

THE VOICE

August 2010 Edition

Contents:

Yujin Ko Wants You!	1
Life Members	2
Directory	2
Merchandise Available	2
President's Report	3
25th June Summary	3
Out & About	4
RAAF Memorial Plaque Dedication	6
Kapyong: My Experience	7
Healing the Wounds of War	8
2010 Peace Camp for Youth	9
Korea: Land of the Morning Calm	11
Ted Parkinson on Korea Then & Now	11
Notices	12
Funnies	13
Geelong Heroes Remember Korea	14
WWII Factoids	14
Editorial Disclaimer	14
Farewells	14
The Ode	14

Legacy Week

29 Aug - 4 Sep 2010

Buy a badge to support the families of deceased veteran



Yujin Ko Wants You!

Here's a message from Yujin Ko to all Korean War veterans. Who is Yujin Ko? I'm glad you asked. She's a determined Korean female high school student who supported the Peace District Project. What is the Peace District Project? I'm glad you asked. What does Yujin Ko want with Korean War veterans? I'm glad you asked that too. Read on...

From Yujin Ko:

The Korean National Assembly recently passed a bill designating the Busan United Memorial Cemetery as a special United Peace District. It is a particularly meaningful and happy occasion for me since I have been leading a small campaign in my high school to support the passage



Yujin Ko

of the bill. I have conducted street campaigns in various towns, and I sent 'thank you' emails to many war veterans. I additionally developed a website to make the project visible to more people.

However, I think that it is now time to enter a new phase in supporting the government project. Currently it has been essentially a local celebration and only a small number of Koreans are aware of the bill. To that end, I would like to ask for your help.

I will be highly honored if you would please visit my website and leave any messages concerning your experiences as

a Korean War veteran so I can utilize them to make the project more visible to all Koreans including our younger generations (those of my age). The following is the site address: http://unpeacezone.com/bbs/zboard.php?id=free_board [Editor: or go via the website – <http://www.unpeacezone.com> – and click on Mail Box].

I would also appreciate if you would let your colleagues know about my website so that they might also leave their messages regarding the UN Peace District project in Korea. I will do my best as a Busan native to make the UN Peace District as widely known as possible to the world. Thank you for your help in advance and I will keep you posted about my campaign's progress!

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.
Korea Veterans Assoc. Sunshine Coast Inc.
Korea War Veterans Association of NSW
Australian Korea Veterans Association Inc.

Allied Associations

Australian Peacekeepers and Peacemaker Veterans' Association Inc.

Life Members

Jim Boxshall
 Rev. Burne Brooker
 John Brownbill RFD KSJ
 John Burke†
 Bill Campbell†
 Victor Dey OAM
 John Duson
 Athol Egeberg
 Mick Everett†
 J F Frawley OAM BEM†
 Stan Gallop
 Olwyn Green OAM (Hon)
 Des Guilfoyle†
 John Holford
 Neville Holl†
 Murray Inwood
 David Irving
 Ron Kennedy
 George Lang OAM
 Dennis Lehman
 Kenneth Mankelow†
 Bruce Maxwell
 Alan McDonald
 Ian McDonald†
 Ray McKenzie†
 Don McLeod†
 George Mitchell†
 Bill Murphy
 Ormond Petherick
 Jack Philpot
 Arthur Roach
 Ivan Ryan
 Joe Shields†
 Gerry Steacy
 Doug Wilkie JP

†Deceased

Directory

Patron

Major General J C Hughes AO DSO MC FAIM Dip FP

President

Victor Dey OAM
 Phone: 03 946 72750
 Mobile: 040 987 8864
 Email: blueydey@bigpond.net.au

Vice-President

Tom Parkinson 03 9350 6608

Secretary

Alan Evered
 Phone: 03 9874 2219
 Email: evered@optusnet.com.au

Treasurer

Gerry Steacy
 Phone: 03 9741 3356
 Email: steacy32@bigpond.com

Committee

Peter Brooks, Ron Christie, John Duson, Keith Langdon,
 Allan Murray, Allen Riches, Arthur Roach, Ivan Ryan, Bernie Schultz

Appointments

Chaplain: John Brownbill RFD KSJ 0418 359 085
 Editor: Geoff Guilfoyle 03 9546 5979 Email: Geoff_Guilfoyle@aanet.com.au
 Publicity & Ceremonial: Allan Murray 03 5962 6197 Email: kvaainc@bigpond.com
 KSEafa & Kindred Korea Veterans Organisations: Alan Evered (Liaison Officer)
 Pensions: Charlie Slater 03 9355 7264

Delegates

General Committee: Alan McDonald Veterans' Affairs: Ivan Ryan 03 726 6053
 Geelong: Arthur Roach 03 5243 6113 West. Australia: John Southorn 08 9531 2008
 New South Wales: Merv Heath 02 4343 1967 Queensland: Harry Pooley 07 32000482
 Tasmania: George Hutchinson 03 6275 0762 South Australia: John Bennett 08 8556 7288
 Albury-Wodonga: Rocky Camps 02 6024 7241 or 0408 690 820

