



**CENTRAL BUREAU INTELLIGENCE
CORPS ASSOCIATION
SEPTEMBER 2017**

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Spring has sprung which is wonderful! The year is certainly flying by and our next big commemoration is Remembrance Day.

Please join us for our annual Remembrance Day Ceremony at the **Roseville Returned Servicemen's Memorial Club at 64 Pacific Highway, Roseville on Friday 10 November 2017, commencing at 10.45 a.m.**

Please note that this year the commemorations will take place on Friday 10th November (a day before Remembrance Day) due to Remembrance Day falling on a Saturday this year.

We will also be holding a **CB Annual General Meeting** following Remembrance Day lunch to decide on important proposed CB Constitution changes as outlined below in Newsletter. All are welcome and encouraged to attend the meeting.

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.

Weather permitting, the ceremony is held in Roseville Memorial Park, the little park next to the club (or otherwise inside the club in past years). It is always very moving to see the involvement of schoolchildren paying their respects, laying wreaths, delivering the Remembrance Day Oration and sounding the Last Post. Each year I am so impressed with the eloquence of the young speakers. If only I was so impressive at that age!

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 then 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. As always, your loved ones are welcome at CB functions, so feel free to invite family members along.

To help us book the right number for lunch, please RSVP to myself via phone or email at the contact details following. We also require numbers of those attending the Remembrance Day ceremony only to provide Roseville Memorial Club, so if you could also please advise your attendance at the ceremony too, that would be greatly appreciated. Last year we enjoyed such a lovely get together. We really hope to see you there!

Katy Denis, President
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TREASURER'S REPORT

Annette's in hospital – so no report from her. Thanks for all your work Annette. She's also a busy florist – her flowers are beautiful. Do you want to buy some? Not at the moment from her though – perhaps others could provide.
Love H.K. on behalf of CB.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

We do hope you can join us at Roseville for both the Remembrance Ceremony, and for the special Annual General Meeting. The meeting is important as it has become necessary to make some vital, if somewhat minor amendments to the CB Constitution, and as you would realise this can only be done with the approval of members.

The Club has also invited us to share lunch with some of the RSL members, wherein they can speak with CBers to share their ideas and the valuable information they have amassed over the years. Do let Katy know if you will be coming, so we can advise the Club for catering purposes.

Again, there appears an emphasis on Sydney in this Newsletter, so it would be terrific if any of you from parts afar could advise of happenings relevant to CB or Remembrance Day. Feel free to contact me.

Bruce Goudge

(Hon) Secretary bgoudge@optusnet.com.au

Mob: 0412 579 160

BOOK REVIEW "CODE BREAKERS"

Craig Collie had established his reputation as an historian with a knowledge of **Asia** and the Pacific when he **was** commissioned by Allen & Unwin to write a history of Central Bureau. With his background in TV production and direction, he soon showed his ability to paint word-pictures.

His researches led him to include both CB and Frumel, "Australia's Two Bletchley Parks" and the sometimes curious relationship between them. After all, they were staffed by people of acknowledged gifts and abilities and with frequently intersecting responsibilities.

Craig has managed to produce a painstakingly researched history, from the antecedents, through the stresses of war, to the new world, the new enemy, and the new face of signals intelligence.

National and other archives, books, monographs and articles, websites and blogs were combed for even the most minute piece of information. Several of the dwindling number of serving members were interviewed.

The outcome is a gripping tale of the men and women who peopled "the shadow world of signals intelligence". The story of Central Bureau and Frumel might easily have become a rather flat account of events. Instead, it is full of real people.

Veterans will renew some old acquaintances, as well as resolving some of the mysteries that had baffled them for decades. New readers, of whom there are already many, will satisfy much of the pent-up curiosity evident in the general population.

The paperback format invites reading in all those places where paperbacks are popular. The cover design is intended to pique curiosity.

Forty-five pages of end-notes, including index, will enable readers, so inclined, to pursue further study. Intense media interest is ensuring wide and well deserved publicity.

