

THE VOICE

December 2010 Edition

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President's Report



Vic Dey, President,
KVAA Inc.

It has been a very busy last two months for myself in particular, and various other members of the Association, in general. On October 3rd, my wife and I attended the annual Veterans dinner at the Morwell RSL. The President, Mel Bugg OAM, invited me to speak on this occasion as it was to honour all Korea Veterans on the 60th Anniversary of the start of the Korean War. It was a wonderful evening; a great host, very hospitable people, my wife and I were over-

whelmed with the reception that we received. Many thanks to all at the Morwell RSL.

A commemorative service was held at Point Cook on October 13th where a plaque inscribed with the names of the 35 RAAF and 6 RAF who died on active service in Korea inscribed on it was dedicated. Air Marshall, J. W. Newham AC (retired), gave the main address and Air Chief Marshall, Sir Neville McNamara, KBE, AO, AFC, AE (retired) unveiled the plaque. This was a joint Ceremony by 77 Squadron and the KVAA Inc., and attended by members of both organisations and a number of VIPs.

In Canberra, on October 22-23-24, the annual Korea War Veterans Memorial Reunion took place. This year we became part of the 60th Anniversary celebrations and the reunion was, to some extent, subsidised by the DVA which, of course, was most welcome. Attending the memorial service at the National Korean War Memorial were many VIPs including the Governor General and the Korean Ambassador. Later we were taken to the Korean Embassy where the Ambassador held a reception for veterans/wives/widows. I am sure all present appreciated his generosity. Later in the evening, at the banquet, it was my turn to Host the Ambassador and his wife and the Military Attaché and his wife. My thanks to Gerry and Elaine Steacy, and Ron and Val Christie, for helping Edna and I on this very special occasion. With music from the fifties and an attendance of 350, it made for a fantastic evening.

On November 11th, Gerry and I attended the Werribee Hospital to join in their Memorial Ceremony. The staff and patients were most grateful for our presence and very gracious hosts who went out of their way to make us feel welcome.

(continues on Page 3)

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

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The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Trivia

The Tomb Of The Unknown Soldier is located at the Arlington Cemetery, Texas. This tomb is continuously patrolled, 24 hours a day, and has been since 1930.

Q. How many steps does the guard take during his walk across the tomb of the Unknowns and why?

A. 21 steps: It alludes to the 21 gun salute which is the highest honour given any military or foreign dignitary.

Q. How long does he hesitate after his about face to begin his return walk and why?

A. 21 seconds for the same reason as answer Number 1.

Q. Why are his gloves wet?

A. His gloves are moistened to prevent his losing his grip on the rifle.

Q. Does he carry his rifle on the same shoulder all the time and, if not, why not?

A. He carries the rifle on the shoulder away from the tomb. After his march across the path, he executes an about face and moves the rifle to the outside shoulder.

Q. How often are the guards changed?

A. Guards are changed every thirty minutes, twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year.

Q. What are the physical traits of the guard limited to?

A. For a person to apply for guard duty at the tomb, he must be between 5' 10" and 6' 2" tall and his waist size cannot exceed 30.

Friday, the 19th of November, was a beautiful spring day in more ways than one. Weather perfect. The venue this time was Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital. The Dedication Ceremony for the wheelchair accessible Kapyong Maryang San Bridge in the Memorial Gardens took place with an estimated 350-400 in attendance, *The Little Angels* concert group sang three songs; a Korean song, *Waltzing Matilda*, and *I still Call Australia Home*. Beautiful. At the end of the service they sang both the South Korean and Australian National Anthems. When we adjourned to the Acacia Room for refreshments *The Little Angels* were able to mingle with the Veterans/Wives/Widows. It was here that we had the opportunity to present them with a gift, a remembrance of Australia.

Two days later at the Palais Theatre St Kilda (seating 2800) *The Little Angels* put on a display of singing-dancing-playing drums to story themes. They captivated the full house so much that they sang a number of extra songs to the applause of all present. It really is impossible to try and describe the colour and presentation that was played out before our very eyes. Before the concert started, Keith Langdon was selected to go onto the stage and be presented with a plaque from the Korean Government. Every veteran present was to receive a plaque after the completion of the concert. So if you were present at the Palais Theatre on Sunday 21st November and DID NOT receive your plaque please contact our Secretary.

Christmas is very nearly upon us, so I will take this opportunity to wish every member and your families a very happy Festive Season and a wonderful New Year.

* * *



Financial Markets Explained

Heidi is the proprietor of a bar in Detroit. She realizes that virtually all of her customers are unemployed alcoholics and, as such, can no longer afford to patronize her bar. To solve this problem, she comes up with a new marketing plan that allows her customers to drink now, but pay later.

Heidi keeps track of the drinks consumed on a ledger (thereby granting the customers' loans). Word gets around about Heidi's "drink now, pay later" marketing strategy and, as a result, increasing numbers of customers flood into Heidi's bar. Soon she has the largest sales volume for any bar in Detroit.

By providing her customers freedom from immediate payment demands, Heidi gets no resistance when, at regular intervals, she substantially increases her prices for wine and beer, the most consumed beverages. Consequently, Heidi's gross sales volume increases massively.

