

# THE VOICE

December 2011 Edition

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## 70th Anniversary of Women's Services

This year heralds 70 years since the formation of three specific military services for the women of Australia. The first of the services to be formed, the Women's Australian Auxiliary Air Force (WAAAF) was established in February 1941; the Women's Royal Australian Naval Service (WRANS) was formed in April 1941; and the Australian Army Women's Service, later known as the Australian Women's Army Service (AWAS) was established, in August 1941.

Commemorating the occasion, the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Warren Snowdon, said that the forces were originally formed to release men from certain military duties to allow their deployment in fighting units overseas.

"During the Second World War, more than 27,000 women joined the ranks of the WAAAF. The women who joined were posted across the country, from north Queensland to Western Australia, they served at RAAF bases, flight training schools and factories," Mr Snowdon said. "These women played a vital role in the war effort despite not being allowed to fly or serve outside Australia. They worked in a range of areas such as radio telephony, signals, radar operations, flight mechanics and electricians, meteorology, catering and administration.

"The WRANS was formed, initially to provide women to undertake driving, office duties and catering services. By the end of the war their role was expanded to include work in technical areas such as protecting ships from magnetic mines, intelligence and cryptanalysis," he said.

More than 2000 women served with the WRANS during the Second World War, and after a short stand-down after the war, the service continued to support the Royal Australian Navy in non-seagoing roles until the mid 1980s.

"The AWAS took on more than 21,000 women for roles in anti-aircraft and coastal artillery, ordnance, cipher, electrical, intelligence and mechanical units, as clerks, typists and cooks, parachute folders, drivers and butchers during the Second World War."

Similar to the WRANS, the AWAS was disbanded after the war but reinstated in 1951 as the Women's Royal Australian Army Corps (WRAAC). In the late 1970s, female soldiers began to be integrated into the Army at large and in early 1984, the WRAAC was disbanded.

Source: *Vetaffairs*, Spring 2011

### Associate Member

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

### Affiliated Associations

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

### Allied Associations

Australian Peacekeepers and Peacemaker Veterans' Association Inc.



## Life Members

Jim Boxshall  
Rev. Burne Brooker†  
John Brownbill RFD KSJ  
John Burke†  
Bill Campbell†  
Victor Dey OAM  
John Duson  
Athol Egeberg  
Mick Everett†  
J F Frawley OAM BEM†  
Stan Gallop  
Olwyn Green OAM (Hon)  
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John Holford  
Neville Holl†  
Murray Inwood  
David Irving  
Ron Kennedy  
George Lang OAM  
Dennis Lehman  
Kenneth Mankelow†  
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George Mitchell†  
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Jack Philpot  
Arthur Roach  
Ivan Ryan  
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[www.austkoreavets.asn.au](http://www.austkoreavets.asn.au)

## Calendar of Events: January - June 2012

- 18 January: Kangaroo Flat Korean War Memorial Dedication  
25 January: Committee / General meeting  
1. Nominations for KVAA Inc. Committee to be lodged at this meeting  
2. Deadline for 2012 Life Membership nominations  
TBA Feb: Korean New Year picnic day (Aqualink Centre, Box Hill).  
29 February: Committee / General meeting  
28 March: Annual General Meeting  
TBA March: Fountain Gate Secondary College Anzac Day service  
18 April: Committee / General meeting  
24 April: Austin Health Anzac Day service  
25 April: Anzac Day  
18 May: Austin Health Veteran's Day  
30 May: Committee / General meeting  
TBA June: Korean Church service  
30 June: Committee / General Meeting

General/Committee meeting and AGM are held at 10:30 am at the Stella Maris Seafarers Centre, 600 Lt. Collins Street. No meeting in December. TBA = To Be Announced.

## President's Report

Those veterans who took part in the September *Digital Storytelling Project* have already received their own personal copy from the ACMI. The next course starts on December 7th. I hope that the veterans taking part enjoy their time at the recording studio. It truly is a great concept.

The annual Korea Veterans Reunion held in Canberra on 21-22-23 October was in my opinion, a great success. The evening of the 21st was Meet & Greet, casual and most enjoyable. At noon on the 22nd, a ceremony at the National Korean War Memorial was blessed with beautiful sunny weather, and a great band and catafalque party. The guest speaker was Commodore Bruce Kafer AM CSC RAN. With a dignity and decorum fitting the occasion, the service was conducted in the presence of His Excellency, Ambassador TaeYong Cho; Colonel Dae Hee Ahn and his wife; Ms Gai Brodtmann, representing the Prime Minister; veterans, wives and widows, and family friends.

At dinner, with music from the 50s in the background, we and our guests met and mixed with veterans and their families from other states. The Ambassador presented each veteran (or widow or family) with a gift, a box of Korean red ginseng tea. A wonderful gesture, deeply appreciated.

