



CENTRAL BUREAU INTELLIGENCE CORPS ASSOCIATION OCTOBER 2020

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A Very Special Commemoration

On 7th October, it was my dear Dad, Gordon Gibson's 100th Birthday.

He so wanted to make this milestone and every day since he passed away, I very much wish he had too. As my Mum said on the day though – "in our minds, he made it".

To commemorate this very special day, we had a lovely family lunch with all my Dad's favourite foods, blue decorations and many memories of him shared.

Cheers to my wonderful Dad, and Happy 100th!

Remembrance Day 2020

This year for Remembrance Day, there will be a ceremony at The Roseville Club (Roseville RSL) again, but complying with Covid restrictions it will be outside in the Roseville Memorial Park.

The official invitation is below, and all CBers are most welcome.

"THE ROSEVILLE CLUB – ROSEVILLE RETURNED SERVICEMEN'S MEMORIAL CLUB LIMITED – WITH THE SUPPORT OF KU-RING-GAI COUNCIL IS PROUD TO CONTINUE THE TRADITION ESTABLISHED BY OUR FOUNDERS, THE ROSEVILLE RSL SUB BRANCH, IN CONDUCTING THE KU-RING-GAI REMEMBRANCE DAY COMMEMORATION.

THE PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF THE ROSEVILLE CLUB CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO ATTEND THE REMEMBRANCE DAY COMMEMORATION.

PLEASE BE ASSURED THE VENUE IS COMPLIANT WITH COVID 19 SAFETY REQUIREMENTS, ACCORDINGLY THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE ATTENDING AND THOSE PARTICIPATING THE CEREMONY WILL BE LIMITED.

DETAILS OF THE CEREMONY ARE AS FOLLOWS:

WEDNESDAY 11TH NOVEMBER – COMMENCING 10.45 A.M. – IN THE ROSEVILLE MEMORIAL PARK, 62 PACIFIC HIGHWAY ROSEVILLE, FOLLOWED BY MORNING TEA IN THE MEMORIAL CLUB ADJACENT TO THE PARK."

There is no requirement to RSVP, but if you would like to register your attendance by all means please call or email me (Katy: my contact details are below).

Please note that there will be no official CB luncheon after the proceedings this year, due to COVID, unfortunately.

CB - Past, Present and Future

It is following much careful consideration and discussion with our CB Executive Committee that I share with you our decision regarding the official future of CB.

This is not easy, and it has been a very difficult decision for us to make, but we have come to the committee agreement that we will be concluding the production of our CB Newsletter and official Central Bureau functions as of this issue of Newsletter.

This certainly does not mean that CB no longer exists. Absolutely not. CB is an institution with an inspiring group of men and women who will remain as our friends, in our hearts, and

as part of history for all time. Our CB comradery, friendship, care and connection will live on forever. I am always here for a chat on the phone too, for anyone wishing to connect and share their thoughts, feelings and reflections about our most special group - CB.

As I sign off for the last time in our wonderful CB Newsletter, for which the amazing Helen Kenny played such an integral role, it has been an honour and I thank everyone very much for all your support over my years as President. Particularly I give sincere thanks and gratitude to the Executive Committee, and a special mention to our lovely Allan and Katie Norton.

I'll end on my beloved Dad's words that couldn't be more fitting right now –

“Long live CB!”

Katy Denis, President

2 View Street

Forestville NSW 2087

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SECRETARY'S REPORT

It is with considerable sadness I am preparing this, the final CB Newsletter – particularly at this time when the Coronavirus has restricted our pleasures in life.

CBICA has been a fabulous vehicle for us all - amazing oral history, wonderful fellowship through technology, phone and letters, and our physical meetings at ANZAC Marches, Remembrance Days, and associated formal and informal meetings in hotels, clubs, museums, memorials etc. Over fifty years since its inception – CBICA has been amazing!

For Veterans, CBICA has provided opportunities to reminisce, to mourn, to rejoice and celebrate. For those of us associated with the Veterans, what a wonderful education we have received, enjoyed and valued.

Subsequent to the years when the Veterans were subject to the Official Secrets' Act, they have shared with us their experiences, anecdotes, pictures and dreams. Books have been written, a film made, a whole new importance has been accorded Bletchley Park, and I could go on. fascinating history of the men and women who were plucked from a great range of careers, commerce, universities and industry, to form the brilliantly successful Central Bureau!

