



CENTRAL BUREAU INTELLIGENCE CORPS ASSOCIATION INC.

MARCH 2001.

Publicity Officer: Helen Kenny 27/1-13 Mackenzie Street Lavender Bay 2060 N.S.W. Tel.(02)99540940

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The year 2000 marked the Millennium and also the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Central Bureau Intelligence Corps Association. Both these events were fittingly celebrated at the Combined Reunion of SIGINT Associations held in Melbourne on November 11th and 12th. Attended by approximately 140 members, spouses and friends of all four Associations and addressed by distinguished speakers Ron Bonighton, Director of Defence Signals Directorate and Lt Col John Dwyer, Executive Officer General Douglas MacArthur Brisbane Memorial Trust, the Reunion was an outstanding success.

Mention must also be made of the Anzac Day Reunion held once again at the Mercure Hotel in a totally relaxed and informal atmosphere. A very good turnout of 54 Sydneysiders, country and interstate members appreciated the comfortable surroundings and the service provided by the Mercure staff.

Our thanks are due to John Laird and Vic Lederer who continued their researches into the CB files held in Australian Archives. The Executive Committee have adopted their recommendations for the purchase of additional material of interest to the

Association and these records are at present being held by Helen Kenny.

There has been encouraging news in connection with the MacArthur Memorial Project in Brisbane where plans have been announced for a \$40 million renovation of the already heritage listed MacArthur Chambers following granting of a lease to developer Forrest Kurts Properties. About half of Level 8 of the nine storey tower on the corner of Edward and Queen Streets has been excluded from the lease to showcase General MacArthur's office where he directed the defence of Australia and the Pacific campaign of 1942-5.

In spite of the passing years, membership of our Association continues to remain steady at a little over 200. This is because men and women who served with CB are still learning for the first time of the existence of the Association from publicity regarding our functions in service magazines. I extend a warm welcome to the following who joined CBICA in the year 2000: Stan Baylis, Norman Best, Joyce Bradney (nee Briggs), Jack Douglass, Alan Fookes, Geoff Howard, Alwyn Petherbridge, Kelvin Hocking, Norman Webb, Chris Eddington, Margaret O'Donnell, Joan Cole, Roy Inches, Roy Gill, Alfred

Munro, Barbara Kitching (nee Gibson),
Dorothy Morrow (nee Hilleard).

Yet another book concerning SIGINT activities has been published recently. It is entitled "The Emperor's Codes" by Michael Smith, author of "Station X". It is of special interest that in the Foreword, Michael Smith acknowledges the assistance given him by Dennis Moore.

Throughout the year, John Stumm has continued in his efforts to compile a complete and definitive CB Roll Call. John's aim is to obtain detailed information regarding the estimated 4000 men and women who were engaged in SIGINT operations in World War II. Anyone who can assist John in this enormous project is reminded of his addresses: Snail mail - E20/61 Explorer Drive Albany Creek QLD 4035
E-mail - jonstumm@gil.com.au

I would like to place on record my sincere appreciation of the work done by all members of the Executive Committee throughout the year and my special thanks to Melbourne members Roy Ward, Geoff Patience and Robert Brown who helped to make the organising of the Combined Reunion so successful. Special mention must also be made of the outstanding efforts of Helen Kenny and Frank Hughes who stepped into the gap created by the sad illness of our Editor and Publicity Officer, Dennis Moore, and successfully produced the last two Newsletters for the year 2000.

Finally, it is my sad duty to record the passing during the year of the following members: Ian Allan, Frank Ward, Dennis Moore, Keith Redenbach, Frank Patrick, Bob Sidebottom, Peter Dredge and Athol Whyburn.

Gordon Gibson, President.

HON. SECRETARY'S PAR

To be accurate, this should really be headed "Retiring Secretary's Par". At the Annual General Meeting on 5 February 2001, the CBICA Committee changed.

Dennis Moore's death has left us bereft of a fine, intelligent and kind man whom it was a privilege to know, and of a Newsletter Editor/Publicity Officer, who for 10 years produced this publication, making it one of quality.

