



## CENTRAL BUREAU INTELLIGENCE CORPS ASSOCIATION DECEMBER 2016

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### REMEMBRANCE DAY 2016 (Roseville)

Once again in NSW CBICA met on Remembrance Day at the Roseville RSL Sub-Branch, our gathering place since Remembrance Day 2003, when we had a mini reunion there at the suggestion of Bruce Bentwitch, a Roseville Club member.

A bad back prevented our former treasurer from attending this year, and our current treasurer, Annette Salmon with flu decided it wise to stay away from us. What a terrific job she's doing!

Next to the Club is the Memorial Park, where a Lone Pine Tree grows and white Gallipoli roses bloom. (The story of this Lone Pine Tree comes later.)

The Ceremony this year was held inside the Club where President Mr Mike Askey welcomed all comers. Killara High School Senior Prefects Olivia Charles and Sam Tajo delivered the official welcome.

Killara High School student, Matthew Cleworth's address was so outstanding we are seeking his permission to present it in a subsequent Newsletter.



Programmes distributed were fittingly designed to commemorate the Centenary of ANZAC featuring the slouch hat and a red poppy in memory of Flanders Fields. During the ceremony, dignitaries, school students, and guests were provided with red poppies to lay on the Memorial. Roseville Scouts handed out the poppies and escorted presenters to the Memorial. Twenty Six government and non-government schools were represented.

CB Representatives Gordon Gibson and Rob Moore laid the red poppy for us. At the conclusion of the formal ceremony, refreshments were provided for all. Subsequently, sixteen CBers, families and friends had a very pleasant luncheon together in a private room with good service and lovely food.

### AROUND THE TABLES

Noeline Hansen: representing her husband David, who has been in a nursing home for four years. She came with her Bletchley Park Teddy Bear which her daughter Ruth brought out

from England. Ruth has visited Bletchley Park twice and gave her Dad this Teddy with Bletchley Park Best wishes to all CBICA members.

**Helen Kenny**: came with her step-daughter Judith Goudge, her son-in-law Bruce Goudge and cousin Margaret Snodgrass.

Regretfully I had to leave my Bletchley Bear at home. On this day I'll gladly meet old friends and miss those now vanished. Also I think of two uncles lost in WWI, and of Armistice Day when the traffic stopped, and how, in my end of year student exams, we laid down our pens.

Thanks to those who served our Country and brought peace.



**Margaret Snodgrass**: It is a privilege to be present today. Thank you dear Helen for inviting me.

As you know I have a profound appreciation for our service men and women, past and present. I had the honour of being the inaugural associate member of the Chatswood Sub-Branch.

I am the Commemorations Officer of the Families and Friends of the First A.I.F., (FFFAIF) and am on the organising group which arranges the Fromelles Service at the ANZAC Memorial, Sydney, every July 19.  
“Lest We Forget”

**Rob Moore**: A privilege to represent members of CB and the Roseville RSL on such a solemn Remembrance Day.

**Cathryn Gibson**: Always a pleasure to come along to meet with members of CBICA at their events, today being no different. I am proud to be part of this, and to be here with my father-in-law, Gordon Gibson.

**Mary Hogan**: I come to remember those who paid for our peace and to remember those who suffered after wars. My family has a very long tradition for ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day.

**Gordon Gibson**: It was a great honour for me to lay the poppy, the tribute from CBICA to the memory of all those who served in the World Wars. On the lighter side, how good it was to see so many old familiar faces and to awaken so many happy memories.

**Joyce Grace:** Here we are at Roseville RSL once again – a wonderful Service and great to have all the schools represented. I am so happy to be here with a few of our Garage Girls – Ailsa Hale, and Mary Hogan, and of course our wonderful Helen Kenny. I hope we are all still around next year.

**Ailsa Hale:** I always love this Service; it is so simple and serene. Meeting up with old CB friends is beautiful.

**Jacqueline Keeling:** What a great ceremony that included so many schools, a sign that Remembrance Day will continue into our future.

**Katy Denis:** It was lovely to join fifteen other CBers for lunch today, and wonderful that so many of us could be here together.

