

# THE VOICE

June 2010 Edition

This edition of *The Voice* is certified Don Scally free.

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Munro & Parkinson in a \$60,000 Lexus

## Anzac Day Parade Report

First the good news... The Korean War Veterans section of the Anzac Day march jumped off on schedule for probably the first time since...well, since the first Anzac Day after the Korean War armistice was signed.

Now the bad news... For probably the first time since...well, since the first Anzac Day after the Korean War armistice was signed, we weren't quite ready. Usually we're standing around for ½ an hour before the march officials wave us off fifteen minutes after the scheduled start. Not this time. Having been forced to park a hundred city blocks away [*a slight exaggeration for dramatic effect, I suspect – editor*] the flag courier lumbered to the meeting place a little later than he intended. The Cadets, supposed to carry the 26 flags and the banner, were nowhere to be seen and required rounding up. The veterans started forming up, and rushing to join them was a small party of Koreans in national dress. Just five minutes more and all would—

And suddenly we were away, with everyone scrambling into position as they marched. Those not marching waited for their vehicles...and waited, then, to break the monotony, waited some more. Eventually they 'borrowed' a couple of empty cars and went in pursuit of those ahead of them. Peter Brooks stood forlornly on the curb waiting for a lift that now looked as if it was never going to arrive. But it did, five minutes after he left to the Stella Maris Seafarers Centre. In fact, two vehicles arrived, capable of carrying ½ dozen veterans.

Despite these organisational quirks and the constant threat of rain, those watching the march on the giant screen at Stella Maris saw only the proud banner of the KVA, the ordered ranks of the veterans (alas, growing smaller each year), and the angelic smiles of the Korean children in their colourful costumes who accompanied the veterans.

Eventually everyone made their way to the Stella Maris where there was much catching up from the previous year and (would you believe it?) much beer was also drunk. Oh yes, we got to see the "traditional" Anzac Day AFL blockbuster on the giant screen. What we didn't get to see was Tom Parkinson and John Munro do their lap of the MCG – in a car, not jogging – before the game, due to the Dawn Service being repeated onscreen. Oh well, with 70,000 spectators at the MCG cheering them on, I doubt they missed us.

All in all, and despite what the critics of Anzac day allege (see page 9), the 25th of April is rapidly becoming our national day.

### 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.  
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Korea War Veterans Association of NSW  
Australian Korea Veterans Association Inc.

### Allied Associations

Australian Peacekeepers and Peacemaker Veterans' Association Inc.



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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

This year is obviously an historic time for all Korea War Veterans: the 25th of June being the 60th Anniversary of the start of the Korean War. In the last issue of *The Voice* we gave contact names and numbers for each state for inquires about the proposed 60th Anniversary ceremonies in their State. The Korean Government was hoping each UN Country involved in the war would hold a ceremony on the June 25th to commemorate that significant event.

Here in Victoria (as in W.A.) we are holding a Memorial Ceremony at the Shrine of Remembrance on June 25th at 1pm. This will be after the Victorian Government hosts a reception for Victorian Korea War veterans which will also be held at the Shrine from 10am until noon. Hopefully all Veterans will have received their official invitation directly from the Government (not KVAA Inc.) by the time our newsletter is published.

A good number of members/wives attended the Fountain Gate Secondary College Anzac Day Memorial Ceremony on 23 April. It was our first official visit on their special day since the mutual "adoption" of the school and our Association. We were warmly received by the staff and the students, our Korean War memorabilia was on display for all, and the service was enjoyable and moving.

The Consul General of the Republic of Turkey, Mr Aydin Nurhan kindly sent my wife and me an invitation to attend the *Turkish-Japanese Joint Concert* to be held in Federation Square on Monday June 14th. We have accepted his kind invitation with great pleasure.

Anzac Day proved a reasonable success. Weather-wise it was fantastic but our numbers were down a little on last year. Our thanks to the Korean family and to the Korean National veterans who marched with us with their own banner. I believe they enjoyed the experience and also the Reunion where we made them very welcome. Hopefully, they'll join us again next year.

A number of names of both members and affiliate members have been submitted for the *Return to Korea* in June this year. At the time of writing, there has been no word of just who has been selected. Best wishes to those veterans who make the tour. We know you'll have a most enjoyable trip.

## Korean War Memorial Service

The annual Korean War Memorial Service is on **27 June at 10am**. Each year, as those who regularly attend can attest, Melbourne's Korean community conducts a memorial service at the Korean Church of Melbourne, followed by light refreshments. Although primarily a sombre occasion, it is also a memorable one due primarily to the excellence of the choir and musicians. Please note, the Korean Church Secretary requires the names of attendees. It is most impolite to just turn up on the day. If you plan to attend please advise Alan Evered A.S.A.P. on 03 9874 2219 or 0412 521 488 or at [evered@optusnet.com.au](mailto:evered@optusnet.com.au)

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

## 60th Anniversary Service

As most of you are aware, this year is the 60th anniversary of the start of the Korean War and the last major milestone that many veterans will be capable of attending.

By now, many of you will have received an invitation from The Hon. John Brumby, Premier of Victoria, to a reception at the Shrine. Details are still being finalised, but it is from 10 am till noon (1000-1200 hours for you military types) and involves what I'm told is a 'heavy breakfast', so it is probably best not to eat beforehand.

