



CENTRAL BUREAU INTELLIGENCE CORPS ASSOCIATION JUNE 2014

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PRESIDENT'S PAR

AGM 2014

As only four members were present I have decided to publish minutes for those unable to attend.

CENTRAL BUREAU INTELLIGENCE CORPS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of AGM held Monday, 4th February, 2014
at Roseville Memorial ClubD

Present: Bruce Bentwitch, Gordon Gibson, Helen Kenny, Allan Norton

Apologies: Frank Hughes, Stan Baylis, Noni Benn

Minutes of AGM held on 3rd February, 2013, having been published in April Newsletter, 2013, were taken as read and confirmed.

Annual Report: President Gordon read his annual report, which had been already published in the December Newsletter. Received.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Bruce tabled the Income and Expenditure Statement for the year ended 2013. Received.

Our thanks are again due to Auditor Alan Bentwitch.

Election of Officers: President Gordon Gibson; Vice Presidents Allan Norton, Frank Hughes; Treasurer Bruce Bentwitch; Publicity Officer Helen Kenny; Committee Member Noni Benn.

General Business: Treasurer Bruce reported that he had already paid the deposit for the Anzac Day luncheon at the Pullman Hotel, and the charge would be approximately \$50 per person. Publicity Officer Helen stated that the Mini News Letter, setting out the Anzac Day arrangements would be posted out in March.

President Gordon tabled a letter from Rob Foot (Australian Signals Directorate, formerly Defense Signals Directorate) with attached copy of an article published in ASD's in house history blog (Victoria and Albert) recording Rob's own criticisms of the AWM History of Central Bureau. Rob's article ended with this telling sentence, "They should have better served."

Rob also submitted his proposed wording for the new plaque to be placed at 21 Henry Street. We should perhaps have a Committee meeting to discuss this:-

THEIR STRENGTH LAY IN SILENCE

This plaque commemorates the achievements of the men and women of Central Bureau, the Allied Signals Intelligence organisation which supported General Douglas MacArthur's South West Pacific Area command from 1942 until 1945, and whose headquarters this historic house at 21 Henry Street once was.

This was the most closely guarded secret of the War – the interception and exploitation of enemy communications. With intense effort and patient skill, they broke into the radio traffic of Japan's military forces and recovered information of inestimable value from the airwaves. They worked in silence and secrecy; for if their success were ever known by the enemy it would have lost the to the Allies the crucial advantage it conferred.

Operating initially from Brisbane and later from the Philippines, they laid bare Japanese intentions, formations and movements in a continual stream of timely, actionable intelligence, which contributed significantly to the defeat of enemy forces across the theatre. Without their efforts, the War in the Pacific would have been greatly prolonged, and many more thousands of lives lost.

At the War's end, their silence had still to be maintained; families and friends could not be told the true nature of their service. The war-time spirit of fellowship was preserved through the decades of peace, and they kept faith with each other, from reunion to reunion, until the long-held secret could be revealed.

By the time of this plaque's unveiling, too many of the veterans had sadly passed. We salute them, as we do the living, and honour their memory.

Publicity Officer Helen reported that Dr Peter Donovan has compiled a bibliography of 450 books and articles dealing with WWII cryptology (including those by Don Laidlaw, Jack Bleakley, Geoff Ballard, Hugh Melinsky and other Cbers.) Helen also reported that a book entitled "Codebreakers in the Pacific", in the Cryptology Series, published by Springer, NY by Dr Donovan and Professor John Mack is nearing publication and should be of interest to all Cbers.

Anyone interested in Peter Donovan's bibliography can get it freely by emailing Peter at p.donovan@unsw.edu.au.

President Gordon pointed out that many of the interesting details missing from the official history have been recorded in these publications, which can be accessed by any having email facilities. Interested members should contact Katy Denis (nee Gibson) at kt@ktcreative.com.au.

President Gordon reported receiving a letter from WWII historian Peter Dunn who is endeavouring to compile a collection CBICA News Letters. Gordon was able to forward to him most of the NLs dating back to 1996, but none earlier than that. Those missing later than 1996 were: September 2000, December 2000, March 2007 and March 2008. Peter would be pleased to hear from any member able to supply him with the missing NLs, which he will return after copying. Peter Dunn's postal address is P.O. Box 2263, Runcorn QLD 4113. His email address is ozatwar@gmail.com.

Vice President Allan moved that Life Membership of CBICA should be awarded to Joy Granger for her long-time dedicated work as Association secretary. Carried unanimously.

Meeting Closed at 3.00 p.m.

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WAITARA NSW 2077
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ANZAC DAY

This was Central Bureau's 40th Anzac Day Reunion. President Gordon says the first was held in 1974 at the Kensington Golf Club.