He had been ill for months, and the September and December issues were put together by many hands, including mine. When he died at the beginning of the year, we had no way of letting all CBers know, although there were notices in the SMH, much ringing around on telephones, and the use of the e-mail by those who had it. You will read obituaries for Dennis later in the Newsletter. My deepest sympathy goes to his widow, Peg, and his family, who matched Dennis in courage.

But now - the task of Newsletter Editor/Publicity Officer falls to me. I lack computer skills, but will do my best with the help of others. Frank Hughes, Maria Laughton, Gordon Gibson and his daughter, Katie, are standing by. Someone remarked that it might be time to "turn off the light", but we're not throwing the switch yet and Newsletter will go on.

The CB Executives for 2001 are: President, Gordon Gibson; Vice-Presidents, Frank Hughes and John Shoebridge; Hon. Treasurer, Bruce Bentwitch; Newsletter Editor/Publicity Officer, Helen Kenny; Hon. Secretary, Joy Granger; Executive Committee

members are Gordon Swinney, Allan Norton and Les McClean.

All my wishes go to Joy Granger, as Hon. Secretary. Please co-operate with her as you have with me.

Madeline Chidgey has resigned from the Committee because of family concerns, and Mike Casey could not get to the Reunion or to recent meetings because of illness. Let us hope to see Madeline and Mike on Anzac Day.

The Anzac Day lunch in 2001 will be informal - no guest speaker. (You'll find the Anzac Eve and Anzac Day programme listed in this Newsletter, with times and places set down. Please fill in the form.

The November 2000 SIGINT Reunion is still being talked about. Members made comment about it by mail and e-mail. Generally, it seems that people enjoyed meeting old friends from the past, and seeing places where they had trained in youth. I'm making excerpts from many of these letters, and plan to print them soon.

Gordon Swinney is arranging our next Mini-Reunion in NSW. He has made a tentative booking for this get together of Cbers at the Stockton RSL Club for a midday lunch on **Tuesday 13 November**. Members would travel to Newcastle Railway Station, catch the Stockton Ferry, and go by bus to the RSL Club. Members would pay for their own meals and drinks. Closer to the date we'll give you details and timetables. This should be a chance for Central Coast (NSW) members to meet.

The proposed History of CB and SIGINT in Australia, the South-West Pacific and Philippines, could become reality. At

the AGM, President Gordon Gibson announced that the historian, Dr Chris Coulthard-Clark has agreed to research and to write this if our application for a grant is approved.

Life Memberships: At Executive Committee meetings last year, we discussed awarding Life Memberships to those who have given great and valuable service to our Association. The names under consideration were - Past Presidents Jim Williams and Mike Casey; Past Hon. Treasurer, Norma Keeling; and Newsletter Editor, Dennis Moore. At the February AGM, Frank Hughes moved and Les McClean seconded the motion. Life Memberships are allowed under our Constitution. They have never been awarded before. Other names are being considered.

Life Membership for distinguished service, therefore, is awarded to Jim Williams; Mike Casey and Norma Keeling. (Sadly, Dennis Moore died before the award could be made. In his place his widow Peg, will receive a special "Honorary Membership" which will not only recognise his work but the part she played in it).

On Anzac Day, Dennis usually brought our CB banner to the rallying place, and often helped to carry it. This year we have asked his son, Rob, if he would wear his father's medals, march with us and help bear the green and gold banner. We hope to see him on 25 April, and to share the ceremony with him.

Helen Kenny
27/1-13 Mackenzie Street
Lavender Bay NSW 2060
Tel.(02)99540940

P.S. I do not have e-mail but may receive it by courtesy of a friend, Jean Mulholland, who lives in the same building. The address is - jeanmulholland@hotmail.com.

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HON. TREASURER'S REPORT:

Much has been written of the Melbourne Reunion, but I thought I would add my twopenny worth. On 15th September 1945 about 12 of us boarded an RAAF Liberator at Clark Field in the Philippines for return home.