A young and dynamic vice-president at the local bank recognizes that these customer debts constitute valuable future assets and increases Heidi's borrowing limit. He sees no reason for any undue concern, since he has the debts of the unemployed alcoholics as collateral.

At the bank's corporate headquarters, expert traders figure a way to make huge commissions, and transform these customer loans into *Drinkbonds*, *Alkibonds* and *Pukebonds*. These securities are then bundled and traded on international security markets.

Naïve investors don't really understand that the securities being sold to them as AAA secured bonds are really the debts of unemployed alcoholics. Nevertheless, the bond prices continuously climb, and the securities soon become the hottest-selling items for some of the nation's leading brokerage houses.

One day, even though the bond prices are still climbing, a risk manager at the original local bank decides that the time has come to demand payment on the debts incurred by the drinkers at Heidi's bar. He so informs Heidi.

Heidi then demands payment from her alcoholic patrons, but being unemployed alcoholics they cannot pay back their drinking debts. Since Heidi cannot fulfill her loan obligations she is forced into bankruptcy. The bar closes and the eleven employees lose their jobs.

Overnight, *Drinkbonds*, *Alkibonds* and *Pukebonds* drop in price by 90%. The collapsed bond asset value destroys the banks liquidity and prevents it from issuing new loans, thus freezing credit and economic activity in the community. The suppliers of Heidi's bar had granted her generous payment extensions and had invested their firms' pension funds in the various Bond securities. They find they are now faced with having to write off her bad debt and with losing over 90% of the presumed value of the bonds. Her wine supplier also claims bankruptcy, closing the doors on a family business that had endured for three generations. Her beer supplier is taken over by a competitor, who immediately closes the local plant and lays off 150 workers.

Fortunately though, the bank, the brokerage houses and their respective executives are saved and bailed out by a multi-billion dollar no-strings attached cash infusion from the Government. The funds required for this bailout are obtained by new taxes levied on employed, middle-class, non-drinkers who have never been in Heidi's bar.

Now do you understand?

Out & About

Point Cook RAAF Base, Commemoration Service, 13th October 2010



The chapel, Point Cook RAAF Base.



Air Marshall Jake Newham AC (retired)



Air Marshall, Mark Binskin, Chief of Air Force, addresses the gathering.



Sung Soo Lee, an unnamed companion, and Ron Christie show their respects.



The plaque (after the wreath laying)



Group Captain Les Reading, Kathryn Reading, and Ray Seaver (with camera)



Joan Slee and Don Scally examine the plaque.



Penny and Tom Roberts with RAAF Chaplain, Keith Lanyon



[l-r] Gerry Steacy; Mark Binskin; Warren Snowdon, Minister for Defence Science and Personnel; Air Chief Marshall, Sir Neville McNamara (retired).



Wing Commander, Glen Beck, Commanding Officer No. 77 Squadron, shares a joke with James Coakley and Moria Coatland.



Gerry Steacy & Bill Murphy

Korean War, 60th Anniversary Memorial Reunion, Canberra, 22nd - 24th October 2010



(l-r), Ron Christie, Col. Dae-hee Ahn (Korean Defence Attaché), Gerry Steacy, Dr Woo Sang Kim (Korean Ambassador) and Vic Dey.



(l-r), Elaine Steacy, Val Christie, Dr Woo Sang Kim, Mrs Moon Young Kwon, Edna Dey and Col. Dae-hee Ahn.



(l-r), Elaine Steacy, Mrs Moon Young Kwon, Edna Dey, Mrs Kyung Im Lee and Val Christie.

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60th Anniversary Speech

The following is the 60th anniversary speech of the start of the Korean War delivered by Captain Andrew O'Connor, RAEME, at the Pool of Reflection at the Shrine of Remembrance on Friday, 25th June 2010:

Sixty years ago today, before dawn, the Communist forces of North Korea poured across the 38th parallel into the Republic of Korea in an act of unprovoked aggression.

- Within 4 days, Australia committed military units to the UN Force in Korea.
- Within 7 days, Australia had committed two naval ships to UN operations and commenced escort duties.
- Within 8 days, No. 77 RAAF Squadron had reversed their “return to Australia” preparations in Japan and flew its first combat mission in Korea.
- Within 4 months, Australian ground troops, 3 RAR, had been reinforced and deployed to the peninsula.

By the end of the war some 17,000 Australian men and woman served in the Korean War.

To those service personnel, some of you who are here today...thank you. It is rare that a country would know its fate had a conflict not occurred, but every day the prosperous nation of South Korea looks over the border at North Korea and is reminded of what might have been had YOU not intervened.

I asked the Republic of Korea Embassy to provide some words to express the South Korean people's appreciation for our Veterans. They sent me these words by the President:

“This year as we commemorate the Sixtieth Anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War, we honour your selfless sacrifice in fighting tyranny and aggression. We salute your courage in enduring the unimaginable horrors of war; we pay tribute to your commitment in protecting liberty and freedom... Please accept our warmest gratitude and deepest respect. You will always remain our true Heroes and we assure you that we will continue to do our best to make you proud. On behalf of the Korean people, I would like to say thank you.”