On Sunday there was a coach available to take people around Canberra if they so desired or you could "do your own thing" such as shopping or unescorted sightseeing. Looking forward to next year's event (October 19-20-21). The hotel – a first class venue – is already booked.

On 18 November, in conjunction with the Universal Peace Federation, there was a ceremony at the Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the opening of diplomatic relations between Australia and Korea, and the first anniversary of the opening of the Kapyong-Maryang San Memorial Bridge. In addition to veterans, wives and widows, His Excellency, Ambassador TaeYong Cho; the President of the Korean Society of Victoria, Mr Inchool Na; the President of the Korean Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mr Mark Ahn; and students from the Fountain Gate Secondary College (our adopted school) all attended the event. A young Korean lady sang the Korean National Anthem and one of the students sang the Australian National Anthem.

I take this opportunity to wish all members of our Association, from our Patron through to the newest members – Walter Collins and Maxwell Gant – and all our affiliated Association Members, my best for Christmas and the New Year. A great time to spend with family and friends.

## Special Ceremony

An monument honouring the 17,000 Australian sailors, soldiers, airmen and nurses who served to defend Korea, was officially dedicated on 24 October 2011 in a special ceremony at the United Nations Memorial Cemetery in Korea, Busan. The Australian Monument was first built in 1998 and recently restored with an Australian Government grant of \$75,000 under the *Overseas Privately-Constructed Memorials Restoration Program*.

The dedication ceremony was part of a six-day mission to South Korea, comprising eight representatives of the Korean War veteran community, and led by the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Warren Snowdon, to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of major engagements of the Korean War.

Earlier that day, the mission party also attended a special commemorative ceremony dedicated to the 43 Australian servicemen listed as missing in action in the War. The father of mission representative, Mr Ian Saunders from Cootamundra in NSW, Private John Saunders, is listed as missing in action and his name is now on the United Nations Memorial Wall within the cemetery.

Mr Snowdon said that the Australian Government was in talks with the North and South Korean Governments to locate the missing in action and see them properly honoured in Korea, alongside their mates who died there. "I know that for the families of our missing, the Korean War never ended. I live in hope that one day diplomacy will allow the missing, and their families, to enjoy a place of honoured commemoration, and in doing so, to make their own peace," Mr Snowdon said.

Source: DVA press release VA092



Ian Saunders and Colonel Beaumont at the monument

\* \* \*

## U-Boats vs The U.S.A.

Germany declared war against the US on December 11, 1941. By the second week of January, 1942, U-boats were appearing off the eastern seaboard. Over the next few months, their attacks proved nearly cataclysmic. The US Navy was woefully unprepared for anti-submarine warfare and lacked enough destroyers and coastal vessels to protect the thousands of ships making their way up and down the coast. As a result, people living in many towns along the Atlantic coast saw something that few thought possible: American merchant vessels on fire and sinking within sight of land. Some U-boat commanders were so bold during this time that they pursued their prey into water too shallow to dive. At least one sub was spotted in Galveston Bay, Texas and more than one crew saw the bright lights of Manhattan from New York Harbour. It took the United States months to absorb the hard-learned lessons of their British allies.

Technology and increased ship production eventually began to take its toll on the U-boat fleet. Improved sonar, radar and code-breaking meant that the once nearly-invisible subs had very few places to hide. Escort carriers and increased numbers of destroyer escorts and frigates gave rise to hunter-killer groups whose only mission was to find and sink U-boats. Once found, the subs often found themselves the victims of a hedgehog attack, named after the 24-barreled mortar that fired a pattern of direct contact bombs. If one of the bombs made contact with a sub, it's detonation would cause the other 23 mortars to also detonate, creating a massive explosion that was almost guaranteed to end the sub's life.

By middle of 1943, the U-boats were losing the *Battle of the Atlantic*. While Allied merchant ship losses were still high and would remain so for some time, new ships were finally being built at a faster rate than the sinkings. Heavy bombers could now cover the entire North Atlantic, robbing the U-boats of an aircraft-free zone in the middle of the ocean. The Allied air forces also began regular patrols of the Bay of Biscay, the only route to the Atlantic for subs based in occupied France. So many U-boats were lost in the Bay that the German crews began calling the area *The Valley of Death*.

Source: M Dattilo - <http://mattstodayinhistory.com>

## Shooting the Messenger

In the summer of 1940, Admiral James Richardson, commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, strongly opposed moving the Pacific Fleet from California to Hawaii. He believed that this move placed the fleet at undue risk. Pearl Harbor, he argued, did not have the facilities to fully support such an influx of ships. Furthermore, he believed that Pearl Harbor could not be adequately defended against an air attack. President Roosevelt fired him, replacing him with Rear Admiral Husband Edward Kimmel who he promoted to the four stars of a full Admiral as the position demanded. The 7th December 1941 attack proved Richardson correct and Roosevelt wrong. This time Kimmel was fired.

