



**CENTRAL BUREAU INTELLIGENCE
CORPS ASSOCIATION
MARCH 2018**

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I hope 2018 has started well for you and that the first quarter of the year has been kind. We've been busy working away on your behalf since our last Newsletter, and most recently in February we had a very productive Annual General Meeting. It's always a very rewarding event with a lot of lively discussion, which is excellent!

I would like to take the time to express my heartfelt gratitude and thanks to Annette Salmon for all her time, hard work and dedication in her role as Treasurer over the years. As my Dad, Gordon Gibson, says: "Annette is a pocket rocket!" It is absolutely true and we are so pleased that Annette will be remaining as an active member of CB, despite stepping down as Treasurer.

Thank you for your wonderful ongoing contribution to CB Annette.

Anzac Day 2018 in Sydney

This year, unfortunately the RSL has not coordinated any of our usual Anzac Day March meetings, nor have we been given any concrete information regarding the March, despite numerous requests by myself and other Associations.

With Anzac Day just around the corner, this is not at all ideal, however, I will be following up the RSL weekly and I am very much hoping that the information will come through to me shortly.

For anyone wishing to march this year, please could you contact me via email or phone (my contact details are below) and I will do my best to provide you with the necessary updates. My apologies I don't have the usual comprehensive information to share, but it is out of my hands unfortunately.

Email: Kt@ktgcreative.com.au

Mobile: 0414 388 879 Tel: (02) 9411 5933

New Wreath Laying Ceremony for CB at Roseville.

This year will see a change to our traditional CB Wreath Laying Ceremony. I will be laying the Wreath on CB's behalf at the Dawn Service at Roseville Memorial Club, instead of at the Cenotaph on Anzac Eve. It will strengthen what is already a very successful relationship with the Club - many of you will know it as the location for our Remembrance Day ceremonies each year. With so few members able to attend the annual Anzac Eve event in town in recent years, we have decided to show our support in this new way.

You are of course all welcome to join me at the service very bright and early at 0500 hours. Coffee is provided!

Get in touch and share your news

My thanks as always go to the wonderful team that makes our Newsletter possible – our incredible Publicity Officer Helen Kenny and fabulous Secretary Bruce Goudge.

Our team enjoys being able to share the latest CB news with you, and it is always wonderful to hear from our members.

On this note, recently Norm Allen kindly contacted me about a wonderful collection of photos he has regarding the preparation of Surrender of Japan. Thanks also to Norm's son Tony for emailing the photos through to me, and we will be sharing some of the images in upcoming issues of Newsletter.

If you have any other news or photos to share, any feedback or ideas about what else you would like to see in Newsletter, or if there is anything you would like us to address in the running of CB, please let me know. I've included all my contact details below, so feel free to send me a letter, email or give me a call.

It would be terrific to include profiles on our CB members and past members, so get in touch and let us know what you've been up to!

We have also received a lovely email from the President of the Signals Association of Victoria, Gavin Lee stating that if any CB members who were in Signals would like to tell their stories, Gavin is more than happy to publish these in the Association newsletter as well as send it to all of the other State Associations. If anyone would be keen to be involved, please contact me and I will facilitate the process for you.

Donations and Grants for CB

CB's Executive Committee is very proud to give up some of our time to work for CB – and we are also very grateful for the contribution others make to our wonderful organization. I'd like to acknowledge and personally thank those people who kindly made a donation to CB last year, and over the years for that matter. Please know that your generosity is greatly appreciated, and makes a real difference to what we can achieve for CB.

Our members tell us how much they enjoy receiving Newsletter each quarter, which is very important to us as an Association. Like everything these days though, it does cost money to produce, so in the spirit of transparency I want to share the fact that we are looking at funding opportunities and other ways to help offset that ongoing cost.

We are currently working through a grant application process with the Department of Defence to help fund the printing and mail out costs associated with our Newsletter. We will keep you posted on developments on that front. Keep your fingers crossed!

