



## CENTRAL BUREAU INTELLIGENCE CORPS ASSOCIATION June 2002.

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### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Thirteen months after our application for funding of a Unit History was submitted, a reply was received in the following terms:

*Dear Mr Gibson,*

*I refer to your application requesting financial assistance towards the cost of travel expenses and a stipend to allow an historian to research and write a history of the contribution made by Australian servicemen and women in the Allied Signals Intelligence during World War II. The Minister for Veterans' Affairs, the Hon Danna Vale MP, has asked me to respond on her behalf. I regret the delay in replying.*

*Your application was considered for funding under the Federal Government's commemorations program.*

*On this occasion, the Minister regrets to advise that your application for a grant has been unsuccessful. The travel and stipend costs are not covered under the guidelines for the commemorations program. The Minister thanks you for writing and trusts you are able to secure funding from another source for your history project.*

*Yours sincerely  
Peter Hulsing  
Adviser*

On Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April a sub-committee comprising Bill Rogers, Frank Hughes, Helen Kenny and I met at the Masonic Club in Sydney and after discussion it was decided not to give up without a struggle. We have adjourned to do further research with the object of marshalling a dossier of cogent arguments in favour of the project for presentation to Bill Rogers. Bill is hopeful of gaining a personal

audience with the Minister on the 4<sup>th</sup> June when she is scheduled to attend a meeting of the directors of the Australian War Memorial Foundation in Canberra.

Failing that, Bill will try to arrange that monies can be given to the War memorial of the Foundation, which could then be utilized for the history.

"It is going to be difficult," Bill writes, "but I will give it my best shot." Thank you for trying, Bill and our best wishes go with you in your efforts.

Just a few words about ANZAC Day. Every year I say, "this must be the best ANZAC Day ever!" The weather seems to be perfect, the crowds bigger and more supportive and the reunion with old mates so friendly. Joy Granger has also written a letter to the Mercure expressing our appreciation at the high standard of the venue itself and of the food and service at our luncheon. On this topic, it is not too early to remind you of the November reunion which is set down for Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November at Kirribilli RSL. How about noting that date in your calendar now?

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### HON. SECRETARY'S PAR

On a glorious autumn day our stalwarts lined up for the ANZAC march – Kath Burns, Bruce Bentwitch, Gordon Gibson, Les McClean (not long out of hospital), Max McCredie, Doug McNally, Roy Perry, Brian and Bruce Lovett, courageously

carrying the Banner, John Shoebridge, Rob Moore (for Dennis) Bert de Mars, Ellen Barn, (for grandfather Ken Robbins) Ailsa Hale, Norm Allen, Steven Kirsten,

Allan Norton, Bill Estep, Syd Cooper, Keith Carolan, Noni Benn, Peg Teague, David Hansen, Eric Webb, Elizabeth Lewis, (for father Chris McIntosh) Joy Granger, and sister Pam Porteous (AWAS W/T). I hope I haven't omitted anyone. Don't know about anyone else, but the march seemed a lot longer (!) and we had to stop frequently (ours not to reason why). When we reached Hyde Park they'd run out of hot water for tea/coffee – catastrophe.

Oh well, off the Mercure. Numbers were down but those who enjoyed the convivial gathering and a truly splendid smorgasbord were Norm Allen, Noni Benn and Hope Creary, Bruce Bentwitch, Col and Mark Brackley, Joyce Casey (good to see her), Keith and Joan Carolan with Diane and Chris Bath, Syd Cooper, Bert and Beth de Mars, Gordon and Sue Gibson, Joy Granger, and Pam Porteous, Helen Kenny, Steven Kirsten (became lost and walked all the way from Hyde Park) Allan and Pam Langdon, Elizabeth Lewis, Margaret McCafferty, Les McClean, Doug McNally, Peg (so welcome) and Rob Moore, Allan and Katie Norton, Diana Parker, Roy Perry, Bill and Jan Rogers, John Shoebridge, Peg Teague, Eric and Eve Webb, Jim Williams (determined as ever), escorted by Shelia Gregory.