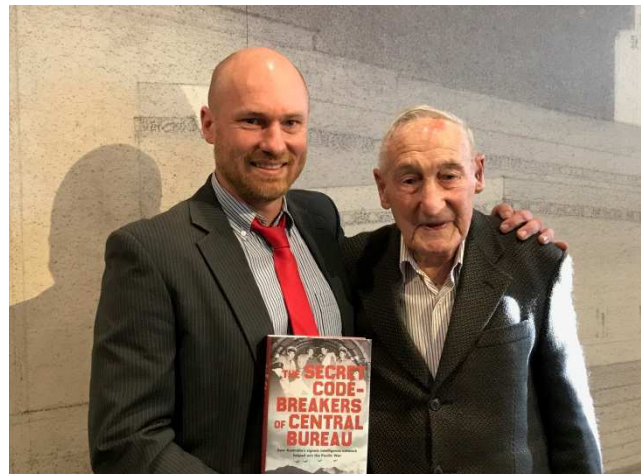
“Code Breakers” RRP \$33 Reviewed by Robert Brown

REPORT ON DAVID DUFTY'S BOOK LAUNCH

“The Secret Code Breakers of Central Bureau”

By James Gibson, Helen Kenny's nephew.

It's been an amazing time for those of us fascinated by the stories, exploits and sheer determination of the men and women of Central Bureau. Things which were ultra-secret and hidden are being revealed; and only just in time. With the passing of the years also comes the handing over of stories from generation to generation. From those who did to those striving to understand and make human again stories which were sworn never to be recounted. From those who were there to their descendants who are honoured to now be part of the CB family. For those who carry on the tradition of Central Bureau in the modern Defence force in signals intelligence, traffic analysis, cryptography, threat assessment; all contributing to the decisiveness required to contain and manage rapidly emerging threats in today's world. We are finally hearing the voices of code breakers validating their experiences; telling it as it was not simply as documented history.



With the release of new information, that has supplemented and in some instances corrected previous books, we have had a slew of new material. Starting in 2014 with 'Code Breaking in the Pacific' by Mack and Donovan, which described the mathematical underpinnings of the flaws and failures of the Japanese codes. These ever-changing lock and hidden keys were attacked by the wit and skill of those at Central Bureau, FRUMEL and ears listening throughout the Pacific to those whispered messages. In early 2017, Craig Collie's book 'Code Breakers' aptly described the personal rivalries and loathing, white anting and political manoeuvring which drove the success and sometimes jeopardised the capabilities of this critical effort. Together, these books offered a strong but incomplete picture of Central Bureau. No one book can achieve everything and each focussed on critical issues needing clear and accurate explanation.

Which brings us to David Dufty's 'The Secret Code Breakers of Central Bureau'.

The Launch followed.

We gathered at Poppy's Café at the War Memorial in Canberra for a pre-launch lunch organised by Katy Denis, our President.



There was a good crowd with fond reminiscences by the families and descendants of those involved with Central Bureau. Gordon Gibson anchored the conversation while David Dufty proved to be the informed host, finding time to speak with all guests. He even extracted unexpected stories and experiences. His delight at discovering the daughter of an Australian signals intelligence woman who had served on an American submarine operating out of Fremantle gave us insight into David's passion for the subject. Peter Donovan came armed with a detailed map of Ascot Racecourse and the Central Bureau hut layouts triggering further discussion.



The highlight of the afternoon for me was the book launch itself in the Reg Saunders Gallery at the War Memorial. An introduction by Anton Kuruc set the scene and was followed by a generous and detailed analysis of the book by Major General Steve Meekin, AM, Retd. His heartfelt comments were appreciative of those who had served and their considerable achievements. His insights were based on how this early work has led to the capability of Australia's Defence Force today. Gordon Gibson followed with a moving and sometimes humorous response, clearly demonstrating that David had captured the essence of these people at a personal level. I am Helen (Frizell) Kenny's nephew and on the day I was able to connect Helen with both David and Gordon by phone from Sydney so she felt part of the proceeding.

