

THE VOICE

June 2009 Edition

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Spirit of ANZAC Update

Last issue of The Voice profiled the Spirit of ANZAC Prize with the promise of a report this issue. Fortunately, two of the winning students have done much of the work for us (well, all of the work actually). Spirit of ANZAC Study Tour participants, James and Hana, share some of their impressions and experiences of the Korean leg of the tour in the form of a weblog (blog). For those interested, more pictures and blogs covering the trip can be found at: www.youthcentral.vic.gov.au

Day 1: 23 April, 2009

After waking up extremely early, we all made our way to Melbourne Airport, excited about what was coming. After saying our goodbyes to our families, we boarded the Korean Airlines plane bound for Seoul, South Korea. Seeing South Korea for the first time in the air, made us think about the opportunities that we were about to encounter.

There was a short bout of anxiety, when we weren't met on arrival as planned by our guide and tour bus. There was a mismatch in the schedules - we arrived earlier than they expected - and the one mobile phone with the all-important contact details had a flat battery! Fortunately, just as the tour leaders had arranged an alternative our tour guide arrived and lead us straight onto the bus.

Our drive to the Lotte Hotel was an eye-opener, as we saw the difference between South Korea and Australia immediately. Seoul is so much bigger than Melbourne - 10 million people. When we saw the hotel we were staying in, none of us could believe it. Being on level 26 and in the middle of the city, the views of Seoul from our rooms were amazing. The hotel has stunning facilities.

For dinner, we went downstairs to hotel's Italian restaurant and after eating familiar meals on our first night in an unfamiliar country, we all went to bed after a very long day.

Day 2: April 24, 2009

We first visited the National Folk Museum, which had lots of information on Korea and its culture. After passing through the gates, we

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Associate Member

International Federation of Korean War Veterans
Korea & South East Asia Forces Association of Australia
Sister with Korean War Veterans Association Australian Chapter
Twinned with the South London Branch British Korean Veterans Associations
Twinned with the Korea Veterans Association of Canada

Affiliated Associations

Association of Queensland Korea Veterans Inc
Australia & Korea Veterans Assoc. Sunshine Coast Inc
Korea War Veterans Association of NSW



THE VOICE

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John Duson
Athol Egeberg
Mick Everett†
Jim Farmer JP
J F Frawley OAM BEM†
Stan Gallop
Olwyn Green OAM (Hon)
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George Lang OAM
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Don McLeod
George Mitchell†
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Ormond Petherick
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Editorial Disclaimer

Articles in *The Voice* are printed on the understanding that, unless stated, they are the original works of the contributors or authors. The editor reserves the right to reject, edit, abbreviate, rewrite or rearrange, any item submitted for publication. The view of the contributing authors are not necessarily those of the Association, the editor or publishers of *The Voice*.

President's Report

Good weather for the whole day made life a little more comfortable for those ex-servicemen and women who took part in the ANZAC Day parade here in Melbourne. Each year there always seems to be a shortage of bands, but at least from St Kilda Road up the forecourt of the Shrine to the dispersal point, the marching music comes through loud and clear. Thanks to Frank Wyatt, the coach company and the driver for making a coach available to transport everyone to the reunion at Stella Maris. I'm sure that a lot of very tired feet and their owners appreciated the lift.

The annual Memorial Service at the Korean Church of Melbourne is to be held on June 21st at 10am. Please submit your names to the Secretary or Treasurer if you wish to attend. Common courtesy would suggest that we give our hosts the attendance figures at least 10 days before the ceremony. Everyone is welcome to attend this very important occasion but please phone in your names. The reception given to we Australians is always warm and sincere, the congregation take great care to ensure that we are extremely well cared for both in the Church and later at the special morning tea provided for us.

Does anyone know or remember the late (3/400057) John William Hutchinson. He entered Korea on 28 November 1950 and departed on 4 March 1951. His son is seeking information about his father, if you can help please contact me and I will put you in contact.

Our Commemoration Day ceremony is on Sunday July 26th at the Shrine. Meet-and-greet at 12.30pm and the service starts at 1pm. After the service we adjourn to Stella Maris for light refreshments.

Take care and rug up for winter.

Vic Dey OAM

The Green Green Grass of Home

Readers may be familiar with the old adage: lies, damned lies and statistics. These days it should more accurately read: lies, damned lies, statistics and the Internet. The following story, currently doing the rounds via e-mail, is unsourced and contains no details. It could be true, and possibly is true, and one hopes it is true, but...

This soldier, stationed in dusty and dry Afghanistan, asked his wife to send him dirt (Australian soil), fertilizer, and some grass



seed so that he could smell the grass, and feel it grow beneath his feet. When the men of the squadron have a mission, they take turns walking through the grass in Australian soil before setting out – to bring them good luck. If you notice, he is even cutting the grass with a pair of a scissors. Sometimes we are in such a hurry that we don't stop and think about the little things that we take for granted.