Apologies were received from Frank Hughes (in hospital with pneumonia), Keith Phillips (leg problems), Madge Chidgey (away in Queensland) Norma Keeling (not well enough), Ailsa Hale (had to leave after the march to look after her husband), Betty Chessell (in Perth celebrating her birthday), Nancy Goldsteen (not very well). Gordon mentioned messages from Ron Tabley, Joyce Grace, Jack Bennett, Les Perkins, Jean Robertson, and Doug Pyle. Also in touch was Syd Carey, now resident of Perth, who recently celebrated his 86<sup>th</sup> birthday and Myron Scougale (USA) who has Parkinson's disease. Our good wishes go to them all.

From a recent ABC programme (video kindly supplied by Frank) we saw an extremely brief segment mentioning the reconstruction of General MacArthur's office, showing it stripped; apparently everything went back to the States.

Allan Norton drew attention to a Memorial Service to be held on 27 April for Earle Heap, an original Kana interceptor.

Other matters briefly – We are still hot on the trail of a grant for the Australian SIGINT history.

The Kirribilli RSL Club has been mooted for the next mini-reunion in November. Whatever, details will be in the September newsletter. Until then, be well and Farewell.

Joy Granger, 2N RSLVRV  
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### HON TREASURER'S REPORT

Another Anzac Day has passed and I noticed three of our regular marchers, Stan King, Noel Langby and Eric Fleming could not attend and I trust they are much healthier now, but this year Reg Murphy who must be one of the few RAAF officers still with us had no trouble completing the march.

Syd Carey, who was a regular at our reunions, moved to Perth a few months ago and tells me he is now 86 years of age. He and his wife visited Darwin for the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the bombing and sent me a photo of him placing a wreath at the grave of Sqn/Ldr Strauss who was killed when his Liberator crashed shortly after take off. Apparently a Jap had got ashore and sabotaged two of the Libs. Syd was Orderly Sergeant at the time and had to wake the crews for a strike. This was prior to Syd joining C B.

Another recent letter was from Olive Williams (nee Barlow) who was administration assistant to Flt/Lt Ward at 21 Henry St. She and her husband of 55 years reside at Withcott, a town east of Toowoomba, Qld. She sent a cutting from the local newspaper of the Anzac Day ceremonies at Withcott and Helidon a nearby town, which they attended. The attendance has grown from a small gathering several years ago to approx 250 this year. Incidentally both Olive and her husband are lawn bowlers and enjoy good health.

Bob Leonard reports he is now much better following three operations while Jean Hicks of Yeppoon Qld tells she had a fall just before Christmas breaking a hip and wrist then to cap it all had her gall bladder removed in March. Do hope they enjoy reading the newsletters and are mobile again.

Geoff Howard, one of our Canberra members, who does odd volunteer jobs for the War Memorial and Museum was asked to inspect odd markings scratched on the hull of a Japanese submarine being restored for exhibition. Geoff could not understand how anyone trapped inside could have scratched the hull and it was assumed they were not man made but the hull must have scratched something hard, perhaps in Sydney Harbour.

Incidentally a few days ago I met a young couple from Chicago who were on the way to Darwin for a tour. They were amazed when told of the 1942 bombing, the first being by the Jap bombers that had earlier attacked Pearl Harbour. World War Two history taught in US schools make no mention of such events.

Finally when sending cheques or money orders would you kindly draw them in favour of "Central Bureau I.C.A."

It is nice to hear from members who live afar or not so mobile looking forward to the newsletters, which are in the capable hands of Helen Kenny whose journalistic experience is evident.

Bruce Bentwitch  
Hon Treasurer  
7 Holly Street  
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### JAPANESE R/T IN THE PHILIPPINES (1944-45.)

