



**CENTRAL BUREAU INTELLIGENCE
CORPS ASSOCIATION
SEPTEMBER 2016**

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome to our latest Newsletter. What a wonderful **Anzac Day** we had this year, the first along Elizabeth Street. The march route may have changed but the spirit did not! It was brilliant to see all who could make it – and those who couldn't get there were in our thoughts.

Remembrance Day Reunion 2016

As the year flies by (they really do seem to get faster!) our next big commemoration is Remembrance Day.

Please join us for our annual Remembrance Day Ceremony at the **Roseville Returned Servicemens' Memorial Club at 64 Pacific Highway, Roseville on Friday 11 November 2016, commencing at 10.45 a.m.**

The club is right near Roseville railway station. If you're driving from the city, turn left into MacLaurin Parade, then right into the parking lot behind the club.

The ceremony is held in Roseville Memorial Park, the little park next to the club (or inside the club in past years). It is always great to see the involvement of schoolchildren who pay their respects, laying wreaths, delivering the Remembrance Day Oration and sounding the Last Post.

As part of the ceremony, we will all be given a red poppy to place on the memorial. The Sub Branch will provide light refreshments after the ceremony.

Everyone is also invited to stay and catch up with old friends over lunch. We will be booking a table this year so we can all sit together. Your loved ones are always welcome at CB functions, so feel free to invite family members along. To help us book for the right number, we've included an RSVP slip at the bottom of the page. If you could please fill it in, tear it off and send it back to me, that would be appreciated.

We hope to see you there!

Vale Frank Hughes

Sadly, we recently lost a very generous and active member with the passing of Francis (Frank) Hughes. Frank was a valued member of the Executive Committee from our beginnings in 1974 until his passing. We have printed extracts from the eulogy from Frank's service as a tribute to his enduring commitment and contribution to CB. Mark and Col Brackley, Gordon and Sue Gibson, Joyce Grace, Rob Moore and Bruce Bentwitch were all present at the burial.

Our sincere condolences go to his family. I hope to see you at Remembrance Day.

Katy Denis

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TREASURER'S REPORT

It's hard to believe that spring is here already! Azaleas and rhododendrons are in full bloom and the garden is a picture in gorgeous shades of pink. Along the street, trees have sprouted fresh new leaves and I'm contemplating resuming my daily walks – an activity that drops off somewhat in winter!

Our esteemed editor Helen Kenny is recovering from a fall which landed her in hospital and after a stint in rehab she is happy to be home again. She is staying positive and recovering well. Helen is the powerhouse for this newsletter. She has continued to write and to do research for her articles throughout this whole episode. Thank you Helen!

I've just spoken with Allan and Katy Norton. Allan had a nasty fall in the garden a couple of months ago and spent some time in hospital. He says he is recovering slowly and is determined to regain his former strength. Katy has been ill as well so it hasn't been an easy time for them. Best wishes to you both. I hope the warmer weather brings health and healing to everyone.

We've confirmed our booking and paid the deposit for the Windows Restaurant at the Pullman Hyde Park Hotel for next Anzac Day. We had a wonderful group of 60 people there this year and I'm hoping we can match that number with friends and relatives to back up our members in 2017.

In the meantime our next event will be the Remembrance Day Service and Lunch at the Roseville Club on the 11th of November. I'm looking forward to seeing you there!

Best wishes to all,

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SECRETARY'S REPORT

The year is rushing by – ANZAC Ceremonies barely seem to have concluded and we are gearing up for Remembrance Day. Helen did ask that you may like to send reports on your local ANZAC Meetings, and again you may like to send her a report on your local Remembrance Day Service, where ever you may be. Please send any reports either to Helen – her address is at the top of Newsletter, or email me at bgoudge@optusnet.com.au.

I have received an interesting email from Catherine Ashwood from Gaythorne in Queensland. Catherine is seeking information on her grandmother, **Mavis Mary Sheppard (later Ashwood)**. Here is the text of her email:-

“I have been looking for some information on my grandmother, Mavis Mary Sheppard (later Ashwood), who was a Sergeant in the Intelligence Corps and we believe worked in Central Bureau, guarding or assisting the women on the cypher text machines.

“I have applied to the War Memorial for her service record but I think it may still be sealed. I was wondering if anyone in your Association, knew or can remember Mavis? If so, I would love to hear about her or what she did.

