take H.K. – now carless – for a drive in the bush one day. [Answer: Yes, please!!! H.K.]

HELEN KENNY: Missed Joy and Madeline and others who couldn't be here. During the ceremony, thought of two uncles who went to WWI and never came back. My middle name is Leslie, after one of them. Realised it is almost 100 years between the Battle of Waterloo (1815) and the First War, and the same span from WWI until now. May the splendid youth at the ceremony grow up in peace. Christmas wishes to all, including historian Jonathan Byrne at Bletchley Park and other CBers in the UK.

VIC LEDERER

As Vic Lederer celebrated his 100th birthday, the following article was published in The Canberra Times.

THE TOP SECRET PAST OF A CANBERRA CENTENARIAN

By David Ellery and Published: October 14, 2014 in the Canberra Times

Curtin's Victor Lederer considers himself "bloody lucky" to have made it to his 100th birthday on Tuesday. Here is a photograph of



Vic enjoying his 100th birthday.

The former AIF captain and oldest known surviving Australian World War II electronic intelligence specialist nearly had his life cut short a couple of times while monitoring Japanese communications in the field.

Born in Lancashire in 1914, he was the son of a successful Austrian businessman who imported British cotton to Europe.

The talented linguist was exposed to four different languages before his 10th birthday and went on to master Japanese, Malay and even "pidgin" used in New Guinea.

When war broke out he was in Sydney after a stint droving cattle with Vestey's in the Top End.

"I was not going to stand by and watch while Hitler took over the world for Nazism or Stalin took over the world for communism,"

he said. "... little I could do, I would do."

That turned out to be quite a lot. Impressed by his flair for languages, the army used him as a translator in its signals intelligence unit and sent him to Egypt to eavesdrop on the Germans and the Italians.

"We were at Heliopolis; pretty close to Cairo," Mr Lederer said. "Rommel was only 60 kilometres away at one point. I always felt Rommel was a decent fellow, not like those other Nazi bastards."

When the Japanese announced their entry into the war by bombing Pearl Harbour Mr Lederer found himself a lot closer to the enemy than that.

He was assigned to General Douglas MacArthur's top secret Central Bureau Intelligence Corps and sent to Morotai to monitor and translate Japanese radio transmissions.

This was the unit that gathered the intelligence that made victory in the Battle of the Coral Sea and the assassination of Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto possible.

"They told us there were about 200 Japs left on Morotai," Mr Lederer said. "It was closer to 3000. If they had been better at their jobs I wouldn't be here telling you this."

His closest shave came when a Japanese raiding party crept into the camp and threw a grenade into a tent where he and other men were sleeping.

"If they had stayed around to finish the job we'd have all been dead," he said. "Instead they ran away. The only casualty was the fat American cook [who was wounded] and he got a medal for it."

Mr Lederer and his mates tracked the Japanese to a stand of thick scrub and machine gunned it with all the ammunition they had.

"When we went in they [the Japanese] were all blue and dead."

He still feels no remorse. The Australians had declared total war on the enemy after learning of the massacre of Australian nurses during the fall of Rabaul.

However, not every contact resulted in death and destruction.

“I was crossing a narrow bridge (near the camp),” he said. “I turned around and I saw a Japanese. I saw him, he saw me and each went his own separate way. It doesn’t sound very heroic I know.”

At the war’s end Mr Lederer became an immigration selection officer, screening thousands of “Balts, Estonians, Latvians, Poles, Serbs, Croats and Germans” who wanted to come to Australia.

He used his language skills to overhear conversations and weed out Nazis and communists.

“I did the best I could and brought thousands of people to Australia,” he said.

His greatest achievement was “picking one for myself”, a beautiful young Lithuanian girl called Tina, who has been his wife for 64 years. Mr Lederer’s final career was in property and finance, and this brought the couple to Canberra in 1973. “Tina liked it because it reminded her of Lithuania,” he said. “I can’t think of a nicer place to be.”