On 9 July a party consisting of two Canadian RCAF Officers and four RAF Sergeants left London for Australia. The Canadians, P/Os (later F/Os) Warren Miller and Bill Henderson, were fluent Japanese speakers, while the RAF Sergeants, Don Chilver, Jack Lane, Dave Mowatt and Pete North,

had undergone an intensive course in Japanese Phonetics at the School of Oriental and African Studies (AOAS), University of London, organised by the brilliant, redoubtable Professor of Phonetics, J.R. Firth.

From Bristol they flew to Shannon in Eire and from Foynes they crossed the Atlantic to Newfoundland in a BOAC flying boat, thence to Baltimore. The RAF men, after some time in Washington and New York, crossed the States to San Francisco by train, while the Canadians enjoyed a short leave in Vancouver, before flying over the Pacific in a Liberator, arriving in Brisbane early in August.

At Central Bureau (Henry St. and Ascot Park) they continued training. Here the group was joined by Canadian Billie Blinkhorn, a well-known entertainer, serving in the Australian Army and introduced to Capt. W.E. Clarke (Nobby), who was later to be C.O. of the unit in the Philippines.

On 17 October the group joined 6WU and the next day flew by stages to Hollandia, New Guinea, in the then Netherlands East Indies. On the 24<sup>th</sup> they embarked on the USS Carter Hall, landing near DULAG, Leyte, on 5 November 1944.

After a few days on the outskirts of TACLOBAN, 6WU moved to TOLOSA, on the East Coast (interestingly the birthplace of Imelda Marcos!) and started operations on the village green, watched over by the statue of the Filipino national hero Jose Rizal. In order to obtain better reception, the R/T group established a listening post in an old Spanish fort on top of the hill (500/600ft.) overlooking TOLOSA and Leyte Gulf, from which they had a grandstand view of Japanese aircraft attacking American shipping in the Gulf – probably some of the first kamikaze attacks.

By late December, as the Leyte campaign was drawing to a close, operations on the hill ceased; Bill Henderson and Pete North went on the invasion of Luzon, while Warren Miller with Don Chilver, Jack Lane, Dave Mowatt and Billie Blinkhorn on 1 January 1945 moved over to INOPACAN on the West Coast of Leyte, in guerrilla-held territory a few miles South of BAYBAY. Capt. Clarke (Nobby) arrived a few days later to command the unit until the end of the war. At INOPACAN 6WU RAAF personnel gave support to the unit: Bluey

Redenbach looked after the domestic arrangements and Bill Goodear acted as driver. Several mechanics serviced the generators, the most memorable of whom was Graham Walker.

In April, Billie Blinkhorn with Norman Frith and Norman Lucas (fresh from the U.K.) went on the invasion of Mindanao. It was time to move up to Luzon and the unit reluctantly left INOPACAN where they had enjoyed the friendship and hospitality of the local people, rejoining Bill Henderson and Pete North at SAN MIGUEL near TARLAC, with 6WU and other Australian Wireless Units.

In June the unit moved from San Miguel to BOLINAO on the South China Sea, where Dave Grant, Sandy Duguid, Pete Nicholls, Gerry Rhodes and Jack Greenhalgh from SOAS joined it. Finally, at the end of the July, the unit was withdrawn to San Miguel to prepare for the invasion of Japan, which they were mercifully spared by the bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The unit reached full strength with the arrival of I.E. Rennie, R.E. Deeley and R.B. Chalmers from the U.K.

Nobby Clarke left at once for the occupation of Japan, Warren Miller and Bill Henderson were flown back to Canada, while the RAF party returned to Brisbane with their friends in 6WU on the Francis N. Blanchet. After a short time in Australia they sailed from Sydney in the S.S. Stirling Castle to arrive at Southampton in time for Christmas. Unlike their more fortunate Australian friends, they were not demobilized until the summer of 1947.

**Jack Lane (ex RAF)**

5A Southfield Rd

~~Gloucester~~ UK G14 6UG

*Gloucester*, 0000000000000000

### BOOK REVIEW

**“Winning with Intelligence” by Judy Thomson  
A Biography of Brigadier John David Rogers,  
CBE, MC - 1895-1978**

This is the story of the life of John Rogers who joined the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion AIF in August 1914, leaving a medical course at the University of Melbourne at

the age of 19 years. He was to have his 20<sup>th</sup> birthday on Gallipoli three days after the Anzac landing.