*[Not all had time to write their names. Gordon and Sue Gibson were surrounded by friends. David Dufty was talking of the book he is close to finishing on CB and SIGINT, while Judith Goudge, our unofficial photographer was first away with her camera. Thank you to all, particularly our new President, Katy, for carrying on with efficiency and diplomacy. H.K.]*



## **APOLOGIES**

**Brian Lovett, Jacquie & Robbie Granger, Alan Fookes, Bill Rogers, Allan Norton, Gordon Swiney (from his daughter: Helen Allan), Bruce Bentwitch and Annette Salmon. Gordon included this picture of himself with his granddaughter and his youngest great grandchild who was born 94 years after Gordon.**



*[Thank you for the apologies and Best Wishes to those whose are absent because of illness. A friend once remarked, “old age is not for sissies!” But “Nil Desparandum.” H.K.]*

## **REMEMBRANCE DAY BEARS**

Another bear joined us on Remembrance Day. Jacquie Keeling bought him. He was welcomed.

This soldiering bear is from an Australian breed and was well-turned out from boots to slouch hat. Jacquie told us that he is “Lone Pine Bear”. Others in the “Great Bear Series” are:-

- Nurse Bear,
- Light Horse Bear,
- Stretcher-Bearer Bear,
- Gallipoli Bear, and
- Digger Bear.



Each bear costs \$89.95 with \$4.95 for its stand. Jacquie, who lives in the Blue Mountains, bought her Soldier Bear through the Post Office. For information try (02) 6123-2985. The uniforms are exact replicas and money raised from the sales helps support charity, as does Bletchley Bear support Bletchley Park.

*[Question: Does the R.A.N. have a sea-going bear and does the R.A.A.F. have a Tiger Moth pilot ready to fly?*

*Bear Collectors, such as Geoff P, could be interested. Thank you Jacqui for introducing yours.*

*On her last appointment at Royal North Shore Hospital, H.K. spotted a Surgeon Bear, masked and gowned, waiting. H.K.'s appointment was with a human orthopaedic surgeon, not a bear!]*

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

### **Remembrance Day Celebrations 2016 (Roseville)**

The sun was shining as 16 of our members attended the annual Remembrance Day wreath laying ceremony at the Roseville Memorial Club. As we made our way through the park to the ceremony, we were able to admire the beautiful Gallipoli roses, looking resplendent in full bloom above the CBICA Memorial Plaque.

It was heart-warming to see the respectful involvement of the school children who led proceedings again this year. In particular, Killara High School student Matthew Cleworth added a special highlight to the commemoration when he delivered a truly inspirational address. It was an amazing speech from an impressive young man.

Following the conclusion of the ceremony, 16 CBers including friends and family gathered in the Club restaurant for a lovely lunch, where we reflected on times past and caught up on the latest news and happenings among the group. Lucky enough to be sitting opposite them, I particularly enjoyed hearing Joy Grace, Ailsa Hale and Mary Hogan's stories of those war days together. What impressive women, full of tenacity, resilience and great senses of humour. I can only hope for memories as good as theirs, and such beautiful, long-lasting friendships when I am their age. It was wonderful that so many of us were able to be together on such a significant day.

We took a beautiful photo of the original CB members who were able to attend the lunch – Gordon Gibson, Helen Kenny, Ailsa Hale, Joy Grace and Mary Hogan – with one of our esteemed banner bearers and Executive Committee member Rob Moore. We've shared the picture in this edition of the newsletter – all looking fantastic!

### **Get set for David Dufty's Book (Title TBC)**

David Dufty is not only a valued member of our Executive Committee – he is an author. His vision of a book that truly captures the history of, and pays tribute to, the tireless work and outstanding contribution of CBICA will become a reality when it is published in 2017. David has spent countless hours interviewing CB members and some highly influential intelligence corps operators to bring all the pieces of the puzzle together. I for one can't wait to read it. We'll let you know when and where you can get your own copy once the launch date is finalised.

## **End of Year Reflection**

As I reach the end of my first year as President, I want to say how much I have enjoyed serving our wonderful CBers. It has been a pleasure and a great privilege and I look forward to continuing to work hard for you next year, with the invaluable help of our brilliant and hard working committee. Thank you very much to the committee and huge heartfelt thanks again to our amazing Publicity Officer, Helen Kenny. What a star!

