



**CENTRAL BUREAU INTELLIGENCE
CORPS ASSOCIATION
SEPTEMBER 2018**

Publicity Officer: Helen Kenny, Room 1, St Paul's Aged Care, 27 Eastern Valley Way, Northbridge, NSW, 2063. Ph: (02) 8405 1051

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I am very happy to say that spring is in the air and planning is underway for our next commemoration - Remembrance Day. It is a particularly poignant occasion this year, with 2018 marking 100 years since the signing of the Armistice between the Allied Forces and Germany at Compiègne, France.

I extend a warm invitation for you to join us for our annual Remembrance Day Ceremony that will be held at the **Roseville Returned Servicemen's Memorial Club at 64 Pacific Highway, Roseville on Friday 9 November 2018, commencing at 10.45am.** **Please note that this year the commemorations will take place on Friday 9th (two days before Remembrance Day) due to Remembrance Day falling on a Sunday.**

Holding the ceremony on Friday means more local schools can take part too, and this year around 30 schools from the Ku-ring-gai municipality will be involved in the commemorations. It is always wonderful to see so many schoolchildren paying their respects in a variety of ways, from delivering the oration to laying of wreaths.

The Ceremony location is inside the club, which 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.

In a special addition this year, we will be honouring the late Major Blair Wark VC, who was awarded the Victoria Cross for his bravery in operations against the Hindenburg Line during WWI. Our ceremony will include the dedication of a plaque destined for Ku-ring-gai Council's Crimson Hill Community Centre in Lindfield in his honour.

While Major Blair's original medals are on loan to the Australian War Memorial in Canberra, a replica set will be presented to the Mayor at our Remembrance Day Ceremony by representatives from one of his alma maters, North Sydney Technical High School Old Boys Association. The medals will eventually be mounted for display in the Crimson Hill Community Centre too.

We will receive a red poppy to place on the memorial as part of the ceremony and the Sub Branch will provide light refreshments at its conclusion.

Everyone is invited to stay and catch up with old friends over lunch - we will be booking a table again this year so we can all sit together. As always, your loved ones are welcome at this and all CB functions, so feel free to invite family members along. The more the merrier!

Additional guests will be attending this year too, including relatives of Blair Wark and members of North Sydney Technical High School Old Boys Association.

To help us book for the right number for lunch, please RSVP to me via phone or email –my contact details are at the end of this report.

Even if you can only make it to the ceremony, please let us know you will be attending that, because we also need to let Roseville Memorial Club how many people to expect on the day for the ceremony.

November is sure to roll around very quickly so please RSVP as soon as you can. We had a wonderful day last year and we hope to see as many of you as possible there this year!

Katy Denis, President

10/75 Stanley Street

Chatswood NSW 2067 M: 0414 388 879 P: (02) 9411 5933 E: kt@ktgcreative.com.au

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Remembrance Day this year is of special significance as it marks the centenary of the end of World War 1 – The Great War.

Sadly CB numbers are dwindling, but this is an opportunity for us to meet, socialize and rekindle friendships. I have said this before, but I say it again – CB membership is Australia wide, and we would love to publish members' stories, anecdotes or trivia about their CB experiences in Newsletter. If you have any such items, please email me or post them to Helen, and we will only be too pleased to publish. Photos will be great too, and obviously, if you can't send copies, send me an original and I will return it overnight.

I reinforce President Katy's reminder that the Roseville Meeting is on **Friday, 9th November** so the school students can most easily participate. Indeed it will be a special service this year, in honour of the 100th anniversary.

Helen received a warm invitation to the Bletchley Park Annual Veterans' Reunion on 2nd September. Sadly she was unable to attend, but she has sent a lovely letter, seeking information which we can publish in a later Newsletter.

Helen has also asked me to invite you all to a "Peace Comes to Liverpool" celebration to commemorate the Centenary of Armistice. There is a marvellous display from 20th October until 1st December at the Liverpool Regional Museum on the corner of the Hume Highway and Congressional Avenue at Liverpool. The Official Opening of the exhibition is Saturday, 20th October at 1.15 p.m.. You can obtain further information from Vicki Andrews on 9603-4589.