Judy Thomson, his daughter, has encapsulated Rogers' progress from infantry private in 1914 to brevet major on Monash's staff in 1918. Then a return to University to complete a Science-Engineering degree, marriage followed by a successful career in the Vacuum Oil Co (later Mobil Oil). Twenty years after discharge in 1919, he re-enlisted in the 2<sup>nd</sup> AIF and went to the Middle East as a major GSO 3 Int at 1<sup>st</sup> Corps, HQ, rising to Colonel on his return to Australia in 1942 just prior to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour. After a brief period as liaison officer to General Douglas MacArthur, he became Brigadier and Director of Military Intelligence and served in this capacity until World War II concluded in 1945.

The author has conducted considerable research into Rogers' wartime activities. His involvement with Intelligence began on Gallipoli where he was commissioned in the field and became the Battalion Intelligence Officer. He remained with the Battalion through the bitter fighting on the Somme in 1916-17 until he was seconded for training as Brigade Major and later found himself on Monash's staff involved in the planning of the successful Hamil attack in August 1918. He was on his way home on leave when the Armistice was signed in November 1918.

In between wars, the Rogers family lived at various times in Sydney, Melbourne and Perth. They were happy times and it came as something of a shock when Rogers told his family that he was going off to war again in late 1939.

Rogers' wartime experiences in World War II are graphically described in the biography, as he was involved in the desert campaigns in Greece, Crete and Syria before returning home to become DMI. In a reorganisation of intelligence activities, he was particularly concerned in the operations of Central Bureau and was a great admirer of the work of Lt. Colonel Mic Sandford, the C.O. whom he visited in Italy many years after the war.

This book not only gives the reader a vivid sketch of Rogers' life but it will also be of great interest to

those who have served in Intelligence before, during and after World War II.

The difficulties with our American allies at the top level are discussed but only in the context of the Rogers' experience.

This reviewer has been trained always to declare interest and as he is the brother of the biographer, it is doubly important in this case.

This declaration aside, he can thoroughly recommend "*Winning with Intelligence*" as a most engaging and informative story. The book is available from Australian Military History Publications, 13 Veronica Place, Loftus, 2232, New South Wales. Telephone: (02) 9542 6771; Fax: (02) 9542 6787, or at the War Memorial at a cost of \$33 including postage; all proceeds to Legacy.

Bill Rogers VX94607

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### LOST - AND FOUND

That we are able to read "*Winning with Intelligence*" is almost miraculous. This is the story behind the story.

Judy Thomson based the book upon much research and upon a manuscript, "*Say not the Struggle*," a memoir written in 1945 by her father, Brigadier Rogers.

He took the title from verses by the 19<sup>th</sup> century poet, Arthur Clough, and finished the last chapter as he flew back to Australia from Singapore, where he had represented this country at the Japanese surrender on September 13, 1945. The typescript was prepared. The C-in-C, General Sir Thomas Blamey, wrote the foreword for Rogers, his friend and comrade in two wars.

A publisher accepted the memoirs, but in 1951, when Rogers was in America, the publisher died, and the manuscript and photographs vanished. Searches revealed nothing.

Fast-forward 14 years to an evening in 1965 when Rogers was dining at the Naval and Military Club, Melbourne. A young – and new steward came up and asked: "*Are you Brigadier Rogers?*"

When Rogers said, "*Yes*", the steward staggered him by saying: "*I have read your book.*"