ANZAC Day Motorcade

Those of you who were at the ANZAC day Collingwood versus Essendon match at the MCG, or watched it on television, couldn't have failed to notice the motorcade of veterans which did a circuit of the ground before the match. KVAA Committeeman, Keith Langdon, and member, George Coleman, represented those who served in Korea. As the cars made their way around the ground the 90,000+ crowd stood and clapped. Keith reports that this made him a bit emotional, but that it was a great feeling.

However, there was more to the day than just the motorcade. Before the match, the veterans and their partners enjoyed a three course lunch in the dinning room, and at three quarter time, they met the Prime Minister in the Legends Room where Mr Rudd shook the hand of each veteran and thanked them for their service to their country. *[Curiously, none of the veterans thanked Mr Rudd for his service to the country. And the next time someone gets to meet the PM, could they make sure they have a camera with them, or get a copy of any photo taken to me ASAP! - Editor]*

Korean War Memorial Service

The Korean War Memorial Service is on 21 June 2009 at 1000 hours.

Korean Church of Melbourne, 23-27 Glendearg Grove, Malvern. (Melways 59 C10)

Last year, it was most impolite of members just to turn up without advising their intention. An embarrassing situation we must avoid. The Korean Church Secretary requires ALL NAMES OF ATTENDEES.

Please advise me as Secretary A.S.A.P (Urgently!) if you are attending, on 03 9874 2219 or 0412 521 488

Lamp Ladies by P. M. (Dita) McCarthy

Introduction: Dita McCarthy spent 31 years as a nurse with the Australian Defence Force, finishing her career as Matron-in-Chief of the RAANC, and retiring with the rank of Brigadier. This piece is an excerpt from Lamp Ladies, Chapter 33 of Korea Remembered [Fred Kirkland & Maurice Pears, Wanclyff 1996]. Dita has arrived from Japan at her new posting: a bombed out two storey building, previously a school and now a hospital. Given their working conditions, it is a tribute to the dedication of nursing staff that more of the wounded didn't die.

Our living quarters were spartan, being a very small cubicle, a bed or stretcher with just enough room for our military trunk. There were no doors to the cubicles but somehow we scrounged fabric and sewed curtains to hang over the door frames. There was no running water. The building was tapless. Showering, which was confined to one hour a day, and was carried out by standing under 44 gallon drums and then pulling on a rope. No heated water. At first there was no internal heating in building, but later some 'pot bellied' stoves were acquired for the medical wards, barely sufficient to change the internal room temperature. Electricity was almost non-existent. There was a generator but it rarely worked. Night 'rounds' were carried out with the aid of a hurricane lamp or candles, hence the title of this article, *Lamp Ladies*.

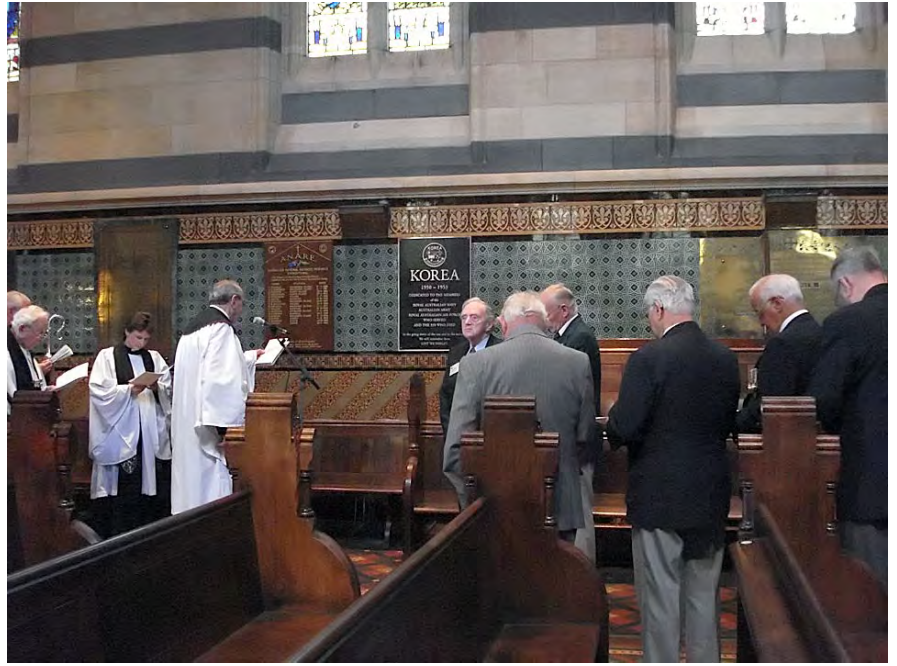
Despite the lack of facilities we were determined that 'our hospital' was going to be the cleanest, most hygienic, germ and bacteria free establishment in Korea. This entailed the continual scrubbing and washing down of floors, walls, beds etc with what soap, detergents and antiseptics we could beg, borrow or steal. The Quarter Master (QM), a Canadian, and his store was located in the basement. There was no insulation between the floors of the medical wards (ground floor) and the ceiling of the QM's Store. As a result of our ongoing cleaning activities, excess water would run down into the store room. Regularly, the QM could be heard bellowing throughout the building: "those bloody Australians are at their cleaning games again."