Alan Fookes, whom I had not seen since arriving at Mascot Airport, was at the Reunion. He reminded me the bomber had a damaged wingtip replaced prior to take off, then, due to two faulty motors, we were off-loaded at Darwin, where we spent a few days awaiting another Liberator flight.

This was one of the many reminiscences exchanged by people who had not seen or heard of one another for 55 years.

At the request of Dennis Moore's relatives, the Association sent a donation to the Calvary Hospital Kogarah in lieu of flowers.

May I remind Members that this year's subscriptions are now due. This of course does not apply to those who have already paid or in a few cases, have paid in advance.

Hoping you are all fit and well and coping with this very warm summer.

Bruce Bentwitch, Hon. Treasurer
7 Holly Street
Castle Cove 2069 Tel (02)94171427.

A HISTORY OF AUSTRALIAN WORLD WAR II SIGINT CONTRIBUTION:

Those who attended the Year 2000 Combined SIGINT Reunion and returned from Point Cook to Werribee then Melbourne on the buses will remember Arthur Skimin speaking to us about Their Service – Our Heritage Commemorative Grants Program. This program which is funded by the Federal Government through the Department of Veterans' Affairs provides the opportunity for organisations like CBICA Inc. to apply for funding assistance for eligible commemorative proposals in various categories, including the publishing of unit histories which comes in under the heading Public Awareness/Information Dissemination.

The proposed project was discussed at the November meeting of your Executive Committee, where it was decided that here was an opportunity not to be missed, especially since the "Technical Records" when finally unearthed, though of considerable interest, did not contain anything like the full account of the Australian contribution to World War II SIGINT achievements we had been hoping for. It was also considered that although many excellent books on the subject of SIGINT have been published in recent years, the bulk of them had been written from the USA or UK perspective.

As a result, I can now inform you that CBICA Inc has formally submitted its application to the Department of Veterans' Affairs for a grant of \$70,000 for the researching and writing of a history of the Australian Contribution to Allied Signals Intelligence in World War II. Attached to our application was a letter from Mr Ron Bonighton, Director

D.S.D. congratulating CIBA on taking this initiative and giving it his full support and endorsement. Many thanks Ron.

The trained historian who is prepared to undertake the authorship of the book is Mr Chris Coulthard-Clark, a Duntroon Graduate with three degrees in History gained through Duntroon (BA 1972, MA 1980) and the Australian Defence Academy (Ph.D 1991). Chris served as an Army Officer in the Australian Intelligence Corps from 1972-1979 and has published some 20 books on subjects in the Australian Defence field.

Should our application prove successful, Chris will obviously have a big job in front of him involving researching Australia, USA and UK. His estimate of the time span required to complete the task is three years approximately. It may well be that members of CBICA and all Australian SIGINT Associations will be in a position to provide valuable assistance to Chris in the form of archival material, photographs and memorabilia as well as anecdotal information provided in personal interviews.

Finally, I would like to thank Arthur Skimin and John Laird for their assistance in getting this important project at least to the "starting blocks".

President, Gordon Gibson.

PROFILE

Joyce (Joy) Granger, our new Hon. Secretary, lives at RSL Veterans' Retirement Village Narrabeen NSW, and has been there since 1985.

Her address is:

Miss Joy Granger
2N PO Box 56
Narrabeen NSW 2101
Tel.(02)9981.2397

As well as taking on her new role with CBICA, Joy is also Secretary to the Ex-Servicewomens' Sub-Branch at the Village, does much voluntary work, and in the past was pianist for the concert party there.

Joy, who lived at Rose Bay NSW before the War, was good at English and fluent in French and German when she took her first job – as Junior Cadet at the ABC Newsroom in 1937. This entailed checking and correcting talks given by speakers who came in to broadcast.

In 1941 she joined the WAAAF and was a WT/Kleinschmidt operator at the Air Board, St Kilda Road Melbourne. (The Kleinschmidt machine looked like a typewriter, but was bulkier. When operated, it produced Morse Code tapes, which were then put on another machine for high speed transmission).