It is freely acknowledged that the work of CB shortened WWII by two years.

We cannot forget the wonderful acknowledgement of their Service when HM Queen Elizabeth II, through the British Government, awarded the CB members the Bletchley Park Medal with its accompanying framed, personalised citation.

ON BEHALF OF HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT, GCHQ IS DELIGHTED TO RECOGNISE THE VITAL SERVICE OF THOSE WHO WORKED AT BLETCHLEY PARK AND ITS OUTSTATIONS DURING WORLD WAR II, BY PRESENTING SURVIVING VETERANS WITH A COMMEMORATIVE BADGE.



There are many to acknowledge for the success and value of CBICA through its commemoration of Central Bureau. I hear of meetings on ANZAC Day in Phillip's Foote. Veterans, in particular, will recall the names of those whose initiative set up CBICA.

Throughout these fifty years there are those who occupied Committee positions, those who organised visits, even interstate, those who contributed articles and memories to Newsletter, and editors such as Helen Kenny, who wrote and produced Newsletter; all are the glue which held CBICA together.

In this edition of Newsletter there is mention of gatherings in Melbourne. There was a splendid reunion at Nyrarnbla in 1988. We also must mention the inspirational commemoration at Nyrarnbla on Thursday 9 July 2015, to recognise the sacrifice and service of the members of Central Bureau. How special was that?

There were hundreds who supported CB and the formation of CBICA, both formally and informally but without Helen's memory, there is no way I could do them all justice.

Nevertheless, I want to mention two external organisations.

Peter Dunne OAM, who maintains the brilliant Ozatwar web page, freely and generously has published every edition of CB Newsletter on the website dating back to June 1982. You are encouraged to read these back copies, and other of the many fabulous articles Peter has generated. This is truly an amazing record of "Australia at War".

The web page for Newsletter is: <https://www.ozatwar.com/sigint/cbicanewsletters.htm>

Thank you Peter.

I make mention of Kwik Kopy at North Sydney.

Kwik Kopy Corporate Design & Print Solutions

Suite 2, Ground Floor, 161 Walker St North Sydney

T: 02 9925 0611

E: print@northsydney.kwikkopy.com.au

Going back to the days when Helen wrote Newsletter in longhand, the crew at Kwik Kopy have processed and printed Newsletter. They have been diligent and loyal to CBICA and I know my previous editors would all join me in thanking them and congratulating them for their marvellous support of CBICA. Thank you Jeremiah and Scott.

With considerable regret I confess (advise) I am not up to anything like Helen Kenny's standard with respect to publishing Newsletter. Helen's knowledge was unbelievable. Her CB network could not be matched, and her incredible intellect, her amazing ability to read and synthesise information were (I believe) unique. Without Helen's driving force, her knowledge, her literary skills and her resourcefulness, it has become impossible for me to even follow on, let alone emulate her ability to publish Newsletter.

And so, with considerable personal regret, I support the Committee decision to cease further publication of Newsletter. Alongside this difficult decision, lies the parallel decision to cease further official commitments – including ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day Commemorations.

It was my absolute pleasure and pride to work alongside Helen, my step-mother-in-law, to support her position as Publicity Officer. I took it as an honour that I was invited onto the Committee of this extraordinary organisation. It has been a privilege to serve CBICA through the Committee. I truly value the knowledge I have acquired through CB.

I thank and congratulate the Committee for their work and dedication, the time and effort so generously given, and their commitment to preserving and lauding the work of CB.

To quote Gordon: **“Long Live CB!”**

Bruce Goudge
(Hon) Secretary
0412 579 160 bgoudge@optusnet.com.au

EPILOGUE 2

[This is another article forwarded by Allan Norton. The first was published in the previous edition of Newsletter. BJJG]

It was probably around 1966 when I had my business office at St. Leonards, NSW and close to the Royal North Shore Hospital that I became aware that a neighbour tenant operating a travel agency was Joy Linane. She had been a fellow intercept operator in Townsville in 1942. She was a delightful person and I asked her why an attractive woman had remained unmarried and she sweetly replied that she was still in love with the boys she met in 1 Wireless Unit at Pimlico.