“I was never able to meet her as my parents divorced and she lived far away. I'm fascinated by her service in the Intelligence Corps and would like to be able to pass down information to my children about her.”

If you have any information on Mavis, please forward it Helen or to me to pass on to Catherine. Our wonderful sleuth Annette has done some research, and she has provided the following:-

Looks as if Mavis went to live in Atherton after she was married in Townsville in 1947 so she may not have kept in touch. She died in 1989 (buried in Atherton) before all the CB info started to come out.

I'm sure Catherine would value any information or recollections you may have.

Bruce Goudge
(Hon) Secretary
bgoudge@optusnet.com.au

VIC LEDERER

All sorts of gifts seem to be coming to Vic Lederer in advance of his 102nd birthday!



CA Lt-Gen Angus Campbell, left, and RSM-A WO Don Spinks present replacement medals to WWII veteran Captain Vic Lederer (ret'd). Photo: Cpl Max Bree

HERE FOLLOWS A REPORT BASED ON AN ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN “ARMY – THE SOLDIERS’ NEWSPAPER” OF AUGUST 25, 2016.

Vic Lederer has an exceptional memory for someone two months from his 102nd birthday.

The former AIF captain can recall sayings from generations ago in languages from German to Japanese and Malay. But in an interview with an historian for the Australian Intelligence Corps earlier this year he realised he could not recall where his many medals from World War II were.

This information found its way to Australia's Chief of Army, Lieutenant-General Angus Campbell, so on Saturday 13th August 2016, the chief solved the problem with a rare personal delivery of replacement medals to Mr Lederer's Curtin home.

"It's marvellous. I feel absolutely wordless with surprise; it's really wonderful. I didn't think it was anything special that I did {during the war} ; I did my best and that's all."

The oldest known surviving Australian World War II electronic intelligence specialist regaled Lieutenant-General Campbell, a small military entourage and family and friends with some of his adventurous life and crucial translation work.

Vic Lederer was born to a British mother and an Austrian father who was a successful cotton businessman and once consul-general to the United Kingdom.

First arriving in Australia in the 1930's he joined the AIF four days after the war began as an infantryman and served in the Middle East. Mr Lederer's fluency in German led him to be assigned to 4th Army Special Wireless Telegraphy Unit where his translation skills were used against the Germans, Italian and Vichy French in North Africa and Lebanon. He returned to Australia with his unit in 1942, learned Japanese and was commissioned in to {General Douglas MacArthur's top-secret} Central Bureau Intelligence Corps, being sent to Moratoi in New Guinea to monitor and translate Japanese radio transmissions.

This unit gathered critical intelligence for the future Allied victory in the Battle of the Coral Sea and General Macarthur's liberation of the Philippines.

Lieutenant-General Campbell, who spent more than an hour with Mr Lederer said it was an honour to recognise his service and give back his medals.

"He and his generation were instrumental in building and protecting the Nation that we now have the privilege to live in," he said.

Also, Mr Lederer was presented, for the first time, the Australian Service Medal with clasp "SW Pacific" 1945-75.

After the war ended Mr Lederer became an immigration selection officer in North Germany, screening thousands of Europeans who wanted to come to Australia.

He [previously told Fairfax Media](#) his greatest achievement was "picking one for myself", a beautiful Lithuanian girl called Tina who has been his wife for the past 66 years. The couple moved to Australia in 1951 and have lived in their Curtin home for 44 years.

SIS RECORD

Recently a copy of a publication "Special Intelligence in the Far East 1942 – 1946 was found in the archives of the Australian Signals Directorate. [Steve Meekin (former Major-General, Colonel Commandant, Australian Intelligence Corps) wrote that SIS was the name for the US

Army component of Central Bureau.] Steve Meekin sent it to CB, thinking we'd be interested.

Indeed we were. This is CB's history.

Rob Moore has an original, hardback copy once owned by his father, Dennis. This publication is now rare and costly. Thanks to Rob Moore, we read his father's original copy of the S.I.S. Record, first published by George Gabriel in 1947 for \$US5. This is "An Historical and Pictorial Record" of the Special Intelligence Services in the Far East, 1942 – 46", with a dedication to Clarence S. Yamagata, Captain Signal Corps. Yes, 106 pages of text and photos follow. The pages though keep secret the work done by those pictured. Just as nothing could be written or published about CB for decades after the war, so this reveals nothing of SIGINT, its interception or codebreakers.