### Korean War Plaque Dedication

Where: **Kangaroo Flat Memorial Cenotaph**  
(Corner of High and View Streets)

When: **Wednesday 18 January 2012**

Time: **11:45 AM**

#### Details:

*Bus transportation:* **Free** to KVAA Inc. Members. A bus leaves from the Stella Maris Seafarers Centre, 600 Lt. Collins Street at 9 am. Note: the bus only has room for 22, so make your reservations early.

*Private transport:* Those driving to Kangaroo Flats, please let Gerry know as the Kangaroo Flats RSL needs to know the numbers for food preparation.

*Refreshments:* **Free** to KVAA Inc. Members. Served at the RSL at 15 Station Street after the dedication.

Kangaroo Flat started life as a gold rush town and is today a picturesque outer suburb of Bendigo with a population of just over 8,000.

**Members wishing to attend please fill out and return the form by 11 January 2012 to:**

Gerry Steacy, 1 Kent Court, Werribee, Victoria 3030  
or Phone: 03 9741 3356 or Email:  
[steacy32@bigpond.com](mailto:steacy32@bigpond.com)

Bus required YES / NO (please circle).

Names of those attending:

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## Notes on the PLA, 1951

Beijing has always maintained that the majority of the force that it dispatched to Korea were volunteers, defending their newly won revolution from the threat of an American invasion across the Manchurian Korean border. Mao Zedong had enough popular appeal among China's peasantry, as well as in the People's Liberation Army (PLA), to attract such volunteers. Thousands, however, were former Nationalist troops who had been unable to escape when the Communists won China's Third Civil War in 1949. For them, service in Korea offered the prospect of a second chance by being taken prisoner and making their way to Chiang Kai-shek's exiled government on Taiwan.

Food and materiel for the PLA was brought up to the Yalu River by train. Once in Korea, roads and railways were fair game for U.N. aircraft, which enjoyed almost complete air supremacy. When all else failed, the Chinese relied on manpower to bring up the supplies, usually by night. A Chinese division required 40 tons of food, water, ammunition and fuel per day – compared to 350 tons for a comparable number of U.N. troops – but even those modest needs could not be reliably met. In consequence, a Chinese offensive could seldom be sustained for more than five or six days.

WWII followed by four years of civil war left the Chinese army in 1950 with no shortage of weaponry. In contrast to the Soviet-equipped North Koreans, the Chinese arsenal was just as likely to include American or British weapons captured from the Nationalists or even ex-Japanese arms. Ammunition was another matter. The average Chinese soldier carried 80 rounds from the time he crossed the Yalu, and could expect no more even if more got through to him, there was no guarantee that it would be suitable for his personal weapon.

Source: *Military History* magazine December 1998

## The Quote That Never Was

*"I have nothing to offer but blood, sweat, and tears."* – Winston Churchill, on his first address as Prime Minister to the House of Commons on 13 May 1940.

Um, except he never said it. His speech actually contained the sentence: "I have nothing to offer but blood and toil, tears and sweat." When someone later pointed out that Henry James had used a similar phrase in his novel, *The Bostonians* (1886), Churchill said he hadn't read the book and was sure he had made up the phrase himself. He liked the words so much, in fact, that he used them again on several crucial occasions during the war. But the public soon revised the Churchillian phrase, partly because the words, "toil" and "sweat" seemed redundant and partly because the word order sounded a bit awkward. Before long Churchill was being quoted as having said, "blood, sweat, and tears," and the words became famous throughout the world. Today, anyone quoting the original statement would be charged with garbling the quote.

Source: Boller, Paul F. & George, John, *They Never Said It*, Oxford University Press 1989

## The Real Humpty Dumpty

*Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall,  
Humpty Dumpty had a great fall,  
All the King's Horses and all the King's men  
Couldn't put Humpty together again.*

In children's books, Humpty Dumpty is portrayed as a large egg, usually dressed like a little boy. It's a sad story, as he gets busted up and nobody can fix him. However, the real story behind the rhyme dates back to the English Civil War. Humpty was a huge cannon mounted atop a high wall-like church tower. During the Siege of Colchester, the tower was hit by enemy cannon fire and Humpty suffered a great fall. There was no fixing the cannon or the tower, and the Humpty Dumpty rhyme was born.

## The Battle of Samar

The Battle of Samar (25 October 1944) was a true curiosity. In this battle an IJN surface group – four battleships, six cruisers and 10 destroyers – pursued a USN task force of six escort carriers and seven destroyers. Those escort carriers were relatively small ships, designed mainly to ferry airplanes and conduct limited operations such as anti-submarine warfare or ground support. They were also slow, and were supposedly entirely vulnerable if caught by enemy warships. That said, the escort carriers defended themselves aggressively, launching air attacks that confounded the Japanese even as the carriers manoeuvred to escape. Japanese gunnery, meanwhile, showed a marked fall off as they sank only one carrier and three destroyers, despite being in range for most of the fight. The action came to an end when other US carrier aircraft joined in, causing the Japanese to break off. Samar showed it was aggressive leadership, as much as anything else, that ultimately won the day in sea battles.