Correspondence

The Secretary, PO Box 2123, Rangeview, Victoria 3132

Website

www.austkoreavets.asn.au

Merchandise Available

KVAA Inc. pocket badge	\$10.00	\$	Kapypong battle print	\$ 5.00	\$
KVAA Inc. lapel badge	\$10.00	\$	RAN print: Ships in Korea	\$ 5.00	\$
KVAA Inc. windscreen decal	\$ 5.00	\$	Tie (with KVAA Inc. logo)	\$20.00	\$
Korean War bumper sticker	\$ 2.50	\$	Korea Veteran caps	\$10.00	\$
Korean War map (laminated)	\$ 6.00	\$	Car number plate surrounds (set)	\$10.00	\$

TOTAL . . . \$ _ _ _

Please put a check beside each article requested and insert the dollar total.

Surname: Given Names:

Address: (Please Print)

State: Post Code:

Cheques or money orders should be made out to:

The Treasurer, KVAA Inc., 1 Kent Court, Werribee 3030, Victoria

President's Report

You may remember in our last issue of *The Voice* it was stated that we would move our annual July Memorial Ceremony to June 25th at the request of the Korean Veterans Organization in Seoul. Each State was to arrange and host their own reception. Hopefully, the reception in your State was to your satisfaction.

The Victorian Government hosted a reception at the Shrine of Remembrance for Victorian Korea War Veterans and their wives/widows. The Premier of Victoria, the Honourable John Brumby, made a special welcome all present. The Ambassador for the Republic of Korea, his Excellency Dr Woosang Kim spoke about the progress that his country has made since the Korean War and also made special mention of Australian personal in helping his country in its hour of need.

After the reception we formed up on the forecourt of the Shrine behind the RAAF Band and with the Cadets from Melbourne High School carrying our banner and flags we marched around the Shrine to the pool of Reflection and held a special Memorial Ceremony. It was really pleasing to have children from our adopted school, Fountain Gate Secondary College, join us on this occasion. Special thanks to student, Ally Johnston, for her rendition of the National Anthem.

The Korean Church of Melbourne held their annual Memorial Service on June 27th. The Rev Richard Wooton, the Rev. Andrew Hwang, and the congregation made the 90 plus Australians present extremely welcome and at home. Another wonderful day.

On Sunday August 22nd, the St. Georges Uniting Church in East St. Kilda will be holding their "Healing the Wounds of War" Service. This Service started in 1917 to honour their Minister, the Rev. Andrew Gillison, who died at Gallipoli on August 22nd 1915. Full details in this issue of *The Voice*. If you would like to attend this service, which is followed by a luncheon in the drill hall next door to the Church, the luncheon is usually a \$7 donation. Just give me a call and I will pass your name onto the Church Elders.

(continues on Page 6)

June 25th Summary

In most states of Australia and a dozen countries around the world, commemoration services took place on Friday 25th June for the 60th anniversary of the start of the Korean War. This conflict, which consumed nearly 1 million civilian lives (North and South) and 50,000 US and UN soldiers, is unique among wars of the 20th century in that it is still, technically, ongoing. A "Cold War" of sorts, though given the antics of the North Korean government over the last year, it could reignite at any time.

For the four days before Friday 25th June, Melbourne basked in winter sunshine. Ominously, the weather bureau predicted heavy showers for late afternoon on Friday. Why ominously? Was it because it would affect the outdoor service part of the commemoration? Nope. That was scheduled to finish at two. It was ominous because the weather bureau was bound to be wrong, and so it proved. Thursday night saw strong winds sweep Melbourne followed by heavy rain. Persistent rain. All Friday morning it poured, threatening to disrupt the service.

Fortunately, the State reception that morning for veterans and selected guests was held uncover in the Shrine itself. Hundreds of veterans (and others) attended, making it a tight fit. Not just KVAA Inc. veterans, but former servicemen (and a few service women) from other organisations: naval, airforce and army.



Milton Hoe enjoying his '15 minutes of fame' (or part thereof).



Rocky Camps, our delegate in Albury-Wodonga, motored all the way from NSW in his "rockymobile" such was his enthusiasm to attend.

The Premier of Victoria, John Brumby, opened proceedings before leaving for other duties while the Hon. Tony Robinson (MLA for Mitcham) stayed the distance. Also present throughout the reception and service which followed was His Excellency, Dr Woosang Kim, the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea,

While it was wet outside, indoors it remained dry – in both senses of the word. Oh dear, no beer. To compensate, the food poured from the kitchen both regularly and in quantity. The quiet debate about holding the service indoors gave way to relief as the rain cleared, leaving the day damp, cold and gloomy. In other words, a typical winter day in Melbourne. Perfect weather for a march to warm everyone up.

With the RAAF Air Force Band leading and the eight Melbourne High School Cadets managing the banner and flags, the remaining 100 or thereabouts veterans and other guests from the reception marched to the Pool of Reflection.

The guest speaker, Captain

(continues on Page 6)

Out & About

State Government Reception, The Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne. Friday 25 June 2010.