KVAA Inc. Events 2009

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| January 28 | General meeting: Stella Maris Seafarers Centre, 600 Little Collins St. Melbourne. |
| January 31 | Korean picnic. |
| February 25 | General meeting: Stella Maris Seafarers Centre followed by BBQ. |
| March 25 | Annual General Meeting: Stella Maris Seafarers Centre. |
| March 29 | St Paul's Cathedral: Memorial service 1400 hours followed by refreshments at the Stella Maris Seafarers Centre. |
| April 22 | General meeting: Stella Maris Seafarers Centre. |
| April 25 | ANZAC Day parade. |
| May 27 | General meeting: Stella Maris Seafarers Centre. |
| June 21 | Korean Church service: 10am at the Korean Church of Melbourne |
| June 24 | General meeting: Stella Maris Seafarers Centre. |
| July 26 | Cease fire parade: Gather 1230 hours at the Shrine of Remembrance. Service: 1330 hours followed by refreshments at Stella Maris Seafarers Centre. |
| July 29 | General meeting: Stella Maris Seafarers Centre. |
| August 26 | General meeting: Stella Maris Seafarers Centre. |
| Sept. 30 | General meeting: Stella Maris Seafarers Centre followed by BBQ. |
| October 28 | General meeting: Stella Maris Seafarers Centre. |
| Nov. 25 | General meeting: Stella Maris Seafarers Centre. |
| December 2 | Christmas luncheon and long service awards. Details to be announced in <i>The Voice</i> .
No general meeting in December. |
| Note: | Committee meetings: start 1000 hours at Stella Maris. General meetings: start 1100 hours.
Dates are subject to change; however, members will be duly notified. |

Out & About

Memorial Service at St Pauls Cathedral, 29th March



ANZAC Day 25th April



Government Notices

Australian General Service Medal - Korea (for Post-Armistice Service)

The Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Support, the Hon. Dr Mike Kelly AM MP, has announced that Her Majesty, The Queen, has given her in-principle approval to the award of the Australian General Service Medal for Korea (AGSM).

“The AGSM will be issued to those former Defence Force personnel who completed 30 days in South Korea during the post-Armistice period from 28 July 1953 to 19 April 1956,” Dr Kelly said. “The 30-day eligibility criterion for the AGSM is consistent with the recommendations of the Post-Armistice Korean Service Review Report, which was released in December 2005. Although the AGSM has now received in-principle approval, it still needs to be formally established through the development of Letters Patent and Regulations which again require approval by Her Majesty The Queen. This, together with the process of finalising medal design and the manufacturing aspect can take some time, but Defence has made implementation of this new medal a priority so that it should begin being issued in early 2010.”

Applications are now being accepted from former Defence Force personnel who served in South Korea during the above mentioned period. However, those persons who have already made application for the Returned from Active Service Badge which was announced on 21 November 2008, need not reapply.

Applications should be made to the following address:

Directorate of Honours and Awards
T-1-49
Department of Defence
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Suicide Study Recommendations

(Minister for Veterans' Affairs, the Hon. Alan Griffin, MP. Media release VA032 4 May 2009)

The Australian Government is allocating \$9.4 million in additional funding to boost mental health services for veterans and ex-serving personnel, the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Alan Griffin, announced today. The Government has accepted all of the recommendations of the Independent Study into Suicide in the Ex-service Community, which was released today. The study was a 2007 election commitment by the Rudd Government, and was undertaken by Melbourne University public health specialist Professor David Dunt.

The study examined broad issues of suicide in the ex-service community and a number of specific cases of suicide in the past three years. The Government has already met with ex-service organisations to discuss the report. Several recommendations have practical implementation issues that will need to be discussed with the ex-service community. Mr Griffin said the Government would continue to work in partnership with the ex-service community regarding these issues.

“Changes that will be made include the strengthening of mental health programs, including suicide prevention, and the further simplification of administrative procedures faced by those transitioning out of the Australian Defence Force, or applying for compensation. More experienced case managers will be assigned to support clients with complex needs and DVA will increase access to mental health clinical expertise. The Government has ensured that funds are available so that Professor Dunt's programs and initiatives can be implemented in a timely manner. Mental health in the ex-service and veteran community is a critical issue and the Government is allocating \$9.4 million to fund the appropriate support. This funding is in addition to the Government's recent commitment of \$83 million over four years to address the gaps identified in mental health care in the ADF and transition through discharge,” Mr Griffin said.

While the suicide study found some evidence to suggest veterans may be at increased risk of health problems, and studies have shown some evidence to indicate elevated suicide risk among Australian veterans, this evidence is by no means conclusive.