With the year drawing to a close, I wish you and your families a safe and wonderful Christmas and New Year. I also invite anyone who is able to attend our AGM at Roseville Memorial Club on **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February at 3.00 pm**. I hope to see you there.

Best wishes to you all.

Katy Denis, President

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## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Another year is coming to an end and Christmas is almost upon us once more. I've just festooned our front deck with solar fairy lights and am delighted with the result. Yesterday my whole family got together for our annual 'Making of the Christmas Cake'. It has become a family tradition and hopefully will give the grandchildren some useful skills as well as happy memories.

This year has flown past and I was hoping to catch up with some of you at Roseville on Remembrance Day. Unfortunately fate deemed otherwise and I came down with the flu a couple of days beforehand. I hear that the ceremony was very well received and that around a dozen CBers attended and enjoyed the very pleasant lunch afterwards. I was really sorry to miss it!

I am happy to welcome a new Associate Member, Therese Henry, to CBICA. Her father, Arthur Henry was an electrical engineer who worked as a Signals Interceptor in Crete and was recruited to join the team at ASWG as 2IC to John (Jack) Ryan. She is keen to speak with anyone who remembers her father or who has stories about the people with whom he worked.

Therese also introduced me to Jack Fenton who from 1947 made his career in SIGINT including stints in Malaya and Vietnam. He says he was a 'Post-WWII Operator with many of my 30 years spent as a cryppie/linguist in secondments'.

Thanks go to Jack for access to a huge body of information about SIGINT including histories of ASWG and Central Bureau. More on this later!

On a sad note one of my Mum's contemporaries, 1WU Kana Intercept Operator, Joy (Easton) Osborne has passed away in Moss Vale at the age of 98. Our condolences go to her daughter Amanda and to her grandchildren.

What an incredible group of talented young women - we were privileged to have associated with them!

Speaking of talented young people.... a new 'College of National Security' is scheduled to open in 2018 in specially refurbished buildings at Bletchley Park in the UK.

The private consortium venture will provide special Cyber/Code-breaking training to counter the increasing threat of cyber warfare in our 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Places will be available for 500 specially chosen 16 – 19 yr olds who will become 'Cyber Leaders of the Future'.

And so the wheel turns....

Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas and a healthy and happy 2017!

Annette Salmon

(Hon) Treasurer

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## **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Thank you for your support throughout 2016. While there can be no replication of the marvellous time at Henry St last year, certainly our two official engagements in Sydney, ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day, in 2016 were special. It was wonderful to see such a high attendance at both events. For me, it was impressive on ANZAC Day to witness the huge numbers of young men and women marching with our defence forces. It is wonderful that so many young Australians are dedicating their lives to the service of our country, while simultaneously pursuing careers and university and other tertiary studies.

That twenty six schools were represented at the Remembrance Day Service at Roseville RSL is again a tribute both to the young themselves and to their schools for inculcating such fine attitudes. If this has been reproduced across the State, indeed across the Commonwealth, what a fabulous example is being set.

Mention has already been made of the magnificent address by Killara High Student, Matthew Cleworth at the Roseville Service. This speech, and the conviction with which it was presented by Matthew, was an inspiration. If we are able to obtain a copy (I am not convinced he even used notes) it would give me the upmost pleasure, indeed pride, to reproduce for all Newsletter readers.

As the year draws to a conclusion, it has been my pleasure and privilege to support CBICA in this small way by assisting Helen with Newsletter. Please accept my very best wishes for a blessed and safe Christmas, and happy and healthy 2017.

Bruce Goudge

(Hon) Secretary

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## VALE

We are pleased to publish an abridged copy of the Eulogy presented by Robbie Granger at his aunt's (JOY GRANGER) funeral earlier this year.

### Joy Granger 1<sup>st</sup> September 1921 – 31 March 2016

Joy was born in Murwillumbah, the oldest of three children. From the age of 4 she attended St Vincent's College in Potts Point. In 1937 Joy attended the Metropolitan Business College where she completed a Stenographers course.