I think her business ran successfully and was told that later she sold and retired to live on the Central Coast near Gosford. I also learned that in latter years she had become unwell and had died in a nursing home.

Allan Norton

DAVID WILLIAM (BILL) ROGERS

31ST March, 1926 – 6th September, 2019

[Following from the obituary in the last Newsletter, these are some stories that Bill told his son James. BJJG]

Dad told me these are not included in his service and I checked with his surviving sister Jude and she didn't recall them and suggested that due to the secrecy act Dad may not have been able to tell them to her (or he didn't want her to know he'd been "playing up"). They are as follows:

- ***Hollandia (in former Dutch New Guinea)*** – whilst stationed there one of Dad's platoon had managed to scrounge parts to make a still. They collected potato peelings and distilled them, but smelling the product they weren't game to drink it. US troops arrived and enquired about getting something to drink and Dad and his fellow diggers obliged them with their home brew. Sadly it made the Americans very sick and the diggers were glad they were being transferred shortly after;
- ***Landing at Leyte (Philippines)*** – Dad often told a hilarious but horrific tale of coming in to the beach landing. The US Boson piloting the landing craft became more and more agitated as they got closer to the beach and were coming under heavy machine gun fire. He insisted on dropping the landing ramp while the Australians were telling him it was still too deep. He refused their request to go in any closer and as a result the Australians jumped off the ramp into ten feet of water. Dad of course was wearing a radio pack on his back and sank like a stone to the bottom. He tried to remove the radio pack but couldn't get the straps loose and ended up running under water until he could get his head above water only to hear the continuous "plops" of machine gun fire all around him;

- **Thanksgiving Turkey (Philippines)** - the Americans were always better fed and paid than their Australian counterparts and hundreds of Turkeys were flown in for the US troops with some given to the Australians. The meat that the Australians were delivered or purchased from the locals the cooks used to curry and cook it for long periods of time. Dad and his fellow Australians were looking forward to roast turkey only to find the cooks had curried it. The cooks were given a sound hiding and looked very much the worse for wear the following day.

Dad hated curry or anything spicy for the rest of his life, but maintained a love of fried spam.

I hope this is of interest to you and I also have quite a deal of correspondence between Dad and other former members of Central Bureau regarding the publication of the History of the Central Bureau if you're interested. Feel free to contact me - james.c.rogers@bigpond.com

..... James/Jimmy Rogers

VALE: ALWYN PETHERBRIDGE

[We received this email from Bernard Petherbridge on the passing of his father. BJG]

Dear Katy,

I realised, when uncovering a CB newsletter recently, I had forgotten to advise the Central Bureau Intelligence Corps of the passing of my Father, Alwyn Petherbridge on 24 March 2020.

Dad had been on a steady decline for the past couple of years due largely to the impact of dementia and decided to take his leave of this world after 94 years early in the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dad did not quite make his 66th wedding anniversary (missing it by just over a month) and is survived by his wife Marie, three sons (Bernard, Mark and Neil), six grandchildren and one great grandchild.

He did enjoy the times when he was able to meet the local CB folk on ANZAC Day.

In early 2014 we took Dad to the Point Cook RAAF memorial air display and he was quite surprised with the growth on the area compared to what he remembered during his Telegraphist training at Point Cook in 1943/4 and prior to transfer to RAAF Command Brisbane for Special Telegraphist training in receiving Katakana Code.

Dad was subsequently sent with 18 others to Biak via Hollandia to replace the group who left to join General MacArthur's group prior to the invasion of Leyte. Later Dad was sent to Leyte and San Miguel as part of the No. 6 Wireless Unit and was part of the US 113 Signals Intelligence Unit. He departed Manilla in Oct 1945 to return to Australia on the Liberty ship "Francis M Blanchet".

After the war Dad returned to the family soft drink business in Newcastle NSW, which was later acquired by Schweppes Australia. As Company Secretary Dad was instrumental in the merger of Schweppes and Cadbury, in Australia.

Like you Katy, I do enjoy reading about CB and if at all possible would love to continue to receive the newsletter (email is fine).

As with many Veterans, Dad did not talk about his war years very much, unless prompted.