The publication we hold begins with a map of Australia, with Japan to the far north, and all the places – New Guinea, Morotai, Biak, Tarakan and the Philippines in between.

Clear maps and excellent photographs are a wonderful history of SIS. The publication never mentions CB – a caveat.

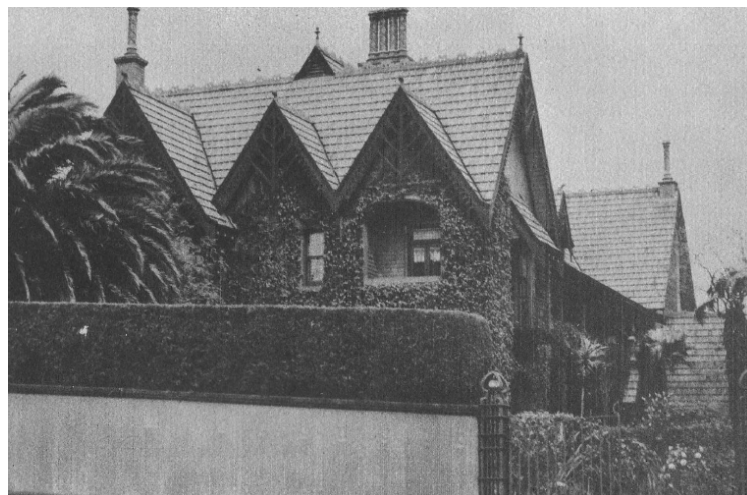
It starts with a letter to the Director of SIS from General Douglas MacArthur, dated November, 1946. He writes, "On the eve of deactivation of the SIS of the South West Pacific Area of the Army Forces, Pacific I wish to commend this organisation and its members for their effective efforts in the war against Japan. The Service, which grew from a mere handful of Americans and Australians to a strength of more than 3,000 has been outstanding in its achievements."

Photos follow. Pictured are MacArthur, Akin, Sinkov, Sandford, Roy Booth, Harry Clarke and officers of Central Bureau.



The Australian Lieut-Col. W. (Mic) Sandford, Army veteran of Greece and Crete who headed CB when he was only 26 years old (left).

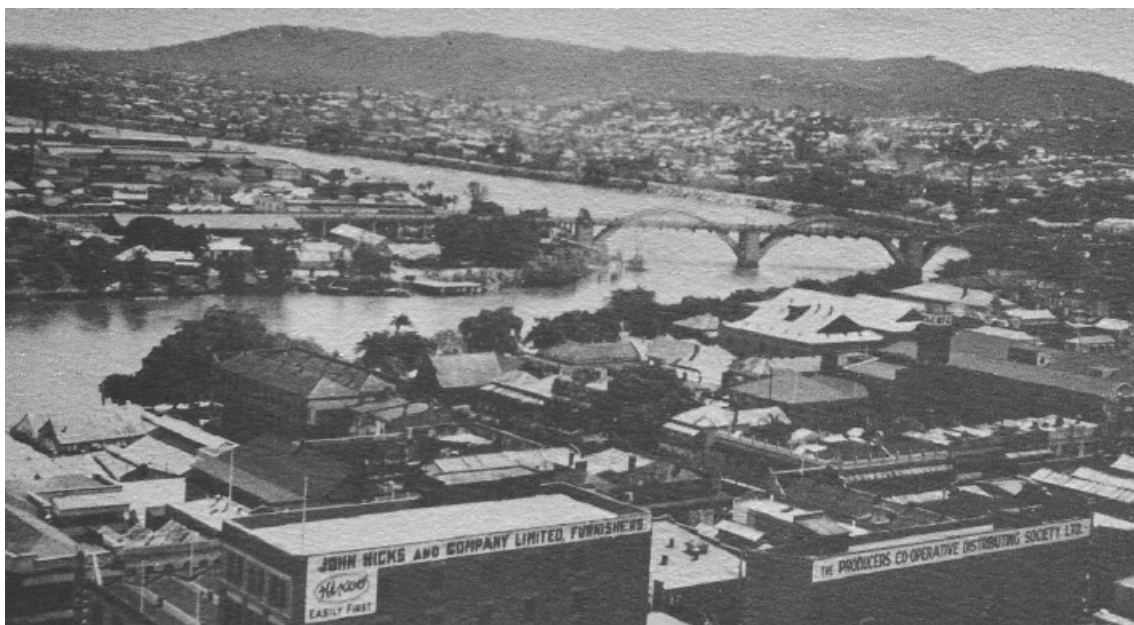
The ivy covered house, "Cranleigh", in Melbourne (below) is where a handful of Americans and Australians began working under Sandford's direction in April, 1942. "Cranleigh" is where Central Bureau started before moving to Brisbane.





