



CENTRAL BUREAU INTELLIGENCE CORPS ASSOCIATION SEPTEMBER 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

STEPHEN GUNTARD KIRSTEN

Born in Poland, 25th June, 1922. During WWII he escaped to England from a German Youth Camp, and was housed in a Polish Resettlement Camp.

He served in a Bletchley Park Wireless Unit at Kinross in Scotland. Memories of this man's story, previously written by Helen Kenny in a CB Newsletter, were revived recently when the following letter was received from his daughter.

Dear Mr Gibson,

Thank you for the CB Newsletters that I receive instead of my dad Stephen Kirsten. He had them posted to me as he was going to relocate to Sth Africa where he still has a house. When I visit him in Sydney now, I take him the Newsletters. He enjoys reading them, and luckily is in good health, loves living in Sydney (mainly for the climate) but as I live in Victoria we don't see one another often enough. I wonder if, amongst your members, there is anyone that could assist me in finding my father's War Records.

He is an Aussie, but worked at Bletchley Park and was in the Polish Free Air force (in Britain). I am trying to piece together a lot of missing pieces to his War History.

It would be great to fill in these gaps if anyone could help.

Warmest regards,

Angie Kirsten

Who could fail to be moved by this heart-rending appeal? Sadly, however, in spite of my best efforts, I have been unable to find anyone who can throw any further light on the wartime career of Stephen Kirsten. What a fantastic story may lie hidden in the shadows of years long past!

The mention of Bletchley Park inspired me to enlist the aide of Rob Foot of the Australian Signals Directorate in Canberra on our behalf to extend the search to G.C.H.Q in U.K. but no official record has been found. Is there somebody out there who can help us to solve this intriguing mystery? If so, please let me know, or alternatively contact Angela Kirsten directly. Her address is:-

c/- 78 Apex Ave,
BELMONT 3216
GEELONG VICTORIA
Ph: 0408 322 833

REMEMBRANCE DAY – TUESDAY, 11th NOVEMBER, 2014

The Roseville RSL Sub Branch extends an invitation for you to attend their annual Remembrance Day Ceremony in the Memorial Park, adjacent to the Roseville Returned Servicemen's Memorial Club, 64 Pacific Highway, Roseville, on Tuesday, 11th November, 2014, commencing at 10.45 a.m.

During the ceremony a stone column with a memorial plaque will be unveiled to commemorate the contribution of the 1939-1945 Voluntary Defence Corps (VDC). Roseville Sub Branch was the first in Australia to form a group of men aged 40 – 60 to take over the duties of younger men who would be eligible to enlist in one of the three services. They became known as the Volunteer Defence Forces (VDC). The VDC was first run by the RSL and on 2 July 1940 the Roseville Unit of the RSL VDC was formed. Their duties included patrolling the foreshores and garrison duties. Military training took the form of lectures, section and platoon drill, with tactical exercises at weekends.

As part of the ceremony you will be given a red poppy to place on the memorial. Following the ceremony, light refreshments will be provided by the Sub Branch.

It would be appreciated if you could email our Trustee: Malcolm Whitney: malkay@bigpond.net.au, or phone 9416-2335, to confirm whether you are able to attend. In the event of rain the ceremony will be held indoors.

Yours sincerely,
Mike Askey
President Roseville RSL Sub Branch

Needless to say this invitation was promptly accepted on behalf of myself and of course all members and friends of CBICA. As usual, we shall foregather after the ceremony for a convivial luncheon at our own private table. Don't miss the happy opportunity for a pre-Christmas get together!

HELP!!!

On a sadder note, our dedicated and long serving Hon. Treasurer, Bruce Bentwitch, has advised me that he is no longer able to continue in that position. This means that CBICA is now without its Secretary and its Treasurer. I'd be delighted to hear from volunteers for either of these positions.

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

LETTERS

JAMES DALY informs us that he has a new address as he has moved from Yagoona to:-
Cabrini Aged Care,
83-85 Amos Street,
WESTMEAD NSW 2145

He explains: "When my wife Betty died on 3rd May, 2009 it ended 58 years of a wonderful, happy marriage. After her passing I continued to live in the family home on my own with the help of Bankstown City Aged Care.

Recently, because of health problems, I was forced to move into Cabrini Aged Care at Westmead. The relocation meant I was much closer to my daughter, Anne, and her husband, Bob, and six married children. In total, Anne and Bob have 15 grandchildren, so I in turn have 15 great grandchildren.

The move meant I had to sell the house and dispose of all the household possessions acquired over the years.