Regards,
Bernard

BOOK REVIEW

ON OUR DOORSTEP – WHEN AUSTRALIA FACED THE THREAT OF INVASION BY THE JAPANESE

Craig Collie's extensive knowledge of Pacific history, and his scrupulous research, well qualify him as author of the new book, **On our Doorstep**. His prior experience as a TV Producer-Director is evident in his ability to paint word-pictures to enliven what might be otherwise a flat recitation of historical facts. This book faithfully portrays the backdrop to the vital work of Central Bureau and its associated units.

Although the war in Europe and North Africa had demanded a considerable amount of mobilisation, Prime Minister John Curtin observed with concern the nonchalance of the majority of Australians. Distance and insularity were held to be sufficient to discourage attacks on our country. This was not the view of the Australian Government, which had established a War Cabinet. Pearl Harbour was attacked, and on 8 December 1941, the Prime Minister, in a national broadcast, announced that we were at war with Japan.

It was not widely known that Japan's Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere was intended to replace the "British Imperialists" and their access to valuable natural resources. Singapore, the "Gibraltar of the East" was in their sights. The British view was that the defeat of Germany was the first priority, and in any case, Malaya was "impenetrable jungle", sufficient to prevent southward advance. On 15 February 1942, British troops in Singapore surrendered.

To this day, few Australians have realised the number and extent of Japanese air raids on Darwin. The Australian resistance of Hudsons and Wirraways, obviously, was no match for Bettys and Zeros. The attack, when it came, was led by the same experienced commander who had engineered the disastrous Pearl Harbour attack.

A chapter on extensive midget submarine activity in Sydney Harbour describes the sinking of a re-purposed ferry and the shelling of some harbourside houses, while warships remarkably escaped attention.

John Curtin and Winston Churchill conducted a frank cable war, resulting in the return of Australian troops of the 6th and 7th divisions from North Africa and Europe. Churchill regarded almost all of Australia's forces as being at Britain's disposal, but reluctantly accepted that history had moved on.

The entry of the US into the war is described candidly, including the part played by General Douglas MacArthur and British and Australian Generals and those of equivalent rank in the other services. Central Bureau personnel worked well with US, British, Canadian and New Zealanders of all ranks.

After the Midway battle, Admiral King, in Washington, deftly discouraged any suspicion that Allied code-breaking might have contributed to the American success which was reported as temporarily lifting the threat of invasion of Australia and paving the way for a second front in the Western Pacific.

Australia's preparation to resist invasion was ill-co-ordinated at least. The fierce fighting in New Guinea served to ensure frustration of any plan for occupation.

On our Doorstep is presented as a 404- page paperback bound to attract attention. Abundant end-notes, Bibliography and Index ensure its authenticity.

Robert Brown

Publisher: Allen & Unwin

[I am grateful for Robert's willingness to review Craig's book for us. It is available in bookstores and online from the publishers for around \$30. BJG]

HELEN ANDREWS

[Committee Member Annette Salmon alerted me to this amazing article and video about Helen Andrews and her recruitment to Bletchley Park as a young girl on her way from South America to Cambridge University. This "recruitment technique" was typical of the way many of "our" young girls were recruited to CB in Ascot in Brisbane during WWII. Thank you Annette. BJG]

I WAS A TEENAGE CODE-BREAKER AT BLETCHLEY PARK

Helen Andrews was one of the youngest at Bletchley Park when she arrived from South America.

A brilliant mathematician at 17, her family had been told that she had a place at Cambridge.

She travelled back to the UK on a lightly guarded Atlantic convoy of ships which took almost four weeks.

Three ships in the convoy were sunk by U-boats - as the convoy was not allowed to stop, she witnessed many women and children drowning.

When she docked at Tilbury, she was invited to the captain's quarters, where she was told: "A man is waiting for you. Get in his car and don't ask any questions".