Bruce Goudge

(Hon) Secretary bgoudge@optusnet.com.au Mob: 0412 579 160

FUNERALS

How funerals have changed since my 1920s – early 1930s childhood. Then women didn't attend funerals – unless they were the one who had died.

After the church service the hearse would drive away – men in cars following – riding fast if on horses, trying to keep up with the motorized hearse. Women and girls just stood there waving goodbyes as was the case with our dear Granny (Rose). Men in the streets raised their hats and stood still. The men of the family went to the graveside, and then it was over. In Ireland they had wakes. That's what we're having now. They're called "Celebration of Life!" We had something like that for my dear sister Shirley, who died in February. I use the word "died" because she insisted on it. "Passed over" she'd say with scorn – she didn't "pass", she "died".

So Shirley (younger than I and a CBICA Associate) had a modern funeral. After a service came recollections of their mother by her daughter and son, her life shown in moving pictures (Whatever they call them now – "PowerPoint"?) and "Danny Boy" sung by a fine tenor son. (Yes, Shirley and I have a bit of Irish in us, plus some English and French long ago, but she was Australian to the core.)

She would have approved the ceremony, and the gathering over morning tea. People spoke lovingly of her skill as a physio and of her life.

NOW, in this issue, under Vale, there are more Cbers deaths to report. We'll miss each of them. Very few of us are left, but the CB Family helps to keep us going.

Pamela LANGDON, widow of Cber Alan Langdon, recently died. For years she came to our gatherings. A very dear woman.

Donald William Bradley ROBINSON, Archbishop of Sydney from 1982 – 1993 passed away on Friday, 7th September, 2018. Donald was a Cber and we will have an obituary for him in the next edition of Newsletter.

OBITUARY

IN MEMORY OF COLIN BRACKLEY

24th September 1925 – 14th July 2018

My father, Colin Brackley, enlisted in the RAAF on 15th October 1943. He was only 18 years old.

He commenced his training in Signals and Japanese Kana Code at the RAAF bases at Point Cook and Laverton in Victoria.

The RAAF base at Point Cook also trained junior flight crew and Col would often awake to hear news that the young rookie pilots would miss the runway overnight and put the planes into the water.

The Kana Code trainees would then comment amongst themselves the next morning that "another one ended up in the drink last night"

He would also be marched up and down the main road at Point Cook with fellow recruits in the freezing Victorian winter mornings.

The trainers at Point Cook once asked Col to go out into the bushland and send messages in Morse code back to the base on a dead key. When Col got back to the base, his instructors asked him where he had learnt Morse code and why he was so proficient in it. Prior to World War II, Col worked for the Post Master General's (PMG) and would use Morse code to send telegrams.

Col was later posted to Nyrambla at 21 Henry Street Ascot, often referred to as Australia's Bletchley Park and home for the code breaking and sigint unit called Central Bureau. He attended Nyrambla during the day and would sleep at night at the nearby racecourse. Whilst at Nyrambla, a young lady, also lonely and homesick, took a liking to Col. Unfortunately, the romance didn't go very far as they were soon sent overseas and never saw each other again. Many years later post World War II, my mother, Helen, would comment that the young lady had exceptionally good taste in men, but couldn't have Col because "he belongs to me and he's mine"

Col always admired and respected Americans and the United States throughout his life. This emanated from his experiences with Americans during World War II. When he and his colleagues were lost out the back of Manila, an American G.I.

pulled up in his jeep and yelled; 'You goddam sons of Australian bitches, what are you doing way out here?' When Dad and the other Australians climbed into the jeep, the American G.I. ordered them to open the glovebox and to start drinking the bottle of bourbon inside.



Col also witnessed Japanese

POWs detained by American MPs behind barbed wire enclosures. When he would talk to me about this, he'd say; "Thank God for Americans; you and I wouldn't stand a chance against these big, mean and aggressive looking Japanese dudes; they all looked like sumo wrestlers" Col, however, seemed to be frightened more by RAAF medics than the Japanese. They would tell RAAF personnel about all the tropical illnesses and dangers awaiting for young, inexperienced and naïve Australians in the Philippines.

