

THE VOICE

August 2012 Edition

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Reflect

by Cameron Forbes

Cameron Forbes is a former foreign editor of The Age, a former European and Asia correspondent for The Age, and an ex-Washington correspondent for The Australian. He has reported wars and civil wars in the Middle East, Rwanda, Afghanistan and Bougainville. In 2010 he won the Walkley Award for Most Outstanding Contribution to Journalism. He is also the author of Hellfire and The Korean War. He was Guest Speaker at the 62nd Commemoration Service of the end of the Korean War at the Shrine. The following is the text of his speech.

On this day in 1953, as you know so well, the Korean War was frozen in armistice. On the eve of that armistice, in the last of the fighting by Australians after three long and bitter years, three of 2RAR's diggers died. Twenty-one year-old Ross McCoy and 20-year-old Kevin Cooper were killed on The Hook. Nineteen-year-old Leon Dawes was killed at an outpost called Green Finger. Dawes was last of 340 Australians to die.

This was, which ruined a nation and left millions dead, which shaped the Cold War, which threatened nuclear conflict and perhaps World War Three, finished more or less where it started, along the middle of the Korean Peninsula. The question is, inevitably, were those Australian deaths worth it? Were those millions of individual deaths worth it?

In my brief time, I don't intend to linger on the fighting of the war. You fought bravely, with honour, looked after your mates, faced hardship with humour.

I want to reflect briefly on the outcome. You will remember some of your American comrades who spoke bitterly of dying for a 'tie.' At one stage, I had intended to go to North Korea while researching my book. I still get invitations from the tour group to attend a mass games or the Great Leader's birthday. It angers and saddens me that the North Korean regime not only survives, but prospers. Its poor people do not. They bear the burden of the greed, selfishness and brutality.

Yet the calculated madness and the wickedness of the North Korean regime is a demonstration of what was gained in that terrible war. Imagine if the North Koreans and the Chinese had won the whole

(continues on Page 8)

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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	\$	Car number plate surrounds (set)	\$10.00	\$
Korean War map (laminated)	\$ 6.00	\$			

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President's Report

As you most probably be aware, next year on July 27th will mark the 60th Anniversary of the Korean War Cease Fire. I imagine that there will be big celebrations in the countries involved in the conflict.

This year, on July 27th, we held our usual memorial ceremony at the Shrine of Remembrance. Because of the inclement weather we moved the service indoors into the inner sanctum. A sacred place, where we veterans, wives, widows, and kin of ex-service personnel were joined by the Air Force Band who provided the Music for the ceremony. Also present were the Principal of the Fountain Gate Secondary College, Mrs Vicki Walters, Teacher Ms Belinda Irving, and 12 Students.

The ceremony was curtailed somewhat because of space, but being in the inner sanctum of the Shrine really made the service something very special. We express our thanks and gratitude to the Air Force Band for their contribution. Music is always special at any ceremony. And thanks to the Principal and students of the Fountain Gate Secondary College for taking the time to join us. My personal thanks to all the wives/widows and veterans who braved the elements to make the day a success.

On Friday, 3rd August, Tom Parkinson, Ron Kennedy, my wife and I will be special guests at the Fountain Gate Secondary College Presentation Ball. This should be a fantastic event: meeting all the debutantes and their partners, watching them as they make their debut, being introduced to us, and following their progress and enjoyment throughout the evening should prove a memorable night for all concerned.

My best wishes, as usual, go out to all who are ill; may you regain and enjoy better health in the very near future.

Editor: The following is the speech given at the Korean Church of Melbourne on 24 June by Dongup Kim, a Korean-born Korean War veteran and KVAA Inc. member. It has been slightly shortened and edited for space reasons.

Reflection

by Dongup Kim

As we mark the 62nd year since the end of the Korean War, we remember the Australian veterans and their families who participated in this war and offer our deepest gratitude. We pray that those who have fallen in this war will be resting peacefully in Heaven.