She was driven to Bletchley, not Cambridge. At 92 she has only just started talking about her experiences.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/uk-50840818>

[The above link will take you to Helen's beautiful video, shown by the BBC on 19th December last year. BJG]

VP DAY - STAN CLARKE OAM

[With permission from the journalist, Robert Muir, this article was printed originally in the Yarrowonga Chronicle last August about our own Stan Clarke. Thank you to Robert and Stan for making it available to CB. BJG]



As a Leading Aircraftman with the Royal Australian Air Force in World War 11, undertaking a secret role of Kana man, Stan Clarke OAM of Mulwala laid a wreath in respect of those who contributed to the success of World War 11 last Saturday and placed a daffodil on behalf of Central Bureau Intelligence Corps Association, described by Stan as "an emblem of hope – hope that we can live in peace from this day on".

Last Saturday, August 15, 2020 was the 75th anniversary of the end of World War 11.

But this year was a small affair due to the coronavirus pandemic. There were no words, merely the laying of a wreath and a daffodil by Stan at the foot of his own property's flagpole.

Stan is passionate about VP Day. “I thought about Australia, the new Australia that came into being on that day,” he told the Yarrowonga Chronicle.

“It was the beginning of the new Australia. All the warring countries had increased their technology to a huge extent to try to get the better of their opponents, and all of a sudden all that knowledge could be put to more useful purposes.

“If we want a date that nobody can disagree with then VP Day, to me, should be Australia Day. To me, it is the most important day on the Australian calendar.”

Australia, Stan said, took in a large number of displaced European people, and many went to work on the Snowy Hydro Electric Scheme. “We called them new Australians, but they gave us a new Australia. We bonded together; and it all started with the end of the war on 15 August.”



A kamikaze attack is Stan’s most vivid memory of WWII action. It was October 1944, and Stan, just 20-years-of-age, was under enemy fire in the Battle of Leyte Gulf, in the Philippines.

“I saw a Japanese fighter plane, a little Zero, embedded in the top of a big warship,” the now 96-year-old said.

“There was heavy bombing from air strikes. Our gunner, who was American, brought down seven little planes.”

Stan was two months shy of 19 in 1943 when he joined the war effort. He’d been working in the Postmaster-General’s Department as a sorter, living in Woodend and boarding in Melbourne.

“The war had come to Australia and there was going to be conscription. It was far better to enlist than just hang around and eventually be shoved into one of the services you might not wish to go into,” he explained.

The Postmaster-General’s was a protected industry so they had to wait until women were trained to be sorters, before the men could be released. Because of his job, Stan knew Morse code. His war role was as a signals interception operator.

Their job was to intercept Japanese Morse code messages for use by the Central Bureau Code Breakers. Japanese Morse code was called Kana. “We were Kana men.”

He became part of a highly secret RAAF unit that was one of the very few Australian units to join American forces in the liberation of the Philippines. Stan and his group were attached to No. 6 Wireless Unit just before the invasion forces set out for Leyte Gulf.

The group came under the Central Bureau Intelligence Corps Association, founded by General Douglas MacArthur and set up by General Aiken, American Chief Intelligence Officer.

“History will say no Australians served in the Philippines, but we did,” said Stan of his role in espionage. Also known as The Eavesdroppers, his unit is little known to this day, even to some war experts.

Stan had come back from serving in New Guinea, before his group was specially flown to Hollandia, now Indonesia, and taken across to Leyte by ship.

“It was the largest armada that ever existed,” he said. “It was ships as far as you could see looking over from Hollandia. Just ships, ships, ships, ships... The Battle of Leyte Gulf was the biggest naval engagement ever fought. Conditions were shocking; 34 inches of rain fell in the first 40 days.”

No. 6 wireless Unit went ashore on 5 November, 1944. They set up operations amid the “Ugly sights and putrid smells”. Base was a schoolhouse in Tolosa, Leyte.

After Leyte, Stan’s Unit took part in the Battle of Luzon; travelled to San Miguel, north of Manila and set up headquarters in a large sugar mill. It was there Stan and his mates were told they’d be going with the American Invasion forces into Japan. Intelligence warned them to expect a determined enemy, who had thousands of suicide planes prepared. “An invasion date had been set; we were measured for our winter uniforms.”

But they never got there. At 0845 on 6 August 1945 the men’s wireless headsets went berserk. An atom bomb had been dropped on Hiroshima. Japan surrendered on 15 August. But they didn’t get to celebrate, Stan’s group of operators had been transferred to 7 Wireless Unit at Strathpine, Brisbane.