In the meantime, I would love to hear from anyone who might know of any other potential suitable sponsors for CB. Perhaps a family or local business, or a community group or organization looking to give a little something back?

If you have any suggestions, I'd be very keen to hear from you.

All my very best wishes and I hope to see many of you on Anzac Day.
Long live CB!

Katy Denis

10/75 Stanley Street

Chatswood NSW 2067

Email: Kt@ktgcreative.com.au Mobile: 0414 388 879 Tel: (02) 9411 5933

SECRETARY'S REPORT

March is already with us, and so are plans for “The March”. Wherever you are – Sydney, regional NSW, Interstate or across the world, our thoughts come together as we gather for our Annual ANZAC Commemoration. The number of CBers dwindles, so we look to family and friends to perpetuate their memory, and ANZAC Day is a wonderful occasion to do this. If you have a gathering, please feel free to report it to us so we can acknowledge it in Newsletter. Be it only two or three, or maybe, as in Sydney, where we are looking optimistically at some 60 CBers, families and friends gathering in the “Windows Room” at the Pullman Hotel, after the March, do send a report to Katy, Helen, or myself. We had the CBICA AGM at Roseville on 6th February. Present were, Gordon Gibson, Helen Kenny, Katy Denis, Annette Salmon, Rob Moore, Mark Brackley and the undersigned. Allan Norton and David Dufty sent apologies.

Sadly Annette tendered her resignation as Treasurer (not from CB fortunately). She has been wonderful, and her knowledge of names and backgrounds is extraordinary. Fortunately, Rob Moore has kindly consented to fill the gap, for which we are extremely grateful. **A volunteer for a permanent (Hon Treasurer) will be most welcome. Please contact Katy Denis should you be interested in filling the position, or for further information.**

At the AGM there was much discussion of finances. Members stress the importance of Newsletter, and the valuable work performed by Helen (97 this month) but sadly the increased cost of postage is straining our finances. For this reason, we are seeking new Associate Members, at \$25 per head, and we are currently maintaining Full Membership for Veterans at \$15. If you have not paid your dues for 2018 please do so. I have provided a form and banking details for this purpose.

Again, to minimise costs – both printing and postage – if you are able to receive Newsletter by email, (complete with coloured pictures) please provide your email address to me at bgoudge@optusnet.com.au.

As ANZAC Day draws near, we think of this special time for all of us, and our families, while I also seek your ongoing support of CBICA through your continued membership.

Bruce J Goudge

(Hon) Secretary

Email: bgoudge@optusnet.com.au Ph: 0412 579 160

HELEN KENNY'S REPORT

It's interesting to see how many of the men in “Zero” Falconer's Kana group had nicknames. Nicknames were more usual for men than for women. Think of “Pappy” Clark and “Nobby” Clarke.

Among women? I was always and still am “Frizz” to those who knew me at school and in the Army. This was just a shortening of my surname Frizell. If you can remember past nicknames, please tell Newsletter.

Yes, I've just thought of “Ding Dong” (Bell) for Madeline Bell who became Madeline Chidgey. This sweet and gentle girl with whom I once shared a hut found her one true love early. I hope to get to lovely Lilli Pilli for her Memorial service, and hope many of you will join me.

For the first time in decades I won't be sharing ANZAC Day in Sydney with my dear friend Diana Parker. She always has made the effort to fly up to Sydney from Melbourne, and last year was accompanied by her son Geoff.

We turned out to be distant cousins and I'll never forget that day in Brisbane when she opened "The Courier Mail". There, on the front cover page was a photo of her brother Tony arriving in Brisbane. His Lancaster had gone down over Europe and she thought him missing. The Resistance had helped to save him. Memories, memories – I've asked for yours too.

On this ANZAC Day I send wishes and greetings to the dwindling CB Family. My particular thanks to Annette Salmon who volunteered to be our Treasurer. How lucky we were! How perspicacious she was!