He'd recall how agitated and distressed the medics would become when they talked about schistosomiasis and he remembers that he and others were tested for it. All Col knew was that it was obviously a deadly disease related to parasites in drinking water.

The RAAF medics would also scare Col when they spoke to the troops about sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). He remembers that they would discuss the unpleasant symptoms and side effects and then dispense the advice to the young'uns; "if you don't do it you won't get it"

When Col's friend, Max McCreadie, suffered some burns from the mortar shell that he tried to souvenir, Col and other Wireless Unit Operators immediately came to the conclusion that the RAAF medics cannot be told about the incident and that we'll have to treat Max ourselves. If the RAAF Doctors find out, Max will be in trouble with the RAAF brass. Col always loved Morse code. He would tell me that you could determine who was sending a message by the way they tapped out and formed the "das" and "dits" It was unique to each individual and was akin to recognising somebody's voice.

He even set up a Morse code key and transmitter and tried to teach me Morse code when I was a boy. The lessons were progressing quite well until the Hungarian neighbour, Maria, ran up our front steps screaming; "What is this? What is this?!" It reminded Maria of World War II in Europe and Dad, seeing Maria's distress, decided to immediately suspend the lessons. Col was discharged from the RAAF on 21 March 1946 and returned home to Australia aboard an old liberty ship, SS Francis S Blanchett.

I'm so proud of Col and his contribution to Signals' Intelligence as a Telegraphist in World War II. Not only was he a Morse code specialist, he was also my Dad. At his funeral, I concluded the eulogy to Col with my adaptation of W.H Auden's poem "Stop All the Clocks" aka "Funeral Blues"

*He was my North, my South, my East and West,
My working week and my Sunday rest,
My noon, my midnight, my talk, my song;
I thought our lives together were forever, how I was wrong.
Farewell my Brave Warrior.
Rest in Peace.*

Mark Brackley
(Son of 137783 Leading Aircraftman Colin Brackley)

[Ed's note: The photo was taken by my wife at Nyrambla in July, 2015. L-R Frank Hughes, Col Brackley, Bill Rogers and Gordon Gibson.]

JUDITH CARSON

22nd MAY 1922 – 17th DECEMBER 2017

[The College of Engineering and Computer Science, at the Australian National University, is considering naming a significant space within a new Computer Science precinct to be built at ANU in honour of Judith Carson. They have offered an extract from their nomination for reproduction in Newsletter, and we are grateful to Gabrielle Vannitone (Institute Administrator of the College of Engineering & Computer Science, Australian National University) for sharing this extract from their nomination with us. We will keep you advised of the progress of the nomination to name the section of the precinct after Judith. BJJ]

The photographs are courtesy of the Australians at War Film Archive, UNSW Canberra.

JUDITH CARSON (PREVIOUSLY LIEUTENANT JUDITH ROE), WAS BORN IN BRISBANE IN 1922; THE SECOND BORN OF FOUR CHILDREN, AND THE ONLY GIRL.

AT SCHOOL, JUDITH EXCELLED AT MATHEMATICS AS WELL AS FRENCH, LATIN AND GERMAN LANGUAGES.

AT THE END OF 1939, JUDITH WAS AWARDED A SCHOLARSHIP AND ATTENDED QUEENSLAND UNIVERSITY, WHERE SHE STUDIED MATHEMATICS. IT WAS VERY UNCOMMON FOR FEMALES AT THAT TIME TO ATTEND UNIVERSITY, AND IN AN INTERVIEW IN 2004, JUDITH RECALLED 200 FEMALE DAY STUDENTS, COMPARED TO 800 MALE DAY STUDENTS. IN TERMS OF STUDYING MATHEMATICS, JUDITH RECALLED THERE WERE JUST TWO FEMALE STUDENTS STUDYING ALONGSIDE 30 OR 40 MEN.