Here a photo of Queen Street lined with parked cars - now vintage looking.

Below, the Brisbane River, winding through the tram's many sections like a corkscrew, and there are many pictures of Ascot Park, where top secret work went on.



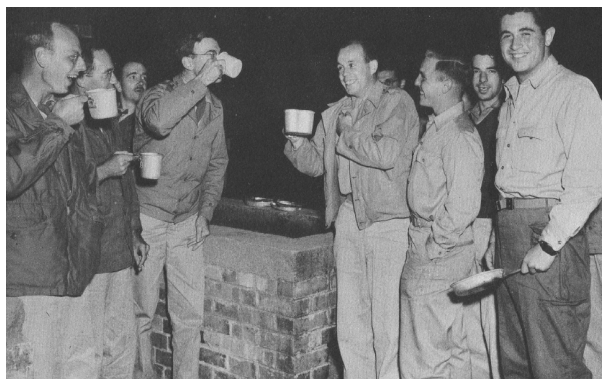
More pictures of Camp Ascot, where the men lived in huts encircled by the racecourse.



No work is seen! SIS was full of talent – ventriloquist Joe Connors entertains.

Suddenly it's VE DAY. On that bitterly cold night Brisbane was off limits to the American troops by command, while Australian troops celebrated in the city with prayers of thanksgiving and parties.

On this happy day Americans were banned from the city, staying in camps to drink beer from enamel mugs.



It was the same on VJ night. Americans kept in camps, Aussies crowding Brisbane; slowing the trams as tons of torn paper fall from every high window.

Who made this miserable decision to bar our allies? *[H.K.'s guess: It could have been Brisbane's City Fathers who feared another "Battle of Brisbane" on VJ Day.]*

A loose, typed insert reads, “Long before the secrets could be revealed the Americans produced the 1944 records of the Soviet Intelligence Service. It revealed nothing of the purposes of their existence and did not mention Central Bureau.”

To quote “S.I.S.” record:

“work provided the sort of that known only to scholars and labyrinth walkers. Individualistic characters of several nations were around to provide local colour.

“Men inclined to intellectual speculation of one sort or another were provided with ample material by the presence of comely and genial Australian AWAS, WAAAF and by WACS too i.e. if she looks like that in *that*, what would she look like in civvies?”

The book shows the movement north and pictures Hollandia, Leyte, Manila, San Miguel, then, at last, Japan.

It ends with a list of Services working with the US Army – AIF, AMF, AWAS, British Army, Canadian Military Forces, RAF, RAAF, RAN, RN, WACS, WAAF. Then – turn the page and we come to groups. Some were taken outside the Henry Street Headquarters. Nowhere is the house “Nyrambla” shown, but here are people we know on Page 81 – Don Laidlaw, Judith Roe, Professor Room. In other groups we spotted Geoff Patience, G. Aspden, Nellie Allan, Helen Rex The Australian Wireless Unit taken at San Miguel – then a list of names and addresses of American personnel; Code breaker Joe Richard and Lester Truex.



Back row: D.A. Gross, C.E. Bevan

Second Row: Robert Cochran, Max Gershun, R. Brown, Alan Cole, Frederick Lamb, A.A. Ashbolt, C.T. Baker

Front Row: Donald Laidlaw, J. Rowe, E.W. Bennett, Thomas Room, Walter Scott, B.G. Smallman, C. Hill, Wilfred Varn

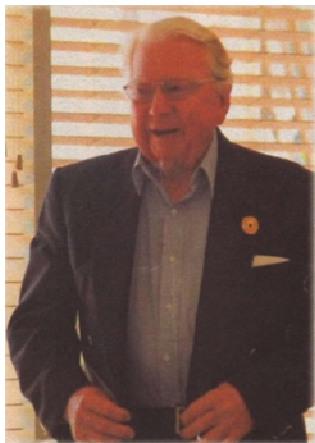
Remember the story of Lester Truex riding his horse cross country to Henry Street, and tying it up to a tree?