BIRTHDAY “GIRLS”

AILSA HALE (90 next April) went to Melbourne for Coral Hinds’ 90th Birthday celebration.

“We had a lovely time,” writes Ailsa. “Coral is moving from her two bedroom villa at Village Baxter into a one bedroom unit.”

Her daughter Sandy, after her father, is close by and is a great help. Her sons, one in Tasmania and two in Melbourne are very supportive.

Another party followed for MADELINE CHIDGEY’S 90TH. This was held in a private room at the Bundanoon Hotel. Madeline has moved to the Southern Highlands to be close to her daughter Adele. Her daughter Margaret lives in North West Queensland and her son in Thailand. “Madeline lives in a lovely place,”

says Ailsa. “It has a beautiful garden and she has a large bedroom, an ensuite and three meals a day.” MARY HOGAN’S ninetieth will be in May. Ailsa writes, “the Army must’ve fed us well to think we have all reached such a great age!”

[Congratulations to these CB Garage Girls. For the next party would you like to eat some “goldfish” with blue peas? I’ll try to arrange it. Love H.K.]

RAILWAY CARRIAGE CIWL #2419



At 5.00 a.m. on 11/11/1918 the defeated Germans signed the Armistice of Compiègne in this carriage.

The First World War ended at 11.00 a.m., when fighting ceased as the Armistice came into effect.

The carriage was returned to its former duty as a restaurant car, but it eventually made its way to the scrap yard in Paris. An American, Arthur Fleming, paid for its restoration, and the wagon was brought back to Rethondes on 8 April 1927 and placed on display.

Following the German invasion of France in 1940, Hitler decided to wipe out history by having the French surrender in the same wagon on 22 June 1940. The carriage was then taken back to Berlin

and put on display until 1943. With the advance on Berlin in 1945 the Waffen SS initially moved it into Thuringia and then finally destroyed it by fire.

THE OTHER DICK SMITH

This is the title of an article by Graham McKenzie Smith about his father, Richard Henry (Dick) Smith. It appeared in “Sabretache, Vol LIII, March 2012”, and was referred to us by Dr Peter Donovan, the mathematician and author.

Dick Smith (1922-1999) is not named in Geoffrey Ballard’s book “On ULTRA Active Service”, although his discovery of the Sio code books is. Ballard wrote:-

“On 19th January, 1944, the 9th Australian Division made the first significant capture of Japanese cryptology material at Sio, on the north east corner of New Guinea, which had been the headquarters of the Japanese 20th Division. The material which consisted of the entire “crypt” library of the Division was found in a deep, water-filled pit. (Actually, in a collapsed, water-filled trench.)
“When exploited, the document gave systematic access for the first time to the Japanese Army’s four-digit mainline operational codes.
“Among other things, the find led to MacArthur’s bold stroke to capture Hollandia and speed up the reduction of effective Japanese operations in New Guinea. It proved to be one of the most significant signals intelligence coups of the war.”

The finder, Dick Smith, was born at Leura, NSW, on 20th July, 1922. He grew up at Blacktown, was educated at Parramatta High School and won a Teachers’ College Scholarship. He was a keen bushwalker in the Blue Mountains. At 19, in 1941, he was teaching at Granville Technical High School. The war was on, so he was called up and went into camp at Bathurst with Sydney University Cadet Battalion – comprising 1,200 young teachers. The idea was they’d train during vacations and then return to teaching – a reserved vocation.

Dick returned to teach at Granville, but the army recalled him to become an instructor. Later he transferred to the AIF and was posted to Canungra, and was an instructor in the tough jungle warfare course.

Still under 21, he attended Field Security Courses, a motor cycle school, and a Counter Intelligence course. Then came an operational role. He was posted to HQ9 Infantry Division’s Field Security Section and went to New Guinea where he was attached to the 2/17 Infantry Battalion. The retreating Japanese had left Sio Mission. There was no civilian population. “The Sio - Nambariwa area had been the main supply base for Finschhafen”. The enemy had left without destroying supply, fuel, and engineer stores. On Nov 9th, Dick, with another soldier, John Burke, organized a party of native carriers and set off for the reported HQ site. Papers were scattered around but in a water-filled slit trench they found masses of books, all without covers. It was the Japanese rule that covers would be sent to higher authorities as proof the books had been destroyed.