However, Professor Dunt has made a series of recommendations that will help ensure the system will be more 'user friendly'. This should ensure those who use DVA services, and are at risk of self harm, will find it easier to get the support that they need.

Full text of the study and the Government's response can be found at www.dva.gov.au

The VVCS - Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service can be contacted 24 hours a day, seven days a week on 1800 011 046.

Human Rights in North Korea Conference

The North Korean regime was one of the nastiest of the 2nd half of the 20th century (even by the very low standards of totalitarian communist dictatorships) and it has not improved in the 21st. If anything, now that it has lost most of its supporters and backers (the USSR and the communist dictatorships of Eastern Europe) and with China is now lukewarm at best, it has grown nastier as its plight has become more desperate.

The 9th International Conference on Human Rights in North Korea was held in Melbourne on March 20-21. Organised by the Citizen's Alliance for North Korea Human Rights and the Australian Committee for Human Rights in North Korea, the meeting was chaired by Michael Danby (MHR for Melbourne Ports) and the keynote speaker was Stephen Smith, the Minister for Foreign Affairs. nearly 250 delegates from Australia and overseas attended the event. A special guest was Shin Dong-hyuk whose story (the barest outline of) will be told later.

The people of North Korea lack even the basic rights found in Western nations, and are repressed to a degree shunned by most other "liberal" communist dictatorships (i.e. Cuba, China). The government, led by *Dear Comrade*, Kim Jong Il (son of *Great Leader*, Kim Il Sung), controls all means of communication (press, radio, television), movement, where you live, your rations, employment, personal associations, and even what you are supposed to say, think and feel. Anyone and everybody not part of the upper echelon of the government is subject to arbitrary arrest, detention, and even summary execution, often for the most trivial of crime.

For instance, a young pianist played superbly at a Chopin festival attended by Kim Jong Il, who was suitably impressed. He told the pianist he should also play in the Tchaikovsky competition. The young man answered modestly that he thought he would need more practice for that. Insanely, this was construed as the grievous crime of disagreeing with the *Dear Leader* and the young pianist was sent to work in a mine for 10 years.



"Does my bum look big in this?" Artist and refugee from North Korea, Sun Mu's caricature of Kim Jong Il. A portrait such as this painted in North Korea would mean arrest and execution of the painter and the Gulag (and eventual death) for his family and relatives.

When an individual is arrested, often their entire family and close relatives are too. All vanish into the various punishment camps that comprise the Korean Gulag. Few are ever released and only one prisoner (Shin Dong-hyuk in 2005) is known to have escaped from the Gulag and reached the west. However, from these few and other sources, it is known that prisoners are brutally treated and subjected to torture, slave labour, starvation, forced abortions and infanticide, public execution and medical experimentation.

Shin Dong-hyuk was born in Political Prisoners' Camp No 14 (South Pyeong-An province). He was born there because his uncles were said to have given some (unspecified) assistance to South Korea during the Korean War. So Shin's father inherited his brothers' guilt. And Shin inherited his father's guilt.

As he explained to Greg Sheridan, The Australian's foreign editor: *In the prison camp there is a system of rewards, by allowing marriage between workers. If you're a good prisoner and meet all your work quotas the man is allowed to marry and live for five days or so in the same room as his wife. Then the man goes back to the factory or the mine and lives in a dormitory. If the man meets all his work quotas he's allowed to get together with his wife for one day a month... In the political prisoner camp you cannot fall in love. You cannot meet anyone and have a proper relationship. The guards arrange the marriage as a reward for exemplary workers. And really it's only one-night meetings after that... There's no system to build friendship in that prison. We can't trust each other. Today we might be working in a team, but tomorrow we*

(continues on page 8)

might be enemies, informing on each other or stealing each other's food.

When he turned 14, Shin was sent to into solitary confinement. He was told that his family was plotting to escape and repeatedly interrogated about this. One method the guards used was to build a fire, strip Shin and, tying his arms and legs securely, hang him from the ceiling over the fire. When he tried to twist and turn away from the flame, a guard pierced his gut with a steel hook to hold him in place.

After seven months, Shin was brought to a kind of public square within the camp where he witnessed the hanging of his mother and the shooting of his older brother.

This savagery is routine. Shin also witnessed the rape of his cousin by prison guards and the beating to death of a young girl found with five grains of unauthorized wheat in her pocket. He was guilty of this "crime" himself, having discovered three kernels of corn in a pile of cow dung. He plucked them out, cleaned and then ate them.

When Shin was 23, in 2005, he and another inmate decided to escape. This meant getting past the guards, through the electrified barbed wire fence, and then navigating their way to the Chinese border. The fellow inmate died in the attempt. Alone, Shin stole food and cigarettes to bribe the border guards. From China, he eventually made his way to South Korea.

Escape to South Korea has not brought Shin much in the way of happiness. His years in the concentration camp have left him emotionally and socially scarred.