Source: *World at War* magazine #20 Oct.-Nov. 2011

## The Economic Factor

The most important factor in deciding the outcome of WWII was the massive surplus of Allied production over that of the three Axis countries. Regarding raw materials, the Allies produced over twice as much iron ore and steel as the Axis, just under twice as much coal and aluminum, but twenty times as much crude oil. Because of their control of world raw materials, their ability to transport essential supplies around the globe, and the strength of their economies, the Allies were able to turn these surpluses into a huge military superiority.

In total the Allies produced 227,000 tanks (the Axis, 52,000), 915,000 artillery pieces (180,000), 658,000 mortars (73,000), 4,744,000 machine guns (674,000), 3,060,000 trucks (595,000), 417,000 combat aircraft (146,000), 103,000 training aircraft (28,500), and 43,000 transport aircraft (4,900).

Once this superiority had been brought to bear the outcome of the war was inevitable. The strategic question for the Axis was whether they could win the war before the economic and financial superiority of the Allies was fully mobilized and the mass of military equipment it could produce was deployed on the battlefield. The answer it turned out was no.

By the last two years of the war Allied strategy had become little more than the use of brute military power. Sheer mass of numbers on the battlefield meant that success was guaranteed, and even German tactical superiority and flair could not compensate for gross numerical inferiority.

The picture was the same in every area. In the Mediterranean theatre the pattern had been clear since 1942. At the battle of El Alamein in October 1942 Germany could deploy 242 tanks with 22 in reserve. The British had 1,029, together with another 1,200 in reserve. By the end of the battle the Germans were operating with 12 tanks. When the fighting moved to Italy the German army had 229 tanks facing over 2,000 Allied vehicles. By April 1944 they were down to 60 operational tanks and Allied aircraft outnumbered the Germans about ten to one.

The picture was the same in the Far East. In October 1944 at the Battle of Leyte Gulf the U.S. Navy deployed 1,400 aircraft and the Japanese 400. By June 1945 the United States deployed 22,000 aircraft against a Japanese force of 4,000, of which about only 20 percent were operational.

In Burma the British and the Americans mounted 30,000 aircraft sorties in five months, the Japanese less than 2,000. During the final attack on Rangoon in 1945 the Japanese could muster four divisions on paper, but they consisted of 20,000 emaciated and badly equipped men. The British Fourteenth Army had over 260,000 men. In addition, the Allies had 4,600 planes operational against a Japanese total of 50.

This situation in every theatre of the war was the consequence of a greater Allied economic strength that could be mobilized and translated into greater military strength. Once this mobilization had been achieved the outcome of the war was assured.

Source: Ponting, Clive, *Armageddon*, Sinclair Stevenson, 1995

## BBQ Rules

As spring is here and we are entering the BBQ season it is important to refresh your memory on the etiquette of this outdoor cooking activity, as it is the only type of cooking a 'real' man will do, probably because there is an element of danger involved. When a man volunteers to do the BBQ the following chain of events are put into motion:

1. The woman buys the food.
2. The woman makes the salad, prepares the vegetables, and makes dessert.
3. The woman prepares the meat for cooking, places it on a tray along with the necessary cooking utensils and sauces, and takes it to the man who is lounging beside the grill, beer in hand.
4. The man places the meat on the grill.
5. The woman goes inside to organize the plates and cutlery.
6. The woman comes out to tell the man that the meat is burning. He thanks her and asks if she will bring another beer while he deals with the situation.
7. The man takes the meat off the grill and hands it to the woman.
8. The woman prepares the plates, salad, bread, utensils, napkins, sauces, and brings them to the table.
9. After eating, the woman clears the table and does the dishes.
10. Everyone PRAISES the MAN and THANKS HIM for his cooking efforts.
11. The man asks the woman how she enjoyed "her night off," and, upon seeing her annoyed reaction, concludes that there's just no pleasing some women...

*And on a topic not totally unrelated to the above...*

I have never hated a man enough to give his diamonds back.

A man in love is incomplete until he is married. Then he is finished.

I'm an excellent housekeeper. Every time I get a divorce, I keep the house.

- Zsa Zsa Gabor

# In From The Cold

## Part One of a Report on the *In from the Cold* international conference, October 2011

by Colin Berryman OAM

*KVAA Inc. member, Colin Berryman, attended on behalf of the organisation the above named international conference in Canberra from the 5th - 7th October. According to Colin, the event was well-run, drew 167 attendees, and should be judged a success. This is his edited (and due to space reasons, heavily truncated) report on the function. October proved a busy month for Colin. It started with the conference, then a three day I RAR reunion at Tweed Heads, and concluded with another reunion in Canberra. Oh, and he turned 77. Although probably not the youngest member of the KVAA, in October he was certainly the busiest. Part II will appear next issue.*

### Reception

The Conference began on the evening of 5 October with a reception at the Republic of Korea Embassy where we were the guests of the new Republic of Korea Ambassador, His Excellency Mr Taeyong Cho, and the Director of the Australian War Memorial Maj. Gen. Steve Gower. Both the Ambassador and Ms Nola Anderson, Assistant Director and Branch Head of the National Collections of the AWM, gave welcoming speeches on an introductory theme to the Conference.