(continues overpage)

Out & About (continued from Page 4)

Korean War, 60th Anniversary Service, The Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne. Friday 25 June 2010.



(continues on page 10)

June 25th Summary (continued from Page 3)

Andrew O'Connor, spoke on the Korean War, and service in the armed forces, then and now (not as different as you might think). After the wreath laying and the saying of an extended version of The Ode, the service concluded with Fountain Gate



Elaine Langdon and Tony Robinson. No, not *that* Tony Robinson (*Time Team* and the *Blackadder* series); the other one, the MLA for Mitcham.

Secondary College student, Ally Johnston, singing the Australian national anthem (accompanied by the RAAF Airforce band).

A couple of hours later the rain returned – by the barrel load. Fortunately, hopefully, by then everyone was home or under shelter, tired, maybe, but in a good way having enjoyed the day and having paid due reverence to those who didn't return from Korea.

President's Report (continued from Page 3)

The annual October Reunion in Canberra, 22-23-24 (which has been running for a decade) this year will see a National Ceremony at the Australian Korean War Memorial followed by a Dinner in the evening on the 23rd. If you wish to attend this reunion please contact Mrs Heather Wilson on 02 4297 0921. [Details on Page 12].

Keep warm and take care.



At the Shrine with the Premier of Victoria and the Korean Ambassador, Dr Woosang Kim.

* * * *

60th anniversary commemoration of the start of the Korean War (1950 to 1953)

RAAF Memorial Plaque Dedication

In memory of the thirty-five RAAF and six RAF airmen who died on active service with 77 squadron RAAF.

**RAAF Point Cook Memorial Parade Square
1:30pm, 13th October 2010**

The plaque will be unveiled by Air Chief Marshal Sir Neville McNamara KBE, AO, AFC, AE, with Air Marshal J.W. Newham AO providing an address. The Ambassador, Republic of Korea, His Excellency Dr and Mrs Woosang Kim; the Minister for Veterans Affairs and Mrs Griffin; Marshal of the Royal Air Force (and Korean Veteran) Sir Keith Williamson GCB, AFC and Lady Williamson, Military Attaché Republic of Korea, Col and Mrs Yong-Soo Choi, and Air Marshal Binskin AM (Chief of Air Force) and Mrs Binskin have also been invited.

Following the dedication, finger food and beverages will be served in the RAAF BASE Williams Officers' Mess.

Cost for members travelling by car or bus – \$10 per couple or \$5.00 Single
(The bus holds 22 passengers and leaves from the Stella Maris Seafarers Centre at 11:45 am).

Members wishing to attend please fill out the form and return to Ron Christie by 15 September 2010.

Ron Christie, 15 Bianca Court, Rowville, Vic. 3178.
Phone: 03 9764 5542. Email: seafury1@bigpond.net.au

Surname: _____ Given Name _____ Phone _____

(Note: For entry into the RAAF base all names must be included).

Payment enclosed \$ _____ for _____ person / people attending.

Kapyong: My Experience by Jeff Towart

The night of the 22nd April 1951 saw the beginning of the Chinese Fifth Phase Offensive, but it wasn't until the next morning that the 27th Brigade HQ received details of the attack. The Australian sector in the valley 40 miles NE of Seoul covered the junction of two roads and two rivers, the largest of which was the Kapyong. KVAA Inc. member, Jeff Towart who was present at the battle which followed takes up the story.

During the early part of the night of 23rd April 1951, the Chinese came over the river crossing in droves. Our Platoon Sergeant was killed and several others wounded. Although they lost a lot of men, the Chinese just kept coming until we set up two Bren guns in an attempt to force a halt. It did for awhile, until they discovered a two hundred metre gap on our left between us and hill 677.

My weapon pit was on the east side of our platoon and from there it was about two hundred metres east to the base of hill 677 which was extremely steep and high, and as far as we knew, wasn't our responsibility. At first light on 24th April, soldiers from the top of hill 677 began firing down into our pits, but because of the distance were not very effective. We assumed they were Chinese but actually they were Canadian and they thought we were Chinese.

At this stage our position was far from ideal. Our rifle companies on hill 504 were still holding their ground. To the north was the river and the Chinese; to the east was hill 677 occupied by the enemy (or so we believed). This left the south as our only possible out, so we decided to have a sneaky look around. With the Owen gun on a shoulder sling, I wandered through the old mortar and assault pioneer area, then on to the American 4.2 Mortar Company who had departed during the night leaving the area a complete shambles with some vehicles half unloaded and some empty. I picked up a pair of new socks, a great find as socks were like gold in this "land of the morning calm."

Small groups of five or six Chinese were sitting, squatting or standing around and didn't seem in the least interested in me. I was wearing an old dog cap with the flaps down and a very dirty long duffel coat, so they may have thought I was Chinese or Korean. I had already decided if challenged from a distance I would casually wave and keep moving.