The reason I wanted to escape is that I was so hungry all the time. My only dream was not to be hungry, so I suppose I achieved that... I don't know that I have a lot happiness or joy. I still have nightmares of being there. And there are a lot of burdens about it. Maybe the thought of Camp 14 haunts me, and the memory of it...

Pyongyang and the today's North Korea is a socialist paradise where all the people have a life with dignity, without poverty and more than ever demonstrate the invincibility and union of the masses around the Leader.

(from the North Korean government's official website: www.korea-dpa.com)

Editor's Endpiece: A conference in Melbourne about a pariah regime that has killed millions of its own people, has dozens of concentration camps containing around 200,000 inmates, runs vast government sponsored drug running, money laundering and counterfeiting operations, is seeking to develop nuclear weapons and ICBMs, all while the population is starving. And the publicity it received...? As far as I can tell, one piece in *The Australian* and *The Melbourne Age* and an interview on ABC radio. Compare this with the hundreds of pieces in the newspapers, and dozens on ABC television (including a number of documentaries), and the public protests about the US naval base at Guatamino Bay and the 500 or thereabouts detainees held as terrorism suspects (including would-be terrorist, David Hicks). If only the (supposedly) pro-civil liberties, freedom of speech and human rights hordes out there would put just one tenth of the effort they throw into their anti-American (and generally anti-capitalist) activities, maybe something could be done concerning pariah regimes such as Burma, North Korea and Zimbabwe. On the other hand, America bashing is much more fun and garners so much more publicity.

Sources / Further Reading:

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KVAA Inc. Proposed Agenda for Unity

Following the Australian visit of Colonel George Gadd OBE (President) and Major General Jeong Kook-Bohn (Secretary-General) of the International Federation of Korean War Veterans Associations (IFKWVA), we have received a *Visit Report and Recommendations* in an attempt to achieve a single unified Australian Association which will represent **ALL KOREA VETERANS** at IFKWVA (as happens with all other 21 member countries).

In summary, IFKWVA recommendations are:

- Being the largest Korea veteran representative association, the KVAA Inc. “DISBANDS” and reforms as Australian Korea Veterans Association (AKVA) based in Melbourne.
- Form a NSW “base” with existing AKVA President, Harry Spicer.
- Establish a SA “base” as AKVA.
- All Korea Veterans be invited to join AKVA, including those who served as Peace Keepers (up until 1956).
- The existing Council (ACKVA) does NOT solve the existing fragmentation within Korea Veterans’ ranks.

Your KVAA Inc. Executive met on 17th April 2009 and proposed:

1. The Executive sees **NO** reason to “disband”, but all members should be given the opportunity to VOTE on the matter (agree/disagree).

2. As an alternative to the IFKWVA recommendations, it is suggested that the KVAA Inc. become:

“The Communications Centre” for Australian Korea Veterans

All communications from Korea (KVA Korea and Ministry of Patriots & Veterans Affairs ROK) that may be of interest or involve Australian Korea veterans are currently directed to the KWVA Chapter (Mr. Steven Kim). **We request that the KWVA Chapter then advise the KVAA Inc. for dissemination to ALL PARTIES with Korea Veterans within their membership (Army, Navy Ships and Squadron Associations, etc).**

3. Representation at Australian and Overseas Functions has been a major cause for conflict with **ALL** Associations, Councils and members. It is our opinion that every Australian Korea veteran should have the right to represent their Association or country should the opportunity arise. We suggest that **ALL** Associations delegate a veteran of their own to represent them at **ANY** special function within Australia or overseas. This would be on a rotational basis operated by one body, eg. the KVAA Inc. If an Association declines an offer, then it gets passed on to the next Association. This would assist our more remote members to participate in veterans’ events.

4. The Executive recommends that a *Letter of Understanding* be addressed to all other Associations with Korea Veteran members. This is to explain **WHERE** we stand for Korea Veterans throughout Australia. that is to say, they can look to the KVAA Inc. for information and any beneficial items.

Our committee, meeting on 22nd April 2009, fully endorsed the Executive’s proposals and the General Meeting (26 members) that followed also gave the proposal their full endorsement. So we now seek **your opinion**.

As financial members of KVAA Inc. you are entitled to have your say in this important issue. We ask that you complete the response sheet **AND** add any comments / suggestions that may assist our approach towards achieving unity.

* * * * *

Please tick your response and return to the Secretary by **14th September 2009**.

I agree / disagree with the KVAA Inc. endorsements of 22nd April 2009.

I am a 2009 financial member of the KVAA Inc.

Please reply with your own positive ideas and suggestions.

Humour

Alternative Careers for Retired Veterans...

