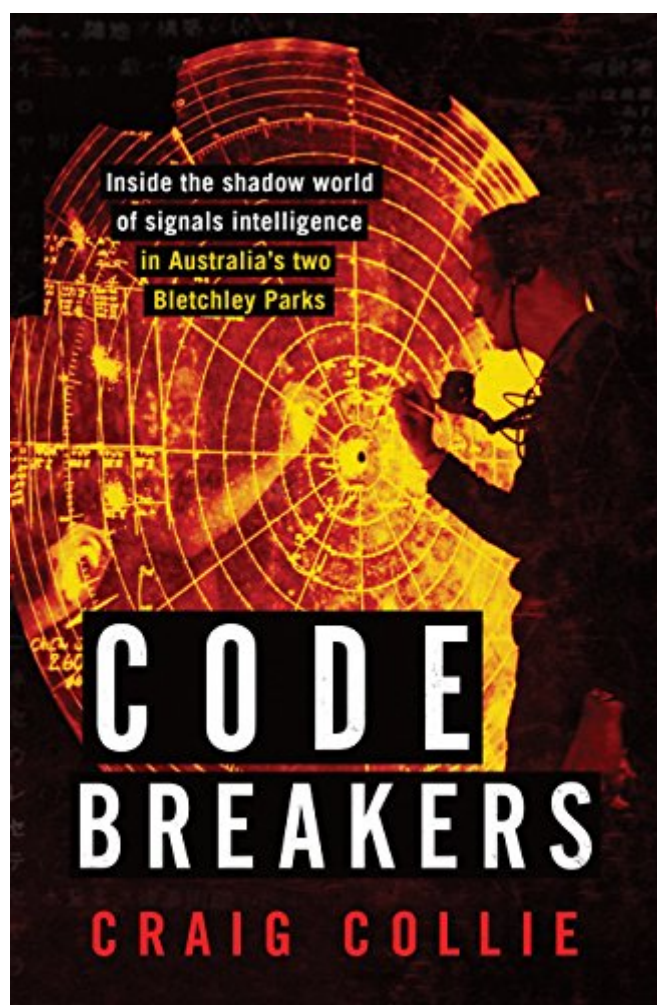The book was found

Code Breakers: Inside The Shadow World Of Signals Intelligence In Australia's Two Bletchley Parks

Synopsis

At the height of World War II in the Pacific, two secret organisations existed in Australia to break Japan's military codes. They were peopled by brilliant and idiosyncratic cryptographers, including some with achievements in mathematics and the Classics and others who had lived or grown up in Japan. These men patiently and carefully unravelled the codes in Japanese signals, ultimately playing a crucial role in the battles of Midway and the Coral Sea, as well as Macarthur's push into the Philippines. An intercept station in the Queensland bush brought about the end of Admiral Yamamoto.But this is more than a story of codes. It is an extraordinary exploration of a unique group of men and their intense personal rivalries and loathing, of white-anting and taking credit for others' achievements. It is also the story of a fierce inter-national and inter-service political battle for control of war-changing intelligence between a group of cryptographers based at the Monterey apartment block in Melbourne's Albert Park and General MacArthur's counter group that eventually established its headquarters in suburban Brisbane. What happened between these two groups would have consequences for intelligence services in the years to follow.Code Breakers brings this surprising and very secret world and the men who operated in it to rich life for the first time.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Secret WWII history revealed. The huge impact that code breaking had on the course of the Pacific war has been a secret for far too long. Firstly as a result of the official secrets act. Then because the world moved on. The main players, unheralded code breaking heroes faded from the scene, and the people most affected ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ those fighting the war, like my father ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ died without knowing the truth.And the truth is fascinating. Great advances in the secret war, from small beginnings: a talented young Australian learning Japanese in the 1920s (when Japan was a First World War ally), the need to read Japanese (Kana) Morse Code and eventually to decode encrypted Kana. Then more cryptographers, joined by mathematicians and linguists, and a secret code breaking unit is born.Much of the early action takes place at Albert Park in Melbourne, fed by listening stations at Moorabbin and Park Orchards. Then major early wins (like the Battle of the Coral Sea) reinforce the value of AustraliaÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s new secret intelligence weapon to the top brass pushing the Japanese out of the region.More code breakers join the unit, which as military and naval successes drive the enemy north, morphs into two units, one in Melbourne, then in Brisbane, then moving further North with MacArthur. A ripping yarn.I wish my father, who read everything written about the war that so consumed his youth, had had the chance to read this book. It takes nothing from the bravery and courage of the soldiers and sailors that fought and won. What it does do is provide a new, intriguing picture of the secrets behind MacArthurÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s brilliantly successful strategies that eventually won the war.Craig Collie has done us and our forebears a huge favour. Time to read some of his other works.

This book told me about something I didn't know, namely the work of the Australian code breakers during World War 2. I didn't know how extensive the work was and the contribution they made to the eventual victory.

I recommend this book. It reveals what the quiet achievers were doing behind the scenes during the war in the Pacific to gather intelligence. This book goes a little way to giving them some belated recognition for the important role these code breakers played in the victory.

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