The Salvation Army benefitted considerably from this as they took practically everything in the home. They said they had a sale or use for every single item. Thankfully, Anne and Bob did most of the work involved.

After a few stressful months, I am now happily settled into my new residence, but with few worldly goods."
.... James

(Thanks James, good luck. The adjustment is hard I know, having been through it! H.K.)

DOUG PYLE – A VISIT TO BLETCHLEY PARK

(Bolwarra Heights NSW 2320; Ph: (02) 4930 1135; 0407 256 869; email: pylend@bigpond.com)

An English relative of mine, Robert Banthorpe, is a supporter of the Bletchley Park Museum, as it now is. On one of our visits to the U.K. he took Nell and me to visit Bletchley Park. When it was learned that I had been in CB we were given the VIP treatment and a thorough conducted tour. We were shown Typex machines such as I operated and maintained at 21 Henry St, Dutch New Guinea and in the Philippines. My wife wrote a book about my service, after the period of silence had elapsed and I could tell her about it. Chapter 8 contains all the information about my contact with Bletchley Park. It was reviewed on 14th October, 2004 by Codebreaker Joe Richard, Legion of Merit, U.S. Army.

I was alone and on leave in Rizal Avenue, Manila, the capital of the Philippines at 8.00 p.m. on the night the war ended.

People erupted from doorways everywhere laughing and shouting jubilantly, “The war’s over!”

At Bletchley Park we also saw a very extensive display of encoding and decoding machines used in various countries of the world. The most impressive and effective was the top secret “Bombe” invented by Alan Turing. Standing about seven feet high and 10 feet wide, it had been “conveyed to Bletchley Park under a shroud of utter secrecy” according to “The Lost World of Bletchley Park”, by Sinclair McKay. This is a most interesting book of ten chapters, abundantly illustrated. I certainly recommend it.

NEWS FROM THE NORTH

After Faye Schutt left the MacArthur Museum we’ve heard little from Brisbane, then a letter from Karen Nunan there, has put us in touch again.

She answered many questions.

BILL BENTSON an American ex-serviceman, who was an early member of the Museum, died last year. He was known to some Cbers. Before he died, he’d done a lot of work listing all the places MacArthur had used in Brisbane. (Think of Somerville House, 21 Henry Street and the AMP Building.)

Karen Nunan says, “Bill acknowledged there were some places he probably forgot.” She’ll try to scan the list and give it to us.

Meanwhile, she suggests the website: <http://www.ozatwar.com>, run by Peter Dunn, though it is a bit tricky. This has photos and descriptions of most. Start from this page <http://www.ozatwar.com/ozatwar/militarycamps.htm>.

(HELP!! At this stage the illiterate editor of Newsletter will turn to Family for help. You may need help too!)

Bill Bentson’s daughter, a retired librarian, is helping to change the MacArthur Museum Library to the Dewey System. This means the

cataloguing would be included in Trove – “the magnificent National Library of Australian Consolidated Catalogue for public and university libraries”.

In this way scholars know they can consult the SIS book and other rare histories.

Asked if MacArthur Museum’s Library received newsletters such as Ink Emma Ink, or AIM, Karen Nunan said, “No, but if any of your members are looking for a good home for such material they’d be welcome. They would be kept on the 8th floor, out of flood’s way!”

The MacArthur Museum is preparing a new Hall of the South West Pacific – which should interest many.

During the war, the people of Brisbane presented MacArthur’s four year old son with a beautiful goat and cart – lucky boy!

Newsletter asked about (young) Arthur – we’d heard he’d given up using his surname.

Karen advised:-

Young Arthur MacArthur (born 1938) was in the news recently. He'd been living in an old hotel in New York City which the owners wanted to redevelop. He and another occupant held out for a better price, so it made the news. Apparently all these years we'd been told he had changed his name we only knew half the truth. He still used his own name, but had another name for his professional life as a musician, largely doing musical transcriptions and that sort of work, rather than performing. He called himself David Jordan then. He was a Columbia University graduate. He lived a very reclusive life, however. He used his buyout money to buy something else, near Greenwich village I believe.

Jim Zobel, the archivist at MacArthur Memorial in Norfolk VA met him once, when Mrs MacArthur was buried there. Jim had read every book about MacArthur and had prepared for the meeting by re-reading everything about Arthur's early years.

They talked for a couple of hours, and Arthur said, "You're like the brother I never had!" because he could tell him family stories from when he was too young to remember them himself.

Arthur said it was like being raised by your grandparents -- he was always being told to be quiet for Dad's nap etc, and there was no one to rough house with etc. He never married, so that's the end of the line.