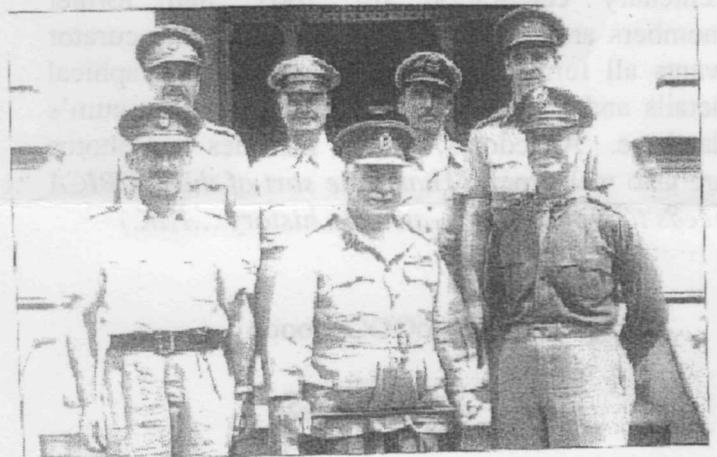
Rogers exclaimed that this was impossible, but the steward persisted: "*I have a copy.*"

Two nights later, the steward came into the Club and presented Brigadier Rogers with the typescript and photographs. The extraordinary story then unfolded. The steward's mother had bought an old cabin trunk at a second hand store and in it had found the missing material.

The foreword by Blamey never turned up, but the story of the find appears in a preface added to the typescript. Now after many years, Judy Thomson has produced the book, which contains many details about Intelligence and Central Bureau, which could not be revealed when her father wrote his memoirs.



Brigadier Rogers escorts the Japanese generals and admirals to the Municipal Hall for the Singapore Surrender ceremony



General Blamey visits the Central Bureau, Brisbane, 25 February 1944.

L-R (rear) Major R.E. Porter – Blamey's ADC, Colonel H.S. Doud – US Army Deputy Director of the Bureau, Wing Commander H. Roy Booth – RAAF Deputy Director, Lt Colonel A.W. Sandford – AIF Deputy Director (front): Rogers, Blamey, Major General S. B. Akin – US Army, Director of the Bureau.

**MESSAGES**

The Australian Intelligence Association (AIA) writes:

*"We are trying to locate Intelligence Corps memorabilia – photos – names – papers – anything – or any information. Would appreciate any photocopies etc for our library and possible publication in our magazine.*

**Membership AIA, PO Box 738, Blacktown NSW 2148."**

**Peter Dunn**, who used to correspond with Dennis Moore, has a lot of information about CB. Those interested can reach him at [www.st.net.au/dunn/sigint/cbi.htm](http://www.st.net.au/dunn/sigint/cbi.htm)

**Jack Lane** ex RAF, of 5a Southfield Road, Gloucester UK GL4 6UG, is a Cber who wonders if we have any information about two men with whom he shared a tent years ago. They were **C. McTaggart**, formerly of Brisbane, and **G.J. Walker**, formerly of Townsville. If you know, please tell Jack Lane, and tell Newsletter too. (You'll notice Jack's article on Japanese R/T in this issue.)

**David Parker**, curator of the Australian Intelligence Corps Museum, c/- Defence Intelligence Training Centre, Kokoda Barracks, Canungra, Qld, 4275 says the Corps plans a centenary celebration for 2007, and former members are urged to make contact. The curator wants all former members to submit biographical details and a photo for inclusion in the museum's database. Anecdotes, stories, histories and photos are also welcome. (*That's the sort of thing CBICA needs too for our long-awaited history ...H.K.*)

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**LETTERS**

**Geoff Ballard**, of Ivanhoe, Vic., writes to say that F/Lt George Reveleigh's name was given, incorrectly, as Reveille in a recent Newsletter. "He was the RAAF Liaison Officer attached to our 51 Wireless Section and succeeded F/Lt Cliff Hattam in this position during my time as I.O. at 51 Section which was for the whole of 1943."

**Geoff Day**, of Wallacia, N.S.W. enjoyed Don Laidlaw's book, but picks up an error he's seen perpetuated in other publications. On p32 of "Anecdotes of a Japanese Translator", mention is made of "12 British Army Signal personnel."