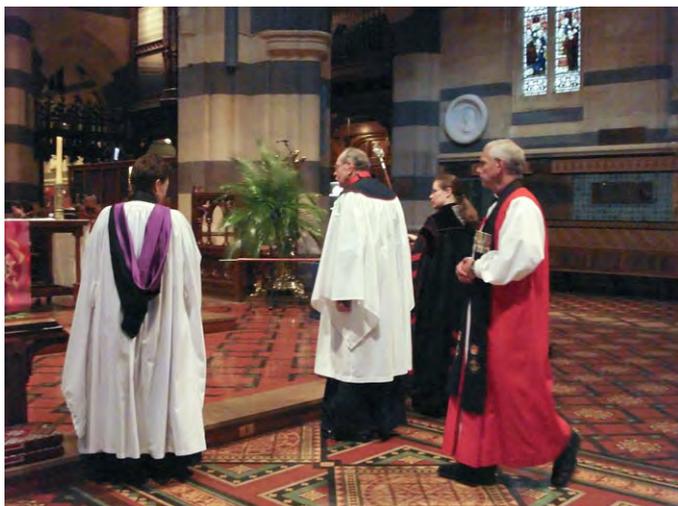
Dress is formal, as you would expect: suit, medals (if you wish) and name tag (if you have one). However, reefer jackets with grey slacks are acceptable.

Those not involved in the State reception, which is by **invitation only** due to the limited space at the Shrine, are welcome to attend the Memorial Service at the same location. This service **commences** with assembly in the forecourt at 1230 hours, then at 1300 hours the RAAF Air Force band will lead the march to the Pool of Reflection. The service is expected to conclude about 1400 hours, enabling members to avoid the daily "rush hour" going home.

For members' wives and partners, and others, who arrive **during** the reception to attend the service, we recommend relaxing at the nearby Observatory Café, in Birdwood Avenue (on the corner of Observatory Drive, opposite the Shrine).



# Out & About



Church service, St. Pauls, Flinders Street, Melbourne. Sunday 28 March 2010.

Anzac Day, Melbourne. Sunday 25 April, 2010.



The veterans gather.



'Dusty' Miller



"Room for one more."



Three generations of Bryants.  
(Guess who won most of the raffle prizes)

Stella Maris



*(continues on page 14)*

# The Immortal Chaplains (Part Two)

by Geoffrey Guilfoyle

## The Last Voyage

It was a cold winter day on Pier 2 at Staten Island on 22 January 1943. The U.S.A.T. *Dorchester* sat at anchor, grey and forbidding. It must have struck some of the sailors present as the opening line for a bad joke when a rabbi, a priest, and two protestant ministers stepped onto a gangplank to board. These were four U.S. Army chaplains, fresh from Harvard: Father John Washington, Rabbi Alexander Goode, George Fox, a Methodist minister, and the Baptist, Clark Poling. Of the 904 other men also making the trip, most were replacement troops to relieve those already on station in Greenland. In addition to the 130 crew, two dozen Navy Armed Guard, a number of civilian contractors and several Danish citizens were also present. The *Dorchester* carried a general cargo which included lumber and 60 sacks of mail.

Sailing in heavy seas in a 64 ship convoy and escorted by destroyers and corvettes, the *Dorchester* reached the first port of call, St. Johns in Newfoundland (east coast of Canada) on the 27th. After the stay of a day it set sail again, this time as part of convoy SG-19 which consisted of the *Dorchester*, two freighters (the SS *Lutz* and *Biscaya*) and U.S. Coast Guard cutters *Tampa*, *Comanche* and *Escanaba* as escorts. In these frigid, submarine infested waters, ice began to build on the decks, slowing the *Dorchester* to just 10 knots. The winter winds whipped up the North Atlantic, throwing the ships about.

Unsurprisingly, given the conditions, many of the soldiers and civilians, most aboard a ship for the first time in their lives, came down with sea-sickness. The four chaplains, some who may have been affected themselves, still did their best to comfort and reassure the men.

“At times I thought the *Dorchester* was going to disintegrate,” recalls Ben Epstein, one of the soldiers who survived the sinking. “Ice and heavy seas tore away part of the *Tampa*’s anti-submarine rocket platform and washed some life rafts overboard. Sea spray froze on everything, including men’s faces.”

To make matters worse, Coast Guard sonar detected the presence of a German submarine.

The *Dorchester*’s captain, Hans Danielson, might at this moment have considered that the usual depressing pattern was about to be repeated: an unseen, elusive submarine blasting the bottom of a merchantman; the sudden explosion; one or more of the escorts dashing to the scene to rescue the few sodden freezing survivors while the remaining warships went after a sonar echo that they hoped represented the enemy; the dropping of depth charges and then everyone trying to convince themselves that the echo’s disappearance meant the destruction of the submarine. In reality, none of the ships of the Greenland Patrol was ever officially credited with sinking a U-boat.

The battered convoy sailed on. Although steering an evasive course, none of the ships in the convey were zig-zagging. Captain Danielson posted at total of 29 lookouts; visibility was good, and despite the lack of light, the two freighters remained in sight. The ships drew within 150 miles of Greenland. Protective air cover would be available the next morning, but that night Danielson told the troops to sleep in their clothes and life jackets, an order ignored by many.

At 12:55 a.m., U-223, captained by Lt. Commander Karl-Jurgen Wachter, fired a number of torpedoes at the *Dorchester*.

One hit, slamming into the starboard side, destroying the engine and boiler rooms and releasing a cloud of steam and noxious gas. With a number of bulkheads ruptured, the area quickly flooded trapping many of the crew. The *Dorchester* swung to the starboard and lost way. In unfamiliar surrounds, startled, confused and with the electricity failing, soldiers stumbled from their bunks and made their way to the upper decks. Taking water rapidly, the ship continued to list.

In this chaos stood the four chaplains, handing out lifejackets and trying to calm the men. Too few lifejacket; too many soldiers without. It is thought that John Washington was the first to strip off his lifevest and hand it to a soldier. The other chaplains soon followed his example. When one soldier tried to return to his cabin to retrieve is gloves, Rabbi Goode peeled off his own and gave it to the man.

Captain Danielson ordered the ship abandoned.