### Day One, 6th October

First session – *Setting a new paradigm in World Order; the United Nations action in Korea*, presented by Professor Robert O'Neill. He explained that after the use of nuclear weapons to end WWII, new ways had to be found for resisting international aggression and preserving the peace thereafter. The Korean War, therefore, was a severe test for the United Nations, going into battle initially against North Korea, the aggressor, backed up and armed by the USSR and later China with its huge military resources. The UN had to be sufficiently strongly to repel both North Korea and China, but not so strongly as to risk war with the USSR. It was indeed an international dilemma. He also discussed the effectiveness of American leadership, the political problems of keeping the UN alliance together and also the British Commonwealth group within that alliance, with an emphasis on Australia. He concluded how it was not possible for the war to end in peace, only stalemate, as it still exists today.

Second session – *Understanding the Forgotten War: The United States and Korea, 1945-54*, presented by Professor Allan R Millett. He explained that the Korean War began because two irreconcilable political movements (communism and democratically inspired nationalism) were allowed to form governments in a divided Korea, each of which was in turn supported by powerful rival forces. The division of the country, which had formally been occupied by Japan, occurred at the 38th Parallel simply because that was where the rival Soviet and US Armies stopped and faced each other when the war against Japan ended in August 1945.

Although the USSR and USA made an agreement in 1945 about unifying Korea after a short joint trusteeship, both encouraged separate governments. As a result, unification became impossible to negotiate although it was attempted first by the US State Department in 1946 and later by the UN in 1947-48. The later attempt resulted in the *Harvest Rebellion*, because the South Korean Labor (Communist) Party, supported by the Communist North, tried to block the creation of the Republic of Korea Government, by methods of terrorism, partisan warfare and army mutinies. The South Korean Security Forces assisted by US Army Units and a US Army advisory team within the ROK Army, finally defeated this insurgency by 1950, at a cost of at least 40,000 lives. The defeat of this insurgency inspired the Communist North to then invade the South on 25 June 1950 and as a result the second Korean War of 1950-53 commenced.

Some other interesting snippets raised by Professor Millet: the Korean War caused the US to diversify its nuclear forces, expand its conventional armed forces by a factor of three, and increase its defence spending by a factor of four. As a result of the war the US found it necessary to create NATO and an Asian-Pacific alliance system including ANZUS. The North thought that when they invaded in June 1950 communist sympathy in the South would cause the people to rebel against the ROK Government. Instead they were surprised that the defensively equipped ROK Army fought back. He also thought that the deficiency in artillery was the main reason for the retreat behind the Pusan Perimeter. The main strategy of the Static Phase was to dig in and protect Seoul, and to bide time to strengthen and rebuild the ROK Army in order that it could be made strong enough to protect itself and the South from further invasion should some settlement be reached.

Third session – *China's war for Korea: geo-strategic decision, war fighting experience and high price and benefits of the intervention, 1950-53*, presented by Professor Xiaobing Li. He explained that China committed

*(continues on Page 8)*

*In From the Cold (continued from Page 7)*

more than 3 million troops to the Korean War and that the conflict then became a war between China and the UN Coalition. After its victory against the Nationalists in 1949, China became by far the most powerful force in Asia, but at that stage was still not recognised by the UN. In fact, that non-recognition was the reason that the USSR had withdrawn its delegates from the UN when North Korea invaded the South on 25 June 1950.

China resolved that it would eventually be necessary to take on the Western Powers by either invading the Nationalist surviving stronghold on Taiwan or by showing its strength by its intervention in Korea. After the success of the Inchon landing, it decided on the later intervention in Korea. It also thought it had a better chance of defeating the UN forces in land battles in Korea than by sustaining a seaborne invasion of Taiwan against the powerful air and sea forces of the western powers. As a result, China committed 300,000 troops in Korea in October 1950. At that time it gave them a three to one advantage against the UN troops.

The Chinese launched five offensive campaigns to drive the UN forces out of Korea which ended in bitter stalemate, but which did prevent any further UN advance into North Korea. The Chinese paid a high price for its intervention. It took 1.2 million casualties. But it did receive benefits. It improved its new dominant power status in Asia as a Communist state. It also proved that it was a powerful military force capable of fighting the world's powerful forces to a draw, and proved that it was also secure enough to withstand a terrible conflict.