KVAA Publicity & Ceremonial, Allan Murray, inspired by the Somali pirates and their 100 million dollar haul (2009 to date), raised the old skull-and-cross-bones and took to the sea under the *nom de guerre*, Murray the Terrible, in search of his own plunder. Unfortunately for Murray, he lives 100 kilometres from the sea. The nearest body of water, Badger Creek (near Healesville, Victoria), is hardly an international waterway or shipping lane, nor is his warship, (a converted dinghy), the formidable weapon he desired. After several months his haul to date is a 50 cent piece (found on the creek bank), a rusty shopping trolley, and a billion dollar Zimbabwe bank note (worth about 2 cents). His book, *Piracy Doesn't Pay in Badger Creek* isn't available at any good book shops anywhere.



Murray the Terrible in his glory days with obligatory parrot.

Postscript: Murray the Terrible hasn't given up his piratical ways. He's simply gone into merchant banking where crime does pay (and pays well).

Scary Phrases

The 3 scariest phrases ever heard in the military:
The private who says, "I learned this in Basic Training..."

The 2nd lieutenant who says, "Trust me, Sir..."

The general who says, "Based on my experience..."

God v Fighter Pilots

Q: What is the difference between God and a fighter pilot?

A: God doesn't think he's a fighter pilot.

Cannibals

Five cannibals are employed by the Army as scouts and translators during one of the island campaigns during World War II. When the Commanding Officer welcomes the cannibals he says, "You're all part of our team now. We will compensate you well for your services, and you can eat any of the rations that the soldiers are eating. But please don't indulge yourselves by eating a soldier."

The cannibals promise not to.

Four weeks later, the CO returns and says, "You're all working very hard, and I'm very satisfied with all of you. However, one of our Master Sergeants has disappeared. Do any of you know what happened to him?"

The cannibals all shake their heads no. After the CO leaves, the leader of the cannibals turns to the others and says, "Which of you idiots ate the Master Sergeant?"

A hand raises hesitantly, to which the leader of the cannibals replies, "You fool! For four weeks we've been eating Lieutenants, Captains, and Majors and no one noticed anything, then YOU had to go and eat an NCO!"

A Sailor Joke

(for ex-Army Personnel)

A soldier in a bar leans over to the guy next to him and says, "Wanna hear a sailor joke?"

The guy next to him replies, "Well, before you tell that joke, you should know something. I'm 6' tall, 200 lbs, and I'm sailor. The guy sitting next to me is 6'2" tall, weighs 225, and he's a sailor. The fella next to him is 6'5" tall, weighs 250, and he's also a sailor. Now, you still wanna tell that joke?"

The soldier says, "Nah, I don't want to have to explain it three times."

The Last Laugh!

A number of years ago, after having Japanese executives from the automotive industry tour a Ford Plant, they held a press conference in which one of the Japanese executives claimed that the American workers were slow and lazy. Not long after, a friend sent me a picture of a bumper sticker on a truck at the Ford plant. It read: "We may be slow and lazy, but we build a damn good bomb!"

Spirit of ANZAC Update (continued from page 1)

were met by hundreds of smiley and friendly school children who were fascinated by us. It's not everyday that they see redheads and blondes!

The fact that we were different made us celebrities. We signed autographs, had pictures taken with many children and they were excited about interacting with us. It was a really special experience - I had never felt so admired. We felt famous!

After our high of feeling so important, we went to Gyeongbokgung Palace where we walked around the magnificent buildings of the palace, greeted by the stone guards. The architecture of the palace was elaborate - beautiful, interesting and unique. Then it was on to the bus to drive down town to Seoul where we had a traditional Korean lunch - our first taste of Korean food in a Korean city. Nice, but different. After lunch we had a quick tour of the Insadong market, where we spent half an hour or so looking for gifts and souvenirs.

We then moved on to the Korean War Memorial, which is bigger than the Australian War Memorial. It had many life-sized and lifelike models of wars that South Korea had taken part in. There were some very insightful video clips on the war, which helped improve our understanding of the Korean War.

Day 3: April 25, 2009

Today was the day we had been waiting for - ANZAC Day. We had to leave the hotel very early to be at the Korean War Memorial for the ANZAC Day service by 6.30am. The service was held in a foyer of the War Memorial, beside plaques where Australian and New Zealand Korean War dead are memorialised. There were about 200 people there, most of them Australian and New Zealand expats, but also tourists, defence force personnel and the Australian and New Zealand ambassadors.

The service was very moving because there were so many different nationalities gathered together for the same reason. Especially when there were citizens from countries that were not involved in the Gallipoli Campaign at all, but were still willing to acknowledge the ANZACS and their sacrifices. Some of us were given the opportunity to be a part of the service by laying wreaths. This made us feel nervous, but very much special as this opportunity does not come around often.

We then drove to the DMZ (Demilitarised Zone) where we felt intimidated by the North Korean presence. Seeing the actual line in which North and South forcefully come together within the Demilitarised Zone was something we won't forget. As we stepped over the line that divides North and South we literally were in two places at once. Seeing how close the opposing guards were and how they stared at each other, made it surreal.