So many stories, so many good people gone. We remember them on ANZAC Day. I thank the younger generation for allowing the previously unmentionable Central Bureau to continue.

Most of all, gratitude to the late Dennis Moore for having passed the book on to his son, our Banner Bearer – Rob, and to Steve Meekin for sending us the photocopy.

The original book is so heavy I could hardly lift it – just as well Rob is in practice.

FRANCIS NEVILLE (FRANK) HUGHES (1st February 1924 – 11th August 2016)



Frank was an intelligent, generous, interesting and proud man – proud of his family, the business he created, and his service to his country.

His generation struggled through the hardships of the depression and war – they were silent witnesses to rapid societal change and invention, yet underlying this was a total commitment to history and family.

Frank was raised in Gladesville and attended Holy Cross College at Ryde. He loved riding and always had a horse until he joined the army. His lifelong hobbies included golf and fishing, and indeed he played golf until his 90th birthday in 2014.

Frank joined the Australian Army Corp in June 1942 – Private soldier NX154071 in 30th Infantry Battalion, and was posted to Dubbo. After only weeks in Dubbo he was promoted to corporal and then transferred to 21 Henry St Ascot – his home for the remainder of the war. He was inducted into “Central Bureau” under the Oath of the Official Secrets Legislation – preventing any communication with his fellow inductees for 30 years after leaving the army.

He collected data on Japanese military movements, and radio traffic which was used to decipher and “break” the Japanese “Katakana Code”. During Frank’s time with CB he was also stationed in New Guinea, “Hollandia” in Dutch New Guinea – now the West Papua region of Indonesia, and finally in Manila.

At war’s end he was invited to join the Australian War Crimes Commission – this lasted four years. Frank and his family were immensely proud of his Military service, and in 2009 he received a medal from the British Government specially minted to the Code Breakers of Bletchley Park (who broke the German “Enigma Code”) and the members of Central Bureau from 21 Henry St, who broke the Japanese “Katakana Code”, commemorating their amazing achievements which directly led to saving the lives of many thousands of allied service men and women in WWII.

Leaving the army in 1949, Frank fell in love with Betty O’Brien and they married in 1954 – the delay due to the not inconsiderable task of obtaining an annulment from the Pope of Betty’s first Marriage!

Frank immediately adopted Betty’s daughter Gaye, bringing her up as their own; then followed Richard, Diana and Merryn. Sadly Gaye passed away in 2010. He has seven grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

In 1954 Frank established Superior Plasters P/L which, by 1970's, was the largest business of its type in Australia – success due to Frank's strong human ethical and moral compass, while Betty's vibrant interpersonal skills complimented his throughout his business career.

Frank and Betty provided the family with the perfect place to grow up and a safe haven for friends. Superior Plasters P/L was sold in 1979 and Frank "semi" retired, still pursuing interests in housing developments, not to mention various "boys only" golfing and fishing trips across NSW.

1979 also saw the expiry of the embargo under the Official Secrets Act and Frank was able to start locating the people from CB. He became very active in Central Bureau Intelligence Association, and until 2014, proudly marched under its banner on ANZAC Day in Sydney.

In 1992 Frank and Betty moved to five acres in Bowral – a wonderful grandchildren's escape from parents, where they could be cuddled, overfed with ice-cream and caramel sauce, and introduced to old movies like Wizard of Oz, anything with Shirley Temple, and in all other ways thoroughly spoilt.

After Betty's passing in 2004 Frank moved away from Bowral, and in 2006 rekindled a friendship with Eileen Hazzard. The family gives special acknowledgement to Eileen for her love and support for Frank – a wonderful relationship of both love and care.

While Frank was hoping to break his grandfather's record of 99 & 11 months, his 92 and a half represents a spectacular innings of which even Bradman would be proud.

THE YAMAMOTO MESSAGE

This is the text of the Yamamoto Message intercepted in April 1943 by 1 WU Townsville and by Americans in Honolulu.

It read:-

On 18th April C in C will visit RXZ [Ballale – Buin], R., and RXP in accordance with the following schedule:-

- Depart RR [Rabaul] at 0600 in medium attack plane escorted by six fighters. Arrive RXZ at 0800
- Proceed by minesweeper to R., arriving at 0840. (Have minesweeper ready.)
- Depart R., at 0945 and arrive RXZ at 1030
- Depart RXZ at 1100 in medium attack plane. Arrive at RXP at 1110
- Depart RXP at 1400 by medium attack plane. Arrive RR 1540.