It did not go well. The explosion had destroyed lifeboat No. 7, and No. 4, riddled with shrapnel, collapsed on launch, plunging its passengers into the water. The heavy list made launching others problematic. Lifeboat No. 9 was left hanging on its davit, the sailors assigned to it either dead or missing.

Ben Epstein made his way to his lifeboat station only to find the boat lowered and underway. Grabbing a rope, he slid down to it only to have the overloaded boat capsize moments later. Despite not knowing where to go or where he was going in the darkness, he started swimming, and by luck came across another lifeboat. Numbed and weakened by the frigid water, he was too weak to climb in; however someone in the boat noticed

*(continues overpage)*



The USAT Dorchester Sinking. A 5' x 3' acrylic painting by Dick Levesque.

of cold that enveloped him, then the struggle to the surface. Luckier than most, he was pulled onto a liferaft, one of only nine navy men aboard the *Dorchester* to survive. Turning back towards the ship, he saw the *Dorchester* resting “like a wounded animal on its side.”

The four chaplains had done all they could; all that was humanly possible. They were last seen on the keel of the floundering ship, outlined against the sky, arms linked, in prayer.

Plunging bow first, the *Dorchester* slipped beneath the waves, carrying those still aboard down with it.

### The Rescue

One of the controversies of the *Dorchester* sinking is what the escort ships did. Dan Kurzman, author of *No Greater Glory: The Four Immortal Chaplains*, believes no rescue took place for an hour, due to the cutters following standard procedure and going after the enemy. Other accounts have the escort ships sailing on for some time, oblivious to the *Dorchester*'s plight; that the ship sunk before they realised what was happening. Having heard the explosion, Dick Swanson, the sonar operator aboard the *Comanche*, disagrees on this point. “The sound quality was not good that night,” he recalls, “but there was no doubt about what it was.”

From my own reading, it seems that those in command aboard the three cutters didn't immediately realise that the *Dorchester* had been struck. Because the torpedo hit beneath the waterline, the explosion was muffled. Also, the *Dorchester* was not in their line of sight and blacked out. After some delay, and not until after the *Dorchester* went under – some 18 minutes after being struck – the USCG *Escanaba* fired star shells which temporarily bathed the area in a ghostly white light and, incidentally, making it a target for any lurking u-boat, and set about rescuing survivors. The *Tampa* (in most accounts) escorted the two freighters from the area while the *Comanche* either hunted the submarine then later returned to assist with picking up survivors or (less likely, though given in some accounts) went straight to the assistance of the survivors.



A mural, commemorating the event, painted by Dean Fausett. It hangs in the JCC Irene Kaufmann building in Squirrel Hill, Oakland, California.

Regardless of timing, the scene awaiting the *Escanaba* and *Comanche* was surreal. Each lifejacket carried a small, battery-powered blinking red light and the sea was awash with pin-pricks of red bobbing up and down with the waves. All indicated the position of a corpse, the wearer having frozen to death within twenty minutes of hitting the ice-filled water, and usually in much less time.

Although most suffered from shock and exposure, of the men in the lifeboats and liferafts, most survived. A few of the crew of the *Escanaba*, specially trained and equipped with rubber suits, braved the water to aid the survivors, especially those too cold to move. In all, the two Coast Guard cutters rescued 230 men before following the *Tampa* and freighters toward Greenland.

### The Aftermath

In any life-and-death situation involving hundreds of people, a few cases of both heroism and cowardice stand out. The sinking of the *Titanic* is full of both, but more of the former. And why not? The vessel took nearly three hours to sink. Plenty of time for social norms (‘women and children first’) to assert themselves. None of this was evident in the sinking of the *Lusitania* three years later. Hit by a torpedo, it went under in 18 minutes. In this case, it was ‘everyone for themselves!’ and gallantry be damned.

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The *Dorchester* sunk in a similar time and should have played the same way. Yet fortified by their faith and their mission, and in the few minutes available, the four chaplains made every effort to comfort and save others while not seeking the safety of the lifeboats themselves, as they well could have. In the years immediately afterward and through the 1950s, the four chaplains becoming a national symbol of heroism and sacrifice. When in 1948, the U.S. government issued a commemorative stamp, memorial services were held all over the nation.

Their heroism alone, however, does not fully account for the impression they made on their contemporaries.

In the multicultural secular society of today, interfaith co-operation is taken for granted. The under-45s cannot remember the time when this wasn't so. Those older, particularly much older, can: a time of social conflict between Catholics and Protestants, of antipathy between Catholic and Jew, and the disdain even competing Protestant faiths (such as Methodists and Baptists) held for each other, not to mention Catholics.

David Fox, George Fox's nephew, sees the four chaplains as trailblazers. "This was the first time that anybody knows about that interfaith values and sacrifice were brought into such prominence." David is the founder of *The Immortal Chaplains Foundation*, an organisation that tries to keep the spirit of the chaplains alive by handing out annual awards to people who risk all to protect others of a different faith or ethnicity. There also is a *Four Chaplains Memorial Foundation* based at the Philadelphia Navy Yard which promotes interfaith chapels and provides youth scholarships.

In this way, though the names Fox, Goode, Poling and Washington have faded into insignificance as individuals, as The Immortal Chaplains, they and example wrought by their heroism and self-sacrifice, continue to inspire into this century.

\* \* \* \*

Reading the accounts of the sinking makes one think their were a dozen convoy SG-19s sailing that night, so different is each story. The exact facts of the night will probably never be known, most lost in the frigid waters off the north Atlantic and in the confused accounts of the survivors and witnesses.

The *Dorchester* wasn't the only victim from SG-19. On 13 June, while on another escort mission, a torpedo hit the *Escanaba*. She sank immediately taking most of her 130 strong crew down with her.

Note: in order to preserve space, I'm not listing the 18 references used/read for this article. If you are interested in the topic and want to follow it up, or simply wish to check my level of scholarship – admittedly very low – then let me know and I will send you a copy of the list. Alternatively, you can search the Internet, as I did.