JUDITH GRADUATED FROM UNIVERSITY IN MARCH 1943 AND ASKED HER MATHEMATICS PROFESSOR WHAT SHE COULD DO FOR THE WAR EFFORT. HE REFERRED HER TO PROFESSOR ROOM, WHO WAS WORKING FOR CENTRAL BUREAU. JUDITH SUCCESSFULLY INTERVIEWED WITH COLONEL SANDFORD FOR THE CENTRAL BUREAU, JOINING THE AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S ARMY SERVICE (AWAS). THE AWAS WERE KEEN TO EMPLOY PEOPLE WITH MATHEMATICS AND LINGUISTICS SKILLS. JUDITH WAS THE ONLY FEMALE CRYPTOGRAPHER WITHIN CENTRAL BUREAU. SHE WORKED AS PART OF TEAM WITHIN COMMANDER ERIC NAVE'S SMALL ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY-SUPPORTED CRYPTOGRAPHY UNIT. THE UNIT WAS COMPRISED OF NAVAL PERSONNEL, HEAVILY ASSISTED BY UNIVERSITY ACADEMICS AND GRADUATES SPECIALISING IN LINGUISTICS AND MATHEMATICS. PROFESSOR THOMAS ROOM, HEADED JUDITH'S UNIT.



AFTER JOINING CENTRAL BUREAU, CARSON WAS TASKED WITH DECODING JAPANESE WEATHER CODES, SEEKING TO DECIPHER EXTRA WEATHER INFORMATION THE JAPANESE WERE SENDING OUT THAT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO AUSTRALIA'S PILOTS. THE WORK PROVIDED CRUCIAL AND VALUABLE INFORMATION FOR THE PILOTS. JUDITH WAS LATER PROMOTED TO SERGEANT, AND THEN LIEUTENANT.



JUDITH STAYED WITH CENTRAL BUREAU UNTIL THE END OF THE WAR, THEN PROFESSOR ROOM OFFERED HER A JOB TEACHING MATHEMATICS AT UNIVERSITY.

JUDITH CONTINUED TO TEACH MATHEMATICS AT UNIVERSITIES AND GIRLS' SCHOOLS, BOTH HERE AND IN THE UK. IN THE INTERVIEW WITH JUDITH IN 2004, SHE REFERS TO TEACHING MATHEMATICS AS 'A WONDERFUL THING TO DO ALL MY LIFE'.

JUDITH CONTINUED A LIFELONG PURSUIT OF LEARNING, AND IN 1976 (AGED 54) JUDITH BEGAN STUDYING MATHEMATICS AGAIN, DOING ONE SUBJECT A YEAR. JUDITH REMAINED LIVING IN SYDNEY UNTIL HER DEATH IN DECEMBER 2017, AGED 95.

PRESIDENTS ON PARADE

At Helen's request, Katy has researched previous presidents of CBICA extensively but not been all that successful. We would like to have a brief bio and a picture of each of the CB Presidents – interestingly, records show there have only been seven in the 36 years of CBICA's existence.

Are you able to provide information and/or a picture of each? Maybe a sentence about their role during CB, or perhaps their role and positions back in civilian life after the War.

Katy DENIS (2016 – 2018+) As the proud daughter of Gordon Gibson I was delighted to accept nomination as President of CBICA. I was brought up on Sydney's North Shore and completed my B.A. at Macquarie University. Returning to Sydney after working in Italy, I completed a Diploma in Public Relations, as a basis for my ongoing Career in Public Relations. My husband of eleven years, Chris, has been a marvellous support. My interests include yoga, fitness, travelling to fun places and spending time with family and friends – not to mention my interest in CBICA.



Gordon GIBSON (1997 – 2015): After training in Japanese Kana at Central Bureau in Brisbane, I was transferred to 51 Wireless Telegraphy Unit in Darwin where we intercepted Japanese wireless telegraphy messages and forwarded reports to our Brisbane Headquarters. The information in these reports included the volumes of coded traffic from Japanese Units in the South Pacific as well as movements of Japanese aircraft in those areas which led in some cases to their interception by American and Australian Units. After the War I completed my University studies at Sydney University. I began my teaching career in various High Schools around the State and finished as Deputy Principal of the Correspondence School - the largest High School in the Southern Hemisphere.



Aub ROBERTS (1993 – 1996):

Jim WILLIAMS (1990 – 1993):

Dave CHARLESWORTH (1986):

Michael CASEY (1985; 1987 – 1989; 1996 – 1997):

Ted ECKERT (1982 – 1984)

VALUABLE SERVICE

“Valuable Service is invaluable”. New Zealand Signals Intelligence began early – soon after the first wireless messages reached Australia from New Zealand in February, 1908. In Baghdad in 1917 the ANZAC Wireless Squadron intercepted and decoded German and Turkish messages.