Helen Kenny

KANA COMRADES

We farewelled Keith "Zero" Falconer (22nd March, 1924 – 15th August, 2017, in our last edition.

After this sadness it was good to receive this photo (courtesy of the Australian War Memorial) showing him with a jolly looking bunch of fellow Kana operators at Roseneath Barracks near Townsville around 1943.

Keith is pictured (below) at Roseneath Barracks with fellow Kana operators: left to right: Jack (Peewee) Jaffrey, Don (Tap) Tapper, 'Shiny' Grinham, Jock McQuade, George (Porky) McKinnon, Rex Kay, Ken (Mango) Myers, K.R. (Zero) Falconer - the outstanding operator, zero errors.



Nearly all have nicknames and they've probably left records. Some of Zero's are in our hands thanks to his widow Valerie, who's sent us more than we can use – more's the pity. Keith was born in Apsley, a small town near the Victorian and South Australian borders. He lived on his parents' Soldier Settlement sheep station until 1933 when they moved to a dairy farm at Healesville (Victoria).

From 1933 to 1939 he was educated at the local State School and then Lilydale High School, where he passed his Intermediate Certificate.

He was studying Commercial Art through the International Correspondence School when war began in 1939. Then, he writes:-

IN APRIL 1942 I JOINED THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE AS A TRAINEE WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY OPERATOR. (MORSE CODE) I WAS 18 YEARS OLD AND CAME FROM A SMALL FARM AT HEALESVILLE, VICTORIA.

I COMPLETED MY BASIC TRAINING AT THE RAAF CAMP AT BALLARAT, THEN WAS SELECTED TO DO ANOTHER, SPECIAL, MORSE CODE COURSE IN MELBOURNE. THIS WAS A HIGHLY SECRET COURSE WHERE I LEARNED THE JAPANESE MORSE CODE AND WAS THEN QUALIFIED TO WORK AS AN INTERCEPT OPERATOR FOR RAAF INTELLIGENCE.

I WAS POSTED TO TOWNSVILLE IN QUEENSLAND WHERE I WORKED IN A CONCRETE BLOCKHOUSE WHICH WAS DISGUISED AS A FARMHOUSE. THEN I WAS POSTED TO PORT MORESBY IN NEW GUINEA, WHERE OUR RADIO INTERCEPT BUILDING WAS ON THE EDGE OF AN AMERICAN FIGHTER STRIP. I WAS STILL ONLY 18 YEARS OLD, AND THE JAPANESE MESSAGES WE RECEIVED CAME FROM JAP BOMBERS, WARSHIPS AND BASES. BECAUSE THE JAPS ALWAYS RADIOED WHEN THEIR BOMBERS TOOK OFF AND WHERE THEY WERE GOING TO BOMB, OUR RAAF UNIT WAS ABLE TO GIVE AIR RAID WARNINGS WELL IN ADVANCE OF WHEN THE BOMBERS ARRIVED OVERHEAD, SO WE COULD GET INTO SLIT TRENCHES FOR PROTECTION BEFORE BOMBS BEGAN TO FALL.

IN 1943 I WAS POSTED TO THE RAAF INTERCEPT UNIT IN DARWIN. OUR RADIO HUTS WERE ALL MOBILE UNITS, AND SO WE DROVE THEM OVER FROM TOWNSVILLE TO DARWIN. THERE WERE NO BITUMEN ROADS IN THOSE DAYS, SO IT WAS A VERY DUSTY TRIP. WE INTERCEPTED ALL THE JAPANESE WAR MESSAGES AND THIS INFORMATION WAS USED BY THE ALLIES TO ATTACK JAP BASES, AIRCRAFT AND SHIPS. IT WAS AMAZING HOW MUCH INFORMATION THE JAP ARMY, NAVY AND AIR FORCE SENT OUT ON RADIO IN MORSE CODE - BUT OF COURSE THEY NEVER REALIZED THAT WE WERE INTERCEPTING IT ALL.