Many describe the Korean War as the Forgotten War, a conflict that ended in stalemate and a tense armistice, which technically is on-going. When you returned from war, many of you simply returned to civilian life. As a representative of the younger generation and as a current serving member of the Australian Defence Force, I want to tell you today that your efforts have not been forgotten. Instead your service and conduct are entrenched in the operation and traditions of our present day defence force.

Korea was the first time Australia significantly contributed troops to a United Nations command. Since then the Australian Defence Force has served in over 40 UN led conflicts.

The Korean War was the first time Australia made a significant point of supporting its new partner, the US. The good will shown by Australia was crucial in the formation of the ANZUS treaty, which has been the most significant contribution to Australia's security to date. At the tactical level, your conduct and actions established the Australian reputation to the US and Canadians as courageous, hard working, resourceful, professionally led reliable military partners which continues to this day in Afghanistan.

Australia was not prepared for the Korean War.

- No. 77 Squadron received pilots which had only accumulated 8 hours of flying time in the Meteor jet due to there being no operational training facility in Australia.
- The Navy struggled to support two naval vessels on operations only 5 years after WWII.
- The Army needed to raise a volunteer force to reinforce our battalions to full strength.

Despite these deficiencies, Australia forces distinguished themselves by getting on with the job, with a ‘can do’ attitude. These were hard lessons learnt and since then, the Defence Force has remained trained and is ready to deploy at short notice.

The losses and suffering that our servicemen and women experienced due to insufficient resources, namely a lack of cold weather equipment, was a tragedy. Because of what you went through, and the lessons learnt in Korea, these mistakes have not been repeated. I was deployed to Afghanistan during winter and I did not feel the cold because we are now among the best equipped Defence Forces in the world.

Today's Australian Digger has changed little from the soldiers you are. Talking to the Korean Veterans about their dubious activities during the 50th anniversary reminded me of all the things my soldiers have done which I'm still trying to forget. The mateship and camaraderie which I see in Korean Veterans is no different 60 years later to the lads I have had the pleasure of serving with. I'm sure the groans; the weight of packs; the inclement weather; the hard ground; the heat; the cold; the sergeants; the officers; the section commanders – are all discussed and described in the same colourful language today as they were in your day. I'm sure that there is no other service in the world who can be quite so colourful as an Australian Digger but with an absence of malice.

You who served all that time ago are extremely well respected by our present serving members and any chance you have to speak to our young servicemen and women is always appreciated. I must say that the unofficial history of a unit is stuff that *esprit de corps* is made of and our young Diggers are always appreciate of a good

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story – even if it is true.

To the 339 who paid the supreme sacrifice, to the 44 Missing-In-Action, to the 1,219 who were wounded, to the 29 prisoners of war, and to all those whose lives have been shortened as a result of their Korean service, we honour your sacrifice.

Statistics and words like sacrifice are so often used in these speeches that we become desensitised to their magnitude.

The following are the events which surrounded 3 RAR's first casualties as told by Snow Dicker.

“Our Range Taker Tim O’Malley was in a jeep that got

bogged off the main road and Tim came back to get a carrier to pull the jeep out. He asked our driver Darkie Ogilvy, but he was busy with maintenance. Another driver volunteered and away they went. Tim walked along the track to show the way in, and the carrier went over a mine that killed the Officer Lt. K. Hummerston, and Driver K. Sketchley.”

The statistics don't show what affect this had on Mrs Sketchley when she was told her 20-year-old son was killed by a mine. The statistics don't record that Ken Sketchley died volunteering to help out a mate.

There are another 337 stories that involve sons, husbands, brothers, and fathers like Ken who never returned from Korea.

Today we remember them.

As I look around here I see men and women who stand tall with their head held high, confident in a job well done, extraordinary people who were led by extraordinary leaders, who left an extraordinary legacy. You are members of a very exclusive club. There is no one who can be nominated for membership. No one can purchase membership. The only requirement for membership is, simply, that you were there. No one can take that away from you. Be extremely proud of it – as we are of you. The lessons passed on by you have not only created a more effective and prepared Defence Force of today, but over the years have saved an unquantifiable amount of lives and suffering.

Korea was a savage war, taking over 339 Australian lives. Today, on this 60th anniversary of the start of that war, let us remember those who laid down their lives in the defence of freedom. Let us say a sincere “Thank You” to our Veterans and let us never forget your bravery, your sacrifice, and the legacy that you have left us which will endure forever.

From the Korean people, from the Australian Defence Force and from the Australian citizens – your sacrifice was not in vain.

* * *

Tricky Questions

If the professor on Gilligan's Island can make a radio out of coconut, why can't he fix a hole in a boat?

Don't you find it worrying that doctors call treating you their “practice?”

Do Siamese twins pay for one ticket or two tickets when they go to movies and concerts?

If corn oil is made from corn, and vegetable oil is made from vegetables, then what is baby oil made from?

How come you press harder on a remote control when you know the battery is dead?

If the cops arrest a mime, do they have to tell him he has the right to remain silent?

If people from Poland are called Poles, why aren't people from Holland called Holes?

If you're in hell, and are mad at someone, where do you tell them to go?