The next move was to "Frogmal", a mansion in Toorak, where Joy (now Flight/Sergeant) did "more of the same" work and also taught airmen to use the teleprinter.

From 1944-45 she was with Central Bureau at 21 Henry Street, working as a WT/Telex operator.

"I was in a small room with a window, through which people, unseen, passed messages," recalls Joy, who seems to have spent most of her time at CB in isolation.

She was in Brisbane at War's end, then went to Royal Park Melbourne before being discharged in Sydney.

With peace she returned to the ABC, and in 1946 was sent to Port Moresby, to help set up the regional station, 9PA. This station, founded originally "by two Army blokes" had a very small staff when she went there. She found herself doing programming, working as Secretary to the Manager and also playing the piano for concert broadcasts.

She spent five years in Moresby, but travelled all over PNG and was in Rabaul at the time of the War Crime Trials, when she saw Japanese prisoners in chains.

In 1951 she came back to Australia, moved into the medico-legal field, then into agro-chemical work, retiring in 1972 for family reasons. Her official retirement was in 1985, but as she says: "I haven't stopped since".

Profiles of new Committee Members, Les McClean and Allan Norton have been written for "Newsletter". We hope to publish these soon. **H.K.**

CB RECORDS

After the Reunion the Director of DSD, Mr Ron Bonighton, wrote saying it had been a "great opportunity to renew old acquaintances and discuss a common interests." He added that he and his wife, Jill, had "appreciated the warm welcome and hospitality extended.....".

He went on: "I understand some of your members are concerned that DSD continues to hold Central Bureau records," and quoted correspondence from DSD to Helen Kenny which gave detailed information on the current location of WW11 Central Bureau

records both in Australia and the USA. DSD in 1999, provided CBICA with copies of Central Bureau Technical Records, Volumes A to K.

"Please be assured that DSD does not hold any other WW11 Central Bureau material," he wrote in the letter dated 11 December 2000.

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(Bruce Bentwitch, our Hon. Treasurer, is holding the Technical Records and will lend these to members who are interested. If there are any further queries about CB records, please write to Helen Kenny and she will give you a contact number).



VALE

DENNIS LLOYD MOORE (NX190981, ex RAAF-L.A.C. No 138024) died peacefully at home on 5 January 2001. He was 75 and was the "dearly loved husband of Peggy, loving father and father-in-law of Linda and Bill, Rob and Edda, Cathy and Kamil. He was also the "adored grandad of Ian, Tim, Elizabeth, Sarah, Evan, Emma and Kate".

The funeral service for CBICA's Newsletter Editor and Publicity Officer was held in the South Chapel of the Woronora Crematorium, Sutherland on 9 January. Those who gathered there to mourn Dennis, included many Cbers who felt they had lost a true friend and colleague.

The service, conducted by Bob Goodfellow, was simple – the recitation of a poem, a few prayers, and eulogies given by Bill McBride, son-in-law of Dennis; by young Ian McBride, grandson, and by Gordon Gibson, President of CBICA. It ended with the Last Post, Ode, Reveille and Prayer of Committal.

BILL McBRIDE'S EULOGY

Dennis Moore lived such a rich life, full of diverse interests, that it is hard to know just where to start. If you look for a common thread that runs through all his interests and activities over the years, it is "people". Dennis was not only interested in people, he cared for them.

For the past 16 years I have been accepted into the Moore family; I am very glad that I married their eldest daughter, Linda, and I'm honoured to have known Dennis Moore.

Dennis was born in 1925 at Nurse Blaydon's Cottage Hospital, Carlton, NSW, the quiet and very Australian suburb where his parents lived. He was the third of four brothers – and the first to be born in Australia. (The others were born in England).

Dennis went to Carlton South Primary School then Canterbury Boys' High and in January 1942 started work in the

Registrar-General's office as a clerk. Eventually he became Personnel Officer there.