[Thanks James. I wish I could've been there, and am now reading the book.]

DAVID DUFTY IN SYDNEY

Those of us who couldn't attend David Dufty's book launch in Canberra heard him speak at the State Library of NSW on August 17th. The Metcalfe Auditorium was packed as he told how Australian codebreakers and Intelligence organizations "built our own version of the famous UK "Bletchley Park" from scratch." – Central Bureau. His talk was excellent!

THIRTY EIGHTH PARALLEL

The 38th Parallel across the Korean Peninsula is now the most dangerous line in the world with the dictator, Kim Jong-un, testing his nuclear weapons.

The story of how that line subdivided Korea is told in Simon Winchester's brilliant book "Pacific: the Ocean of the Future" (William Collins, 2015).

In Washington it was August, 14th 1945. Hirohito had announced Japan's surrender. Russia, which had entered the Pacific War two days after the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, and scything fast and furiously past the defeated Japanese units in Manchuria, Sakhalin Island and into Korea.

In General George Marshall's Pentagon Office the US Army Chief of Staff and his officers decided that they must find checkpoints to stop the Soviet onrush.

Watched by Marshall and Dean Rusk, a 36 yo officer walked over to the large National Geographic map on the wall. This officer, a Rhodes Scholar and third generation soldier, was Colonel Charles Bonesteel III. He "traced his index finger east and west along the lines of latitude that almost precisely joined the cities of San Francisco and the Korean capital – Seoul.

"Both of them lay some thirty seven and a half degrees north of the equator." Bonesteel told his two colleagues it was important for Seoul to remain in American hands.

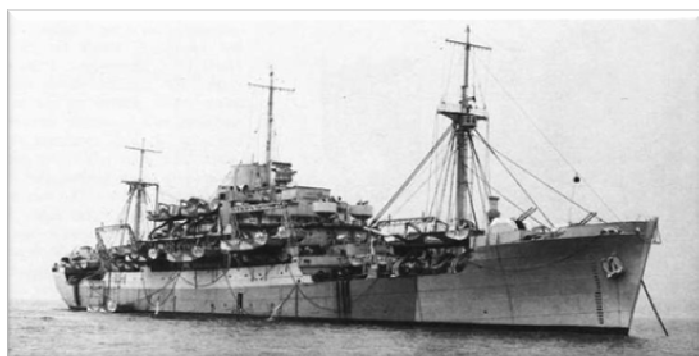
Using a green pencil he drew a line across the map – 38 degrees north of the Equator. Korea's fateful 38th parallel – a line of force today.

MAJOR ARTHUR HENRY: SIGINT PIONEER (Concluded)

By his daughter THERESE HENRY

(This final extract follows on from Therese's contribution in June Newsletter)
4W/T destroyed their compromising documents and codebooks and retreated to Piraeus, down the east coast. At the desolate port, Captain Jack Ryan, his operators and the equipment were boarded on the small overloaded *Else*. The vehicles would not fit. The boarded party from 4W/T was evacuated on the last ship to leave the port before the Germans invaded. The precious vehicles and their drivers were left with Lieutenant Arthur Henry in the expectation they would all be loaded on the next suitable vessel and returned to Alexandria. And so as the port was closed, the Section was split. At the time, the forward party was unaware that it was a near thing these lives were not lost in Greece. Arthur Henry returned the rear party to the staging camp at Dafni and went to Athens to sort out their rescue. After further setbacks, the rear party had to destroy their vehicles. The rear party with Arthur Henry managed to get onto a train laden with exhausted soldiers and travel from Athens to Corinth. The train was strafed continually on its hazardous trip but not bombed as the Germans needed the railway line. The rear party was evacuated from the port Navplion, near Argos, in the assault ship *Glennearn*.