Forth session – *Fighting in the Giant's Playground: Australians in the Korean War*, presented by Cameron Forbes and covered the human aspect of experiences encountered by many of the Australian Veterans. He amused us all with the story of the group of Australian soldiers from 3RAR who shortly after they arrived deserted to get to the front because they feared that the war would end before the Battalion could be engaged. He told about the first Australian casualties in the war; about the tragic death of Lt. Col Green and stories about Capt. Reg Saunders, the first Indigenous Australian Commissioned Officer; about the valiant stand at Kapyong and the brilliant tactics employed by 3RAR in the capture of Maryang San. He also examined the motivation of the Australian Infantry and the problems their commanders faced as part of the giant American military machine.

Fifth session – *The transformation of the Republic of Korea Army: wartime expansion and Doctrine changes, 1950-53*, presented by Dr. Jongnam Na. This paper dealt with the reorganisation and expansion of the ROK Army especially during the war. The old army suffered dreadful losses and several heavy defeats between June 1950 and May 1951. The Army's reorganisation began to seriously occur in the summer of 1951 and continued as a sustained expansion and modernisation programme throughout the remainder of the war. The project transformed a seriously broken defence force into a strong and capable force of 700,000 with an Army of 20 divisions that was able, by the end of the war, to defend two thirds of the entire defensive line across Korea.

Some other matters of note given by Dr. Na were: The ROK Army losses during the war were 138,000 killed and 23,000 M.I.A. From 1946-50 the Army was trained by US Advisors. By 1950 the ROK Army was 100,000 strong. Conscription began in 1948, when the first ROK Government was elected. It was purely a defensively equipped force, It had no tanks and limited artillery. During the 1948 insurgency (the Harvest Rebellion) 10% of the Army had to be purged as communist sympathisers.

Sixth session – *The Air War in Korea: Coalition air power in the context of limited war*, presented by Dr. Richard P Hallion, who emphasised that air power was the crucial element of the UN success in Korea. It helped blunt the rolling offensives and unfolding advances employed by the North Koreans early in the war in their advance to the Pusan Perimeter, and those enveloping attacks by the Chinese. Air-ground coordination, tactical air control, interdiction, use of strategic bombers in battlefield support, maritime air operations and joint operations were all used and perfected during the Korean War. The integrating of the new jet-age aircraft into force structures that were still dominated by propeller driven aircraft were also implemented in Korea for the first time.

He also talked about MIG alley and the duels between the Sabres and the MIGs, the value of the Mustangs as gun and rocket platforms and the great support they provided to the ground forces, and the introduction of the helicopter as a means of clearing casualties and for carrying stores and supplies. Dr Hallion also spoke about the value of the RAAF 77 Squadron and its early deployment into the war in July 1950.

Seventh session – *Korea; the first challenge for Australian naval aviation*, presented by Commodore Jack McCaffrie (Retired). The Commodore spoke mainly about the Australian Fleet Air Arm and the deployment of *HMAS Sydney* to Korea in October 1951. The *HMAS Sydney* replaced the British carrier *HMAS Glory* and distinguished itself as part of the US Seventh Fleet off the Korean Coast. The *Sydney* operated two Squadrons of Sea Furies (805 and 808 Squadron) and a Squadron of Fireflies (817 Squadron). *HMAS Sydney* created a record in the 7th Fleet by releasing 89 aircraft sorties in one day. During its deployment the *Sydney* lost 3 pilots and a total of ten aircraft.

*(continues on Page 10)*



# Out & About

## Commemoration Service Point Cook RAAF Base, 19 October 2011



“Hmm, maybe I should have been a pilot rather than a sailor.” Ron Christie contemplating a late career change.



“Qantas *really* has gone downhill since we last flew with the airline.”



## Korean War Exhibition Healesville RSL, 9 - 13 Nov. 2011



Two of the odder exhibits: Allan Murray and Peter Brooks.

## Luncheon, Seoul Restaurant, 26 October 2011



(l-r) Major Gen. Mark Kelly, Retired, DVA; Mick Skennar; Ray Deed; Chairman Choi, ROK, UN; Ian Saunders and Aust. Ambassador, Seoul, Sam Gerovich.

## Day Two, 7th October

Eighth session – *Australian higher command in the Korean War: the experience of Brigadier Wilton*, presented by Professor David Horner. Although Lt. Gen. Sir Horace Robertson had been the Commander of the British Occupation Forces in Japan (BCOF) until it was disbanded, and continued in the role of Commander of British Commonwealth Forces Korea (BCFK), he administered this command from Japan and had no responsibility for actual operations in Korea. The only Australian officers to command in operations were Brigadier Tom Daly, who led the 28th Brigade from June 1952 to March 1953, and Brigadier John Wilton, who succeeded Daly and commanded the brigade from March 1953 to March 1954.