Reaching the BHQ area I found an Australian flag in the dust which had been run over several times by vehicles. [see box below]. This was the area where Slim Madden and Ken Parker were taken prisoner a few hours earlier. By now I was about six hundred metres from our platoon, so I slowly made my way home, keeping well wide of any enemy groups. The only information I could pass on was as far as I could see the valley south was occupied by groups of Chinese who didn't seem to be in the least interested in us.

During the day of 24th April a decision was made have our platoon follow the river upstream as far as possible, then if necessary fight their way out. An attempt would be made to recover the two abandoned anti-tank guns from

The Kapyong Flag

I wasn't fully aware of the flag's significance until some years later when I produced it at an Eastern Command Sergeant's Mess Regimental dinner. As the only Australian flag flown at the Battle of Kapyong, a few of the eighty diners wanted to add their names to the three already there, but we (myself and one other) decided only those who had served with 3 RAR in Korea should place their name, campaign and date on the flag, a decision that didn't please everyone. Over the next twenty years a further fifteen names were added. Some of the names and campaigns made interesting reading as quite a few had served in wars both before and after Korea.

In April 2001, I returned the flag to 3 RAR. Although they were extremely proud to have it, I sometimes wonder if it would have been better with the Australian National Museum in Canberra in their Korean War display, where it could be seen by millions of people each year. It now resides in the 3 RAR museum and is only seen on special days such as Trooping of the Colours or Kapyong Day parades.

near the river by towing them out. Our rifle companies were to start withdrawing from their positions on hill 504 at 1600 hours. The narrow winding uphill road meant the two trucks loaded with ammunition and towing a heavy gun would have a top speed of around forty kph through the four kilometres of enemy held territory. Sergeant Jeff Wells was to be an emergency second driver and ride up front with me.

To make ourselves a more difficult target, I attached the canvas side curtains that were normally used to keep out rain and snow. These were kept upright and held in place by thin strips of spring steel about an inch wide. Working on the old theory that it's difficult to hit a target you can't see, we felt quite secure in the truck cab.

Maybe those Chinese were not aware of this theory as they lost no time in firing through that curtain.

We had only gone a few hundred metres before passing the first Chinese who just stood and watched us pass, but word soon got around as the next group opened fire with several rifles. With the old truck flat to the boards we kept going as a much larger group opened fire with a machine gun and several burp guns. When the top half of my curtain fell down I said a few words of displeasure. A canvas curtain may offer little protection but you'd be surprised just how naked you feel sitting and watching a

(continues overpage)

Kapyong: A Personal View (from previous page)

machine gun take aim and fire from only forty or fifty metres and not be able to duck or take cover.

Sergeant Wells 'enquired' if we could get a little more speed out of the old bus and I assured him she was already on the boards. Somehow the two trucks made it to the top with only one wounded. The second truck was being driven by a mate called *Bomber* Bloome who remarked, "Christ, you were slow. Just as well the Chinks were on your tail or we would never have got here." (His truck had just had a new engine after the old one had been damaged.) After closer inspection it was found that my curtains had fallen down because the steel strips had been cut in several places.

During the afternoon of 24th April, a call was made by Don Company for air support; however the small spotter plane dropped his marker flare on the wrong ground. He was followed closely by a flight of Corsairs who dropped their napalm bombs on the Australian position, ultimately killing two and injuring six others. Of all the weapons of war, napalm is probably the most feared by ground troops as the jellied petrol filled containers burst on contact spewing out burning liquid over an area of about forty square metres with heat of one thousand degrees centigrade. A good mate of mine, Harold Giddens, was one of those injured. He suffered burns to his nose, lips, an ear and fingers on one hand.

Late in the evening of 25th April 1951 on a hill overlooking Kapyong Valley, Brigadier Bourke presented the 27th British Commonwealth Brigade's Regimental flag to Colonel Ferguson, and at one minute past midnight the 27th Brigade ceased to exist and the 28th Brigade was born. The 27th Brigade was probably the most famous Brigade of the Korean War and certainly had the finest reputation. Having fought in almost every major battle and never defeated, it was the first in British history to take command in battle of units from Australia, Canada, Britain, Scotland, New Zealand and America.

The British Commonwealth Brigade was formed on 30th September 1950 at Waegwan, South Korea. The Brigade's three Infantry Regiments were the 3 Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (3 RAR), 1st Battalion, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, and 1st Battalion, The Middlesex Regiment. After seven months of almost continuous action including eight major battles, the Brigade was universally considered to be the finest fighting unit in the five hundred thousand strong international army. The Brigade was disbanded at Kapyong with the following battle honours: Sariwon, Yongyu, Chongju, Pakchon, Uijongbu, Chuamni, Machwa-san and Kapyong.

The following is part of an address delivered by a senior staff officer in November 1951: "In every battle the Battalion was outnumbered and frequently had to fight under strength. The casualty rate was high, and there was no room for passengers, every man was important and had to be dependable. Because of that dependence on each other the Battalion became more of a family to its members. The soldiers are intensely proud of their unit's reputation, reinforcements are aware of this for word has spread through the Army at home."