If someone with multiple personalities threatens to kill herself, is it considered a hostage situation?

I know you can be overwhelmed, and I know you can be underwhelmed, but can you just be whelmed?

If you take an oriental person and spin him around a few times, does he become disoriented?

If nothing ever sticks to Teflon, how do they make Teflon stick to the pan?

If you tell someone they are being judgmental aren't you being judgmental yourself?

Why do they call it your “bottom”, when it's really in the middle of your body?

If you spend your day doing nothing, how do you know when you're done?

If someone can't see, they're blind and if someone cant hear, they're deaf, so what do you call people who can't smell?

Why do most cars have speedometers that go up to at least 130 when you legally can't go that fast on any road?

Our Padre

by Clarrie Smith

B Coy 57/60 Battalion.

Written June 1944.

Where the going was the toughest
Where the mud was ankle deep,
Where the corduroy was roughest
And the trail was hard and steep;
Where it led through slush and jungle
Or along a Kunai spur,
Where you'd always find the Padre
With an ever cheerful word.

Though the boys were widely scattered
From the valley to the coast
Come at Saipa, Scott's and Yaula
At the Saddle and Guy's Post;
Did the Padre once forget us
Did he give the game away.
You'll agree with me he didn't
He was with us all the way.

Always spreading rays of sunshine
Words of comfort to the grieved,
Comfort to the sick and wounded
Sound advice to those in need;
Always sticking with the fellows
Whom he thought in need of help
Always thinking first of others
Never thinking of himself.

We are proud to have him with us,
An example to us all,
What a friend when things are rosy
What a comfort in our fall;
He has shown us by his actions
And his word which meant so much
That a man can be a Christian
Even When the going's tough

When this rotten war is over
And we're living civvie lives,
Back with parents, sisters, brothers
Sons and daughters, loving wives;
We'll forget the hills and jungle
We'll forget the mud and slush
But we won't forget our Padre
Who has done so much for us.

A Letter From Eramanga

A kid from Eramanga, a small town in central Queensland, and now in the army, sends the following letter home to Mum and Dad:

Dear Mum and Dad,

I am well. Hope youse are too. Tell me big brothers Doug and Phil that the army is better than workin' on the farm – tell them to get in quick smart before the jobs are all gone!

I wuz a bit slow in settling down at first because ya don't hafta get outta bed till 6am. But I like sleeping in now, cause all ya gotta do before brekky is make ya bed, and shine ya boots, and iron ya uniform. No cows to milk, no calves to feed, no feed to stack – nothin'!

At brekky, ya get cereal, fruit and eggs, but there's no kangaroo steaks or possum stew like what youse make. You don't get fed again till noon, and by that time all the city boys are bugged because we've been on a route march – geez, it's only like walking to the windmill in the back paddock!

This one will kill me brothers Doug and Phil with laughter. I keep gettin' medals for shootin' and I dunna why. The bull's eye is as big as a possum's bum and it don't move and it's not firing back at ya like the Johnsons did when our big scrubber bull got into their prize cows last year! You don't even load yer own cartridges. They come in little boxes and ya don't hafta steady yourself against the roll-bar of the roo-shootin' truck when you reload.

Sometimes ya gotta wrestle with the city boys and I gotta be real careful coz they break easy – it's not like fightin' with Doug and Phil and Jack and Boori and Steve and Muzza all at once like we do at home after the muster.

Turns out I'm not a bad boxer either and looks like I'm the best the platoon's got. I've only been beaten by this one bloke from the Engineers. He's 6 foot, 5 inches tall, 15 stone and three pick handles across the shoulders, and as ya know, I'm only 5 foot 7, and 8 stone wriggin' wet, but I fought him 'til the other blokes carried me off to the boozer.

I can't complain about the Army. Tell the boys to get in quick before word gets around about how good it is.

Your loving daughter, Private Tara Dale

Why We Know Santa is Male

1. No dress sense.
2. Too lazy to shave.
3. He always wears the same clothes
4. Obsessed with stockings.
5. Beer belly.
6. Never replies to your letters.
7. The chances of getting what you ask for are nil.
8. Will only commit to one day a year.
9. He never stops to ask for directions.
10. Only willing to do a job where people leave food and booze out for him.

The Last Cavalry Charge

The last full-scale cavalry charge took place during the Second World War. In November 1941, a division of Mongolian cavalry thundered across no-man's-land towards a German infantry division dug in near Muscino, a village not far from Moscow. The attack was a disaster. About 2000 Russians died in the charge – and not a single German.

Source: *Book of Facts*, Reader's Digest (Aust.) P/L 1994

Opening of the Kapyong-Maryang San Bridge, Melbourne, 19th Nov. 2010



The unveiling of the bridge in the Remembrance Garden of the Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital in Melbourne. The girls (and solitary boy) in blue are *The Little Angels*, a South Korean folk company currently touring Australia.