For more:

<http://www.ozatwar.com/usarmy/arthurmacartur.htm>

BRISBANE

In our time Brisbane was a garrison town swarming with troops.; a place where General MacArthur had occupied many sites.

In wartime a favourite eating place was the café Shingle Inn. We relished its waffles with ice cream and hot caramel sauce, its coffee and great meals.

It still exists after all these years.

Karen Nunan writes (email) that it was dismantled and stored for a couple of years, but it is now in City Hall (Brisbane) on the Ground Floor to the right of the main entrance.

“It was so popular you had to book at first, and you couldn't just have a cup of tea, you had to have a meal or they wouldn't give you a booking. I hope it has eased off now. In the basement the old Red Cross tea room is a coffee shop again, too. Brisbane hasn't been very good about preserving her heritage.

“Lennon's was torn down years ago to make way for the Supreme Court, and a new Lennon's was built on Queen Street. Many people who had only heard of it, thought it was the historic hotel. And now even that has been closed for a year for remodelling and will reopen as a Next hotel, an Indian chain. I saw in today's paper they have a Lennon's room which I plan to check out.

“Your colleagues may remember the name Charles Willoughby, Uncle Charles or Sir Charles, behind his back. He was MacArthur's G-2, but wasn't allowed access to a lot of signals intelligence which went straight from

Akin to MacArthur and Sutherland. I've been writing biographies of all the main players in MacArthur's administration, and he is most elusive. However, I tracked down his grandson, who was also in military intelligence, and am getting some great stories about him. I have also contacted the children of Beryl Stevenson, who was General Kenny's secretary in the 5th Air Force, and Louise Mowat, secretary to Richard J Marshall, the Deputy Chief of Staff. Next I need to begin on Spencer Akin. I am trying to give them personalities, tell stories about them, not just their accomplishments, but the human interest sort of things.”

Karen Nunan

Research Officer

MacArthur Museum, Brisbane

research@mmb.org.au

BLETCHLEY PARK – QUESTIONNAIRE

Those who wear the Bletchley Park Badge should know their names are on the Roll of Honour at Bletchley Park in England.

Mr Jonathan Byrne, Oral Historian, says the Roll of Honour is in a bound copy of a book, a page of which is turned every week. There is also an electronic copy of The Honour Roll which may be accessed at <http://rollofhonour.bletchleypark.org.uk/>. There is a facility (link) on this site for you to add names of which you may be aware.

At this stage *“The book lists only Veterans of British and Commonwealth Signals Intelligence that are known about, and many who should be recorded on it are not,”* he explains.

He has forwarded a questionnaire which he hopes you will complete and return, so that Bletchley Park can know about your life, pre-war, in the war and post war.

Don't fuss about questions designed purely for those worked at Bletchley Park. Just do what you can for the Bletchley Park Records, and agree to the use of your information.

Please would widows or family who failed to receive the Badge, fill in the questionnaire. In this way, Bletchley Park will insert the deceased's name onto the Honour Roll. Equally, if you did not receive a Badge, please forward your details to the address below.

This means that the careers of Hugh Dunn, Nancy Reichelt and others will be on record.

Recently Helen Kenny's niece, Sally Gibson, met Mr Jonathan Byrne at Bletchley Park and had the greatest help from him. She returned with books and literature but there is still a gap in Bletchley Park's knowledge about the Pacific's Theatre of War. H.K. is referring Jonathan to Dr Peter Donovan's bibliography of 450 books and articles dealing with WWII cryptology. It is freely available by emailing p.donovan@unsw.edu.au. He and Professor John Mack have just published their book "Codebreakers in the Pacific".

At its peak, Central Bureau had over 4,000 men and women working for it. It is hoped that any Honour Roll could bear the famous CB names of Nave, Room, Sandford, Booth, SRI Clarke, and Nobby Clark.

You are invited to answer any or all of these questions which may interest you. We would like to get as full a picture as possible of your involvement with the work of Bletchley Park. The questions below cover a wide range of subjects and we would like to hear from you on as many as possible, but please do not worry if any are not relevant to you.



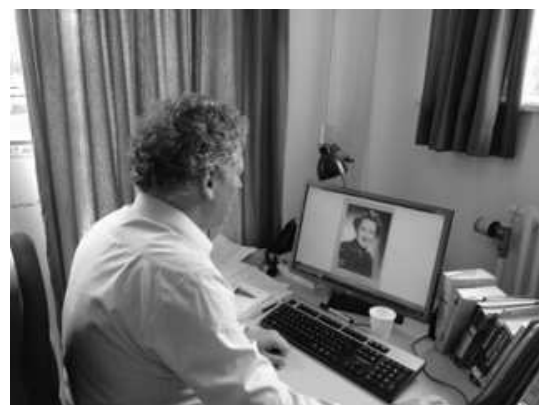
Bletchley Park – The Mansion



The Honour Roll



Coding Machine (Typex?)