## Clarification

We at *The Voice* might be misguided, addled, muddle-headed, obdurate, mistaken and even idiotic; however, we are never, never WRONG (or if we are, we never admit it). That said we have a small correction – ahem, I mean, clarification, arising from the April edition to make.

One KVAA Inc. member, whom we suspect might be a New Zealander (not that there's anything wrong with that. After all, we need someone to regularly beat at cricket and rugby) wrote in to protest what he saw as a glaring omission.

In the short article, entitled *The First Anzac Day*, on page three, the author, Rudolph Brasch, asserted: *But not so Anzac Day. This always is celebrated on the day on which it falls – April 25th. And with good reason. The day commemorates the first great action of the A.I.F. – the Gallipoli landing – and has become symbolic of Australians and their way of life.*

The dissenting member – the aforementioned suspected Kiwi – objected to this, pointing out that it excludes the New Zealanders, that it was their first fight too.

Actually, it was wasn't the first action for the troops of either nation, though it was their first fight as 'Anzacs,' the term by which they were known by that stage of the war.

The AIF's first action – pre-Anzac – was fought on 3 February 1915 on the eastern bank of the Suez Canal. According to *Wartime* (Issue 34) the Turks launched a two-prong attack on Indian positions at Antara (El Qatara) in an attempt to take the canal. Also present was a detachment of men from the 3rd Field Company of the Australian Engineers who participated in the battle. New Zealand troops were also involved, though further south, where they and the Indian troops present drove off the Turks who tried to cross the canal in barges.

Thus, in the interests of historical accuracy, consider the paragraph changed to: *To prolong the weekend period of rest and recreation, Australians have acquired the habit of moving most public holidays to a Monday. But not so Anzac Day. This always is celebrated on the day on which it falls – April 25th. And with good reason. The day commemorates the first great action of the Anzacs – the Gallipoli landing – and has become symbolic of Australians and their way of life...*

# Notices 1

## Australian General Service Medal

The Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Support, the Hon. Dr Mike Kelly AM MP, has announced that Her Majesty the Queen has approved the official regulations and design for the award of the Australian General Service Medal for Korea.

“The Australian General Service Medal for Korea is being struck to recognise former Defence Force personnel who completed 30 days participating in operations in South Korea,” Dr Kelly said. “This includes any location within 161 kilometres seaward from the coast of South Korea during the post-armistice period from 28 July 1953 to 19 April 1956.”

Former Defence Force personnel who served in South Korea during the post-armistice period are encouraged to submit their application to the following address:

Directorate of Honours and Awards  
Department of Defence  
PO Box 7952  
CANBERRA ACT 2610

People who have previously applied for the award do not need to reapply but should contact the Directorate of Honours and Awards if their address details have changed since applying.

## The Name's Still Charlie

In 2009, Australian Military History Publications decided to reprint *The Name's Still Charlie*, Olywn Green's biography of her husband, Lt. Col. Charles Green. (For those few who don't know, Charles Green was a WWII veteran and the first CO of 3RAR in Korea. He was mortally wounded six weeks after taking command). The reprint, in hard back, has many more photos and contains an epilogue written by Olwyn to update the original 1993 edition. As of writing, we have no information on which bookshops are holding copies; however, it can be ordered (post-free) for \$45 from The War Bookshop (Warbooks Aust. Online) on 02 95426771 or [www.warbookshop@bigpond.com.au](mailto:www.warbookshop@bigpond.com.au)

Note: The Internet savvy Olwyn has her own blog (web-log) at: <http://loveintwowars.blogspot.com/>

## Seeking Richard or Myoim Garrett

The first known Korean person naturalized as an Australian citizen was Myoim Garrett, married to Richard Garrett (S/N 34058), who served in Korea from 24 July 1952 to 20 August 1953. Corporal Garrett returned to Australia in 1954 and continued to serve in the army at Punkapunya. Myong Yang is researching this important part of Korean immigration history and is seeking information on Richard, Myoim, or their children (if any). If you can help, contact Vic Dey or the Editor and we'll forward your name to Myong.

## Did You Know Reg Saunders?

In the early 1960s, Korean War Correspondent, Harry Gordon, published a biography on Reg Saunders called *The Embarrassing Australian*. Since then he has kept in touch with the Saunders family and has embarked on an updated version of the biography involving Crete and Korea. In particular he is trying to contact those of all ranks who fought with Reg in Korea. If you are able to offer any comments on your life with Reg or know of others who fought with him, Harry would be grateful for telephone numbers or email addresses. You can contact Harry by e-mail ([harrygordon@bigpond.com](mailto:harrygordon@bigpond.com)) or call the Editor (leave a message) and I'll pass your details on to him.

## Altona RSL Plaque Dedication

The President of Altona's RSL called to let us know the Korean War Plaque will be dedicated on 11 August 2010 at 1:15 pm at the Altona War Memorial. The Altona RSL's padre, Leam Mathews, will officiate. Light refreshments will be served at the RSL before the service. All KVAA members who live in the area (and those who come from further afield) are encouraged, and are most welcome, to attend. The Altona RSL is located at 31 Sargood Street (Melways G11).

## Australian SAS Documentary

Professor Bruce Horfield is a documentary maker whose current project is a 10 part series entitled, *The Australian SAS - the Untold History*. Episode 1, *Heads and Hearts* is now ready for release. This double disc set will include the episode plus a photogallery and interview segments that could not be fitted into the program. Price per episode (a double disc set) is \$39.95 incl. GST and P&P.