A Distinction of Some Sort

Probably the most “hard luck outfit” of all time was the German 26th Infantry Division during World War II. Raised as one of the “First Wave” divisions as part of the expansion of the German Army in 1935-36, the unit was recruited from Cologne in the Rhineland and bore the city’s famed cathedral as its emblem. The division campaigned in France in May and June of 1940, then did some occupation duty and was eventually assigned to the Eastern Front in June of 1941. It was at this point that the division’s troubles began. Between June of 1941 and September of 1944 the outfit distinguished itself repeatedly in combat. But it also managed to be almost totally destroyed seven times in this period, each time being rebuilt. After its seventh brush with dissolution in East Prussia in September 1944 the division was rebuilt yet again, partially from surplus naval and air force personnel, and sent west. In December it participated in the Second Ardennes Offensive (the Battle of the Bulge) only to be exterminated yet again. Rebuilt yet again it finally went down with the Third Reich in the final weeks of April, 1945. In 46 months of combat the unit had been destroyed nine times, an average of once every five months. Surely this is a distinction of some sort.

Source: Strategy & Tactics magazine No. 85

The Chinese November Offensive

by David J Richie

On 24 November 1950, the PLA entered the Korean War. The result, as *Time* magazine noted, was “the worst defeat the United States ever suffered.” The first blow fell on the ROK II Corps in the mountains east of the Chongchon. Some 18 PLA Divisions ripped through the South Koreans and slammed into the IX Corps’ U.S. 2nd Infantry Division, which, with the destruction of the neighboring ROK Corps, was the right flank formation of 8th Army.

In trying to escape from a potential PLA encirclement on the 25th, the 2nd drove into an ambush at Kunu-ri which proved to be one of the bloodiest episodes of the war. The road-bound division lost 4,000 men and most of its artillery in trying to negotiate a narrow defile whose cliff-like sides were lined with Chinese soldiers.

With its flank now torn open, Walker’s army was in real danger of being enveloped and destroyed. To save it, the commander ordered a general withdrawal and rushed his available reserves (the U.S. 1st Cavalry Division, the Turkish Brigade and the British 29th Brigade) into the battle for his threatened flank. It took him 10 days, but Walker had extricated his command by 5 December.

With no way of closing the gap between 8th Army and 10th Corps, though, the UN forces in the western sector would soon be faced with a new threat to their refused right flank, so Walker ordered a withdrawal to a more defensible line along the 38th Parallel, some 200 kilometers south of his army’s position at the start of the November offensive.

The Chinese followed cautiously, probing and harassing, but not trying to do more than retain contact. By the end of the year, 8th Army was awaiting a new Communist offensive in positions not far from those it occupied at the beginning of October. Far to the east, X Corps was advancing much slower than MacArthur wanted when it got the news on 26 November that the Chinese had mashed the ROK II Corps. Its tardiness was fortunate because the next day, 120,000 Chinese troops in three armies (the 20th, 26th and 27th) advanced on both sides of the Chosin Reservoir with the aim of destroying the 1st Marine Division.

Finding himself surrounded by eight Chinese divisions and informed that the X Corps was being withdrawn via Hungnam, Major General Oliver Smith ordered his marines to about face and cut their way through to the coast, a maneuver which he referred to as “attacking in another direction.” In an epic 13 day struggle that was one of the greatest feats of arms ever performed, Smith’s men first beat back repeated Chinese assaults and then fought a vicious running battle through 90 kilometers of snow-clad mountains to reach Hungnam. In the process, they handled the Chinese 9th Group Army so badly that it had to be withdrawn to Manchuria and rebuilt.

The rest of the UN forces in north eastern Korea had it a good deal easier than the marines. Part of the 7th Infantry Division was trapped in the Chosin area along with Smith’s men, but the 32nd and 17th Regiments withdrew to Hungnam without too much difficulty, and the ROK I Corps along the east coast wasn’t bothered at all. Between 5 and 15 December, X Corps and ROK I Corps were sealifted to Pusan along the 98,000 refugees and a vast amount of material. On arrival at Pusan, X Corps finally came under the control of 8th Army and went into army reserve.

Source: *Strategy & Tactics* magazine No. 111

The Imaginary Stronghold

In the closing weeks of the Second World War the Allied drive to Berlin was interrupted by startling news, put out by Joseph Goebbels, the German propaganda minister, that the Nazis had built a huge ‘National Redoubt’ on the border of Austria and Bavaria. The report was a hoax. But as intelligence chiefs warned in March 1945 when the news was passed to General Dwight Eisenhower, the Allied supreme commander, details of the fortress, if true, were too alarming not to be taken seriously.

Under Hitler’s personal command, so the story went, armaments were being manufactured in bomb-proof factories, food and equipment stored in vast caverns, and a whole underground army trained to liberate Germany from the occupying forces. As a result of the hoax, some Allied divisions were diverted to a worthless advance on the nonexistent Redoubt, slowing the Berlin offensive and contributing to the circumstances that enabled Soviet troops to enter the German capital first.

“Not until after the campaign ended”, wrote Allied commander General Omar Bradley later, “were we to learn that this Redoubt existed largely in the imagination of a few fanatical Nazis... I am astonished that we believed it as innocently as we did. But while it persisted, this legend of the Redoubt was too ominous a threat to ignore.”

Source: *Book of Facts*, Reader’s Digest (Aust.) Pty. Ltd., 1994

Renewal Time

1st January 2011 to 31st December 2011
Members – \$25 Associate Members – \$15
 Your subscriptions are the hub of the Association.