In 1943, when 18, Dennis joined the RAAF, trained at Tocumwal and Point Cook in Telegraphy, then went to Brisbane for the special course in "Kana" (Japanese Morse Code). In October 1944 he was sent to Biak with No.1 Wireless Unit, then to Hollandia in Dutch New Guinea – now part of Indonesia.

In January 1945 he travelled with No.6 Wireless Unit to Tolosa, in Leyte, in the Philippines then to San Miguel, Luzon, where he remained until peace was declared in August 1945.

Dennis came home in October 1945, was demobbed in April 1946 and returned to his family home, his personnel job and to new found freedom, enjoyed by most young servicemen after the war. He was 20 years and six months old.

He enjoyed sailing, had a V.J., later skippered V.Ss for other members of Kogarah Bay Sailing Club and became Commodore of the Club in the early '50s.

He hitchhiked interstate, played tennis, "indulged in a new light green FJ Holden "Special", took up skiing, and became a founding member of the CSIRO Ski Club at Perisher Blue in the 1950s. He helped to build the original hut, loved the snow, and throughout his life took his children and grandchildren to Perisher.

Dennis was always kind and responsible. When his brother, Sydney, died in 1950 Dennis was appointed guardian to Syd's only child Allan, and took care of his welfare until he was 21. Allan saw Dennis as a "father figure".

While at the Registrar-General's Department, Dennis became friends with Graham Day who worked there. They sailed and skied together and Dennis met Peggy, Graham's sister.

I have it on very good authority that after only five dates they became engaged and married six months later in August 1956.

They bought a green weatherboard house, newly built, in Sylvania Road Miranda in an area where roads were gravel and bushland was close. There they lived for 44 years raising their children, Linda, Rob and Cathy.

He worked long hours. For 20 years he taught part time at Sydney and St George Technical Colleges, and in 1962 moved to the Chief Secretary's Department as Personnel Officer. In 1966 he left the Public Service to become Employment Officer, then Assistant Bursar at the University of New South Wales.

He loved university life and academia and the search for knowledge. He instilled in his children the value of education.

Life was busy. He joined CBICA in 1982, became Publicity Officer in 1990 and produced four editions a year of the Newsletter for 10 years. He attended all reunions except for 1989 when his first grandchild was born and the most recent one in Melbourne 2000.

Each year he marched when he could on Anzac Day, usually as banner carrier.

He was a "technology buff" ahead of his time – Morse, ham radio, computers, internet, voice mail and was one of the first of his generation on the internet.

Even last year Dennis was demonstrating Kana morse code to children of Lucas Heights School. He gardened, bred goldfish, which populated fish tanks of schools, families and friends.

Dennis was an active Committee member of the UNSW Retired Alumni Association in 1990.

He was always there for us. Dennis and Peggy had created their own little United Nations by welcoming three ring-ins to the family – Bill, the Scot, Kamil the Turkish representative and Edda the Italian delegate. He was devoted to his six grandchildren, to each of whom he gave a fond nickname.

Dennis was a quiet achiever. He liked the simple things; was capable but unpretentious. He would have accepted the adulation given to him here today, but would not have sought it.

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After Bill McBride spoke, Ian McBride, came forward to give his "memories of grandad". Ian I think is 11. Dennis would have been proud of him.

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GORDON GIBSON'S EULOGY

I am speaking to you today as President of the Central Bureau Intelligence Corps Association to pay tribute to Dennis for the work he did during WW11 as a kana operator and many years later after our Association was belatedly formed (because of secrecy restrictions) as our Publicity Officer and Editor of our Newsletter.

People like Dennis sat with headphones on at remote South West Pacific stations identifying the 80 and more different groupings of dots and dashes that comprised the Japanese kana code (compared with the 40 that made up Morse Code) rapidly transmitted on often fading frequencies, recording them on log sheets and message sheets and passing them through to people like myself whose job it was to analyse traffic and decode messages where possible. General Willoughby, who was General Douglas MacArthur's Chief Intelligence Officer, is on record as stating that this special signals intelligence work shortened the South West Pacific War by two years. Yet so tight were the security regulations during and after the war that none of us dared to say one word about what we were doing even to our closest relatives. It is only in recent years with freedom of information that any publicity has been given to our achievements. Dennis was one of those unsung quiet heroes who played his part in Central Bureau's highly important operations.