After a dangerous trip across the Mediterranean Sea, 4W/T was



disembarked to Souda Bay, Crete, not to Alexandria, Egypt. The HMS *Glennearn* had been bombed in the crossing but not seriously damaged. The *Else* was bombed in Souda Bay, which delayed the landing of troops aboard. The Section was very pleased to be mostly reunited. From the bombed port and town, they moved to Chanea, and in picturesque surroundings, had a short respite. 4W/T was able to resume interception from pleasant quarters near Arotiri Road overlooking Chanea and its harbour.

Their section set up a short distance above the Creforce Headquarters. General Freyberg, Commander of Creforce, arrived in Greece with the last of the New Zealanders to leave Greece. German aggression against Crete increased with the heaviest bombing on Souda Bay. It became clear that the section must dig in and get the vital set-room underground. The improvised set-room was made in a disused cement water tank with an annexe for the IOs.

This set-room, declared safe except for a direct hit, had a roof made of found wood with two



Special Wireless Group marching through their camp at Kalinga, Queensland, in July 1945.

layers of sandbags and camouflaging on top. The entrance was a hessian sack. Arthur Henry and Mic Sandford were in charge of all set-room activities. The set-room was pivotal, and work was constant and demanding. Shifts changed only when there was a quieter moment, and those not actually working in the set-room were guarding with support from two British regiments. There were continual air raids, bombing and strafing. One communication line ran down to HQ in the nearby quarry.

On 18 May in the middle of an air-raid, Mic Sandford had arrived at 4WT with new code books from Heliopolis. He later entertained the men with his recount of his trip from Alexandria to Souda Bay in an emergency run by an RN destroyer after he endured all sorts of set-backs to get to the Section. His awaited attachment was as the Intelligence Officer(IO) to this Special Section.

From 20 May, German paratroopers arrived like drifting snow. Allied air support promised to Prime Minister Menzies if he provided the Australians for this battle was not forthcoming, and the German assault was unrelenting. British aircraft supply was at its nadir, and this lack of air support was integral to the Battle of Crete. The German army and air strength was immense. The AIF, mainly Australians and New Zealanders, were facing another retreat. On 27 May, Jack Ryan got down to HQ, now relocated, and brought back a signal: *"close down and move with your complete section to SPHAKIA after destroying all equipment. Your valuable personnel should be embarked for Egypt at the earliest opportunity..."*. OC Jack Ryan told his men, "we have a long march ahead".

The Section then undertook another challenge in this prolonged and terrifying ordeal: the "long march" proved to be 65 kms across the spine of Crete from their northern position to the evacuation port of Sphakia on the south coast, all the way over rough terrain, short of water and under attack. Their line left with the OC and Mic Sandford at the front, Bill Hill in the middle and Arthur Henry bringing up the rear. 4W/T numbers were down to 57. And this was just the beginning of a story of mateship and teamwork that carried through the rest of the war. While trying to survive that nightmare trek, none of them could have realised that the most significant work for 4W/T lay ahead. These men were the veterans who, under the leadership of Jack Ryan, Arthur Henry and Mic Sandford, were to create the Australian Signals Intelligence Organisation and make a contribution to the Allied war effort which the

Head of US Intelligence stated "cut two years off the war".
Therese Henry, March 2017.

JOHN FRANCES McCORKELL

Are YOU able to help Geraldine?

If you can, please send your contact details to H.K. (address above) or Bruce (bgoudge@optusnet.com.au) and we will put Geraldine in contact with you. How good it will be if we can assist her.

My name is Geraldine Cole and I have only found out that my father John Francis McCorkell served over 2 years at the Central Bureau Intelligence Corps in Brisbane. He was transferred there from Melbourne in 1943. On further investigation I discovered your Association in the newsletters and I would like to know if and how I could join. I am astounded with this discovery and would love to know so much more. Dad has long gone and never mentioned this at all. I live in Qld now and want to get involved with anything pertaining to your association. Are there any details and or photos I could have access to of my Dads time there? It would be brilliant and humbling to meet the families of the personnel who served in this Bureau. I guess not too many original members would be alive today sadly.