These books – wet and soggy – had been left behind in the panic of the Japanese retreat. Dick and John Burke collected the books and papers, put them in boxes and baskets in a tin trunk and then had them carried to Nambariwa. There, men and papers travelled by fishing lugger to Dreger Harbour. Then the find went home by air to Port Moresby. At last the codebooks reached Central Bureau in Brisbane.

There they were “dried page by page in ovens, on clothes lines and in front of electric fans.” There are stories that the Ascot Park codebooks dried out in the sun.

Not for many years did Dick reveal the importance of his find.

At last, in March 1944, he had leave and reached Brisbane where he became engaged to WAAAF May McKenzie. Army duties took him away, but on 1st November, with five days notice, they were married in Sydney.

Then, away again – to Hollandia, Brunei, Sarawak, Labuan, Kuching – filtering out suspected war criminals with interrogation – doing extraordinary things concerned with Dyaks in Kuching.

Peace came. Dick went back to the University of Sydney, studied geology and taught Science at Katoomba and Cootamundra.

He joined the CMF, kept up his associations with the Australian Intelligence Association and was active in the RSL.

After retirement to Moss Vale he wrote a science textbook and WWII military histories, abbreviated for school children.

After Geoff Ballard's book was published in 1991, Dick Smith, for the first time, found out that his find was a contribution to victory in the Pacific. He and Geoff corresponded.

Graham McKenzie Smith must be justly proud of his father, the "other Dick Smith" of whom he wrote.

VALE BERT RUSHEN

BERT RUSHEN died on October 23, 2014, having celebrated his 100th birthday not long before with a "wonderful party", says Steve Mason of ASWG who was there at the East Melbourne RSL. The centenarian moved around the guests and was as "bright as a button". He and his wife Joan celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary last December. Bert was renowned for sporting prowess in cricket, tennis, golf and, latterly bowls.

Steve Mason, who lives at Camberwell, Victoria, didn't meet Bert until about a year ago when Rushen, a CBer moved into a nearby nursing home. It was Steve who notified us of Bert's death.

What did Bert Rushen do in CB? Little is known. HK met him years ago at the Toorak Club in Melbourne, when CB had a reunion. She asked if he would write something for the Newsletter. He froze up. "I will never discuss my work," he said politely. So all we can gather is that he was in the AIF, served in Australia, New Guinea and the Philippines, and was always connected with Intelligence. After the war he served with DSD – now ASD.

Again, secrecy. Bert Rushen was not on our mailing list but CB sends condolences to his widow Joan. Perhaps we'll know one day the service he gave to Australia.

Geoff Ballard's book, "On ULTRA Active Service", does reveal a little more about Rushen. He joined CB early in 1942 with other young army recruits, and was in the SIGINT team of 51 section in Darwin in 1943. Operators, the Traffic Analysis Section, cryptographers and translators traced enemy aircraft movements and warned of impending air raids. "Our T/A member, Sgt Bert Rushen, could almost 'smell' the aircraft so uncanny (was) his ability to forecast future movements." Rushen later gained his commission and went on to – do – still secret!

NEW PUBLICATION

Until now no single book has attempted to tell the story of "Code Breaking in the Pacific". This has just been accomplished with the release of a book of that title. It is the work of Peter Donovan and John Mack, the first from the School of Mathematics and Statistics, University of NSW, the second from the School of Mathematics and Statistics, University of Sydney. The book, which took them more than eleven years to research and write is published by Springer International. You won't find it in bookshops here, but it can be bought online at Amazon.com.au for about \$130 with a card.