SUBMARINES IN SYDNEY

On the wintry night of 26th May, 1942 Sydney slept. Out to sea, invisible and submerged, a large I-21 Class Japanese submarine released three midget submarines which then entered the port.

The large submarine had a very strong signal and gave out the first class bearings of 30 degrees south, which was the bearing of Sydney. Across the Tasman, on the south of New Zealand’s South Island, the Awarua Station – NZ’s most important HF/DF station was listening in. That night, Leading Telegraphic Signalman J. Williamson was Night Supervisor in the “Y” Office. He’d modified his radar receiver at home to the 6 M/Hz frequency being used by the submarines. About three hours before the Sydney Harbour attack his wife rang to say there seemed to be activity on the home set.

“I took a chance and notified Awarua, who immediately instigated a “snap” to all stations.”

The Australian Commonwealth Naval Board and Admiralty ordered “operational immediate”.

The Japanese missed their main target, the American cruiser “USS *Chicago*” but sank the former ferry “Kuttabul” which had been requisitioned as HMAS *Kuttabul* – a depot ship, used primarily as accommodation for ratings posted to HMAS *Penguin* (Garden Island). The 21 casualties included Australians and New Zealanders.

Codebooks discovered showed that the Japanese submarines had come from their main base in Wewak.

DASH IT ALL

Morse Code isn’t taught anymore. I wish it were and I wish I’d learnt by the Morse Key, dit, dah method. Mrs Mac, a pre-war radio engineer was a celebrated teacher of the latter. The late Noni Benn, a W.A.A.A.F. in CB had a daytime job, then would go to take lessons from Mrs Mac in a warehouse near Wynyard in Sydney.

Noni wanted to join the W.A.A.A.F. but that service demanded a certain speed and accuracy. She succeeded in both. The Women’s Services, and the Men’s, particularly in the Navy, wanted Mrs Mac’s trainees.

My Morse Training as a little Girl Guide began by holding a white “Jap silk” flag on a stick and fluttering it according to the dot-dash method. A little wiggle backwards and forwards above the head was a dot. (We hadn’t heard of Wiggles in those days.) To make a dash you brought your flag smartly to waist height and back again.

The WANS (Women's Australian National Service and AWAS used the flags to dot/dash Morse. A lot of fluttering went on and signals were accurately sent and received.

However, more of our rhymes stick in my mind.

- A is an acorn attached to a twig o - dot dash
- B for balloons that are jolly and big -ooo dash dot dot dot
- F for Freddie – he had two eyes and a nose that was flat oo – o dot dot dash dot
- There is an Old Morse Codians' Club – is there an old Kana Club? [H.K.]

DYSLEXIA SOLUTIONS

Dyslexia is generally regarded as a learning disability, but where others see poor spelling and difficulty reading, British intelligence agencies see opportunity. The Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ), an intelligence and security organisation providing signals intelligence for the British government, is hiring a large group of people with dyslexia, according to reports. While dyslexic people may have trouble with words, apparently their disorder can help them see things others can't, and that tends to be an essential skill for a code-breaker. Many dyslexics have a "spiky skills" profile - they might perform poorly at reading and writing, for example, but they could be in the very top reaches of the population in terms of skills such as spatial awareness and creativity. In an excellent example of branding, such people are known within intelligence circles as "neuro-diverse". (Jacqueline Maley; Good Weekend; Western Australia; 5th Dec, 2014.)

PARACHUTE

Valerie Falconer, widow of the late Keith (Zero) Falconer, sent Helen this photo of an actual parachute from WWII, which, according to Keith's notes, was signed by members of a Wireless Unit. Valerie suggested some names to Helen – George McKinnon, ? Davies from Cremorne, G. Wallace from Victoria, Non Pappa from W.A. who was in Keith's group and Frank Patrick – No: 13083, who was older than the others. We contacted Allan Norton, who is always a wealth of knowledge. I have included Allan's email response, and while you will see he does not have direct knowledge of the parachute or its signatories, I thought you would be interested in the contents of his email.