Although Professor Horner mainly concentrated on the command of Brigadier Wilton, he also spoke about Daly because he was also a senior Australian Operational Commander. Both commanders were extremely efficient officers who led the Brigade during the Static Period. During this period, the Brigade occupied several of the main positions along the *Jamestown Line* including Hill 355 (*Little Gibraltar*) and *The Hook*. Wilton also led it during the first six months of the post-Armistice period, July 1953 - March 1954. Both commanders were World War II veterans. Wilton had also served as an artillery officer in the Indian Army in 1937. He also commanded the Brigade when it defended *The Hook* (2 RAR) during the final savage attack against this position during the closing month of the war (July 1953).

Ninth Session – *The reliving of minor tactics. A platoon Commander's war in Korea*, presented by Brigadier Colin Kahn DSO AM (Retired) who entered Duntroon in 1948 and was posted to Korea in 1952 as a Platoon Commander in B Coy 1 RAR during the Static phase of the war. During his tour, he led several fighting and reconnaissance patrols and was seriously wounded by machine gun fire whilst performing a patrol out of a firm base on Hill 355 (*Little Gibraltar*). Colin was mentioned in dispatches for his service in Korea and later became the commanding officer of 5 RAR in Vietnam, where he was awarded a DSO. He was affectionately known to his men as either Kublai or Genghis Kahn.

Colin gave a detailed description of platoon tactics in Korea, especially in regard to patrolling. During the Static Phase, they had to re-learn tactics from World War I. He stated that his troops were extremely well trained and efficient in quick attack and withdrawal tactics and were expert patrollers. The weapons they used were essentially the same as those used during World War II. Although they continued to use human wave tactics in their larger attacks, the Chinese were also efficient patrollers. Whilst lacking air support and armour, their infantry weapons, mortars, and artillery were very efficient. He also stated that their quick firing burp guns were a definite advantage in close quarter patrol and assault work.

Tenth session – *The Battle of Maryang San: Australia's finest feat of arms in the Korean War?* Dr Bob Breen explored the question. For many years the battle of Maryang San (Oct. 1951) was overshadowed by the brilliant defensive *Battle of Kapyong* (April 1951). Kapyong was indeed an important and significant battle because it held the Chinese at bay for a vital 72 hours, hindering their overwhelming push towards the southern capital of Seoul. This importance was recognised by the award of the *US Presidential Citation* for the gallant defence put up by both 3 RAR and the Canadian PPLI Battalion.

Both battles are described in the official history written by Professor O'Neill but are never compared. The brilliant mountain warfare tactics employed by Col. Hassett in taking Maryang have been somewhat forgotten because the feature, which later became a linch-pin of the Chinese defensive line, was lost to the Chinese a couple of weeks after the Australians were relieved from the feature. Dr Breen insists that the assault up the ridges leading to Maryang Sang's eventual capture, and the holding of the feature against the initial counter attacks by the Chinese, merits consideration as Australia's finest feat of arms in the Korean War.

Eleventh session – *A Borderer recalls*. The Borderer in question is Sir William Purves CBE DSO who was a platoon Commander in the 1st Battalion of the Kings Own Scottish Borderers (KOSBs) and was awarded the DSO for his service in *Operation Commando*: the capture of Kowang San (Hill 355) and Maryang San. He reminisced about his experience during the initial assault on 355 and the later *Battle of the Hinge* during the following month (November 1951) when both the Hinge and Maryang San were lost back to the Chinese. He told us about the initial stalling of their assault, the assistance given by the Australian attack on the 220 metre feature next to 355 (C Coy 3RAR attack) and their eventual capture of the main feature from the South. He did not enter the controversy of who was on top of 355 first (them or C Coy 3 RAR) beyond politely stating that when they reached their summit he was glad to see the Australians on the other end of the feature. He discussed the Hinge Battle in November and told of the desperate defence on Maryang San, but they had no alternative other than to withdraw from the feature when the Hinge fell to the massive Chinese attacks.

[Concludes Next Issue]

# Out & About 2

## Canberra Reunion 21-23 October 2011



His Excellency, Mr Taeyong Cho, Ambassador for the Republic of South Korea, with Alan Evans.



Defence Attaché, Colonel Dae-Hee Ahn, with his wife.



### Veterans Memorial Day, Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital, 18 October 2011



Vic Dey and Ambassador Tae Yong Cho, with wreath at the Mulberry Tree, planted 19 Nov. 2010 in the presence of *The Little Angels*.



UPF Victorian Chairman, Rick McInerheney, presenting Robert Winther, DVA Liaison Officer, Austin Health, Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital, with an *Ambassador for Peace* Certificate.



Rick with Mr Na, President of the Korean Society of Victoria.

# Renewal Time

1st January 2012 to 31st December 2012  
**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 Treasurer, KVAA Inc., 1 Kent Court, Werribee, 3030, Victoria.**

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**.