* * * *

Healing the Wounds of War

Commemorating the 60th anniversary of the beginning of the Korean War and the 65th anniversary of 14/32 Battalion's *Battle of Bacon Hill*. Remembering the service of Australian Peacekeepers in Afghanistan and Iraq.

St. George's East St. Kilda Uniting Church

4 Chapel Street, East St. Kilda

**Sunday 22 August 2010
Annual Memorial Service
10:30 AM**

Guest Speaker : Vic Dey OAM
President, Korea Veterans Association of Australia

Guest Speaker : Gordon Traill
Editor, Australian Peacekeeper and Peacemaker Veterans' Association

Also Featuring:

A tribute to the sacrifice and service of 14 Battalion.
Honouring 2/14 and 39 Battalions, and Vietnam and Australian Peace-keeping and Peace-making Defence Forces.
Candle lighting for personal remembrance of loved ones.
Music by the Band of the 2/10 Field Regiment RAA.

RSVP Vic Dey ASAP if you plan to attend:

Phone - 03 946 72750 Mobile - 040 987 8864 Email - blueydey@bigpond.net.au

Battalion flags
and banners to be
marched into the
church. Medals to
be worn.

2010 Peace Camp for Youth

By Laura Slatter, grand-daughter of Raymond Everett

As I was growing up, Pa shared his stories of the Korean War with me. He told me of the conditions the brave soldiers fought in 60 years ago, the friendships he formed with his fellow fighters and the horror of the war itself. One could only imagine what these sorts of conditions would be like, so isolated from family and friends, fighting in an unfamiliar country. When I heard of the opportunity for me to visit Korea in remembrance of the Korean War commencing 60 years ago, I was so excited to visit the country that Pa was so proud of and to actually see the place that I had heard so much about.

It was so exciting to arrive in Korea on 1st July and meet the other participants of the 2010 Peace Camp for Youth. There were around 140 other people from around 20 different countries, all with one thing in common – our grandfathers had fought to help make Korea what it is today. We were all in Korea for that week to honour our grandfathers and to gain an appreciation of what they had fought to achieve. From the moment I arrived in Korea, I could see just how much the South Koreans appreciated what our grandfathers had done for their country and I don't think they will ever forget the sacrifices that were made in the name of friendship.

During our time in Korea, we were given the opportunity to visit many different memorable places. On the first day we were able to visit the War Memorial of Korea. It was heart wrenching to walk through the hallway and see so many names and countries of men who had died in battle. I was able to see the impact that the war had on so many countries and I wonder why the Korean War is named the 'forgotten war' when so many lives were lost. We were taken through the different exhibits at the War Memorial and saw scenes of what Korea looked like during the war. I couldn't believe the conditions that people lived in compared to what Korea looks like now. It was hard to imagine Seoul without any city buildings but it was a reality for the civilians of South Korea 60 years ago.

The next day we all boarded the KTX train to Busan. There we were able to visit the United Nations Memorial Cemetery in Korea (UNMCK). This cemetery was established in remembrance of the UN countries that fought in the Korean War. As I stood at the top of the cemetery and looked out across all the graves of men who sacrificed their lives for the freedom of South Korea, I could once again see the impact that the Korean War would have had on different parts of the world. It was quite an emotional experience for me to find the grave of one of Pa's friends who died at war and to place a flower at the Australian monument to honour all the men who made the ultimate sacrifice from my country.

As well as visiting places to honour the Korean War, we were also given the chance to experience parts of Korean tradition through making masks, learning Korean dancing and also experiencing Korean food throughout the camp. When I heard that we were having a traditional Korean barbeque for tea one night, I wondered how different it would be from our Australian barbeques back home. I was amazed to see how different it was. As our food cooked on a hot plate in the middle of our table, we were to flip the meat and cut it into small pieces with special scissors. The restaurant didn't supply us with knives and forks so I learned to use chopsticks very quickly. That dinner was a fantastic cultural experience for me and I loved being able to see traditional Korea.

One of the most memorable experiences was our bicycle peace march. All 140 participants rode around the riverside in Korea with white dove balloons tied to our bikes to celebrate peace in South Korea. Although I did get sunburnt, it was such a wonderful experience to ride around alongside people from other countries. South Koreans that were in the area at the time knew who we were and waved happily to us as we sailed past with dove balloons flying along in the breeze behind us. It was such a wonderful feeling and I will remember that for the rest of my life.



Laura with South Korean soldier at the DMZ

On the very last day of the camp we visited the DMZ. Although we didn't go up to the border, we went to the Dorasan Observatory and this showed us that all the conflict we had heard so much about was still going. We were only allowed to look out at some of the mountains that were in North Korea and if we wanted to take photos, there was a designated marked out area to stand in. We also visited the 3rd tunnel which the North Koreans dug to invade South Korea from underneath. As I walked through the damp and stuffy tunnel, it was hard to imagine what went through the North Korean's minds while digging it and the other 3 tunnels that have also been discovered.

I remember that leaving for Korea without my family and friends was hard but on the day of departure from Korea I was sad to say goodbye to the people I had spent all week learning about our grand-

(continues on page 13)

Out & About (continued from Page 5)

Annual Korean War Memorial Service, Church of Melbourne, Malvern, Sunday 27 June 2010.