In 2014 six attended the Anzac Eve Wreath Laying in Martin Place.

Ten marched, braving rain and wind, which caused trouble for banner bearers Rob Moore and Mark Brackley. (Our pace has slowed now. "More of a walk than a march!" says Joyce Grace.)

Fifty Seven Cbers with relatives and friends sat for lunch in the beautiful Windows Room of the Pullman Hotel.

On behalf of Helen Kenny, who was ill, her sister Shirley Merchant and niece Sally Gibson passed the notebook around the tables to be filled in.

There was little news, but many messages wishing Helen, Joy Granger and others better health. As usual, the band marched in to give a musical finale for the lunch.

(May we meet again in 2015. ..H.K.)



Joyce Grace Ailsa Hale Diana Parker



Australian Army Cadet Band

REMEMBER TOKYO ROSE?

Mac Jamieson does. He says:

I wrote this piece of my life during the war after I left Australia for overseas.

Four or five of us were aboard a boat in Townsville Harbour waiting to go to Moresby. We were waiting on deck when I saw a seaplane (friendly) coming in to land in the harbour. It landed about 40 yards from us and exploded on touchdown. One of their crew did some heroics and rescued about 8. Then the plane blew up and the rest of them went down.

We carried on to New Guinea and went to a camp not far from the Owen Stanley Ranges

After Christmas, we left our camp and went further north to NADZAB. I was promoted to "TRICK CHIEF". I had about 13 men on my shift. By the way, we worked shift work around the clock. After we were there for 3 months, the "front" was moving on so we went north to BIAK ISLAND near the equator. While we were there, one of our cooks caught fire and I grabbed a blanket from our tent and put the fire out. I thought we wouldn't see any more of our cook, but after 3 weeks he was back in camp. I asked him to explain the miracle. A new drug had been found called penicillin.

Then it was the next move to go to the invasion of LEYTE ISLAND in the Philippines. Our company consisted of 24 men. We flew to North New Guinea to join the convoy. The American 4 Star General Akin showed us to our new quarters on P.C.E.848 (the boat). He showed us to the new radio room which was right underneath a big gun. In action, every time the gun went off, we couldn't hear for

some time. The general told me that any time we wished, we could go to his quarters day or night without knocking - a wonderful boss.

A Japanese suicide bomber flew just past us and attacked an Australian cruiser "THE AUSTRALIA". He hit the deck and blew up killing 32 Aussies including the captain. We were having trouble hearing properly with all the explosions so we asked to be put ashore.

We went to the capital city of Tacloban. This is the place which copped a hiding from the recent cyclone. We met a Filipino family there who had a nice house. Their names were Joe & Aida Price and they had 2 lovely young girls and a boy. Joe got his wife to make some biscuits for us plus some coffee. Then he sang to us and played his piano. He asked me to take a look through his window. I had a look and there was a large bomb crater next door. A Jap bomber dropped a bomb there that morning and the family was all killed.

Alf Bobin, Stan King and I decided to go to our little camp about half a mile away. Along the way there was a big gathering of armed Yanks who told us there was a Jap hiding under the house. Alf said "Are you going after him"? They said "No!" so Alf said "Give me your gun". Alf went under the house but the Jap escaped.

The Yanks gave us a small truck plus a radio to do our listening in to the enemy.

The Yanks and Japs were fighting on the side of the hill about 100 yards from us. Bullets were glancing off trees etc. right near us. Then Yanks came running down the hill and said a party of Japs had broken through their lines and were coming towards us. I put a bloke on duty and I took my tommy machine gun and waited for them to show up. After 2 hours, no Japs came so I went in to our vehicle. One of our blokes said **there was a woman's voice on the radio. I had a listen in and she said "My name is Tokyo Rose, and our troops are after you Australians - Mac Jamieson, Stan King and Alf Bobin. When they catch you, you are dead."** I hid with my tommy gun for about 2 hours. After this time, a Yank came running down the hill to say they had killed the Japs.

Next day, we left that area and went to a small town called TOLOSA. Here we set up a listening post at a disused school and we began cracking the Jap codes for "info". Headquarters decided we were long overdue for some rest. A few of us hadn't been home for 3 Christmases so we flew to Townsville and some of us went by train to Victoria. A month's leave was a lovely bonus.

The break over, we came back to Brisbane to have a spell at Strathpine. We went onto day shift work doing telephone duty just to occupy our time. One of our guys did his first day, came back to our tent to have a yarn. He said "some Sheila" invited us to go to a picnic on Saturday. Four of us accepted and we turned up at an outer Brisbane suburb. What a great sight met our eyes - a lovely swimming hole at this creek in Brookfield, beautiful picnic eats and about a dozen beautiful girls. It was a great sight after being away for 3 years. Some of the girls invited us to go to a dance, then the pictures, then a boat trip on the Brisbane River. Our dreams were coming true.