"We were but ten," says Geoff, who served as an intercept operator with the Far East Combined Bureau (FECB) at Kranji, on the north of Singapore Island.

The ten, ordered to evacuate Singapore just before it fell, reached Western Australia via the then Dutch East Indies. They were: J. Lang, G. Day, D. Seager, H. Finch, G. Connor, J. Bloomfield, J. Davis, O. Jones, F. McGuire and G. Gamlin. All joined ASWG, serving out the war in Australia, the islands and the Philippines.

"In photos, we're distinguished by our Pommy headgear – forage caps," explains Geoff, who says it's possible that the error arose by confusing this group with the original 12 British University translators. "By the way the latter all spoke with very posh accents, and my Aussie mates used to say to me 'Thank God you don't talk like that, Geoff!'"

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(*Geoff Day has written an interesting account of the group's evacuation from Singapore to Australia for a coming Newsletter. In 2002, what has befallen members of the group? Does anyone know?*)

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**THE MacARTHUR MUSEUM**

At last an announcement! After meetings and discussions lasting for seven years, there is action. The MacArthur Museum, Brisbane, will open in late 2002, in MacArthur Chambers, the old AMP building, on the corner of Queen and Edward Streets, Brisbane.

A brochure, just produced by the General Douglas MacArthur Brisbane Memorial Trust, says that the Queensland State Government has taken a lead role as a principal donor with the Brisbane City Council in raising money for the Museum. Now a fundraising campaign will start. Enquiries and donations should be sent to the Executive Officer, The General Douglas MacArthur Brisbane

Memorial Trust, GPO Box 1247, Brisbane, Queensland, 4001.

MacArthur's old office on the eighth floor of the heritage building will be restored, and "presented to the public to provide national recognition of General MacArthur's presence in Brisbane and the Allied Headquarters' role during the dark days of 1942-44, a crucial period in Australia's history."

The museum will have five display themes, which will add to Brisbane's "Living Heritage" network. These are: the shock of war; MacArthur, the General and Commander-in-Chief; Brisbane and the Pacific; MacArthur, post World War II; Australian and US Servicemen bonds since the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

When the Museum opens, it will have static and interactive displays, and will put on show historic artefacts and memorabilia.

*A report from the Trust says: "A recent acquisition of significant importance has been one of the two steering columns from the Mitsubishi Betty Bomber of Admiral Yamamoto, shot down over Bougainville in April 1943.*

*Yamamoto's party were (sic) ambushed by P-38s from the US Air Force and the Japanese lost their most revered Admiral, the mastermind behind the attack on Pearl Harbour."*

There was no space in the brochure to say that the JN25 message about Yamamoto's flight was picked up by Allied intercept sites, including 51 Wireless Section, and translated at Central Bureau. The intercepts led to Yamamoto's destruction

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### FOLLOW UP

Last March, on International Women's Day, the Hon Paul Lucas, Queensland's Minister for Innovation and Information Economy, handed certificates to 10 Queensland ex-servicewomen – WAAAF and AWAS who had worked with CB and ASWG. The certificates were worded:

*"For outstanding achievements in the area of information security at....Central Bureau during World War II".*

WIT (Women in Information Technology) wanted to mark International Women's Day by holding "A celebration of Women in Information Security over the last 60 years and into the future".

They held a special function to recognise what their invitation described as the "contribution of women who worked as code breakers and input operators (information security) at Central Bureau, 21 Henry St, Ascot.... the operations centre for wartime signals intelligence".

Little did Minister Paul Lucas, his Department, and the members of CBICA realise what they were in for. The proverbial "can of worms" opened. Newspapers and TV made headlines of the function, terming the women "code breakers", a title they would never claim. They had been kana interceptors, cipher operators, punch-card workers, their occupations contributing to the breaking of codes.

With publicity came uproar, telephoning, letter writing. Then Minister Paul Lucas, of Queensland, that self-styled "Smart State", did a very smart thing. He offered certificates to women who had served during the war with CB and ASWG, if they could give proof of their service.