If anyone wants more information, including how to purchase Episode 1, they can contact Bruce via e-mail at [forwardsoutfilms@gmail.com](mailto:forwardsoutfilms@gmail.com)

## Korean War Poster

Dennis Charlton, a Korean War veteran with 21 years service with the Royal Australian Navy's fleet aircraft maintenance arm, produced a poster for Anzac Day to help raise public awareness of Australia's involvement in the 1950-1953 conflict. His poster was – and might still be – on display at Robinson's Bookshop in Frankston and libraries in Frankston, Carrum Downs and Hastings, so if you live in the area, keep an eye out for it.

*[Editor's note: Dennis attended the April general meeting and brought along copies of the poster. Unfortunately, its size precluded it being scanned and reproduced in The Voice.]*

# Anzac Day: A Dissenting View

by Geoff Guilfoyle

Not everyone approves of ANZAC Day. It is particularly problematic to Professors Henry Reynolds and Marilyn Lake as they expound at length in their book *What's Wrong with Anzac?* and outlined in the Features section of the A2 supplement in *The Age*, 2-3 April 2010:

*Like the many Australians who are concerned with the homage paid to the Anzac spirit and associated militarisation of our history, we are concerned about the ways in which history is used to define and distort our national heritage and national values...*

The 'many' the professors mention are mainly on the political Left. Given the largely male aspect of war, feminist academics such as Ms Lake are naturally suspicious of any celebration of male bonding, and left-wing intellectuals naturally decry anything as coarse as patriotism and nationalism (which they equate with jingoism and conservatism). So what disturbs the two authors most about Anzac Day?

*A further complication for the current apotheosis of the spirit of the Anzac is that they were men of their time and therefore convinced white supremacists. They were the proud representatives of the white Australia policy, which promoted racial purity at home and abroad. Indeed much of their self-confidence and elan came from their belief in their racial superiority...*

Such a belief must have been really handy when the Anzacs came up against the Germans on the Western Front, who doubtless reminded the Anzacs where the 'Saxon' in 'Anglo-Saxon' came from.

The soldiers of World War One, most born in the late 19th century, were not 'advanced' social thinkers like...like, well, the left-wing academics of today and cannot – and should not – be judged by 21st standards. However, the authors are doing just that – and by implication including the soldiers of WWII and Korea in their condemnation – and seem to be argue that this should invalidate our admiration of the Anzac's ability, dedication, achievement and sacrifice. An odd claim. If applied universally, then virtually every public figure of the last 2,000 years – including most doyens of the Left – could be similarly discounted.

Professors Reynolds and Lake also claim that the Anzac spirit is being used to 'normalise' deployment of Australian troops, without much scrutiny or debate, into wars of choice rather than necessity. They, of course, mean John Howard and Iraq.

Hmm. They seem to have very selective memories. Remember September 3, 1939 and Menzies announcement that Britain was at war therefore Australia was at war. No consultation, no discussion. Our involvement in the Boer War, WWI (pre-conscription debate), Korea, the Malaya Emergency, Vietnam (initially), the Gulf War, Timor, the Solomon Islands all elicited minimal discussion and dissent. Seems that Anzac Day was hijacked by nefarious (conservative) politicians for their own militaristic use long before John Howard is alleged to have done so.

In the article in *The Age*, the authors eventually overplay their hand when they offer the following:

*In explaining the historic return to Anzac in the last decade we have seen a clear relationship between the militarisation of Australian history and the controversy over Aboriginal history known as the history wars. The same political leaders who emphasise the importance of our military heritage have been demonstrably uncomfortable when asked to deal with the century-long conflict on the frontiers of settlement. Thus we show no embarrassment, indeed even feel pride, in our invasion of Turkey at the behest of the British, but great reluctance to acknowledge the British invasion of Australia. Many resist the idea that an invasion ever took place. And while we restore old monuments and construct new ones to commemorate military conflict overseas, there are still no official memorials to those who died on the frontier. The leadership of the Australian War Memorial stoutly resists any suggestion that they should give recognition to domestic warfare.*

The cads! How dare the AWM not acknowledge the 1788 invasion and subsequent war!

Now, let's cut the worthy professors a bit of slack here (and, no, I don't mean in the form of a noose). They are both of the Left and therefore "progressive" thinkers. And, yes, I realise that millions of "progressive" thinkers over the last 75 years supported regimes such as those run by Lenin, Stalin, Pol Pot, Mao, Ceausescu, Tito and Castro. However, the Left generally pretends it either never happened or, if it did, had nothing to do with them. For the sake of this article, let's go along with this delusion. After all, pretty much all current progressive thinkers do. [See *A Woman of Principle* story on page 10 for an example of this].

The new dogma of the Left – ahem, I mean 'political narrative' – is that what occurred in 1788 amounted to an invasion and inadvertent dispossession (to the moderates) or systematic dispossession and murder (to the radicals) of the indigenous population. Some go further and even use the 'g' word – genocide.

For our worthy professors not to argue some variation of this line is tantamount to siding with those in the conservative camp, such as Professor Keith Windschuttle or social commentators such as Gerard Henderson, both of whom say no such invasion took place.

*(continues overpage)*

*Anzac Day: A left-wing View (from previous page)*

Silly reactionary conservatives! Of course an invasion took place. Just look at the historical record.

In 1788 a fleet of warships pulled into Sydney Cove and disgorged a regiment of crack troops and several squadrons of mounted dragoons to protect the hundreds of yeoman farmers and artisans and their families who would form the bulk of the settlers/occupiers. Accompanying them were surveyors, engineers, and other military specialists. On foot, horse, and by boat, the invaders spread outward, rounding up and killing all members of the Aboriginal resistance. Within months, the Blue Mountains were crossed and the gap between the mainland and Van Diemen's Land (now revealed as an island) discovered and chartered. New Holland was well on its way to be conquered.

Oh. Wait. No...