We were sitting in our tent at the end of the ten days when a call came over for me and Jack Bleakley to report to the office at once. This we did, to be informed we were to be on a plane at Amberley that night to go back overseas. First night was to Indonesia then on to Manila where we were to be met to go to our new camp in the Northern Philippines. Our new camp was at a disused sugar mill at San Miguel. Alas, our pick-up man was 3 hours late coming. Jack and I had time to fill in so we decided to have a walk around.

During our walk, we came upon a Jap prison for women and children. We went up to the wire enclosure. The wire was about 6 feet high. A Canadian lady and her 10 year old daughter were in the enclosure. Her husband had just been killed a couple of days earlier and they were trying to get back home to Canada.

The lady came up to talk through the wire to Jack and the little girl came up to me. She said "**What is that funny thing on top of your head?**" I said "That is my Australian hat." She said "I love Aussies. Have you got a pencil and paper?" So I gave mine to her to write on. She gave them back to me and said they were a keepsake. I put them in my pocket and forgot about it till the next day when I

decided to see what she had written. I nearly fell over when I read the text - "**MAC JAMIESON, FROM AUSTRALIA, I will love you till the earth wears diapers to keep her bottom dry.**"

Alas, I lost my keepsake inside two days. I prayed they would be spared, but I never heard from them again.

Then the Americans dropped the first of their atomic bombs on the Jap cities. This meant no more shift work for us! Jack Bleakley had a bank position waiting for him in Melbourne so off he went. It was many years till I saw him again.

Owing to POWs occupying the available shipping room, we had to wait for over a month to get a lift home. We put in a couple of days in Manila. In that time, we were shown over Corregidor Island. That was where General MacArthur stayed earlier in the war till the Japs over-ran it. Finally we got a boat home to Brisbane. As we were coming into port, a boat load of Australian brides who had married Yanks were on their way to their new homes. I can tell you, we gave them a helluva Boo.....

We caught a train in Brisbane for our respective homes. I got home to knock on our door for Christmas Eve. What a dream after 4 years.

The best souvenir I got from war-time was one of the girls I'd met in Brisbane on the original picnic. We finally got married in June 1948. Whilst we were living in Victoria we had a lovely family of 3 boys and a girl. Then in 1958, we left Victoria to come to Brisbane to live. We put up a house in Kenmore. We are still in the same house after 55 years.

Our family has all done well. The only thing is our eldest son had to do a stint in Vietnam. He lives in Cairns and the rest of them in Brisbane. Time is slipping by! I will soon be 94 years old! Oh well!

Cheerio Helen and good health.

Mac Jamieson

(Thanks Mac for these recollections of a 23 yr old. Cheers to you. Can't believe we're now in our nineties! – H.K.)

THE BRAINS OF BLETCHLEY

Just before Christmas, ABC's Radio National broadcast a talk on Bletchley Park, given by Professor Mark Dodgson, of the Business School, University of Queensland.

Robyn Williams introduced the speaker in the "Ockham's Razor" Science show. Dodgson (any relation to the mathematician Dodgson / Lewis Carroll?) saw Bletchley last year. He concluded that its success could be expressed in one word "collaboration".

Bletchley Park, known to us as GCCS – Government Code and Cypher School – was Britain's main wartime decryption establishment, decoding enemy messages.

At its peak, Bletchley employed 10,000 men and women. They cracked German, Italian, Russian and Japanese codes. There were scientific geniuses, brilliant engineers, highly competent intelligence analysts and devoted machine operators.

"It is a story of Alan Turing, whom President Barack Obama, in a speech to the British House of Commons, put alongside Newton or Darwin for his contribution to Science.

"It is a story of human frailty and heroism" – outside Bletchley too. To break Enigma it was critical to gain access to U-boat codebooks.

"When a British destroyer off the coast of Egypt sank U-559, three British sailors jumped into the sinking submarine to rescue codebooks. Two drowned, but the youngest, 16 year old Tommy Brown, a canteen assistant, successfully retrieved the codebooks. Bletchley Park put them to immediate and spectacular success.

"Along with the two deceased, Brown was awarded the George Medal – the youngest ever recipient." Brave Tommy died two years later when rescuing his sister from a fire.

The geniuses who worked at Bletchley Park were known for their eccentricity. Max Newman, a brilliant scientist who, after the war, led the development of British computing, was seen standing on Bletchley Park railway station, holding a rabbit and looking distressed. A WREN asked

him if he were all right and he replied that he had lost his ticket. "She told him not to worry and just explain to the guard what had happened. He explained his problem was that without his ticket he could not remember whether he was travelling to Oxford or Cambridge!"