HELLO BRUCE

THANK YOU FOR YOUR EMAIL OF 21 AUGUST 2018 RE PARACHUTE PHOTO FROM HELEN KENNY.

UNFORTUNATELY, I CAN SHED NO LIGHT ON THIS MATTER OR ITS HISTORY AND HAVE NO RECOLLECTION OF ANY STORY ABOUT IT.

YOU WILL UNDERSTAND ALSO THAT AFTER 76 YEARS, MY MEMORY TENDS TO FADE BUT JUDGING FROM SOME OF THE NAMES MENTIONED IN YOUR EMAIL IT SUGGESTS TO ME THAT MOST, IF NOT ALL OF THESE THEN TEENAGE BOYS, WERE FROM THE FIRST INTAKE OF PERSONNEL SELECTED BY THE RAAF TO TRAIN JAPANESE KANA INTERCEPT OPERATIONS IN ABOUT APRIL/ MAY 1942. THE COURSE WAS INTENSIVE FOR ABOUT SIX WEEKS AND CONDUCTED IN A DISGUISED BARBERS SHOP AT ASCOT VALE, MELBOURNE. THE EXERCISE WOULD HAVE INVOLVED ABOUT TEN TRAINEES AND PERHAPS TWO INSTRUCTORS. SOME NAMES FROM THIS INITIAL SCHEME WOULD PROBABLY HAVE BEEN:

- KEITH FALCONER
- BERT USHER
- LAURIE WARREN
- CURLY WRIGHT
- TOM DAVIS
- RUPERT FISHER
- DICK CASH
- DON TAPPER
- GEORGE MCKINNON
- FRANK PATRICK (SENIOR INSTRUCTOR.)
- PERHAPS THE PARACHUTE MATTER CAME ABOUT DURING THIS COURSE.

I WAS IN THE SECOND INTAKE OF ABOUT TEN TRAINEES WHICH ALSO TOOK PLACE AT ASCOT VALE. THIS WAS ABOUT JUNE 1942. BUT THE REAL LEARNING OF OUR CRAFT TOOK PLACE WHEN INTERCEPTING SIGNALS IN THE REAL WORLD.

GRADUATES WERE ASSEMBLED IN PIMLICO A SUBURB OF TOWNSVILLE AND INTERCEPTION WAS CONDUCTED AT STUART CREEK, SOME MILES WEST OF TOWNSVILLE. THIS THEN WAS THE EMBRYO OF NO. 1 WIRELESS UNIT. SUBSEQUENTLY, EXPERIENCED INTERCEPTORS FROM 1WU WERE THEN RELOCATED TO NEW INTERCEPT OPERATIONS BEING FORMED. KEITH FALCONER AND I SPENT SEVERAL MONTHS IN A TENT AT (I THINK) 6 WIRELESS UNIT WHICH WAS AT BATCHELOR BEING ABOUT 100 KILOMETRES SOUTH OF DARWIN. AT THAT LOCATION WE WERE BOTH TRICK CHIEFS AND IN CHARGE OF OUR OWN SHIFT OF INTERCEPTORS.

LATER, WHEN IN SAN MIGUEL AT POSSIBLY 7 WIRELESS UNIT I MET AGAIN MY FRIEND FRANK PATRICK WHO WAS IN CHARGE OF INTERCEPT OPERATIONS THERE. HE WAS A WONDERFUL HUMAN BEING.

I HOPE THESE THOUGHTS ARE OF SOME BENEFIT TO YOUR ENQUIRER BRUCE.

OTHER

AT 94 YEARS OF AGE MY KNEES AND LEGS ARE JUST ABOUT WORN OUT SO THAT MY MOBILITY IS MUCH RESTRICTED THESE DAYS. OTHERWISE, I AM STILL SURVIVING AND AM GRATEFUL TO BE ALIVE. ALL THE VERY BEST TO YOU, HELEN, KATY AND

EVERYBODY CONCERNED FOR KEEPING CENTRAL BUREAU ON THE ROAD. GOOD HEALTH TO YOU ALL.

SINCERE REGARDS,
ALLAN NORTON