AFTER DARWIN I WAS POSTED TO LEYTE IN THE PHILIPPINES, AND AFTER SOME MONTHS THERE WE MOVED UP TO LUZON, ABOUT 100KM FROM MANILLA. I WAS NOW A SGT. AND WAS THE NCO IN CHARGE OF ALL OUR WIRELESS OPERATORS. OUR UNIT WAS GEARING UP TO GO WITH THE USA TROOPS IN THE INVASION OF JAPAN MAINLAND. FORTUNATELY THE ATOM BOMB ON HIROSHIMA ENDED THE WAR WHICH MEANT WE DIDN'T NEED TO GO. (THE USA HAD ANTICIPATED AT LEAST 50% CASUALTIES ON ANY INVASION OF JAPAN, SO WE CONSIDERED OURSELVES VERY LUCKY NOT TO HAVE GONE THERE.)

AFTER THE WAR ENDED I HAD TO SIGN AN OFFICIAL SECRETS PLEDGE NOT TO TALK ABOUT WHAT WE DID IN THE WAR UNTIL 30 YEARS LATER. AFTER 1985 SEVERAL BOOKS WERE WRITTEN ABOUT OUR WARTIME INTERCEPT WORK- AND EXPERTS CONSIDER THAT WHAT WE WERE DOING SHORTENED THE WAR BY AT LEAST TWO YEARS. IN 1946 I WAS FINALLY DISCHARGED FROM THE RAAF.

1946 – that’s the year Keith’s civilian life began ... and when he married.

His story will continue in the next issue.

JOHN FRANCES McCORKELL

In our September Newsletter Geraldine Cole asked if anyone in Central Bureau had knowledge of her late father’s service with us. He was John Frances McCorkell. Months passed. H.K. took a phone call in December from Steve Mason, President of ASWG, editor of their newsletter “Ink Emma Ink”. “We had a Jack McCorkell with us in Finschhafen, Papua New Guinea. He was one of two Intelligence men with us– the other was Stewart Southam. I remember that Jack was an outstanding footballer in Melbourne. After the War he joined the Victorian Public Service.” (Steve’s phone number: (03)9882-6735).

MADELINE FLORENCE CHIDGEY – MEMORIAL SERVICE



Diana Parker, Helen Kenny and
Madeline Chidgey
21 Henry St, July 2015

It was with great sadness we heard of the passing of our long time member, Madeline Chidgey, on 18th December, 2017. Her daughter, Margaret, will provide a contribution on Madeline’s life, but in the meantime, on behalf of the family, Margaret has issued an invitation to members of the CB Family to attend a Memorial Service for Madeline, here in Sydney.

Madeline and her family have long, historic ties with Lilli Pilli Public School, so the Memorial Service will be held in the Assembly Hall at Lilli Pilli Public School on **Saturday, 28th April, 2018 commencing at 1.00 p.m.**

The school’s address is 28 - 32 Lilli Pilli Pt Rd, Lilli Pilli 2229.

If you are able to share this service with the family, please advise Katy, either by text or email - Kt@ktgcreative.com.au or Mobile: 0414 388 879 and she will confirm details with the family for catering purposes.

VALE

JOYCE VIVIENNE NOWLAND (nee JENKINS)

24th May 1926 – 16th January 2018

My name is Mike Nowland, eldest son of Joyce Vivienne Nowland (nee Jenkins) a former Central Bureau operator. I write this as a salute to my mother and all the women who served in WW2 and, when it was all over, just went on with life as if there had been no interruption to the (then) normal life expectation of growing up, getting married and raising a family. Servicewomen like my mother completed their service and, without fanfare, picked up civilian life as a woman and mother – not as a ‘returned serviceman’.

My Mum, Joy Nowland (nee Jenkins) was a former ‘Garage Girl’ from 21 Henry Street. She passed away peacefully in her sleep on January 16th 2018. Although she was getting a bit wobbly, Mum still lived on her own in Jolimont – an inner suburb of Perth.