I hope you don't mind me contacting you but I saw your email address on a newsletter and thought you would be the one to contact.

Thank you and looking forward to hearing from you. This is a very emotional discovery for me and thanks for keeping the memories and respect going for these service men and women.

Yours sincerely Geraldine Cole.

VALE

KATH BURNS: This CB widow marched for years in her husband's memory and always joined our table on ANZAC Day for lunch. We'll miss you Kath. H.K.



PETER HILL: The Chermside schoolboy, who, aged eleven, found those identity discs in the family chook yard fifty five years ago, has died. Thanks to the perceptive former young boy, gaps in our history have been filled. Vale Peter.

Information from David Hill about his brother Peter.

Peter Hill: 11th April, 1947 – 19th February, 2017

Peter attended Primary and Secondary School at Wavell Heights Brisbane. A very creditable Junior pass allowed him to enter the Qld. Public Service in March, 1963 initially with the Dept. of Education. He was later transferred to the Public Service Board and finally became Director in the Industrial Division, Department of Employment, Vocational Education Training and Industrial Relations. Peter resigned from the Public Service to commence a personal business dealing with Industrial Advocacy as a workplace consultant mediating employment problems. He held a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science from Qld University. He finally retired and enjoyed hobbies and travel.

In 2016 he was diagnosed with a brain tumour and operations were only partially successful. He organised his own 'Nearly 70' party attended by family and friends, but he was unable to attend.

He requested to not have a funeral service, and that his ashes be scattered at sea off the Sunshine Coast where he lived.



This picture of the family, taken in 1959, shows Peter standing on the right hand side of the back row.

Their parents used the space of the yard at 97 Memar Street to grow vegetables, and the rear section was fenced off for a flock of about 50 chooks. The ground was being well scratched over, and small items would become uncovered - -the I.D. discs, small arm ammunition shell cases and other unknown pieces.

The area opposite the home had been an Australian military camp for AWAS personnel.

Peter had always been interested to collect things, and the discs he discovered in 1958 were initially kept in a Benson and Hedges cigarette tin, until later, Peter cleaned them all and mounted them in the clear sleeve folder in which they were stored until he decided to donate them to the Chermside and District Historical Society through Beverley and Robert Isdale.

Beverley researched the names and service numbers on the discs, and gradually the amazing story started to unfold about the Central Bureau Intelligence Organisation, and the AWAS personnel, and the Australian Special Wireless Group, and 21 Henry Street and the Camp Kalinga radio intercept system and the previously un-publicised work that was carried out by so many people in the defence of Australia during WW2.

If the question had been asked in the 1950's when the discs were found, "What were this CBIC and ASWG etc. ?" The answer would probably have been that no such things existed, and no such activities ever happened.

We owe a debt of gratitude to young Peter and David Hill, for drawing aside that curtain of secrecy that maintained the necessary war-time security.

Vale, Peter, and thank you.

[The Chermside and Districts Historical Society is pleased and proud to provide an Internet platform for the magnificent story that Peter Hill has allowed us to know. H.K.]

VIC LEDERER OBITUARY **VICTOR EDGAR LEDERER**

14 OCTOBER 1914 - 22 MAY 2017

LOVING HUSBAND OF VALENTINA. ALWAYS LOVED ESPECIALLY BY VALENTINA WHO WILL REMEMBER YOU

FOREVER. LOVED FATHER OF ROBIN AND EVELYN. GRANDFATHER OF ANDREW, ANGELICA AND ASHLEY.

FATHER-IN-LAW OF SOLEHA.

FORMER CAPTAIN, ATTACHED TO THE 125 SIGNAL RADIO INTELLIGENCE UNIT AS THE INTELLIGENCE OFFICER DURING WW2. A DECORATED WAR HERO WHO FOUGHT FOR AND LOVED AUSTRALIA.