“We were told we could go home if we could find a way,” he said. “Seven of us were able to hitch hike out of there – or plane hike I suppose you’d call it. Later we had to sign a 30-year secrecy document.”

Stan had previously married at home on R&R, and had three children. But after the war his marriage ended and he brought up his three boys alone. Later, he married again, became a publican and travelled the world with his wife.

A revelation in late life has been friendship with the Japanese, formed through his grandson Bradley, who married a Japanese woman. “You can’t forget but you do forgive. I’m a lot more mellow these days.”

Witnessing Stan last Saturday were his son Greg Clarke and Alan Neal, both of Mulwala.

“As a mentor, he’s inspirational to anyone who meets him,” 78-year-old Alan, a retired public servant with the Victorian Education Department said.

“He’s always been there for me,” 68-year-old son Greg said. “He deserves all the recognition he gets. Hopefully there’s much more recognition to come.”

Stan said he greatly appreciated the support from Central Bureau Intelligence Corps Association, in particular “Katy Denis and her husband who is of French descent in respect of everything leading up to today – they put my name forward”.

A letter of appreciation was sent to Stan from the Governor of Victoria, Linda Dessau AC. “I wanted to take this opportunity to make contact, to thank you personally for your service, and for your contribution to the community through RSL activities across the years,” she said.

EMAIL FROM GERALDINE COLE

Good afternoon Bruce,

As some of us are home based currently with plenty of time on our hands, I would like to recommend a good book I am reading that I think a lot of members would enjoy.

It is titled “Australian Code Breakers” by James Phelps and for those not familiar with the title it is about code breaking, cryptography and deciphering in the Australian Navy in WW1. A great history lesson too.

I am so engrossed in it and it is a wonderful read. I was lucky to win the copy in a recent newspaper competition.

This work was the forerunner to what went on at Central Bureau in WW2.

Wishing everyone good health,

Geraldine Cole

LETTER TO KATY FROM WILL F. RENSHAW, OAM.

Dear Katy,

Re: Central Bureau Casuarina Memorial Tree & Plaque in the Shrine Reserve

I have noticed references in recent CBICA Newsletters to the Central Bureau Memorial Casuarina Tree and Plaque in the grounds of the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne.

I was at the Dedication Service in 1994 having been a member of No. 5 Wireless Unit, RAAF, as an Ultra-secret (Japanese) Kana Code wireless intercept operator with General MacArthur’s Central Bureau at San Miguel in the Northern Philippines.

Enclosed is a copy of the programme of the Dedication Service held on April 22, 1994 which will provide some of the missing information of which enquiries have been made.

[Reproduced below BJJ] I forwarded a copy to the Shrine Trustees for their records.

My shift supervisor during my time with No. 5 was Jack Bleakley, who later was the author of “The Eavesdroppers: Now their stories can be told”. It was at Jack’s funeral service in February 2016 when I was last with Keith (“Zero”) Faulkner. An interesting letter from Keith’s widow, Valerie, was published in the March 2020 CBICA Newsletter (Pg 4).

In the last few years of the Melbourne CBD Anzac Day march (before car transport was required), Jack and I led the RAAF Wireless Units group.

On a quite different note concerning the Shrine, my now late sister was modelled as a six month old baby by the sculptor, Paul Montford, for the “Peace and Goodwill” statue that stands at the city end of the Shrine facing Government House. (It is my mother’s hand but the lady holding the baby is not my mother.)