The British government actually sent ship loads of bedraggled petty criminals and second-class guards. Few guns, no mobile cannon, and no horses. It took the 'invaders' 25 years to cross the Blue Mountains, just 60 km west of Sydney! In the first year after settlement (sorry, I mean invasion), the invading force came close to starvation. Fortunately, the Second Fleet rectified this deficiency in armaments, troops, surveyors, scouts and engineers, and farmers and artisans.

Oh. Wait. No... It didn't. It delivered an even greater load of fallen humanity.

In fact, had there really been a united Aboriginal response in the first months after the initial landing in 1788, the British would likely have been wiped out. Such a response never occurred because, despite what the worthy progressive professors might claim, neither side viewed what was happening as an invasion, and because of the tribal and clan nature of aboriginal society and (unlike New Zealand) a population thinly spread over a continent-sized country, no mass mobilisation was possible. Resistance, when it came, was far from guerrilla warfare. It was fragmentary, limited and no more than nuisance value. Disease, rather than conflict, carried off the vast majority of the aboriginal inhabitants.

But what do I know. I'm not a university professor or historian, progressive or otherwise. We should be grateful to the authors for alerting us to the hijacking of Anzac Day by the forces of conservatism to deflect attention from the dispossession of the indigenous inhabitants and the Iraq deployment. Maybe we should ditch this mindlessly militaristic event entirely. The authors certainly think so.

*We suggest that Australia might look to alternative national traditions that give pride of place to equality of opportunity and the pursuit of social justice: the ideals of the living wage and decent working conditions, [and] the long struggle for sexual equality.*

How about replacing Anzac Day with a national Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras led by aboriginal activists dressed as Ned Kelly. Is that progressive enough?

## **A Woman of Principle?**

Elizabeth Alma Morton, described by anarchist and admirer, Joe Toscano, as a social and peace activist, feminist, and fighter for equal opportunity, was also for a decade a dedicated member of the Communist Party of Australia. However, she left in 1951. Why? Was it because...

1. She increasingly grew to understand that far from freeing Russia, Lenin turned it into a totalitarian police state far more oppressive than any Tzar had or could.
2. Because knowledge of Stalin's Ukrainian genocide and the Great Terror of the mid-to late 30s began to permeate leftist circle to a degree that she could no longer ignore them (even if other leftists could and did).
3. She belatedly realised that Stalin joined Hitler in September 1939 to crush Poland (and pick up half of Poland and the Baltic States in the process) and was thus was equally responsible for starting WWII.
4. That far from freeing East Europe in 1945, Stalin had instead occupied these countries and simply swapped Nazi tyranny for the Communist variety.
5. She increasingly resented the slavishly servile nature of the C.P.A. leadership towards the U.S.S.R.
6. The disgust she felt at the invasion of South Korea by the North and its backing by both by communist China and the U.S.S.R., with the Communist Party of Australia cheering loudly in the background.
7. She concluded that, despite the wonderful rhetoric, that communism just doesn't work.
8. Some, or all, of the above.

Nope. None of them. She quit the party because party members resented her publicly breast-feeding her baby. Clearly, in her reckoning, a far greater crime than anything Lenin had done or Stalin (and Mao) was doing. An example to us all of a progressive and forward thinker.

Source: Toscano, Joseph, *Stalwart Community Fighter*, The Age, Obituaries, 5 January 2010, page 9.

## Two from an Old Salt

KVAA Inc. member, George Colley, now 88, is the author of two books: *A Pinch of Old Salt: With the Royal Navy in Two Wars*, and the imaginatively entitled follow-up, *A Dripping of Old Salt* (due to limited production runs, both now out of print). Both deal with life in the navy during the 1940s and 1950s, something George knows first hand having enlisted in 1938 at the age of 16 in the Royal Navy and retired in 1962. Chapters cover various subjects from 'Dear John' letters and naval customs and traditions to the Italians at war and kamikaze pilots. The 'Old Salt' in the titles goes beyond the usual nautical meaning given that George grew up amid the salt mining industry in Droitwich, County Worcestershire (of the sauce fame) where his grandfather worked as a salt miner. Compliments of George Colley, here are two anecdotes from the first book:

One summer night in 1943, the cruiser *Cleopatra* in company with the *Euryalus* was on patrol off the coast of Sicily when they encountered two MTBs heading south. When they received no identifying reply to their challenge, the cruisers fired starshells to illuminate the night and turned 90 degrees. A brief exchange of fire ensued before the correct reply was received. Then followed an exchange of signals. Cruiser to MTB: "You were very lucky. Was about to blow you out of the water." MTB to cruiser: "You are even luckier. We're fired four torpedoes and missed."

Aldershot, in Hampshire, Southern England, has always been a large garrison town, and at one time during WW2 a number of Canadian soldiers were billeted there. A woman wrote to the Canadian High Commissioner complaining, "One of your soldiers has been staying with us, as a result, both my daughter and I are now pregnant. Not that we mind that. However, when he left, he took my daughter's bicycle which she needs to get her to her work. Would you ask him to return this." (This letter is considered a classic and is held in the Aldershot Military Museum).

## A Complicated Case of Suicide

At the 1994 annual awards dinner given for Forensic Science, (AAFS) President Dr. Don Harper Mills astounded his audience with the legal complications of a bizarre death. Here is the story:

On March 23, 1994, the medical examiner viewed the body of Ronald Opus, and concluded that he died from a shotgun wound to the head. Mr. Opus had jumped from the top of a ten-story building intending to commit suicide. He left a note to the effect, indicating his despondency.

As he fell past the ninth floor, his life was interrupted by a shotgun blast passing through a window, which killed him instantly. Neither the shooter nor the deceased was aware that a safety net had been installed just below the eighth floor level to protect some building workers and that Ronald Opus would not have been able to complete his suicide the way he had planned.