Please be **prompt** in your payment.

Please submit your renewal direct to:

The Acting Treasurer, KVAA Inc. Ron Christie, 15 Bianca Court, Rowville, Vic 3178.

Note: Please keep us informed of any address or telephone number changes. This is essential for any communication and to ensure that you receive your six issues of *The Voice*.

The Association would like to emphasise the following policy:

No KVAA Inc. members are dropped from the Association because of financial difficulties or sickness. Any member who experiences these difficulties please notify the Secretary or Treasurer in order that your membership remains within the Association. Information received concerning these matters will remain **confidential**.

Please cut here - - - - -

Renewal Details (Please Print)

Name:	Address:
Telephone:
E-mail:
Signature:	State: Post Code:

Merchandise Available

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

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

Subscription:	\$ _____
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(from above list)	
* Optional	TOTAL: \$ _____

**Remember:
 Renew Early and Win \$\$\$\$.**

Renew Early and Win \$\$\$\$.
 Renew your subscription before the end of the February 23rd 2011 General Meeting and go into the draw to win \$50.



This is Brutus, our new debt collections manager. Previously an interrogator for the Inquisition, he brings the same set of skills to the KVAA Inc. as he displayed in torturing heretics. If you would like to meet him, simply don't renew your subscription and he'll show up on your doorstep with a dozen of his old Inquisition pals to help you change your mind.

Funnies

World Survey

Last month a world-wide survey was conducted by the UN. The only question asked was: "Would you please give your honest opinion about solutions to the food shortage in the rest of the world?" The survey was a huge failure because of the following:

In Eastern Europe they didn't know what "honest" meant.

In Western Europe they didn't know what "shortage" meant.

In Africa they didn't know what "food" meant.

In China they didn't know what "opinion" meant.

In the Middle East they didn't know what "solution" meant.

In South America they didn't know what "please" meant.

In the US they didn't know what "the rest of the world" meant.

And finally...

In Australia they hung up because they can't understand an Indian accent.

Infantry v Cavalry v Artillery

HAPPINESS IS . . .

Infantry: A good rifle.

Cavalry: A big tank.

Artillery: A loud boom.

A LONG ROUTE MARCH WITH FULL KIT

Infantry: 20 kilometres.

Cavalry: From the barracks to the tank.

Artillery: What's a route march?

FAVORITE MODE OF TRANSPORTATION

Infantry: Anything but walking.

Cavalry: Tanks. Tanks. Tanks and more tanks.

Artillery: Don't you have to move around to require transport?

OTHER TRADES

Infantry: Waste of rations.

Cavalry: Waste of rations.

Artillery: Waste of rations.

BIGGEST LUXURY IN THE FIELD

Infantry: Engineers blowing trenches for them with explosives.

Cavalry: Grunts to dig their trenches for them.

Artillery: Cable television.

BIGGEST GRIPE IN THE FIELD

Infantry: The weather.

Cavalry: Coffee maker in tank not working.

Artillery: Only having basic cable television.

BREAKFAST IN THE FIELD

Infantry: I don't care what it is, as long as I can sit down to eat it.

Cavalry: Hot coffee and rum with a beer chaser.

Artillery: Eggs over easy, bacon, sausages, toast and cappuccino.

Good News and Bad News

The slave driver of the Roman galley stared down at his slaves and yelled, "I've got good news and bad news. The good news is that you'll be getting double rations tonight."

The slaves cheered.

"The bad news..." bellowed the slave driver over the happy rowers, "is the commander's son wants to water ski."

Paratrooper Joke x 3

A paratrooper on his first jump stares at his parachute doubtfully. "What should I do if it doesn't open," he inquires of his Sergeant who is handing them out.

"Just bring it back, lad," comes the smooth answer, "and I'll replace it."

* * *

A young soldier was making his first parachute jump.

The corporal explained the procedure "You count to ten and pull the first ripcord. If the chute doesn't open, pull the second. That should do it. Then, after you land, there'll be a truck waiting to pick you up."

The soldier checked his gear, called out the customary "Geronimo!" and jumped out of the plane. He counted to 10 and pulled the ripcord. The chute failed to open. He pulled the second ripcord and the chute still didn't open. As he plummeted downward, he said, "I'll bet the truck won't be there either."

* * *

During World War II, a pilot on flight duty with the 8th Air Force Division in Europe was shot down and captured by the Germans. After a year as prisoner of war, he escaped and made his way back to his bomber group in England. One of his first acts there was to hunt up the corporal on duty in the parachute building.

"Corporal," he said, "a year ago I had occasion to use one of the parachutes that your men had packed and I want you to know how delighted I was to find it in perfect working order. I give you my deepest compliments and appreciation."

"You know, its a funny thing," the corporal replied. "In this work we never get any complaints."