After college she worked as a junior secretary to the Chief News Editor in the ABC newsroom, an incredible experience for a teenager. With war looming in Europe, she began weekly instruction at night in wireless telegraphy and learnt Morse code. She always loved Morse code; perhaps because of the rhythm, she always likened it to playing the piano. She was an accomplished pianist.

In 1941, when women were enlisted to the services, she was accepted into the W.A.A.A.F and initially posted to the Air Board in Melbourne.



Joy was transferred to Central Bureau in 1942 as a high speed wireless operator and signal interceptor. She used to describe going to the large house at 21 Henry Street to work, arriving every night in darkness and leaving the next morning. She would hardly ever see another soul except for the security guard on the gate. Joy was there till the end of the war. Joy's recollection of Henry Street years later was that she had actually imagined the time she had spent there, clothed as it was in strict secrecy, and not able to talk to anyone about it for so many years – it had all seemed surreal. Joy and her Central Bureau colleagues preserved their spirit of fellowship through decades of peace until their long held secret could be revealed. In 2009 Joy (and many of her colleagues) received a medal from Bletchley Park to commemorate their amazing service

during WW11 which led directly to saving the lives of many thousands of allied service men and women.

After the war in 1946, Joy returned to the ABC which had been charged with setting up and developing a new civilian post-war broadcasting unit, operating from Port Moresby in the combined territories. It was an exciting time to be working in radio there and they were given a fairly free hand by superiors. She helped with programming and broadcasts. Joy travelled extensively in New Guinea. The country was war devastated and some areas still undiscovered. In her words "A beautiful country in transition from cannibalism to questionable civilisation". In 1949 after contracting malaria, Joy was forced to leave PNG and return home to recuperate. At that time she was engaged to an American SAS pilot who was tragically lost in a covert post-war operation in Russia. Her second fiancé was killed in a car accident a few years later and from that time Joy decided she would remain independent. Joy's sister-in-law passed away in 1968, leaving five children aged 8 to 16. Joy moved in with her brother to help raise the family. It was during these years that the air force training



she had received proved very useful – as there were meals to cook, school runs, rugby, swimming training and endless washing - as well as dealing with teenage moods, adolescent partying and doling out discipline. They were fun times though and Joy enjoyed the family and their friends – even if she didn't get much time to read the books she so loved. She was like a mother to the children and in her words: - “The children have always remained friends with me – to my everlasting astonishment!”

Joy also cherished a close relationship with her sister Pam and all of Pam's children and grandchildren.

In 1972 Joy returned to part time work and she retired in 1982 to The RSL War Veterans Village to the companionship of ex-service comrades. She was an integral part of the community; heavily involved in voluntary work and her piano playing skills were always in great demand.

Joy was an active member of Central Bureau for many years. She maintained many lasting relationships with her friends not just from CB but from all facets of her life. Joy had a rich life of service to others. She was one of those people who left an indelible impression upon you – the goodness and compassion always just radiated from her and everyone was drawn to her because she was always so insightful, cheeky, content, thankful and enthusiastic. What better way to end this tribute than to use Joy's own words:

**”OVER THE YEARS I HAVE ACQUIRED AND RETAINED WONDERFUL FRIENDS,  
TRAVELLED OUR BELOVED COUNTRY AND VISITED OVERSEAS COUNTRIES  
WITH THEIR AREAS OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO ME.  
“IT'S BEEN A GOOD LIFE – MUCH HAPPINESS AND GREAT SADNESS – PAR FOR  
THE HUMAN COURSE. FAMILY AND FRIENDS HAVE BEEN BEYOND PRICE, FOR  
WHICH I THANK THEM. MAY THE GOOD LORD WATCH OVER THEM.”**

### **Jack Lane**

**28th May 1925 – 23rd April 2016**

### **Vale to the last member of Nobby Clarke's Philippines unit**

Firstly, Jack in his own words: an article originally written for and published in the June 2002 CBICA Newsletter, but which few CBers are likely to recall 14 years on.