Mateship is much talked about in Australia, especially in connection with the Armed Services. Unfortunately for me I did not know Dennis during those war years, not surprising since Central Bureau was such a wide ranging organisation. Our mateship did not develop until we worked together on the Association's Executive Committee many years after the war ended. Although Dennis was a wireless operator and I was not, we seemed to be always on the same wave length. Dennis' thoroughness, dependability, thoughtfulness, consideration for others and above all, his calm and clear thinking on any problems that arose made him a tower of strength to our whole Association.

"They shall grow not old" says the Ode. Well in a different sense from the one the poet meant, Dennis didn't grow old. His young and active mind allowed him to keep up with the technology of the 21st century and through his mastery of the world wide web, he was able to give our Newsletter a new dimension and to keep us in touch with the wide range of interesting people and historical developments in our field of Special Signals Intelligence. In this regard and in many other ways Dennis was an example to us all.

It is said that no man is irreplaceable, but as we say farewell to Dennis Moore I know that all members of Central Bureau Intelligence Corps Association feel that the truth of that statement is tested to the limit.

MORE TRIBUTES

Geoff Day passed the news of Dennis Moore's death to Michael Smith, author of "The Emperor's Codes". He replied: "Very sorry to hear about Dennis. He was a tremendous help to me during the writing of Emperor's Codes. Please pass on my condolences to the Association". Regards, Michael.

The author, whose book is being reviewed for Newsletter, lives in England. His e-mail address is: mickwsmith@supanet.com.

From Wendy Clarke

Unfortunately Nobby and I never had the opportunity of meeting Dennis, but I do know that Nobby greatly enjoyed their phone conversations and that he was encouraged to write down at least a few of his reminiscences and voice

some of his opinions by Dennis' gentle persuasion. Dennis was always more than happy to reserve space in the Newsletter for him.

After Nobby's death in January last year, Dennis was very kind and supportive. I shall always be deeply grateful to him for his article about Nobby in the March 2000 Newsletter and for enabling Keith Redenbach, Vic Lederer and myself to contribute to that special edition.

By an extraordinary quirk of fate, Dennis passed away on Nobby's birthday. In this March 2001 Newsletter, I want to pay tribute to Dennis and his tireless efforts in helping to preserve information about Central Bureau and those who were a part of it. He will indeed be missed.

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Roy Ward writes from Frankston Victoria: "Since the Reunion we have lost three from the RAAF Wireless Units, viz:

Frank Patrick (97 years) - the prince of wireless operators. At Numurkah, Vic. Frank was with 1 W.U.

Bob Sidebottom (77 years) - at Shepparton, Vic. He was with 2 W.U. at Coomallie and Potshot in W.A., where there was an HF/DF.

The third was **Keith Redenbach (77 years)** - "our only touch of royalty, and son of Prince Richard", writes Roy. Keith was a great horse racing man. He loved a glass of beer, red wine and white wine, but was always the gentleman.

According to Roy, Keith was the son of a Danish Prince and had enlisted under

an assumed name in Australia. Can anyone tell us more.

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Obituaries for Keith have been written by his old friend, Jack Lane ex RAF with whom he served at Inopacan in the Philippines; by Wendy Clarke (see above) widow of W.E. (Nobby) Clarke, who was O.C. of Keith Redenbach's group. Strangely, in the March 2000 Newsletter, Keith Redenbach wrote a tribute to Nobby who died earlier in the year.

Wendy, who came to see me just before Newsletter for this March went to press, brought a photograph showing Keith Redenbach, Frank Patrick, Nobby Clarke and Jack Lane together in Melbourne in 1996 when they were presented with the Philippines Liberation Medal.

We hope to run the photograph and the obituaries for Keith Redenbach in the next issue and only regret that because of space, they are held over now. **H.K.**

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