Mum and Dad were married in WA in 1946. I was born nine and a half months later, followed by a brother and two sisters over the succeeding years. In those halcyon days, fathers went to work each day and mothers were homemakers. I knew my mum as the prettiest and best mum in the street. Manning Park - where we lived - was a war service suburb and to this day I can remember not only the names of all the fathers that lived in my street but I knew their rank, service and where and in what capacity they served during the war. But our mothers were housewives – not returned soldiers. They stayed home, stuck Band-Aids on and comforted us when needed. They wore pinnys, cooked meals, did the washing and polished floors. We never went to school hungry, scruffy or poorly dressed. (Which is not to say we didn't come home hungry, scruffy and untidy). But mothers were not ex-servicemen. It didn't seriously cross my young mind that there were, or had been, servicewomen – even though I knew mum had been in the army.



There was a photo on the hall stand showing Dad in uniform and a corresponding one of Mum looking very smart in her uniform. I remember one occasion when I asked Mum what she did during the war. To the great amusement of my brother and I she said she was in Intelligence. Talk about laugh. What a great story to tell at school next day, that ones' mother was in Intelligence. Mum? Intelligence? Not likely.

And that's where it stayed for many years. Mum never mentioned her service other than in a most tangential way. Even after some military service of my own it didn't really register that Mum had played a real part in the war. She was just Mum.

However, as the years passed and being a keen student of Australia's military history I gradually gravitated to my parents' own part in the conflict. Once I sat down and started to question Mum it transpired that her service was at least the equal of any of the men in the street and she – as a lance sergeant – outranked most of them!

When I asked mum to tell me all about it and how she came to be in Intelligence she told me that she joined up in Perth and was sent across the Nullarbor to Victoria for training. After that she was sent to Bonegilla near Albury-Wodonga where, in Mum's words "they finally realised I had no military skills whatsoever so they put me in Intelligence".

Over a period of time I teased out some of her memories of Henry Street - Yank boyfriends, picnics, Eagle Farm and sharing a hut with her service mates and friends. And being 'carpeted' for sleeping in and being late on duty several times.

She remembers the best duty being on the front counter where the Don Rs rode in on their motor bikes – dashing young men in their leathers etc. And other details which, as her son, I didn't really want to delve into too deeply. But it certainly showed another side to the woman that came back from all that, married, settled down and became a perfect mother to raise four children. Mum has said many times since then how lucky she was to be sent to Brisbane and Central Bureau. She made lifelong friends there and had great memories of her years of service as one of the "Garage Girls".

I have been an associate of the CBICA for some years now, and it appears to me - as an outside observer - that much of the strength of the Association resides in the women who served at 21 Henry Street. To my mind it reflects well on the calibre of those women who served so well both in the services and later in civilian life as a 'Mum'.

Rest in your well-earned peace Mum.

Mike Nowland (GERALDTON WA)



BOOK REVIEW

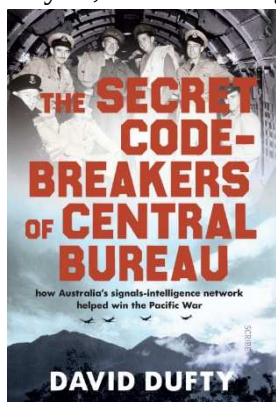
THE SECRET CODE-BREAKERS OF CENTRAL BUREAU

By David Dufty (Scribe)

After the drought of decades, broken only by occasional writing of parts of the story of Central Bureau, David Dufty has set out to tell it in full. This is one of a number of books to appear when community interest is at its height. None can tell the whole story, but every attempt adds a little more.

In addition to the work of leaders, this book aims to access the part played by as many O/Rs as possible. Tribute is paid to the vital contribution of a small number of civilian mathematicians.

In describing the support of the essential work of code breakers by highly effective traffic analysis, due credit is given to the leadership of Stan "Pappy" Clark.