### **Japanese R/T in the Philippines (1944-45)**

On 9 July 1944, a party consisting of two Canadian RCAF Officers and four RAF Sergeants left London for Australia. The Canadians, P/Os (later F/Os) Warren Miller and Bill Henderson, were fluent Japanese speakers, while the RAF Sergeants, Don Chilver, Jack Lane, Dave Mowatt and Pete North, had undergone an intensive course in Japanese Phonetics at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London, organized by the brilliant, redoubtable Professor of Phonetics, J.R. Firth.

From Bristol they flew to Shannon in Eire and from Foynes they crossed the Atlantic to Newfoundland in a BOAC flying boat, thence to Baltimore. The RAF men, after some time in Washington and New York, crossed the States to San Francisco by train, while the

Canadians enjoyed a short leave in Vancouver, before flying over the Pacific in a Liberator, arriving in Brisbane early in August.

At Central Bureau (Henry St. and Ascot Park) they continued training. Here the group was joined by Canadian Billie Blinkhorn, a well-known entertainer, serving in the Australian Army and introduced to Capt. W.E. Clarke (Nobby), who was later to be C.O. of the unit in the Philippines.

On 17 October the group joined 6WU and the next day flew by stages to Hollandia, New Guinea, in the then Netherlands East Indies. On the 24th they embarked on the USS Carter Hall, landing near Dulag, Leyte, on 5 November 1944.

After a few days on the outskirts of Tacloban, 6WU moved to Tolosa, on the East Coast (interestingly the birthplace of Imelda Marcos!) and started operations on the village green, watched over by the statue of the Filipino national hero Jose Rizal. In order to obtain better reception, the R/T group established a listening post in an old Spanish fort on top of the hill (500/600 ft.) overlooking Tolosa and Leyte Gulf, from which they had a grandstand view of Japanese aircraft attacking American shipping in the Gulf – probably some of the first kamikaze attacks.

By late December, as the Leyte campaign was drawing to a close, operations on the hill ceased; Bill Henderson and Pete North went on the invasion of Luzon, while Warren Miller, Don Chilver, Jack Lane, Dave Mowatt and Billie Blinkhorn on 1 January 1945 moved over to Inopacan on the West Coast of Leyte, in guerilla-held territory a few miles south of Baybay. Capt. Clarke (Nobby) arrived a few days later to command the unit until the end of the war. At Inopacan, support was given to the unit by 6WU RAAF personnel: Bluey Redenbach looked after the domestic arrangements and Bill Goodear acted as driver. Several mechanics serviced the generators, the most memorable of whom was Graham Walker.

In April, Billie Blinkhorn with Norman Frith and Norman Lucas (fresh from the U.K.) went on the invasion of Mindanao. It was time to move up to Luzon and the unit reluctantly left Inopacan where they had enjoyed the friendship and hospitality of the local people, rejoining Bill Henderson and Pete North at San Miguel near Tarlac, with 6WU and other Australian Wireless Units.

In June the unit moved from San Miguel to Bolinao on the South China Sea, where it was joined by Dave Grant, Sandy Duguid, Pete Nicholls, Gerry Rhodes and Jack Greenhalgh from SOAS. Finally, at the end of July, the unit was withdrawn to San Miguel to prepare for the invasion of Japan, which they were mercifully spared by the bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The unit reached full strength with the arrival of I.E. Rennie, R.E. Deeley and R.B. Chalmers from the U.K.

Nobby Clarke left at once for the occupation of Japan, Warren Miller and Bill Henderson were flown back to Canada, while the RAF party returned to Brisbane with their friends in 6WU on the Francis N. Blanchet. After a short time in Australia they sailed from Sydney in the S.S. Stirling Castle to arrive at Southampton in time for Christmas. Unlike their more fortunate Australian friends, they were not demobilized until the summer of 1947.

**Postscript:** As Jack once said, "...what we achieved (if anything) we were never told. However, we were there!"



Jack (right) and Nobby (left) during their first meeting in over 50 years at the Philippines Liberation Medal ceremony, February 1996, in Melbourne. All those intervening years simply melted away. Sadly, this was to be their only “reunion”.