GREATLY MISSED FOR YOUR HUMOUR, WIT AND STEADFASTNESS. A STOIC FIGHTING SPIRIT RIGHT UNTIL PASSING AT 102.7 YEARS OF AGE.

LEST WE FORGET

PRIVATELY CREMATED. [CANBERRA TIMES, 31ST MAY, 2017]

Vic Lederer, an original CBer, a former AIF Captain and linguist, has died in his 103rd year. This charming, intelligent man will be greatly missed. CBICA sends deep sympathy to his dear widow Valentina and sister-in-law Irina.

His memoirs, held by the Australian War Memorial, tell how he almost got himself killed by a British Sentry in Cairo in 1942.

Vic was serving with the 4 W/T, Seventh Division A.I.F. His unit, after intercepting the Germans in the Middle East and the French in Syria, was now being recalled to Australia, and its linguists were learning Japanese in a hurry.

"Cairo wasn't bad at all," said Vic. He was able to have time off. After the strain of working he sometimes acted the goat in youthful shenanigans. After all, he was young!

Once Vic and a mate commandeered a tram. One drove it and the other acted as conductor, collecting all the money.

He told Newsletter that anecdote last year.

One night they got back to camp just in time.

They would have been merry. The guard asked for their password. The memoir reads, "I couldn't remember it", I said, stupidly enough. "Who d'ye think it is, mate – Adolf Hitler!"



Helen met Vic last year.

The guard clicked his rifle bolt ominously and this sobered me in no time. “A couple of Aussies,” I said, “we’re stationed here and I forgot the bloody password.” He shone his torch on us and I recognized him by sight, and he knew us too. “You silly bluddy Aussie bastards, ye could’ve got yer bleedin’ selves shot,” he exclaimed, shaking his head. “Get inside wi’ ye now.” and that was the end of a “perfect day off!”

[Thank goodness it wasn’t the end for Vic. He had another 75 years to live. Be grateful for that. In the next Newsletter, Wendy Clarke will write a tribute to Vic, her wartime colleague and friend of her late husband Nobby. We also hope to print a biography of Vic in the next Newsletter.]

CHEERS

The Bletchley Magazine’s latest issue says that Fathers’ Day “marked the launch of Bletchley Park’s very own beer – Station X – named after one of the terms used to describe the site during WWII.

“Created by the Concrete Com Brewery in Milton Keynes, Station X is now available in Hut 4 and The Shop.”

Newsletter wonders if our Bletchley colleagues have tasted the Queensland beer XXXX – it has nothing to do with SIGINT!

INVITATION

Invitations are scarce when you’re 90-odd. (I won’t mention how odd!)

Nevertheless one came from the Bletchley Park Trust and Trustees inviting me and my family to the Annual Bletchley Park Veteran’s Reunion on Sunday, 3rd September, 9.30 – 17.00. Significant date? WWII!

If only! I declined with regret, saying this CB Veteran and former TypeX operator needed a wheelchair with wings to fly me there. I wished them a wonderful day, and said I would wear my Bletchley Badge in sympathy.

Bletchley Park was once called Station X in wartime. But for the hard work of veterans such as Peter Wescombe, BP’s site would’ve been lost. Now it is sacred for history and is a place of scientific development.

I receive their magazine regularly. A recent issue said that BP now had its very own beer called Station X, created by Concrete Con Brewery in Milton Keynes.

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CBers wonder if you’ve heard of the Queensland beer XXXX. It had nothing to do with SIGINT, and Bundaberg – must have a herd of concrete cows. On the day I’ll have a middy of XXXX and will toast Bletchley Park Veterans. Good luck and all the very best of XXXX  
QQQQQ

Finally .....

We look forward to seeing you at the Roseville Club – don’t forget it is on the Friday this year, so the school children can join us. Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> November. Please don’t forget to advise Katy that you are coming, for the Annual General Meeting to discuss the constitution amendments, the luncheon and of course to the actual Remembrance Day Service from 10.45 a.m.