The room on the ninth floor, where the shotgun blast emanated, was occupied by an elderly man and his wife. They were arguing vigorously and he was threatening her with a shotgun! The man was so upset that when he pulled the trigger, he completely missed his wife, and the pellets went through the window, striking Mr. Opus. When one intends to kill subject 'A' but kills subject 'B' in the attempt, one is guilty of the murder of subject 'B.'

When confronted with the murder charge, the old man and his wife were both adamant, and both said that they thought the shotgun was not loaded. The old man said it was a long-standing habit to threaten his wife with the unloaded shotgun. He had no intention to murder her. Therefore, the killing of Mr. Opus appeared to be an accident; that is, assuming the gun had been accidentally loaded.

The continuing investigation turned up a witness who saw the old couple's son loading the shotgun about six weeks prior to the fatal accident. It transpired that the old lady had cut off her son's financial support and the son, knowing the propensity of his father to use the shotgun threateningly, loaded the gun with the expectation that his father would shoot his mother.

Since the loader of the gun was aware of this, he was guilty of the murder even though he didn't actually pull the trigger. The case now becomes one of murder on the part of the son for the death of Ronald Opus.

Now for the exquisite twist... Further investigation revealed that the son was, in fact, Ronald Opus. He had become increasingly despondent over the failure of his attempt to engineer his mother's murder. This led him to jump off the ten-story building on March 23rd, only to be killed by a shotgun blast passing through the ninth story window. The son, Ronald Opus, had actually murdered himself. So the medical examiner closed the case as a suicide.

*Editor's note: this story has been kicking around the Internet for years now – and it is true. True, inasmuch as Don Mills told it at an annual 1994 awards dinner. However, the Ronald Opus part is fiction, told as an after dinner hypothetical to entertain. In short, it is fiction that has morphed into an Internet 'fact'.*

## Notices 2

### Korea War Veterans Memorial Reunion

60th Anniversary 1950-2010.

Where: Nowra N.S.W.

When: Friday 22 - Sunday 24 October 2010

Where: Rydges Lakeside, London Circuit,  
Canberra ACT 2600

Main Activities:

Fri. 22nd (6 pm): Meet & Greet  
Sat. 23rd (noon): Memorial service  
Sat. 23rd (7.30 pm): Memorial dinner  
Sun. 24th (10 am): Sight seeing  
Sun. 24th (3.30 pm): TBA  
Sun. 24th (7 pm): Dinner

Total cost per person this year is \$390.

Anyone with any special requirements, inquiries or suggestions, please contact: The Hon. Secretary Mrs Heather Wilson on (02) 4297 0921 ASAP.

Payment includes:

bus transfers; twin share accommodation (22nd, 23rd & 24th); breakfast (23rd, 24th & 25th); Meet & Greet snack trays, Saturday and Sunday Dinners.

For an application form call the Editor on (03) 9546 5979 (leave a message) and he'll post one to you.

### H.M.A.S. Melbourne Reunion 2010

Where:

Nowra N.S.W.

When:

15th - 17th October 2010

Main Activities:

15th October -

Meet & Greet Buffet at the Bomaderry R.S.L.

16th October -

F.A.A. Museumn Tour (Tour & Lunch)

Reunion Dinner at the Bomaderry R.S.L.

17th October -

F.A.A. Museum (Museum & BBQ)

A Registration Form is available from:

[http://members.optusnet.com.au/hmas.melbourne/hmas\\_melbourneNew.htm](http://members.optusnet.com.au/hmas.melbourne/hmas_melbourneNew.htm)

For further details on accomodation, activities registration and pricing contact:

Dean Gedling

Vice President, HMAS Melbourne Association

PO Box 4011, Bradbury NSW 2560

P: (02) 4626 1041

[sicambre@optusnet.com.au](mailto:sicambre@optusnet.com.au)

Registrations Close 15th August 2010

### Scholarships for Children of Veterans

In 2011, the Australian Veterans' Children Assistance Trust (AVCAT) is expecting to give financial assistance for up to 65 students under many different scholarship schemes. All schemes help the selected children in need of the Australian veteran community with the costs of tertiary education. Applications open on 18 August 2010 and close on 31 October 2010. To apply you must be:

1. Within the means test. That is eligible on assets and income grounds for Youth Allowance benefits for full-time education.
2. Enrolled, or planning to enrol in a full-time course of tertiary education in Australia by attendance at a university, TAFE or college. The course must be of one or more academic years length at undergraduate level.
3. The child or grandchild of a person who has operational service with the Australian Navy, Army or Air Force, or has three or more years continuous full-time service as a member of the Australian Defence Force.
4. Under the age of 25 on applying, unless exceptional circumstances related to veteran's service exist.

The largest scheme is the *Long Tan Bursary* funded by the Australian Government. There are 50 new bursaries each year. They are valued at \$9,000 each which is paid at \$3,000 per year for three years. The other national schemes are the AVCAT Bursary, the two RSL Scholarships, three Vietnam Veterans' Peacekeepers and Peacemakers Scholarship and the Defence Force Welfare Association Scholarship. There are also regional scholarships. Fax, e-mail, or go onto the website for further details of these schemes.

To receive an application form, or check eligibility, call 1800 620 361 or contact:

AVCAT PO Box K978, Haymarket, NSW 1240

Fax: 02 9213 7307 Email: [avcat@dva.gov.au](mailto:avcat@dva.gov.au) Web: [www.avcat.org.au](http://www.avcat.org.au)

### Online RSL Sub-branch

On 16 April 2010, an online RSL sub branch for serving defence force personnel was launched. The site is provided to ensure that our soldiers, sailors and airmen have access to improved support services across all aspects of their lives. In addition to improved support and advice, ADF members who join the sub branch will receive a membership card which ensures their access to all RSL sub-branches and clubs nationwide; along with discounts on merchandise and services; and regular updates on RSL activities and events via emails and a quarterly magazine. ADF members can join the online RSL Defence sub branch for free for the initial year of membership, with a \$30 fee per year thereafter. The sub branch website is located at: <http://www.rsldefencesubbranch.com.au>

## Punnies

Being castrated is a eunuch experience.