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## 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 .....	\$
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# Military Humour

## The Biggest Lies in the Air Force...

I have no interest in flying for the airlines.  
We will be on time, maybe even early.  
I fixed it right the first time, it must have failed for other reasons.  
All that turbulence spoiled my landing.  
I only need glasses for reading.  
The weather is gonna be alright.  
Don't worry about the weight and balance – it'll fly.  
If we get a little lower I think we'll see the lights.  
The Air Force works as hard as the other services.  
Oh sure, no problem, I've got over 2000 hours in that aircraft.  
No need to look that up, I've got it all memorized.  
Sure I can fly it – it has wings, doesn't it?  
Your plane will be ready by 2 o'clock.  
We fly every day – we don't need recurrent training.  
I thought YOU took care of that.  
I've got the field in sight.  
I've got the traffic in sight.  
Of course I know where we are.  
I'm SURE the landing gear is down.

## Two Boys

An 8-year-old boy was boasting about his Army father to a friend of a similar age whose father was in the Navy.  
“My dad is an engineer. He can do everything. Do you know the Alps?”  
“Yes,” said the son of the Navy man.  
“My dad built them.”  
Then the naval kid spoke: “And do you know the Dead Sea?”  
“Yes.”  
“It's my dad who killed it!”

## Army Food

An English soldier, an American soldier and a Russian soldier found themselves sharing a tent while on a military exercise and the conversation turned towards how well fed each of them was.  
“In the Russian Army we have 2000 calories of food a day,” said the Russian.  
“Well,” said the Englishman, “In the British Army we are given 4000 calories of food a day.”  
“That's nothing,” said the American, “in the US Army we have 8000 calories of food a day.”  
At this the Russian got very annoyed. “Nonsense,” he said, “how could one man eat so much cabbage?”

## Bayonet Woes

During the American Civil War, a soldier had lost his bayonet and whittled one from wood so he could stand inspection. He was hoping not to be discovered until the regiment had gone into battle where he could pick up one from a dead soldier. At an inspection, an officer asked to see his bayonet. The soldier stated, “Sir, I promised my father I would never unsheathe my bayonet unless I intended to kill with it.” The Officer insisted he hand over the bayonet. Taking it out, the Soldier looked skyward and declared, “May the Lord change this bayonet to wood for breaking my vow.”

## Two Veterans

Two veterans were boasting to each other about their old army days. “Why, my outfit was so well drilled,” declared one, “that when they presented arms all you could hear was slap, slap, click.”  
“Very good,” conceded the other, “but when my company presented arms you'd just hear slap, slap, jingle.”  
“What was the jingle?” asked the first.  
“Oh,” replied the other off-hand, “just our medals.”

## Patriotic Soldiers

Two old men, Bill and Joe, were sitting on a porch reminiscing about World War II.  
“It was a real struggle,” said Bill.  
“I know what you mean,” said Joe.  
“I remember I was struggling all the way. I fought and I fought, and I fought, and when I thought I was tired out, I found the strength to carry on fighting another day.”  
“Yup.”  
“But it didn't matter, because in the end they made me join the Army anyway.”

## Sage Advice

In the US Army Airborne School, which trains parachute jumpers for the Army, one of the Sergeants was demonstrating all of the possible failures that could happen to the equipment. In particular, he was explaining how many things could happen to keep the main parachute from opening.  
Then one of the trainees asked, “If my parachute fails to open, how long do I have to open my reserve chute?”  
“Son,” the sergeant drawled, “you have the REST of your life to deploy that reserve!”

## Seeking Veterans

The Editor of the weekly newspaper *Korean Today*, Susanna Park, is seeking United Nations war veterans who may have lost contact with Korean veterans and wish to renew their friendship. If this fits you, please contact Susanna on: phone: (03) 9821 4233, mobile: 0404 113 446 or fax: (03) 9866 8182

## A Real Fighting Word

Many martial words in the English language are derived from words associated with ancient Greek and Roman gods. The term "martial" itself was derived from Mars, the Roman god of war. Engaging in any martial action was believed to involve the god who supervised battles and would choose the victor. *[Editor: the words 'martial' and 'marital' are not related despite the similar spelling. One is synonymous with conflict while the other has more to do with matrimony and... Oh. Wait. Maybe the two words are related after all.]*

### 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

Leonard Arthur Eyles (Colonel), 2510, 2 & 3RAR 1950-51, CO 1 SAS Coy 1958-60, SAS Regiment 1967-69 on 20 October 2011

Ernest John Cannard, 24029, 3RAR, on 15 September 2011

Roy Findlay, 22852, 3RAR, on 20 October 2011

Edward 'Ted' Moseley, 3400179, 3RAR, on Sunday 20 November 2011

John Bernard Nicholas, 25397, 2RAR on 28 October 2011

Joseph Prendergast, 3400510, 3RAR on 22 October 2011

## 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

## Nominations for KVAA Office Bearers 2012-2013

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

**Current Office Bearers 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 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.

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### 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: