



CENTRAL BUREAU INTELLIGENCE CORPS ASSOCIATION MARCH 2015

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PRESIDENT'S PAR

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
held on Tuesday, 3rd February, 2015, at Roseville
Memorial Club.

PRESENT: Gordon Gibson, Helen Kenny, Allan
Norton, Annette Salmon, Bruce Goudge

APOLOGIES: Noni Benn, Bruce Bentwitch, Frank
Hughes

MINUTES OF AGM HELD 4TH FEB., 2014
having been published in June 2014 Newsletter were
taken as read and confirmed.

ANNUAL REPORT: President Gordon expressed
his heartfelt gratitude and sincere thanks to Annette
Salmon and Bruce Goudge. Annette has
volunteered to take up the duties of Hon. Treasurer,
vacated by Bruce Bentwitch after many years of
dedicated service. Bruce Goudge has similarly
volunteered to assist Helen Kenny with the
publication and distribution of Newsletter on a
quarterly basis. Gordon stated that the Association
owes a debt of gratitude to Publicity Officer Helen
Kenny, whose untiring efforts in regularly producing
Newsletters which not only keep members in touch
with all Association matters, but contain articles of
valuable historical importance relative to our World
War II activities.

I have volunteered to take up the duties of Hon.
Secretary from Joy Granger, after her many years of
dedicated service to the Association.
All this, combined with the continuing strong
attendance of members and friends at ANZAC and
Remembrance Day celebrations assures us of the
continuing success of Association activities
throughout 2015.

Gordon Gibson

President

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BRUCE BENTWITCH

Bruce has retired as Treasurer because of ill health.
This former RAAF kana operator, (2WU and 6WU)
joined up at 18, and served in the Northern
Territory and the Philippines.

After the war he became a qualified accountant and
took over as treasurer from Norma Keeling, whose
illness prevented her from carrying on.

For "15 or 20 years" Bruce compiled meticulous
records, chasing up people whose fees were
overdue, keeping careful record of those who
changed address and those who died.

He collected Newsletters from Kwik Kopy printers
(Walker St North Sydney), labelled envelopes, put
newsletters inside and sent them off – this meant
walking and driving. Now, like many of us, he
can't drive and illness forces him to stand down.

*[Thanks Bruce for all you've done. Take it easy
and good wishes. H.K.]*

TREASURER'S REPORT

When I decided to attend the Remembrance Day
Service at Roseville last November, little did I
realize that I would end up spending a great
afternoon with a bunch of amazing and inspiring
CBers, many of whom had shared some of the
wartime experiences of my parents.

Mum told us very little of her time with 1WU,
probably because of the 'Official Secrets Act'. She
simply said she was a wireless operator during the
war. Unfortunately she died in 1991 and as far as I
know, had lost contact with her old friends.

Mum (Nancy Roberts) was actually one of the first group of 13 WAAAF Kana Intercept Operators trained by 'Snow' Bradshaw at The Melbourne Showgrounds in 1942. They became 1WU and worked with Snow in the 'Hush Hush Hut' at Point Cook, working 4hrs on/4hrs off to intercept coded messages from the Japanese.

There she met my father, Sergeant Ben Eagleton, a young Drill/PT Instructor attached to HQ at Ascot Vale. They married at the Point Cook Chapel in November 1942.

The group was transferred to Townsville early in 1943 and Mum along with my godmother, Joy Linnane and her other mates in 1WU worked in 'The Bunker' the concrete building camouflaged as a farmhouse at Stuart, near Townsville. She did tell us stories of picnics on Magnetic Island, frequent encounters with green tree snakes and the joys of sleeping on straw paillasses. She also mentioned the intense secrecy surrounding the group and how they were never allowed to socialize with anyone outside the unit.

She left the WAAAF toward the end of 1944 when she became pregnant but never forgot her wartime experiences and was known to sit up all night with her state of the art shortwave radio, keeping her skills in Morse code up to date – just in case!!



Back row: (L-R) Molly Lusk, Stella Saunders, Phyl Brownson, Laurie Dale.

Next Row: Nan Roberts (Annette's Mum), Joy Linnane (Annette's god mother), Dawn McMahon, Connie Giovanetti.

Front row seated: Nicky Nicholson, Dot Blundell, Charl Charles, Joy Easton.

Lower step: Barbara Cottam.

[Where are they now? If you have any information, please let Newsletter know. H.K.]

I called Jack Bleakley (The Eavesdroppers) on spec the other day and we had a great chat. He said he certainly recalled the girls, although time had blurred his memory somewhat.

He suggested that he write a few articles for the newsletter. He said 'I still have some stories to tell that no-one else has heard!'

I passed on the message to Helen and she is going to contact him with a resounding 'Yes Please!' Fingers crossed...

So you can imagine, when Gordon, Bruce, Helen and Allan et al approached me with the idea of taking on the Hon. Treasurer's role I was happy to accept. Very big thanks are due to Bruce Bentwitch for the great job he has done over the past years and a heartfelt thanks to Bruce from me for helping me through the changeover.

REUNION LUNCH

The Anzac Day Luncheon this year will again be at the Pullman Hyde Park Hotel (old Marriott Hotel), 36 College Street Sydney, opposite the War Memorial.

Unfortunately, this year we were unable to book the usual Windows Room (bumped in favour of a larger group!!) but have been allocated the café just inside the Hotel Reception, together with the Rendezvous Lounge adjoining it. I've been to check it out and it looks fine with good access and a pleasant outlook. Telephone is (02) 9361 8400. Web address is: www.pullmansydneyhydepark.com.au

Cost of lunch will still be \$50/head with drinks extra. Members are welcome to bring wives, husbands, family and friends to the lunch. AIA and ex-ASWG personnel are also welcome.

Please wear name tags and RSVP all functions (including need for transport) in the accompanying form. We'd appreciate the RSVP for the lunch (plus appropriate cheque) almost immediately as it's the Anzac Centenary Year and space may be limited.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Membership fees for 2015 are now due and we have decided to waive any unpaid subscriptions for previous years. If you haven't paid yet please send your subscription (\$10 for all members and associates) to the Hon. Treasurer:

Annette Salmon

20 Marcella St,

North Epping NSW 2121.

Phone 02 9876 8856 mob 0413 137 779 (Cheques should be made payable to CBICA.)

FREEDOM OF BLETCHLEY PARK

At the end of January a large airmail envelope arrived. It was stamped "Bletchley Park – Home of the Codebreakers", and was addressed to me. Inside was a letter from Mr Iain Standen, Chief Executive of the Bletchley Park Trust, saying I was to receive the Veterans' Badge because of the work I'd done at the Outstation, Central Bureau as a Typex operator in the AWAS.

Also enclosed were a "Freedom of Bletchley Park" card, a certificate mounted on a picture of The Mansions at Bletchley Park and three Bletchley Park Magazines. A windfall!

The Veterans' Badge is small but beautifully designed. Topped by a crown, it comprises two circles – the inner with letters BP, the outer "Bletchley Park Outstation". At the base the word "Veteran" appears. This was stunning.

I wrote back saying I was pleased and honoured to receive it and hoped that CBers, members of ASWG and Wireless Units could also receive it. Their service outstripped mine.

Those who wear the handsome Bletchley Park Badge, issued years ago are probably on Bletchley Park's Roll of Honour.

(<http://rollofhonour.bletchleypark.org.uk/>) If so, it seems that they could apply for the Veterans' Badge. I've written to Mr Standen asking about this. I've also told him that I'm delighted to have the Freedom of Bletchley Park. To get there I'll have to renew my passport, win the lottery (ticket bought!) so

I can go there by old-style P&O liner with family and carer. (In 1951 the trip took six weeks.)

A dream. I'll be 94 this month and "the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak"!

The brains of Bletchley Park might transmit me there in a flash! Unlikely.

Good luck to all CBers and "Veterans". Hope you get the freedom and the badge.

...Helen Kenny

PS BP only knows me through my correspondence in the past.

A CONTRIBUTION

FROM JACK BLEAKLEY (author of "The Eavesdroppers")

April 15, 2015 marks the 73rd anniversary of the formation of WWII's Ultra Secret organization, Central Bureau.

Set up by U.S. General Douglas MacArthur only days after his arrival in Australia in 1942, Central Bureau, with its initial complement of 150 persons, grew into one of the most important, absolutely Top Secret and virtually unknown Military Establishments in the SWPA in the war against Japan.

By the end of the war, CB and its many Australian, American (and even 1 Canadian) field intercept units, employed 4,339 men and women in the process of intercepting Japanese coded and plaintext military and naval messages, decrypting them and translating them into readable English – passing this Ultra Secret Intelligence on to General MacArthur's HQ.

It is considered timely therefore to acknowledge once again the efforts of those wonderful men and women who served with CB and its support units at destinations beginning at Melbourne, through to Brisbane, Townsville, Papua New Guinea, Darwin, Hollandia and finally to San Miguel (some even to Okinawa)!

These people by their quiet, sometimes frantic but absolutely secret wartime activities deserve still to be remembered and honoured, although none of them would seek such acclaim.

The end results of all their expertise and dedication often altered the course of many military actions during WWII in the Pacific and thus saved many Allied soldiers' lives.

Suffice to say, at this Anniversary, to all those Cbers who can still remember wartime days – “Well Done”! “Good Health”! “See You”!!!

To those newer CB Association members (maybe relatives or friends of the ‘Old Brigade’) let me say to you (and to paraphrase words of General MacArthur), “Your parents, relatives and friends have served you faithfully and well. Take care of them!”

‘One of the Old Brigade’

[Thanks so much Jack. Keep writing. Perhaps you'll inspire others in the “Old Brigade” to do the same. H.K.]

BOOK REVIEW

CODE BREAKING IN THE PACIFIC

By Peter Donovan – John Mack (Springer 2014)

At the end of WW2, embarkation for service in the Philippines ceased. When Central Bureau was disbanded, a small inter-service detachment under the command of Eric Nave relocated to Mic Sandford's former quarters at Eldernell Terrace to compile the Technical Record of the Unit's work. The resulting

document, consisting of reports from all sections of the organisation, was received by the Australian Director of Military Intelligence who personally acknowledged the contribution of each of those involved in the editorial project.

This important material appears to have escaped the notice of some writers of a history which members of the Association had anticipated for decades. Peter Donovan and John Mack have corrected the omission. Not only so, but they have researched a wide range of additional documents and explored numerous websites.

The book is a refresher course in what may have been forgotten deliberately as an extension of the confidentiality pledged on induction into Central Bureau. The authors are justified in describing this as

the first reasonably complete account of who did what in Pacific War cryptology and why it could be done at all.

General readers will find the mystery of additive cipher systems explained, simple errors in devising them, and the importance of keen observation and common-sense in breaking into them.

There are chapters which will be enjoyed by those with more than ordinary mathematical experience. Footnotes are a mine of additional information. The reading list should more than satisfy the growing public interest in what had been regarded for decades as esoteric.

The book is a product of many years of the private interest of the authors and is a fine example of lucid writing.

Robert Brown

[Robert Brown, the reviewer, was one of a small team working under the command of Captain Nave to compile the Technical Records of Central Bureau. H.K.]

TURING'S FIANCÉ

JOAN CLARKE, so well portrayed by Keira Knightly in “The Imitation Game” was born in 1917 in London.

Her parents were William, a clergyman, and Dorothy. Joan was the youngest of three brothers and a sister.

She was educated at Dulwich High School and went on to Cambridge, achieving First in Part I and Part II of the Mathematics Tripos, and became a

Wrangler. In 1939 she graduated, achieving a double first in Mathematics, as well as a prize for scholarship.

When she was at Cambridge Gordon Welchman supervised her in Geometry. He was one of the four top mathematicians recruited in 1939 to set up decoding operations at Bletchley Park. It was he who recruited Joan to join G.C.C.S.

Joan, described by those who knew her as shy, gentle and kind, started work at G.C.C.S. in June 1940 when she just completed Part III of the Mathematical Tripos. There was only one other woman cryptologist at G.C.C.S.

Joan, originally paid two pounds a week, was upgraded to a linguist to earn more money. (She once answered a questionnaire with “Language – none”.)

Put into Hut 8, she joined a team which included Alan Turing, trying to break “Dolphin”, the Naval Enigma.

Later she worked on the Bombe using a codebreaking technique Banburismus, invented by Turing. She had met him before coming to G.C.C.S. – he was a close friend of her brothers.

In Spring 1941 she and Turing became inseparable. He arranged shifts so that they could work together and have time off together. Soon after Turing proposed and she accepted. Devastatingly, a few days later, Turing told her not to count on it – that he had “homosexual tendencies”.

Joan loved him and was undeterred. The engagement continued. The families met. She wore her ring, but not in the hut, keeping it secret.

Turing told her of his wish to have children. They shared interests – chess, botany and the growth of plant life. They holidayed in North Wales after the engagement ended. Turing believed the marriage would fail because of his homosexuality.

Joan remained friends to the end of Turing’s life.

She remained in Hut 8, continuing to break the Naval Enigma until war’s end. Then all vacated Bletchley Park shredding every scrap of evidence.

In 1947 Joan Clarke was awarded an MBE for her work.

In 1947 when G.C.C.S. was renamed G.C.H.Q., and moved to Eastcote, Joan moved too. There she met a colleague, Lieutenant Colonel K.R. (Jack) Murray.

Soon after they moved to Scotland, but returned to England in 1962. Joan rejoined G.C.H.Q. and retired in 1977. There were no children of the marriage.

He was a student of numismatic history, and published papers on the Scottish coinage of the 16th and 17th centuries.

After he died in 1986, she continued research, and in 1987 was awarded the Sandford Saltus Medal – the Numismatic Society’s highest distinction, for her work on “The Sequence of gold unicorns and heavy groats of James III and James IV. She was to assist Sir Harry Hinsley in his account of Polish, French and British contributions to breaking Enigma.

In 1987 the play, “Breaking the Code”, by Hugh Whitman, about Turing’s life opened in London. It was based on Andrew Hodges’ book “Alan Turing – the Enigma”.

Joan helped Hodges to research his book, but did not see the play, declaring, “It would have been painful”.

She died in 1996 in Oxford – having played a notable roll in Britain’s crucial achievements. “It is clear that her mathematical expertise on the Naval Enigma helped shorten the War,” wrote Linsey Ann Lord, in a paper for a University of St Andrew’s (Scotland) project.

BURIED TREASURE

Has anyone ever found the silver bars buried by Alan Turing in woods near Bletchley? It was 1940. Young Turing wanted to protect his savings. Invasion seemed imminent.

David Champernowne (“Champ”), with whom Turing had studied at Cambridge, “had observed that silver was one thing that had gained in real value during the First World War”. Both he and Alan invested accordingly in silver bullion, but while Alan typically decided to go the whole hog with a Burying Procedure, “Champ” kept his bars in the bank.

Turing bought two bars of silver worth about 250 pounds, put them in an old pram and wheeled them into the woods. He buried one under the forest floor. The other he hid in the bed of a stream under a bridge.

Andrew Hodges' book "Alan Turing, the Enigma" from which this information comes, says Turing wrote out clues for finding the treasure and enciphered these. He then hid them, one in an old benzedrine inhaler, the other under a bridge. He pin-pointed the site and knew exactly where to return to it.

Invasion didn't come, and Alan Turing didn't go back to find his treasure until after the war. But the landmarks had changed. Even a second visit with a metal detector found only a few pieces of metal in the woods. A bridge had been built over the stream. So Turing never found his treasure.
[Hodges' book was published in the 1980's. Would Bletchley Park's historian Jonathan Byrne please tell us if the treasure is still undiscovered? If so, it might lead to a "silver rush" (not gold rush) from the Antipodes. H.K.]

THE IMITATION GAME

The film about Alan Turing's life has had wide release in Australia. The Oscars, at the time of writing haven't been announced, but though the acting of Keira Knightley and Benedict Cumberbatch is fine, the film isn't. I doubt it's a winner.

It's based upon Hodges' biography but diverts wildly from it at its muddled ending. Facts are falsified – Russian spies are brought in, the account of Turing's death is garbled. Alan Turing always ate an apple before going to bed. When he was found in bed – dead of cyanide poisoning – an apple was nearby. It was half eaten. Had it been dipped in cyanide? The apple was never tested but the verdict was death by "a deliberate act".

It was the Snow White story. Mrs Turing never believed the suicide verdict. Her son had been experimenting with electrolysis, using cyanide and hadn't washed his hands. That was her theory.

A genius had died – how doesn't matter now. But his achievements have become renowned. P.S. The film won an Oscar for "Best Rendition of a Film"...Not the Oscar.)

CROSSWORDS

Among those who watched "The Imitation Game", the film about Turing, was David Astle whose column "Wordplay" in the Sydney Morning Herald is much concerned with crosswords. He wrote (1/2/2015) that Tony Carson, formerly of Bletchley Park, had been sent to Australia in wartime to "unravel Japanese messages". After the war, Carson became a Herald crossword compiler. "I quizzed him," wrote Astle, "but my colleague was tight lipped. Silence seemed the secondary gift of code-breaking." Astle wound up his column by making an anagram of Alan Turing – a-la-turning. He made another of Keira Knightly, who played the part of Turing's fiancé in the film. She became "hate kinky girl". By this reckoning, Astle's anagrams could be "least", "tales" and "stale". Enough!
Footnote: Tony's widow, Judy Carson, was the only woman cryptographer in CB. Do hope you can get to Anzac Day Judy. – H.K.

*If we can't see you on Anzac Day, we
 will be thinking of you.
 Do keep in touch. H.K.*