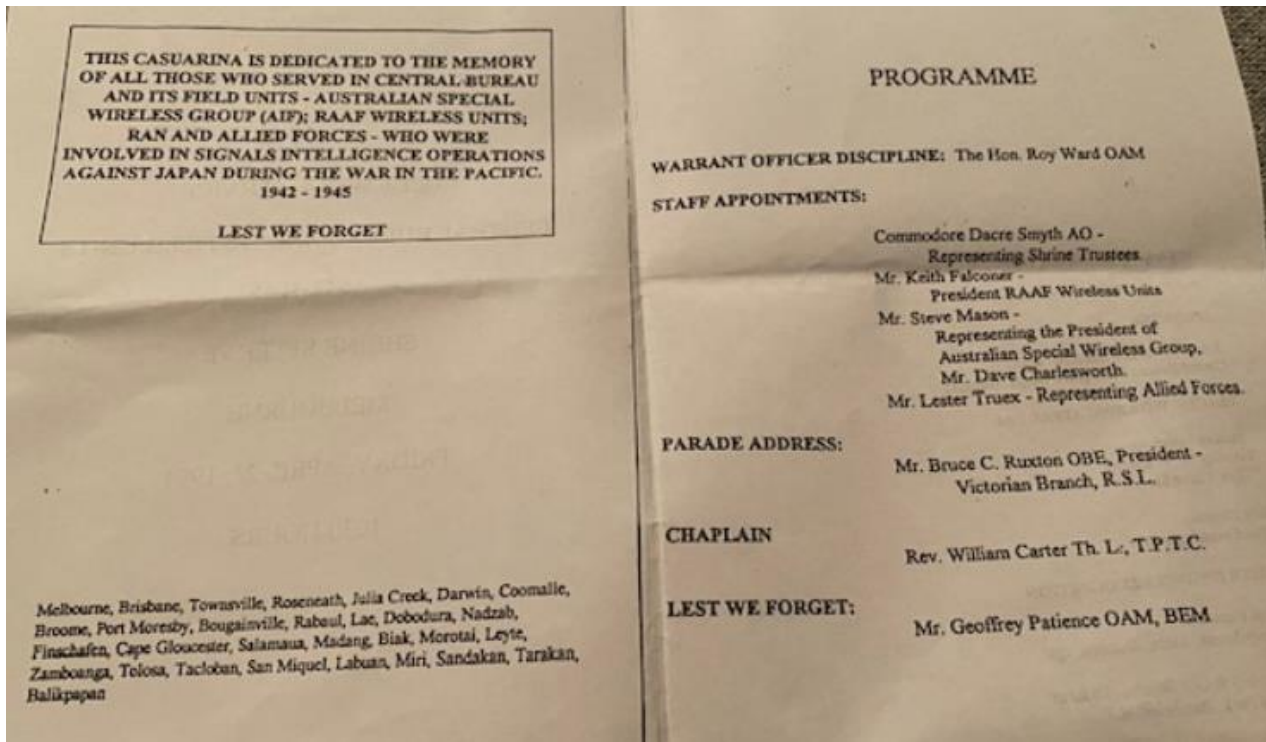
Yours sincerely,

Will F. Renshaw, OAM.

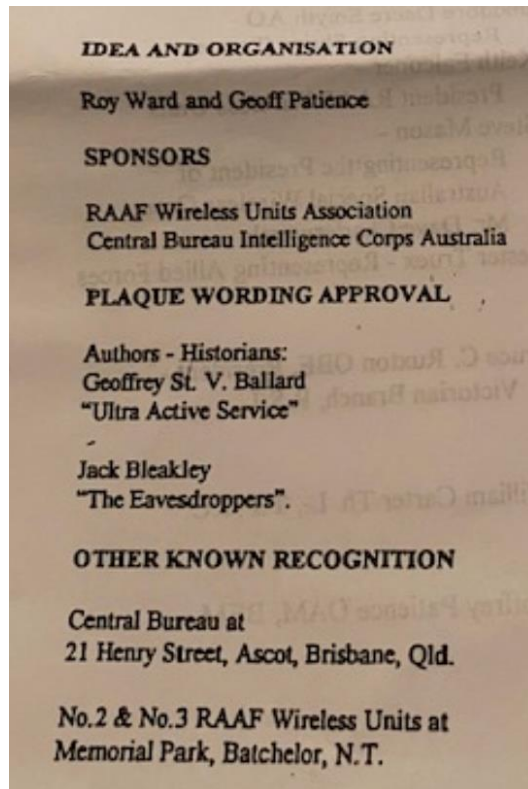
Programme Details:- Front cover:

DEDICATION SERVICE
CENTRAL BUREAU AND ITS FIELD UNITS
1942 – 1945
SHRINE RESERVE
MELBOURNE
FRIDAY, APRIL 22, 1994
10.30 HOURS

Centre:



Back page:



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[Thank you all – my very best wishes for the future, and thank you for the past! BJJ]

LONG LIVE CB!

Looking back