Human error is admitted as not all on the side of the enemy. Nor was either free of pride, self-will, and envy. The patient persistence of RAN Capt. Eric Nave, code-breaker and linguist extraordinary, is duly acknowledged.

Mention is made of rare occasions when derived intelligence was not received in the field as accurate, as well of the gradual warming of regard for its value. Serving members will appreciate the explanation of the absence of Australian medals, that the work was so secret that it did not appear in the normally detailed service records of personnel.

Of special interest is the effectiveness of air-ground decrypts in combating the constant air-raids on Darwin. There is a racy account of the Battle of the Coral Sea, the first naval battle in history where no ship of either side ever came in sight of an enemy ship, but attacked with aircraft launched from carriers.

The book includes valuable information on the war's end, some narrow escapes, and a close-up of the horror of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, together with a documented account of the decision (not involving Central Bureau) to atom-bomb the Japanese mainland.

Early occupants of 21 Henry Street will miss reference to the adjutant's morning street parades, including circumnavigation of the block with rifles and respirators.

Brief mention is made of the small detachment under Eric Nave, which compiled and edited the Technical Records of the unit, described by now ex-Director 'Mic' Sandford as the Magnum Opus. This document is available on the website of the Australian War memorial.

Robert Brown

A GERMAN ESCAPE

Since WWII we've read many accounts of Australian and British soldiers tunnelling their way out of POW camps in Germany.

Some escaped, others met a grim fate. Only recently have I read of a German who escaped from a POW camp in Australia. He was Commander Detmers, Captain of the German raider "Kormoran" that had sunk HMAS Sydney off the coast of Western Australia in 1941.

Early in 1945 Detmers & 19 others dug their way out of the Dhurringile POW camp in Northern Victoria. When Detmers was recaptured he was carrying an exercise book – its contents all in code. This was seized and sent to Special Section for decryption. The results? They solved it. The book, "Breaking Japanese Diplomatic Codes: David Sissons and D Special Section during the Second World War" is edited by Desmond Ball and Keiko Tamura and published by ANU Press. (Dewey No: 940 548694)

This special book will be reviewed by Professor John Mack in Newsletter. *{I bought a copy to keep. Books are swiftly taking over my room at St Paul's Aged Care. Another bookshelf please? – H.K.}*

Another book out for review is "Prof: Alan Turing Decoded". A biography by his nephew Dermot Turing. (The History Press, Gloucestershire – ISBN: 978 1 84165 660 1) 978192502107

"Prof" was Turing's nickname. This computer scientist codebreaker and biologist was never a PROF. We'll ask a professor to review it.

COMPUTER CHRONOLOGY

Many have the idea that the age of computers began in the 20th Century, but that impression is false.

Michael Paterson's book "Voices of the Code Breakers" (D & C) gives chronology starting in 1642 – when Blaise Pascal, a 19 year old Frenchman invented a calculating machine. He built 20 of these machines, but they were never adopted commercially. One remains, and is on display at the Musée des Arts et Métiers in Paris. He grew up to be a mathematician, physicist, inventor, writer and Christian philosopher. "Pascal Pensées" represented Pascal's defence of the Christian religion.

It is widely considered to be a masterpiece, and a landmark in French prose.

- 1693: German Gottfried Leibniz designs a similar machine;
- 1801: Jacques Jacquard, a French textile manufacturer invented “operational cards” – an ancestor of the computer programme;
- 1821: Cambridge Mathematician, Professor Charles Babbage invented the “difference engine” – the first mechanical computer. Babbage is generally considered the father of the computer;

Ada (Byron), Countess of Lovelace, a contemporary of Babbage, added to and improved his concept of working with cards and of solving mathematical problems by having the machine deconstruct them. She was the daughter of the poet Lord Byron. He abandoned her when she was a month old.

After the work of these pioneers, more than a century passed until the new age with electricity and wireless opened up new possibilities.

[Wherever you are, may your ANZAC Day be a time of friendship, memories and reflection. H.K.]