The South Koreans stood in a locked taekwondo pose behind their aviator RayBans - it was scary at times. The atmosphere was tense and it made us feel uneasy. We learnt so many things and we truly felt privileged to have been able to visit the Joint Security Area within the DMZ as few are given this opportunity, which was arranged by the Australian Embassy.



No, this isn't a Madame Tussaud's wax dummy. It is a living breathing (um, we hope) South Korean border guard.

Day 4: 26th April 2009

Today we got up at about 7:30 and went down to breakfast at around 8:00 at Le Seine. We were then summoned to the bus by Mr. Moon and our super guide Austin, to begin our trip up to the DeMilitarized Zone, which everyone calls the DMZ, and which follows the 38th parallel dividing North and South Korea.

We travelled for two long hours on the bus to reach the DMZ, where we visited the Typhoon Lookout. From here we could see both North and South Korea, and important battle sites, including "Hill 355" where John [Brownbill] served as a platoon commander and "Maryang San", a very important battle site that influenced the result of the war.

John told us stories about what he experienced in the war. He told us of the terrible conditions he fought under. The cold so intense that "if you touched metal your skin would freeze to it instantly." The fierceness and determination of the Chinese and how they ambushed and killed many Canadians in that fight.

(continues on page 12)

John also talked about the bravery of every single man that fought. He had us hanging onto every word because what he was telling us was so interesting and compelling. At the Typhoon Lookout we could also see both North and South Korean Guard Posts, which are designed to monitor the goings on, on both sides of the Military Demarcation Line.

After visiting the DMZ we made our way back to Seoul, having lunch on the way home. We arrived in Seoul and spent the rest of the afternoon sightseeing and shopping at the Market. Everyone managed to get a bargain. Jess and Georgie manage to haggle two pairs of shoes from 90,000 won (AUD \$90) to 45,000 won (AUD \$45), which was the best bargain of the day. The array of things that were bought included shoes, scarves and Korean souvenirs, including little plaques, keyrings, table runners, and many more exciting and new things we had never seen before.

In the evening Austin took us to her friend's restaurant for a traditional Korean BBQ meal. We cooked meat on a BBQ with rice, bean paste and a sesame oil and salt sauce. We wrapped it in lettuce and it was quite filling but was not the nicest tasting meal so far. We also had a variety of other things to eat including seaweed, kimchi and other traditional Korean dishes.

After dinner we went for a walk through the streets of Seoul and experienced a bit of the nightlife. We bought a few things along the way and really enjoyed the experience. By the time we reached the hotel we were drop dead tired and pretty much fell into bed after writing a bit in our journals.

Day 5: 27th April 2009

We woke up early this morning to get on the bus by 7:40 to take us to Seoul Station. We caught the KTX bullet train to Pusan, located in the South West of South Korea. The train was really comfortable and even though we were travelling over 300kmph the two-hour trip was very smooth. It was hard to believe we were going so fast.

When we arrived we were taken on a guided tour of the UN Memorial Cemetery of Korea (UNMCK) by the Director of International Affairs for the cemetery, Leo Damay.

Here we all payed our respects to the buried soldiers of 16 nations, including Australia, Canada and Turkey, who fought for South Korea. Some of us paid a personal tribute to individual Diggers who we had "adopted" and researched. Larnie kicked off the proceedings with her Adopted Digger speech on Geelong pilot, Peter Chalmers, who had many exciting adventures before joining the 77th Squadron and who is still listed as "missing in action".

As soon as Larnie saw his name on the memorial she burst in to tears and we all rushed to comfort her. When she read her tribute speech many of us had tears in our eyes and all we could do was hug her.

We then went to another section of the cemetery and looked for the graves of other Diggers people had adopted. Next up was Pip who delivered a very emotional speech about of a soldier from Colac, Joseph "Paddy" Longmore. Bob found his Digger next - Horace "Slim" Madden - and delivered his talk with much intensity.

Felicity then delivered a moving speech which bought tears to our eyes, again. Chris told us an amazing story of two women who were both grieving for men they had lost in the war. The Korean woman, Mrs Kim, had lost her husband and Mrs Healy from Queensland had lost a son. Mrs Kim wrote to Mrs Healy asking for her permission to tend her son's grave and twice a year she would travel Seoul to do it.

The last tribute of the day was to another pilot from 77 Squadron, Keith Elwood Clarkson, given by Peter Haddad, who is one of the veterans travelling with us on the study tour.

At Peter's request Leo, our Canadian guide, then led us to his father's gravesite where he told us an amazing story about about his dad, whom he never met. Leo's father had joined the UN forces when Leo's mother was 1 month pregnant and he was killed at Hill 355 – the same battlefield where John had served - shortly after arriving in Korea.

The UN cemetery was a really touching experience for everyone, which ended with a short presentation ceremony where Larnie passed over the photos, letters and other items from her missing pilot, Peter Chalmers, given to her to take to Korea by his family.