At the end of this month, his Department will send out approximately 175 certificates to ex-servicewomen in many Australian states. Not all have been located. Nearly 60 years have passed, names have changed. The words "Central Bureau" appear on some Army records, but have been omitted on RAAF/WAAAF, the terms "RAAF Command" being used instead. Secrecy of the past makes difficulty for 21st century researchers.

ASWG, thanks to Steve Mason and Dick Thompson, provided a list of 125 AWAS, present surnames and maiden names all set down. CBICA came up with 50 more WAAAF and AWAS, some members, some not, with much help being given by Joy Linnane and Sylvia Paris (nee Ferguson).

We were told well-remembered names, but where did the owners live now? Time passed, and

unfortunately the cut-off month for certificates has come.

Minister Paul Lucas, has issued this statement for the newsletter:

*"Our society owes a great debt of gratitude to all of these women, not only for the lives of Allied service personnel that were saved by the shortening of the war, but also for the freedoms that people like me and my family can enjoy as a result of the work and sacrifice of their generation*

*These women are role models for men and women today. To those whose addresses are unknown and who have not received certificates, I would like to extend my praise, appreciation and recognition of your wartime service".*

### VALE:

**Cecil James Cousins (1924-2002).** Cec, a most loyal CBICA member and regular contributor to Newsletter, died in January this year. We will miss him, and his letters from Eleebana, NSW, which were written in a bold and beautiful script.

From his daughter, Roslyn Botham, we learnt of her father's life and career in war and peace. He was born at West Maitland, NSW, grew up on a dairy property on the banks of the Hunter River, near Singleton, and in depression days walked to his one-teacher school at nearby Roughtit.

Secondary education followed at Singleton Intermediate High and Maitland Boys High, and after this came work as a clerk in the Hamilton, Newcastle and Singleton branches of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia.

But war had started. Cec, having failed aircrew training on medical grounds, enlisted in the RAAF at Sydney Showground, on May 4, 1943 when he was 18 years and 7 months old. Postings to Tocumwal and Narromine followed, after which he was sent as a Recorder "W" to RAAF Command, Brisbane. Soon he found himself at Central Bureau, Ascot, where he joined others in a group learning translation and decoding of intercepted messages of Japanese Katakana Morse.

When this Katakana course ended he went to Batchelor Road, NT, with 2 RAAF Field Wireless

Intercept Unit, serving there from May 1944 until May 1945 when he was posted to 6WU at Talosa on Leyte Island in the Philippines. Soon he moved with this unit to San Miguel, and was then transferred to 4WU when it arrived from Strathpine on July 1, 1945.

"When the war ended with dropping of the nuclear bombs his unit was occupied with the reception and comforting of allied prisoners of war being flown from Japan, China and South West Pacific area POW camps to Manila Air Base Hospital prior to repatriation to their homelands," writes Roslyn Botham.

In October 1945, 4 and 6WUs travelled by train from San Miguel to Manila, acting as guards over surrendered Japanese, who were being transported in sugar cane trucks from Tarlac City to Manila before being repatriated to Japan.

Cec Cousins returned to Australia aboard the Liberty ship, Francis N. Blanchet, and was discharged in February 1946. After a reorientation course with the Commonwealth Bank he was posted to Murwillumbah branch, where he met his future wife, Daphne, whom he married in 1949. His banking career took him to Canberra, then to Warners Bay, NSW, on the shores of Lake Macquarie, where he established a new branch. Ill health forced him to retire in 1981.

He was a member, then a Fellow, of the Australian Institute of Bankers, was a JP, and served many terms as treasurer of organisations such as Apex and the Lions Club, receiving the James D. Richardson Honour Award for unselfish service to the latter organisation.

His work ethic – and life ethic – was to "put in 100% for 100% of the time".

He and his wife had five children, Roslyn, Graham, Glenys, Alison and Robyn.

His widow cherishes their "happy, stable and wonderful marriage" and his children's memories of their father are of a fine man, who, only in the past few years, told them of his work with Central Bureau.