Turing, reportedly, turned up for a game of tennis wearing nothing but an overcoat. His habit of cycling to work, wearing a gas mask to prevent hay fever is well documented.

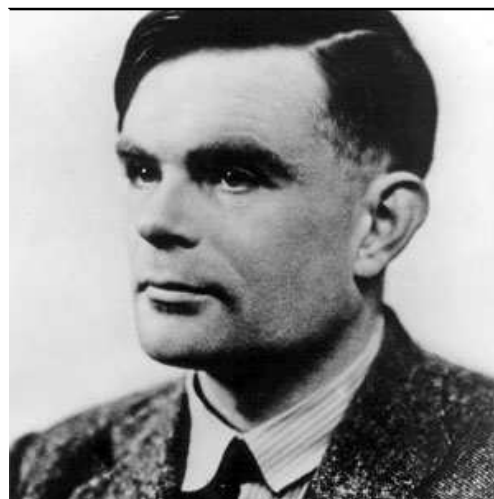
Practical men and key Post Office engineers worked at Bletchley. Tommy Flowers conceived the idea of "Colossus".

The Bletchley Park roll call included national chess champions, managers from Unilever and department stores, and academics with backgrounds in Egyptology, classics, history and modern languages. Roy Jenkins, British politicians, and Ian Fleming, creator of James Bond, all contributed. The work they did was top secret for decades. Only now has recognition come. Many did not live to see it.

ROYAL PARDON FOR ALAN TURING

A great injustice has been rectified.

In December 2013, The Queen granted a posthumous pardon to Alan Turing, who suffered chemical castration for his homosexuality in 1952. (Homosexuality was not decriminalized in Britain until 1967.)



Turing lost his job at GCCS – the present GCHQ – and died in 1954 after eating an apple laced with cyanide. A Coroner ruled that Turing killed himself, though this has never been proved. He was 41 and is remembered as the father of computing and as the codebreaker who developed the “Bombe” which deciphered the German Enigma Code.

The Pardon, under the Royal Prerogative of Mercy, came into effect last Christmas Eve.

Supporters, including Scientist Stephen Hawking, had long campaigned to clear Turing’s name. More than 37,000 signed the on-line petition asking for the Pardon. Some Cbers were signatories. In 2009, the then Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, apologised to Turing – who would never have known of this. The Government rejected a call for an official pardon then because it did not seem to match certain conditions. It still doesn’t, but the pardon has gone ahead.

The British Prime Minister said, “Alan Turing was a remarkable man who played a key role in saving this country in World War II by cracking the German Enigma Code. His action saved countless lives. He also left a remarkable legacy through his substantial scientific achievements.”

A GCHQ spokesperson said, “The Agency is delighted about the pardon.”

Justice Minister, Chris Grayling, said, “A pardon from The Queen is a fitting tribute to an exceptional man.” His past sentence is “what we would now consider unjust discrimination.”

The Royal Pardon reads:-

ELIZABETH THE SECOND, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of Our other Realms and Territories QUEEN, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith, To all to whom it these Presents shall come, Greeting.

WHEREAS Alan Mathison Turing at Knutsford Quarter Sessions on the 31st day of March 1952 pleaded guilty to and was convicted of divers counts of Gross Indecency contrary to Section 11 of the Criminal Law Amendment Act 1885 and on that

date sentence was postponed for a period of twelve months but the said Alan Mathison Turing was placed on Probation for a period of twelve months to submit for treatment by a duly qualified medical practitioner at Manchester Royal Infirmary;

AND WHEREAS the said Alan Mathison Turing died on the 7th day of June 1954;

NOW KNOW YE that We, in consideration of circumstances humbly represented to Us, are Graciously pleased to grant Our Grace and Mercy unto the said Alan Mathison Turing and grant him Our Free Pardon posthumously in respect of the said convictions.”

AND to pardon and remit unto him the sentence imposed on him aforesaid;

And for doing this shall be a sufficient Warrant.

GIVEN at Our Court at Sandringham on the 24th day of December 2013;

In the sixty-second Year of Our Reign.

By Her Majesty’s Command.



PEOPLE

Wendy Clarke: Nobby’s widow tells us that Vic Lederer, who lives in Canberra is 99, going on for 100.

Vic was astonished to read that his identity disc was among those scratched up by the chooks at Chermside. It’s a mystery to him, and he is unable to guess how the disc got there.

VET AFFAIRS

Vet Affairs announced some time ago the production of a Gallipoli-Lone Pine Poppy Brooch. [This was designed exclusively for the Australian War memorial and costs \$54.95. It is obtainable from the AWM. Stock may be limited.]



Q&A

Q: Why is there so much white space in this Newsletter and why empty pages?

A: Because no-one is sending in contributions. Even a paragraph would help. Action please, let me hear soon. Thanks to all, H.K.