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Among his many other fine qualities, Jack was charming and gregarious, always happy to welcome visitors and drive them around the “green and pleasant” Cotswold countryside. He and his wonderful wife Coula were, one might say, “joined at the hip” for almost 65 years, blessed with a close-knit and supportive family. Both myself and Geoff Miller (Warren’s son) have many delightful memories of our stays (sometimes separately, sometimes together) with Jack and Coula and feel very privileged to have been able to spend those times with them over a number of years.

After his wartime experiences in Australia and the Philippines, Jack studied languages (French and Spanish) at Cambridge, and then pursued a teaching career. A long and peaceful retirement saw frequent trips (usually in the campervan) within the UK and to various parts of the Continent. They even returned one last time to Australia early in 2006 (after Jack, accompanied by their younger son Charlie, had made a nostalgic visit back to Inopacan) and spent a few days with me in Sydney.

Jack passed away at home in Gloucester, not far short of his 91st birthday, on 23rd April 2016 – quite coincidentally but most fittingly the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare’s death. (He and I shared a great love of “The Bard”.) England holds special memories for me, and none more special than those of dear Jack and Coula: forever inseparable and much loved.

**Wendy Clarke**

## **LONE PINE**

If you’ve attended the ANZAC and Remembrance Day Ceremonies at the Roseville Memorial Club (NSW) you may have seen the Aleppo Pine Tree (*Pinus halepensis*) in the grounds where the Services take place. It’s not grand like an oak tree, but rather spindly in appearance. However, this tree is living history.

In World War I Turks roofed their trenches with branches, at what we now know was the agonizing Battle of Lone Pine. A photograph in the book “ANZAC Memorial” first edition on ANZAC Day 1916 shows “A Turkish sniper caught in the bush that sheltered him”. Two Australian soldiers guard their captive who looks like a living tree.

Mr Bruce McAdam, secretary of the Roseville Sub-Branch, has given Newsletter some papers about this the Lone Pine Tree. They tell the Club of the original tree planted in 1934 in Canberra, as well as descendants from its seeds now growing in Roseville.

The Duke of Gloucester, in 1934, was to plant a tree at the War Memorial in Canberra, and the authorities wrote to the historian Dr Bean of the tree’s interesting history to be recorded, seeking his advice on wording to be placed on a plaque there.

The plaque on the low wrought iron fence around the tree reads:-

ALEPPO PINE  
(Pinus halepensis)  
Planted by  
H.R.H. THE DUKE OF GLOUCESTER  
K.G., K.T., K.P., G.C.V.O.  
24<sup>th</sup> October, 1934

After the capture of the Lone Pine ridge in Gallipoli (6<sup>th</sup> August 1915), an Australian Soldier who had taken part in the attack, in which his brother was killed, found a cone on one of the branches used by the Turks as overhead cover for their trenches, and sent it to his mother. From seed shed by it she raised the tree, which she presented to be planted in the War Memorial grounds in honour of her own and others' sons who fell at Lone Pine.

Because of length, the plaque could not give names.

Mrs McMullen was mother of the two soldiers. In a newspaper interview given years later she said that the son, Lance Corporal M.A. Smith died in the attack while the other, Lance Corporal B.C. Smith was also in the battle. After the dreadful struggle ended, in which 7,000 Turks and 2,000 Australians died, Lance Corporal Smith looked for his brother and found him dead.

Mr Michael Askey, Roseville Club President, writes that in approximately 2004 he was given five seedlings propagated by the plant nursery in Canberra. He gave one to each of his three grandchildren, one to Turrumurra Public School, and the fifth, on behalf of Roseville RSL, to Kuring-Gai Council. This was then planted by Cr Jennifer Anderson in the Roseville Memorial Park on Remembrance Day, 2007. During 6-9 August, 1915, the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Infantry Division at Gallipoli attacked the Turkish occupied trenches above the Plateau at Lone Pine. Seven Australians were awarded the Victoria Cross, the most in any single Australian action.

Thus the Lone Pine Tree in Roseville memorial Park will turn ten in the coming year.

## **IN BRIEF - WAR SONGS**

The songs of WWI have survived a century.

“Tipperary”, “Long Long Trail” and “Keep the Home Fires Burning” are still sung and enjoyed.