The strip show was slow in coming off, but fortunately there was no redress.

Said the leaning Tower of Pisa to Big Ben: "If you've got the time, I've got the inclination."

U.S. laws are made incongruous.

Why you shouldn't eat in Hell: the food plays havoc with your infernal organs.

Good Christians don't believe infidel Castro.

The soloist in the choir sung so badly that the priest asked her to refrain and let Psalm One else take over.

After the age of retirement, we enter our reclining years.

If household pets were to take over the world, they would be reigning cats and dogs.

Mrs Moose to Mr Moose: "It think it's going to reindeer."

Penitence is the remorse code.

The perfume maker's advise was rarely taken, but he made a lot of scents.

While with the army in Korea, he fell in love with a native girl and they became Seoul mates.

The hypochondriac winemaker has sham pain tastes.

The secret of the stock market: buy sheep, sell deer.

What Arab women fear: a wolf in sheik's clothing.

When Stalin 'liberated' Poland in 1945 he examined all the captured German equipment than muttered, "Is this all the tanks I get?"

As the pancake said to the syrup, "You're so sweet you ought to be in pitchers."

The price of a haircut is become sheer nonsense.

A bigamist is one who has loved not wisely but two well.

## Raised Security Alert

In the light of the recent threats by North Korea and Iran, the British have raised their security level from **Miffed** to **Peeved**. Soon, though, security levels may be raised yet again to **Irritated** or even **A Bit Cross**. Brits have not been **A Bit Cross** since the blitz in 1940 when tea supplies all but ran out. Terrorists have been re-categorized from **Tiresome** to a **Bloody Nuisance** The last time the British issued a **Bloody Nuisance** warning level was during the Great Fire of 1666.

The French government announced yesterday that it has raised its terror alert level from **Run** to **Hide**. The only two higher levels in France are **Collaborate** and **Surrender** The rise was precipitated by a recent fire that destroyed France's white flag factory, effectively paralysing the country's military capability.

The Italians are on a heightened level of alert: to **Elaborate Military Posturing**. Two more levels remain: **Ineffective Combat Operations** and **Change Sides**.

The Germans also increased their alert state from **Disdainful Arrogance** to **Dress Uniform and Sing Marching Songs**. They also have two higher levels: **Invade A Neighbour** and **Lose**.

Belgians, on the other hand, are all on holiday as usual, and the only threat they are worried about is NATO pulling out of Brussels.

The Spanish are all excited to see their new submarines ready to deploy. These beautifully designed subs have glass bottoms so the new Spanish navy can get a really good look at the old Spanish navy.

Americans meanwhile are carrying out pre-emptive strikes on all of their allies, just in case.

And Down Under...

New Zealand has also raised its security levels from **baaa** to **BAAAA!** Due to continuing defence cutbacks, New Zealand has only one more level of escalation, which is **Shut, I hope Austrulia will come end riscue us**. In the event of invasion, New Zealanders will be asked to gather together in a strategic defensive position called "Bondi."

Australia, meanwhile, has raised its security level from **No Worries** to **She'll Be Right, Mate**. Three more escalation levels remain: **Crickey!** and **I Think We'll Need To Cancel the Barbie This Weekend** and **The Barbie Is Cancelled**. There has not been a situation yet that has warranted the use of the final escalation level.

## Passport Problem

Robert Whiting, an elderly gentleman of 83, arrived in Paris by plane. At French Customs, he took a few minutes to locate his passport in his carry on.

"You have been to France before, monsieur?" the customs officer asked sarcastically. Mr. Whiting admitted that he had been to France previously. "Then you should know enough to have your passport ready," chided the official.

The American said, "The last time I was here, I didn't have to show it."

"Impossible. Americans always have to show your passports on arrival in France!"

The American senior gave the Frenchman a long hard look then quietly explained, "Well, when I came ashore at Omaha Beach on D-Day in 1944 to help liberate this country, I couldn't find a single Frenchman to show a passport to."

## Fountain Gate Secondary College, Dawn Service, Parade & Reunion. Friday 23 April 2010.



### Did You Know...

Between 9th August 1914 and 30th November 1918, 25.5 million tons of all types of supplies were shipped to the BEF in France, of which only 5.25 million tons was ammunition. More than 6 million tons, nearly a quarter of the total shipped, was fodder and feed for horses and mules.

### Editorial Disclaimer

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### Odd Spot

The *Saigon Grill*, a Vietnamese restaurant in Malvern East, displayed a sign during the Anzac Day long weekend which puzzled locals: "We are open for ANZ Day for lunch and dinner," it proclaimed. With banks being somewhat on the nose and an admission of being a bank manager greeted with the same enthusiasm as giving your occupation as 'dog strangler,' it is nice to see a local business supporting such a maligned institution by granting it a special day. We at *The Voice*, however, wonder why it singled out the ANZ Bank alone for this honour.

Source: *The Age*, Postcode 3000, 28th April 2010

### Farewells

Norman James Carroll, 1400074 3RAR, on 11 April 2010

Francis Joseph (Jack) Casey, 22179 3RAR, on Monday 10 May 2010

Joan Casey (widow of Jack Casey) on 2 June 2010.

(In 2000, Joan instigated the Korean Memorial Ceremony which is held in October in Canberra each year).

Ken Campbell Goudie, 3400473 1RAR, on Monday 10 May 2010

James W Smith, 3/1755 1RAR, Royal Australian Corps of Signals, in mid-February 2010 (apologies for the late advice)

Reginald (Bob) White, 3400276 1RAR, on 8 February 2010 (again, apologies for the late advice)

### 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