Korean War, 60th Anniversary Commemoration, Gold Albert Centre, Gold Coast, 10th July 2010.



Dancers, veterans and dignitaries



“Digger” James & Ted Parkinson



Maurie Pears (Program Co-ordinator)



Bill & Doreen Bailey



Chas & Bev Cornell



Norm Ralfe

Ted Parkinson on Korea Then & Now

KVAA Inc. member, Edmond (Ted) Parkinson, recently completed a re-visit to Korea as part of a Disabled Veterans group. The following is an unedited re-print from his small piece entitled Aussie Vet Says Korea's Gain Worth More Than His Loss from the on-line Korea Net News, South Korea's Official Multi-language Website. You'll find the original at <http://www.korea.net/news.do?mode=detail&guid=47941>

After I was discharged from my service in Japan from 1946-48, I did casual work until I joined up to go to Korea to fight for freedom. I was a forward observer with the 161 Battery and supported all the Australian Battalions, King's Shropshire Light Infantry, King's Own Scottish Borderers, the Turks, Americans and the South Koreans when we were engaged in battle on Hill 355, Hill 210 and Hill 159, where I was hit by a mortar bomb. I was transferred to several Hospital units until they amputated my leg. I came out of Korea in a blanket, with no mementos or photos or any personal belongings.



Ted on his return to Australia in 1953

My memories of Korea were of the shattered cities of Busan and Seoul, starving people living in cardboard boxes topped by a corrugated iron sheet. Bleak surroundings with villages devastated in the war torn, denuded, scarred hills, lost children crying. I remember the icy cold and freezing snow and we who had clothing, food and hutches were amazed that the Koreans stayed alive in those horrid conditions. Nothing grew in the areas where there had been fighting and shelling. Luckily orphanages were started up to shelter the children and we shared as much of what we had with them.

I have been very lucky to re-visit Korea in 2001 and again in 2007, this time as part of the first Disabled Veterans group, 15 in all from the UN participants. Korea is the only country in the world that pays respect to their allies by inviting them to return – such a tremendous generous, altruistic and most appreciated action.

I was extremely apprehensive and afraid to re-visit because of those

memories which had been haunting me all my life. I cannot thank the Korean Government enough for the wonderful opportunity they gave me. Cardboard boxes were no more, instead, very beautiful laid out cities with the most modern housing. Luscious green country and the young folk... laughing and well dressed, rebuilding their country with an energy, pride and unity I have not seen before. I was overwhelmed by what was achieved in such a short time. No country has accomplished the same. Prosperity in abundance; transport systems the best in the world, super highways; magnificent airports; fantastic shopping centers, even one under our Lotte Hotel. It seemed to be fairytale land in comparison to 1952. Meetings with our ROK friends was a highlight.

I admire the Korean people, strongly patriotic, so full of confidence and well educated – our guide had a PhD – giving evidence of extremely hard, united work with a fierce passion and spirit to hold on to their ideals no matter the hardships and challenges.

But above all, what you, Koreans, have done for me in inviting me back, is that you have healed my memories and, through that, healed my life.

So what, I lost a leg, compared to what you have achieved, I think it was worth the sacrifice, you actually have made me very, very proud.

Gamsa hamnida.

Valour doesn't so much depend upon doing extraordinary acts, as upon doing ordinary acts extraordinarily well.

Korea: Land of the Morning Calm

by Peter Webb, R.S.L. Ringwood

We didn't do much talking
We didn't raise a fuss
But Korea really happened
So please remember us
We just did our duty
But we didn't win or lose
A victory was denied us
But we never got to choose
We all roasted in the summer
In the winter, damn near froze
Walking back from near the Yalu
With our blackened, frozen toes
Like the surf, the enemy kept coming
With their bugles in the night
We fired into their masses
Praying for the morning light
All of us had to be there
And so many of us died
But now we are all but forgotten
No one remembers how we tried
We grow fewer with the years now
And we still don't raise a fuss
But Korea really happened
So please remember us

Notices

Memorial Reunion (Update)

Korea War 60th Anniversary 1950-2010.

Friday 22 - Sunday 24, October 2010

Rydges Lakeside, London Circuit, Canberra ACT 2600

Meet & Greet

(Fri. 22nd from 6pm at Rydges Lakeside)

National Memorial Service

(Sat. 23rd 11am at Memorial)

Memorial Dinner

(Sat. 23rd 7.30pm at Rydges Lakeside)

Sight Seeing

(Sun. 24th 10am from Federation Village)

Open Forum

(Sun. 24th 3.30pm at Rydges Lakeside)

Dinner

(Sun. 24th 7pm at Rydges Lakeside)

Note:

There is a possibility of a reception being held at the Republic of Korea Embassy on Saturday afternoon 23rd October 2010, after the Memorial Service. Those to attend will receive an invitation from the Embassy. Buses would be provided from the Memorial to the Embassy and then afterwards, to Rydges. It would not be our decision as to who would get an invitation. We have just been asked to provide numbers on those that might be interested in attending. Any Veteran interested in attending please let us know as soon as possible.