Jonathan Byrne loading HK online



Alan Turing's Teddy

BLETCHLEY PARK QUESTIONNAIRE - SERVICE

Where did you serve?

- e.g. Bletchley Park, a nearby outstation, a London outstation, a Y Station, overseas, in a mobile unit, afloat, etc

Were you civilian or military?

- if civilian, who was your employer – Foreign Office, Air Ministry, GPO, etc?
- if military, which Service? What was your unit? e.g. HMS Pembroke III or V, No 4 Intelligence School, numbered Special Wireless Units or Signals Wings grade or rank?

RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING

Tell us about what you were doing before you became involved in the work of Bletchley Park or an outstation such as Central Bureau.

- e.g. school, university, employment, other military service etc.

How did you come to be engaged in this work?

- e.g. recruited directly to Foreign Office, via Labour Exchange or school or university contacts.
- e.g. recruited to the armed forces, perhaps other duties before Bletchley Park, asked to volunteer, selection testing.

What selection process did you have to go through?

- e.g. interview, tests were you asked about skills, such as mathematics, foreign languages, crossword-solving, typing?

Where did you do your training?

- e.g. basic service training, signals training, cryptanalysis, equipment (e.g. Bombe, Typex or Hollerith operation) - e.g. no formal training ("on the job" at Bletchley Park).

WORK

What were you told about the purpose of what you were doing?

Did you know that the work was related to intelligence?

What was your work? Describe as much as you can remember about what you did at work. You may want to cover some of these points:

- did you use any equipment? If so, was it big, small, noisy, quiet, smelly and approximately how many other people worked on it?
- did you know what the purpose of your work was, and how it related to other sections at Bletchley Park or elsewhere?
- when you had finished a task, did it make more sense than when you had started?
- where did your tasks come from, and where did they go after you?

- did you ever get feedback on your work, e. g. being told that you had contributed to a successful military operation?
- names of colleagues
- shift work

If at Bletchley Park, did you work in one of the wooden huts, the brick blocks or what is now known as the mansion?

Did you ever meet or work with any of the “famous names” from Bletchley Park’s history?

- e.g. Alan Turing, Gordon Welchman, Hugh Alexander, Edward Travis, Harry Hinsley etc.

Can you relate any of the work you did to specific events during the War?

Particularly if you were at Bletchley Park, can you tell us about the way the buildings were decorated, furnished, lit, heated and maintained?

SOCIAL AND DOMESTIC

Where were you billeted? Which colleagues shared your accommodation?

What was your pay, were deductions made for rent?

What was food like at work and at your accommodation?

How did you get to work?

- e.g. walked, cycled, train, bus.

How did you spend your free time?

What social activities did you take part in?

How much leave did you get? How did you spend it?

What did you tell your family and friends about what you were doing?

POST-WAR

What did you do once the war ended?

- e.g. temporary redeployment to other duties, such as Japanese work at Bletchley Park or overseas.
- remained where you were for a time after VE / VJ Day.
- transferred to Eastcote in 1946, remained with GCHQ for a full career

(we do not expect you to go into details about any post-war work with GCHQ)

- returned quickly to civilian life.

Tell us briefly what you have done since the war.

How did you hear that the wartime story of Bletchley Park was no longer a secret?

What did you think about this?

When did you feel able to talk about it?

Finally:-

Do you have any photographs of yourself in wartime that we can borrow and copy?

What next?

You may be asked to sign a form giving the Bletchley Park Trust copyright. Bletchley Park Trust staff and volunteers will then write a summary of any interview, which will be linked to your record on the Roll of Honour on our website.

We may also use extracts from this summary and any recording in displays at Bletchley Park. Your words are invaluable in helping us to tell the story of what happened at Bletchley Park and elsewhere during the Second World War.

Please post your answers to:-

Jonathan Byrne
Oral History Officer

Bletchley Park Ltd
The Mansion
Bletchley Park
Milton Keynes UNITED KINGDOM
MK3 6EB

Or email:-

info@bletchleypark.org.uk (Atten: Jonathan
Byrne)

*(Grateful thanks to Judith and Bruce Goudge
and Sally Gibson who produced this Newsletter
between my visits to hospital. H.K.)*