Notices

Robert Henry Myles

Are you related to Robert Henry Myles or know someone who is. If so, Kevin Wilson would like to hear from you. His wife, who manages the Lifeline shop at Nundah, Queensland, came across a set of WWII medals belonging to Robert Myles, and they would like to return them. Robert Myles was born in Aspatrio, England on 5 July 1903, enlisted in the Australian Army in Paddington, N.S.W., on 29 December 1941. His service number was NX80730. He was discharged on 20 July 1945 with the rank of Lance Corporal. If you can help, contact:

Kevin Wilson, State Secretary NAA Queensland
PO Box 8301, Woolloongabba 4102 QLD
07 3168 4028

Rising Spirit of Anzac Exhibition

When: 19 November 2010 to 30 January 2011

Where: Shrine of Remembrance

Created by social documentary photographer, Sharyn Meade, this exhibition records the personal stories of Australian veterans, in words and images, through successive generations and includes a good selection on the Korea War with contributions from Vic Dey and Maj. Gen. Jim Hughes.

Brian Welsh

Julie Thompson is looking for anyone who might have known her grandfather, Brian Welsh, 1/2684, Unit 2 Btn RAR. He died of shrapnel wounds on 14 June 1953 at the 43 Mobile Army Surgical Hospital. Contact the Secretary if you can help.

Notice of Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the KVAA Inc. will take place on 30th March at 10.30 a.m. at the Stella Maris Seafarers Centre. Among other functions, those attending this meeting will elect office bearers for 2011-2012 and receive the financial accounts. As a blatant bribe inducement to attend, a BBQ will follow the meeting.

Carer DVD

The National Carer Support Service, who are contracted to the DVA to help support carers in the Ex-Services community, have produced a DVD entitled "Men Care Too." The DVD aims to educate the community on the role of male carers and to encourage other carers to seek out support networks. It will also be used in carer workshops to advance their skills. KVAA now own a copy for use by anyone wishing to know more about assisting those in-need. Please advise Alan Evered if you wish to borrow this DVD. Should you wish a copy for your own or local ESO use they are available for \$15 from: Zena Sharples or Jennifer Daddow on (03) 9396 9500 or e-mail: ncss@carersvictoria.org.au

Mea Culpa!

(It's Latin for "Oops, I goofed")

KVAA Inc. member and retired RAN lieutenant, Vince Fazio, took issue with the *HMAS Goorangai Loss* article in last issue of *The Voice* – not the thrust of the article, more the classification of the Goorangai as a *Bathurst Class* corvette. Mr Fazio pointed out, correctly, that not only was the *Goorangai* **not** a *Bathurst Class* corvette, it wasn't even a corvette. The *Goorangai* was, in fact, a fishing trawler outfitted for wartime service. At the outbreak of WWII, the ship was one of thirty five privately owned vessels requisitioned by the RAN as auxiliary minesweepers, and it was in this capacity that it went down with all hands, as outlined in the article.

Chaplain's Corner



John Brownbill RFD KSJ

Well, it's that time of year again, so please accept my best wishes for the festive season. May it bring you joy and happiness and may the New Year be kind to you. In this issue, I am offering some interesting philosophical thoughts about Christmas, gathered from various sources. I hope you enjoy them.

The joy of brightening other lives, bearing each others burdens, easing other's loads and supplanting empty hearts and lives with generous gifts becomes for us the magic of Christmas. - W. C. Jones

What is Christmas? It is tenderness for the past, courage for the present, hope for the future. It is a fervent wish that every cup may overflow with blessings rich and eternal, and that every path may lead to peace. - Agnes M. Pharo

Somehow, not only for Christmas. but all the long year through, the joy that you give to others is the joy that comes back to you. And the more you spend in blessing the poor and lonely and sad, the more of your hearts possessing, returns to make you glad.

- John Greenleaf Whittier

Christmas – that magic blanket that wraps itself about us, that something so intangible that it is like a fragrance. It may weave a spell of nostalgia. Christmas may be a day of feasting, or of prayer, but always it will be a day of remembrance – a day in which we think of everything we have ever loved.

- Augusta E. Rundel

There is no ideal Christmas; only the one Christmas you decide to make as a reflection of your values, desires, affections and traditions. - Bill McKibben.

With every blessing, John Brownbill.

Letter From Daehee Ahn

Dear veterans,

Greetings from Daehee Ahn, the Defence Attaché of the Republic of Korea. I am writing this email in regards to the history museum at the Republic of Korea Army Infantry School. First of all, please allow me to briefly introduce the Army Infantry School.

The school was established in 1949, producing over 400,000 infantry officers as well as participated in the Korean War, Vietnam War and many other major conflicts. It has been the pillar of national security. Its main role is to educate and train officers such as company commanders and platoon commanders to be effective military leaders. The school is reconstructing its history museum in order to better preserve the historic artifacts as well as educate its officers.

The school is looking for additional items such as photos and personal items used during the Korean War to be displayed in the museum. This will help the school to better educate the officers as well as enhance the positive relationship between Australia and Korea.

We would highly appreciate it if any of you have such items to donate to the museum. Thank you for taking time to read the letter and I look forward to hearing from you.

Respectfully yours,
Colonel Daehee Ahn

Defence Attaché, Embassy of the Republic of Korea

If you wish to donate something or have any suggestions as to what this Association can contribute, contact Alan Evered.