The Fine Print:

The Memorial Dinner on Saturday 23rd October 2010, is to be attended by a maximum of 350 guests. Those that have already booked and paid are included in this number. From 15th July 2010, there will be a priority booking list for veterans & one guest.

There will also be a waiting list made for other guests wanting to attend. Seating remaining after closure of bookings on 30th August will be allocated to people on this list. Remember this is on a "first in first served" basis. You will be advised of Memorial Dinner attendance on Tue. 31st August 2010, or as soon as possible to that date.

If you haven't already done so it is important that we have a contact number as well as first and last names of all those attending any item on the program.

Payment includes: twin-share accommodation & breakfast (23rd, 24th & 25th); Saturday and Sunday dinners; Meet & Greet snack trays, and bus transfers.

Total cost per person this year is \$390.

Deposits for the re-union package (or part there of) must be in by 30th August 2010. Full payments no late than 22nd September 2010.

Anyone with any special requirements, inquiries or suggestions, please contact: The Hon. Secretary Mrs Heather Wilson on (02) 4297 0921 ASAP. For an application form contact Heather Wilson or call the Editor on (03) 9546 5979 (leave a message) and he'll post one to you.

Legacy Needs You

Legacy Week 29 Aug - 4 Sep 2010



Spare a few hours during Legacy Week to help with the sale of badges.

Telephone 1800 LEGACY (534 229)

or visit www.legacy.com.au

Seeking Anthony Poole

Colleen Hodgson of the AQKVA is trying to locate Anthony Poole (3/5698. DoB 26th Sept. 1931). Poole served in Korea from 9th Jan. 1953 to 7th August 1953 (POW from 25th Jan. to the cessation of hostilities). It is thought that, at one time, he was a member of the Tweed Heads RSL; however he can now not be located. If any member knows his current status or whereabouts, could you e-mail Colleen Hodgson at gho5297@bigpond.net.au or let Alan Evered or the Editor know (leave a message) and we'll pass on the info.

Seeking Gerald Ward

Douglas Heaton of Broadwater NSW is seeking a mate he served with in Korea: Gerald Stanley Ward, born 23 Oct. 1935 in Carlton, Victoria and who served in 1 Btn, RAR from 23 Dec. 1955 to 24 March 1956. If you can help, call the Editor on (03) 9546 5979 (leave a message) and I'll pass on the info.

KVAA Inc. Meeting Changes

At the meeting on 28 July, it was unanimously voted by those members present that henceforth the Committee Meeting (10-11am) and the General Meeting (11-12 noon) will be combined into a single event (starting 10.30am and ending about 11.30 - 11.45 approx.). More details on the day.

The next meeting will be on 25 Aug. at 10:30

Funnies

Anagram Fun

Compiled by someone with way too much time on their hands!

DORMITORY:

When you rearrange the letters:
DIRTY ROOM

PRESBYTERIAN:

When you rearrange the letters:
BEST IN PRAYER

ASTRONOMER:

When you rearrange the letters:
MOON STARER

DESPERATION:

When you rearrange the letters:
A ROPE ENDS IT

THE EYES:

When you rearrange the letters:
THEY SEE

THE MORSE CODE:

When you rearrange the letters:
HERE COME DOTS

SLOT MACHINES:

When you rearrange the letters:
CASH LOST IN ME

ANIMOSITY:

When you rearrange the letters:
IS NO AMITY

ELECTION RESULTS:

When you rearrange the letters:
LIES - LET'S RECOUNT

SNOOZE ALARMS:

When you rearrange the letters:
ALAS! NO MORE Zs

A DECIMAL POINT:

When you rearrange the letters:
I'M A DOT IN PLACE

THE EARTHQUAKES:

When you rearrange the letters:
THAT QUEER SHAKE

ELEVEN PLUS TWO:

When you rearrange the letters:
TWELVE PLUS ONE

MOTHER-IN-LAW:

When you rearrange the letters:
WOMAN HITLER

PRESIDENT CLINTON OF THE USA:

When you rearrange the letters:
TO COPULATE HE FINDS INTERNS

God Versus Soccer

A South African man who wanted to watch a World Cup match instead of a religious program was beaten to death by his family. David Makoeya, a 61 year old man from the village of Makweya, Limpopo province, fought with his wife and two children for the remote control on Sunday because he wanted to watch Germany play Australia. The others, however, wanted to watch a gospel show. That's when the argument came about and they started assaulting him.

Moral of story? Take your pick:

- A. Television remote controls are the tool of the devil.
- B. South African Christians take their religion WAY TOO seriously.
- C. Gospel shows are more entertaining than soccer involving Australia.
- D. Sport is bad for your health.

Source: The Age, 19th June 2010

Whose Car?

During training exercises, the lieutenant who was driving down a muddy back road encountered another car stuck in the mud with a red-faced Colonel at the wheel.

"Your jeep stuck, sir?" asked the lieutenant as he pulled alongside.