We were all quiet as watched the countryside flash by at 300kph in the bullet train on the way back to Seoul. During the trip we reflected upon the services which had been given at the Memorial Cemetery. We were all deeply moved and really felt that we had, through those presentations, been able to have a real connection with those servicemen of the Korean war.

Seven Days in Korea

by Maurice Butterworth

Maurice Butterworth is an Associate Member who recently revisited South Korea. He is the brother of Jack Butterworth who was killed when the patrol he was part of walked into a minefield (3 dead, 5 wounded). The young Vic Dey (before he rose to fame and fortune as KVAA President) was one of the rescue party who helped carry out the dead and wounded.

On the 14th of April, I flew to Sydney to join a group of 32 Korean veterans and their families for a pilgrimage to South Korea and to remember those mates with whom they served between 1950 and 1953 who did not make it home. I was part of a group of veterans composed of Army, Navy and Air Force personnel. We left Sydney at 9.10 am and arrived in Seoul, Korea at approximately 7.30 pm (Seoul time), after a very enjoyable 10½ hour flight.

The next day saw the start of an organised seven day tour of various national memorials and other places of interest in Seoul and surrounding district. The Korean people involved worked very closely with the Australian Ambassador, Sam Gerovich, and his staff.

Our group joined with veterans from New Zealand, Canada and the United Kingdom for services at the following locations: the Australia-N.Z. and Commonwealth Memorials at Kapyong, the Canadian and Korean War memorials, the Gloster Memorial at Solmari, and the Korean National Cemetery (where there are 165,000 burials). Attending these sacred places was a very sad and moving experience.

Another important activity was a veterans' welcome for the contingents from Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and the United Kingdom. This was held in a huge dining room at the Sofitel Ambassador Hotel in Seoul. After the customary speeches we tucked into a very nice meal. During the evening certain personnel were presented with the Peace Medal. The evening concluded with a short film about the war, and the taking of a group photo of the veterans present.

On the 17th April, we attended a reception at the Australian ambassador's residence, hosted by the ambassador and his wife, Celia. This was a very relaxing and enjoyable break from the protocol of the previous activities.

Another highlight of our tour was a visit to the UN Cemetery in Pusan (Busan). The group travelled by the KTX (Bullet) train from Seoul at a maximum speed of 300 kilometres per hour, arriving in Pusan after three hours. From there we were whisked to the Westin Chosun Hotel for an enjoyable lunch. In the afternoon, the group of Australians, Kiwis, Canadians and UK veterans formed up at the UN Cemetery and marched into the elevated symbolic flag area for a solemn and moving ceremony consisting of speeches, prayers and the laying of wreaths. It concluded with Reveille, the Last Post, and two minutes' silence.

We then moved onto the memorial that pays tribute to those who are missing or have no known grave. A short service followed then the laying of a wreath, specially brought from Australia. After visiting the black marble Wall of Remembrance and its over 40,000 names of those killed in action, we walked to the Hall of Memorabilia where many photos and other items are displayed, including photos supplied by family



Lt. Commander Chris Smith with Ambassador, Sam Gerovich, Maurie Butterworth, David Don, Harry Pooley, and Father McMullen at Jack Butterworth's grave site.

members of loved ones killed in action. Each veteran was presented with a written history and DVD of the cemetery, and a medal to commemorate the visit to this sacred place.

There were other activities and places we visited, such as the DMZ Camp Bonifas and Panmunjom; however, time and space prevent these from being mentioned.

All too soon it was time to catch the bus to the international airport at Incheon for our flight to Beijing, China, thus ending a wonderful and informative trip to South Korea. Congratulations to our tour leader, John Simmons, for the success of this very well organised trip, and for making us all feel welcome and relaxed. Well done, John!

General Notices

Seeking John C Scott

John Cornilius Scott enlisted in the Australian Army in 1951 and served with *1 Battalion* from 14th November 1951 to 21 March 1953. He returned to Sydney on 27 March 1953 on the ship, *New Australia*. Some (unspecified illness) saw him at some stage aboard *RAH Concord* before being transferred to the *Lady Gowrie* after which he was to rejoin his old unit, *1st Field Regiment*. He never reported back and was listed AWOL. Nothing is known about him after that. He died in 1975 at Fortunate Valley in Queensland. Did you know him? If so, his nephew, Ronald Scott, would like to hear from you. Contact the editor for details.

Our nominees to represent the KVAA Inc. at the proposed quarterly Victorian State Consultative Forums are:

Alan McDonald (Specialist Delegate)

Ivan Ryan (Veterans Affairs)

Kenneth Mankelow (Welfare, Pensions & Bereavement)

Thanks to them all for volunteering their services.

Farewells

John W (Snow) Hutchinson
on 3 April 2009

Douglas Meek
D Coy, 3 Bn, 3RAR
on 27 April 2009

Condolences to wife, Shirley.

The Ode

**They shall grow not old,
As we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them,
Nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun,
and in the morning
We will remember them.**

LEST WE FORGET

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