We are arranging for it to be reviewed in a later issue of Newsletter. Much of it, of course, is mathematical in its dealings with codes, but the human history of SIGINT is there. Congratulations to these academics who have written about CB, FRUMEL, ASWG, Wireless Units and ATIS.

LAST WORDS

MR MIGUEL ZUBIZARRETA is Vice President of Hyland Software, Bay Village, Ohio, the company which has been selected to develop Bletchley Park's data base. Miguel is very keen on Bletchley Park's oral history project. He visited Sydney last month and arranged to video and audio interview Gordon Gibson and Helen Kenny during his brief visit. More details will be available in the next Newsletter.

Remember **LAKE SENTOSA**? When certain of our troops were in West Papua, they allegedly took an illegal joyride in General MacArthur's boat!! The Sun-Herald, August, 24th 2014, reported:

"Indonesian President-elect Joko Widodo has promised to build a presidential palace on the shores of West Papua's (now West Irian) picturesque Lake Sentani as a sign he will pay more attention to the resource-rich but troublesome region. The plan has a mixed reception from leading local figures."

[That's a certainty! He's elected now and the reaction to him and the planned palace will soon be revealed. Many of you know that lake. H.K.]

"The Imitation Game" This is a new film about Turing with Benedict Cumberbatch in the leading role. It was shown in the recent British Film Festival in Sydney. It will screened generally from 1st January, 2015.

THE MISSING WAC'S (from Doug Pyle)

While we, of 11 Australian Cipher Section, were in Hollandia in 1944, we were joined by members of the Women's Army Corps, the WACs. These American women were trained in defense strategy, unlike Australian women, whose only representatives in the islands were nurses, except for AWAS sent to Lae, including cipher and signals operators and some of these WACs were deployed to work in our cipher hut at Hollandia.

General MacArthur had made ready an old house, relic of Dutch colonial days, for the use of his wife and son. They had one of the latest washing machines of the time with a top wringer and Mrs MacArthur invited the WACs to use it for their own laundry. A rumour spread round the camp like wildfire that a girl, who was working topless, had the misfortune to have a nipple caught in the wringer!

Several of the WACs were sent to help us in our cipher hut. They were good at their work, we found them cheerful and good company and they certainly enlivened our work room. However, it was difficult working with them, because they carried on continual conversations in loud voices, so as to be heard above the noise of the Typex Machines, which were the same as those used by Bletchley Park. I remember on one occasion, asking one of our operators to

"Throw me a rubber please", and being taken aside by Warrant Officer Wright and asked not to use the word 'rubber' in front of the WACs, because to them it meant 'condom'! I learnt to use 'eraser' instead!

Max Hurley, one of our Aussie operators became enamoured of Nancy, one of these American women, and they were actually married at one of our camps, a big event for all of us. I couldn't go unfortunately, because I was on duty.

One day we were told we were to move forward to the Philippines, with General MacArthur fulfilling his promise, "I shall return." We went with the WACs to Sentani Airstrip, where two planes awaited us. We boarded one - the WACs the other. We took off and some hours later landed in Palau to refuel and have a meal together. When we returned to the airfield I found myself in the plane with the girls. "Oh Doug, you weren't in this plane," said one of them. I was about to say, "That doesn't matter, does it?" But when I saw several of the girls holding sick bags on their laps I apologized and joined my mates in the other plane. The girls' plane took off, but as we were about to leave, the pilot noticed some oil running down a wheel strut. He switched off and called for assistance. This took some time, but eventually we were able to take off.

We landed at Clark Field in the Philippines and there discovered that the other plane had not arrived. We waited beside the field for some hours, but the other plane never arrived. The weather was fine and calm, so that could not have been the cause of the delay. Had they been shot down? Had they had mechanical failure over the sea? We never found out. We need to know what happened.

[Even at this late stage, CAN ANYONE SOLVE THIS MYSTERY? H.K.]

The group of CBers at the 1914 Remembrance Day luncheon at Roseville RSL.