"Nope," replied the colonel, coming over and handing him the keys, "Yours is."

Really Dumb Crims

Police in Fairfield, Connecticut, had ample warning of a bank robbery because the two suspects called the bank *before* their arrival and told a teller to get a bag of money ready. Police were waiting to arrest 27-year old Albert Bailey and an unidentified 16-year-old boy, who were described as "not too bright."

From *The Age*, 26th March 2010

Who's the Idiot?

As a group of soldiers stood in formation at an Army Base, the Drill Sergeant said, "All right! All you idiots fall out."

As the rest of the squad wandered away, one soldier remained at attention.

The Drill Instructor walked over until he was eye-to-eye with him, and then raised a single eyebrow. The soldier smiled and said, "Sure was a lot of 'em, huh, sir?"

The Right Skill?

At one army base, the annual trip to the rifle range had been cancelled for the second year in a row, but the semi-annual physical fitness test was still on as planned. One soldier mused, "Does it bother anyone else that the Army doesn't seem to care how well we can shoot, but they are extremely interested in how fast we can run?"

* * * *

(2010 Peace Camp for Youth (from page 9)

father's experiences with. As different countries departed over the day, I thought about what a wonderful experience I had in Korea and what stories I could go back and share with everyone. Not only had I learned a lot about the Korean War and saw what Korea was like today, but I could also take with me a part of each country that attended the camp from talking to other participants and learning how they were different to Australia. It will always be the most amazing experience of my life.

Geelong Heroes Remember Korea

by Martin Watters

First published in the Geelong Advertiser, Saturday 26th June 2010 Edition.

Even with three pairs of socks, Allen Riches' feet were still cold. He was barely an adult and wearing two singlets, a shirt, a jumper and two jackets to keep warm while driving three-tonne trucks in the Korean War in 1953.

The transport driver with the 2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, dodged precise Communist artillery fire while ferrying supplies to the area known as the Hook. Water, fuel and munitions went forward and often dead comrades would be driven back.



Back (l-r): Terry Walsh, Allen Riches, Arthur Roach, Alan Reekie. Front (l-r): Ron Nicholls and Laurie Price. (Photo by Martin Watters).

“That was the worst part of it, bringing the dead back for graves registration,” the Grovedale resident said.

Although part of a largely forgotten conflict, memories of service were fresh in the minds of Geelong's Korean veterans on the 8.15 train from Marshall yesterday.

A group of six vets recalled their service while travelling to Melbourne's Shrine of Remembrance for the 60th anniversary marking the conflict's start on June 25, 1950.

The fighting was fierce and the temperature often either brutally hot or bitterly cold.

“If you got a northerly, which came down from Siberia, it was anything between 20 and 40 degrees below zero,” Mr Riches said. “At night time, when we parked the trucks we had to nail straw-filled bags on the ground and park your tyres on them otherwise your tyres would freeze to the ground.”

“I had my 21st over there. I'll never forget that. I was saving a bottle of Fosters for my 21st but it was so cold the thing blew up on me. It was just like leaving a bottle in the freezer.”

Ron Nicholls, of Waurin Ponds, went to the war with the US Army's 5th Ranger Battalion as a senior paratrooper.

The Australian was living in the United States at the time when he heard he could stay if he joined the army. He did three tours of Korea, including 11 parachute drops onto the peninsula on intelligence gathering missions, earning him a Meritorious Service Medal.

No stranger to service, Mr Nicholls was in the Australian Imperial Force in 1946-47. Before that he had spent his 15th birthday as a merchant naval sailor 8km off the Welsh shore during the D-Day landings in World War II. But the reaction to the Korean War cut deep.

“Back in the States, they wouldn't let us wear our uniforms out of camp, we had to wear civilian clothes because the public were so nasty towards us,” he said. “Now most of the people have forgotten, but that's all right I guess.”

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 contributing authors are not necessarily those of the Association, the editor or publishers of *The Voice*.

WWII Factoids

From D-Day (6 June '44) to the surrender of Germany (8th May 1945), Allied forces operating in northwestern Europe made use of some 970,000 motor vehicles.

During their drive across France and Belgium in the late summer and autumn of 1944, Allied forces consumed a daily average of 27 million gallons of gasoline.

During Dec. 1944, an average of 70 jeeps per day were reported lost in the Brussels area, although the nearest enemy troops were some 50 miles away!

During the height of World War II Britain's normal stockpile of its most precious strategic material amounted to approximately 150,000,000 tons, enough to “brew up” about 6,000,000,000,000 cups of tea.

During WWII, the US Army procured 123 MILLION pairs of shoes (*not including boots!*) or approximately 14.4 pairs for each of the 8,300,000 officers and enlisted personnel in the service at peak strength.

Farewells

Leslie L. “John” Baxter,
22837 3RAR
on 2nd March 2010

Carl F Killner, 2/7346
on 2nd March 2010

Norman R. Pearce
2/400468 3RAR
on Tuesday 3rd August 2010

Roy D Stroud,
K Force, New Zealand
on 21st July 2010

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