We wondered if any had survived the 200 years since Waterloo in 1815. They certainly have. “Rule Britannia” is one. Another, about the French enemy Bonaparte, called Bony, had a nursery tune most of us know as “Pop Goes the Weasel”

The words about Bony were probably no more polite than derogatory songs about Hitler and Goering in WWII. That war is now over 70 years ago. Which songs from 1945 will go on? Leading the list is Germany’s “Lili Marlene”, which, like “A Brown Slouch Hat”, is seldom heard. What do others think? [“White Cliffs of Dover”, There’ll Always Be An England, certainly remembered, the Maori Farewell, Haere Mai beginning “Now is the Hour, when we must say farewell.”]

## **THE DEEP NORTH**

Richard Flanagan’s Booker Prize Winning Novel, “The Narrow Road to the Deep North” (Vintage Books, Australia) says that steam engine C5361 survives and is now “proudly displayed” in the Museum at the Yasukuni Shrine, Tokyo.

The Shrine contains the names of Japanese who died between 1867 and 1951 in serving the Emperor of Japan. Those named in the Book of Souls at this “sacred site” received absolution from all acts of evil. Among the names are those of 1,068 war criminals. Some of these were executed for mistreatment of POWs.

The plaque on C5361 does not mention this. There is no record of hundreds and thousands of slave labourers who died on that railway. They were Tamils, Chinese, Javanese, Malaysians and Burmese. Of the 61,000 Allied POWs employed, more than 12,000 died, including about 2,800 Australians. Richard Flanagan’s father, who died only recently, was one who survived.

This novel, obviously drawn from his experiences, has as its hero, Dorrigo Evans, a young doctor who tries to help his patient on that railway.

Associate CBer Wendy Clarke, a scholar of Japanese, points out that the title “The Narrow Road to the Deep North” is not new.

The Japanese writer, Matsuo (1644-1694), whose penname Bashō became famous, used “The Narrow Road to the Deep North” for his epic story in prose and poetry of a journey to north eastern Japan. Penguin Classics, in 1966 published a translation of this by Nobuyuki Yuasa. Flanagan’s book gives only glancing references to Bashō. He used haiku from Japanese poets, refers to Japanese symbols standing for death and to Charon who ferried dead across the Styx. The book begins in peace and ends in peace. The wartime segment on the railway is most harrowing.

The reader will never forget Darkie, or the bugler, called upon constantly to play the Last Post over the dead.

Flanagan's book - a death book – does honour those who died on the railway. The train only ran once. The lines are broken now and monkeys swing from the jungle trees. A few segments are preserved where memorial ceremonies are held. Here those who remember the 8<sup>th</sup> Division gather.

## **ENGINE OF DEATH**

On October 25, 1943 Steam Locomotive C5361 puffed its way along what is now known as Death Railway – the Burma-Siam railway.

Towed behind it were three open vans carrying Japanese and Thai passengers. Improvised attap roofing shaded them from the sun. The 415 km long railway line was complete. The Japanese officials were proud. This honoured their Emperor. Captain C.D. "Rowley" Richards heard the train pass but did not see it. He was too busy tending to the sick and had tried to prevent the mortally ill from being forced to work on the railway. Often they were.



Richards, Medical Officer of the 2/15 Field Regiment, had been bashed and beaten.

His book, "A Doctor's Story", should be required reading. He kept medical records – death if he'd been caught – and buried them, wrapped in rubber from his stethoscope under the headstone of a POW's grave.

After the war, Richards, who survived the torpedoing of the "Rakuyo Maru", got back to Australia. The records were returned to him. He continued his medical career as a doctor

at the Olympic Games (1968 & 1972) and as a GP in Seaforth NSW, and died, aged 99 IN March 2015. An obituary said, "Rowley was as good a man as this country has produced."

## **HELEN KENNY'S MESSAGE**

*It's time for Season's Greetings so let me echo that sent out by Peter Court, President of the Australian Intelligence Association.... It read: "Best Wishes for a peaceful, enjoyable and Happy Christmas and a healthy and rewarding 2017."*

*Bless all CBers and their families and help them face the future. Personal thanks to the Goudges who have helped me so much with production of Newsletter, not forgetting faithful Scott at Kwik Kopy, Walker Street North Sydney.*