In case of bad weather the trip will be postponed one day.

Admiral Yamamoto, who masterminded the attacks on Pearl Harbour and Darwin, was planning to make an inspection of forward naval bases in the Bougainville Solomons region. With knowledge of his schedule, a flight of American P38s ambushed Yamamoto and shot down his plane on April 18, 1943. It crashed in jungle, killing the Admiral.

This famous incident has been well described by Jack Bleakley his book "Eavesdroppers", by Alan Stripp in "Codebreaker in the Far East" and by Michael Paterson in "Voices of the Codebreakers".

[Who, in 1 WU, intercepted the message? Jack Bleakley might have known. Will it ever be revealed? HK]

IN BRIEF

HUMPTY DUMPTY

H.K. joined the Humpty Dumpty Club at the end of July by having a fall and breaking her right hip and left ring finger.

That finger turned an insipid mauve and the rings on it couldn't be removed.

"We'll call the fire brigade," nurses said.

"You're joking!" H.K. cried – they weren't!

Three firemen arrived in the hospital with a gadget they placed under the rings. SNIP! SNIP! SNAP! CRACKLE! In bits were the gold wedding ring, the dear little Zircon given on the 21st birthday. All the pieces were caught. All Humpty Dumpty has to do is put all the pieces together again.

Thanks to surgeons and physios H.K. is home again, much better but still ringless.

MESSAGE: KEEP ON YOUR FEET. KEEP UPRIGHT.

VIC LEDERER

Had a surprise call from Vic Lederer in Canberra. He is 102 now and lives at home still. For his 100th birthday, he was given a lovely puppy – so lovely that he chews everywhere and tried to chew Vic's hearing aid. *[I hope it was rescued!]*

Vic, a CB linguist, was listening to Germans in the Middle East before he came to Australia and listened to Japanese. Before he was seven he could speak Dutch, English, German and French.

We have received chapters of his memoirs and we hope to print excerpts because Vic belonged to CB Intelligence with Mic Sandford, S.R.I. Clark and Nobby Clarke ("a linguist and an absolute genius" in Vic's words.)

JOY GRANGER

Robbie Granger is preparing an abridged version of the eulogy he delivered at his Aunt's Funeral for inclusion in December Newsletter.

SPONSOR A BRICK IN THE BLETCHLEY PARK CODEBREAKERS' WALL

CBers have the opportunity to sponsor a brick in the Codebreakers' Wall at Bletchley Park.

The Codebreakers' Wall is a specially reserved area in the grounds of Bletchley Park for Veterans, their families and supporters of Bletchley Park, to have their names engraved into a brick to share with loved ones for many years to come.

The Codebreakers' Wall is built around naval code breaking Hut 8 which sits at the centre of the Bletchley Park site.

You can sponsor a brick in your name, in memory of a loved one or in the name of a Veteran, to commemorate their wartime achievements. By sponsoring a brick in the Codebreakers' Wall, you will be helping to complete the transformation of the core heritage of Bletchley Park to ensure a sustainable future for the Trust and to inspire the next generation of Codebreakers.

The Codebreakers' Wall will be a memorial that will last for generations at Bletchley Park.

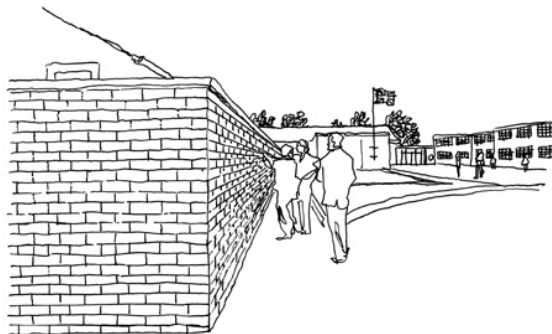
A digital wall will be available soon so you can search for names, locate bricks in the Codebreakers' Wall and discover the stories behind the bricks.

This link will take you to the site, which gives full details and conditions, and will also enable you to sponsor a brick.

<https://www.bletchleypark.org.uk/content/support/bricks.rhtm>

Or you can simply Google: Bletchley Park Sponsor a Brick and click on the link.

Several CBers, including H.K., have already availed themselves of this unique opportunity.



Thank you to the younger generation for helping get this Newsletter out, and I hope to see my elder contemporaries on Remembrance Day. [H.K.]