Christening the Ship

One of the many customs that has lost its original meaning over time is the christening of naval ships. In spite of the name, the original practice predates Christianity stretching back to a polytheistic time when a warship would be dedicated to a goddess, whose image would often be carved on the masthead. During the ceremony the gods would be offered wine and oil on the altar. A bottle containing spirits would be broken over the bow just as the vessel struck water as part of the ritual dedication. A more grisly means of bringing good fortune was practiced by the early Vikings, who would run the keel of the newly completed vessel over the body – and blood – of a maiden. That sacrificial rite, too, eventually gave way to the substitution of a bottle of spirits broken over the bow. In medieval Christian Europe, a priest would bless the newly completed warship, christen the vessel in the name of some saint and anoint it with wine in the same manner. In more recent centuries, that custom was whittled down to the anointing-and-naming ceremony, which is still considered necessary for good luck.

Source: Military History magazine, April 2003.

Nominations for KVAA Office Bearers 2011-2012

Positions required: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Committee members

Current Nominees for 2011-2012: President - Vic Dey / Vice President - Tom Parkinson / Secretary - Alan Evered / Treasurer - Gerry Steacy / Committee - Ron Christie, John Duson, Keith Langdon, Allan Murray, Allen Riches (minute secretary), Arthur Roach, Bernie Schultz and Ivan Ryan.

KVAA Constitution - Rule 14: Election of Officers & Ordinary Committee Members

1. Any financial member of the Association may submit his/her nomination for a position as an ordinary member of the Committee but must comply as follows: The nomination form must be signed by two (2) financial members of the Association and be accompanied by the written consent of the Candidate.
2. Nominations must be returned to: The Secretary, KVAA Inc., PO Box 2123, Rangeview, Victoria 3132.

Please cut here -----

NOMINATION FOR OFFICE BEARERS / COMMITTEE 2011-2012

We the undersigned, being financial members of the KVAA Inc, do hereby nominate:

Name:	For the position of:
Proposer:	Signature:
Seconder:	Signature:
I,	
Do hereby and hereon accept nomination for the position of:	
Signature:	Date:

Waste Not, Want Not...

In 1943 Albert Speer, the German Armaments Minister, received, but wisely rejected, a request from the Kriegsmarine for the manufacture of 50,000 ceremonial daggers, explaining to the offended Navy that the metal might serve the Reich's war effort more effectively in some manner other than for dress uniforms. The same year, however, in a move that might be considered typical Teutonic, the German Wehrmacht requisitioned 6,200,000 ink stamp pads to facilitate the processing of red tape, amounting to roughly one for every man and woman in the armed forces. The U.S. Government, on the other hand, went overboard in a typical American way. During WWII, on the 703 square miles of the Marianas Islands and Guam, the US constructed 233 outdoor movie theatres, 65 stage theatres, 95 softball and 35 baseball fields, 225 volleyball and 30 basketball courts, and 35 boxing rings complete with spectator seating. This works out to a total of 1.02 leisure time facilities per square mile.

Another Year

Another year has passed
and we're all a little older.

Last summer felt hotter
and winter seems much colder.

There was a time not long ago
when life was quite a blast.

Now I fully understand
about 'Living in the Past'

We used to go to weddings,
football games and lunches.
Now we go to funeral homes,
and after-funeral brunches.

We used to have hangovers,
from parties that were gay.
Now we suffer body aches
and wile the night away.

We used to go out dining,
and couldn't get our fill.
Now we ask for doggie bags,
come home and take a pill.

We used to often travel
to places near and far.
Now we get sore asses
from riding in the car.

We used to go to nightclubs
and drink a little booze.
Now we stay home at night
and watch the evening news.

That, my friend is how life is,
and now my tale is told.

Enjoy each day and live it up
Before you're too damned old!

Next KVAA Inc. Committee /
General meeting: 19 January at
10.30 a.m. at the Stella Maris.

Odd Spot

Winston Churchill became the
first Prime Minister to enter the
British pop charts when an album
featuring some of his speeches
set to music debuted in 4th place
on Sunday 3rd October.

Source: *The Age*,
Odd Spot, 5th Oct. 2010

In Flanders Fields

by Lt. Col. John McCrae in 1915

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
to you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields

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 re-arrange, any item submitted for publication. The view of contributing authors are not necessarily those of the Association, the editor or publishers of *The Voice*.

Farewells

Lawrence Francisco, 6400084,
A Company, 3RAR
on 1st November 2010.

Frederick Amos Goodare,
2400953, 3RAR,
on 4th October 2010.

Thomas Hetherington,
31524, 3RAR
in late Oct. 2010.

Leonard Meakins, R27630
HMAS Murchison & Tobruk
on 1st November, 2010.

Keith (Paddy) Outridge (Capt.),
1123, 3RAR
on 23 Oct. 2010.

John Poole, 1st Btn,
Royal Leicester Regiment,
on 2nd November 2010.
[Note: not John Darryl Poole]

Ronald H. Scott, Royal Navy,
on 1st November 2010.

David Wilcox, Royal Marines,
around 6th October 2010.

William G. Killick, 52124,
3RAR, 2RAR, 6RAR
on 27th October 2010.

Edmond R. Williams, R45040,
HMAS Condamine,
in September 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