With the help of the Allied Forces and the Lord's grace, the Republic of Korea has been able to re-develop and advance itself from the ruins of war. The Republic has become a world leader in the steel, shipbuilding, automobile, construction and electronics industries. And we are proud and grateful that we are able to host and contribute in the development and cooperation of major

world events such as the Olympics, FIFA World Cup, G20 Summit Meeting, Nuclear Security Summit and the Yeosu Expo 2012.

I was born in 1932 on the 38th parallel, where the border between North and South Korea now lies. On December 13th, 1950, the Korean Armed Forces that had been advancing north had begun to retreat, and so on December 12th, 1950, I enlisted in the army as a student soldier.

Whilst serving in the 9th infantry division, I was captured during a Communist Chinese air force intervention. I was a prisoner of war for 3 days during which I was denied any supplies, and was also in a car accident. The accident paralysed my legs and as I was unable to move.

I lay waiting for help. However, when a couple of hours had passed and no help was in sight, I dragged myself using only my arms to the side of a main road. I lay there, unconscious, until I was discovered by one of the last evacuating U.N. army vehicles retreating south. It took me to Buk-Gu 49th field hospital.

The next day, I was transported by an American LST vessel to Busan military hospital for 75 days of treatment, after which I was assigned to the 5th division of the 27th regiment at the Army Infantry School. Admitted into the 12th military cadets of the Army Infantry School on September 1st, 1951 I was assigned to the 4th division, 18th artillery battalion, as a second lieutenant in February, 1952. I was transferred to 11th Infantry division and completed my national duty on May 31st, 1956, when I was discharged from service as a artillery lieutenant and squadron leader.

Although a painful triumph and a shameful fratricidal war, we [South Koreans] would like to pay our respects to those in the allied forces: those who heeded to the call of their country to defend and protect the freedom and peace of strangers. To all those courageous sons and daughters, we honour you. A special thanks to the family of those who lost their lives at the Battle of Gapyeng which was a pivotal point in the war.

Freedom is not free.

Notices

The Annual Seafarers' Memorial Service

Where: St Paul's Cathedral, Flinders Street, Melbourne
When: Trafalgar Day, Sunday 21 October 2012 at 10.30am
Dress: Uniform, lounge suit, or day dress, decorations and medals
Guest of Honour: The Honourable Alex Chernov AC QC,
Governor of Victoria

In the Company of: Vice Admiral Ray Griggs AMCSC RAN
The Royal Australian Navy Colour will be paraded, supported by
the RAN Band, and the Australian Navy Cadets.

RSVP: Alan Knott on 03 5250 6148 or Email: knott@melbpc.org.au

R.A.N. Battle Class Social Club

Annual National Reunion - Albury 2012

An invitation to all ex-naval personnel and families.

When: 18-21 October 2012

Where: Albury, NSW

Venue: Quality Hotel on Olive
579 Olive Street, Albury

Cost: \$155.00 per couple inc. full buffet breakfast.
\$60.00 per head - Registration & Sat. Dinner Dance
(including pre-dinner drinks).

Program:

Thursday 18th Oct.: Meet & Greet with buffet meal at night
Friday 19th Oct.: Day Bus Trip
Evening reception at Government House
Saturday 20th Oct.: Free day - Dinner Dance at night
Sunday 21st Oct.: Cenotaph Service, Lunch,
Farewell Drinks & Finger Food at Night

For further information on Membership or Reunion:

Geoff (Wiggy) Bennett

13A Illira Way, Blackmans Bay, Tasmania 7052

Tel: (03) 6267 9931 or 0417 592 123

Email: benhun@bigpond.net.au or chjoemon@southcom.com.au

SchoolKids Bonus Scheme

Over 1,900 school students in the veteran community have benefited from education payments from the Aust. Government. Eligible families received \$409 for each primary school student and \$818 for each full-time secondary school student in mid-June. These payments marked the transition from the Education Tax Refund, previously administered by the Australian Taxation Office, to the new *Schoolkids Bonus*.

The *Schoolkids Bonus* will begin in 2013 with instalments each year, to be paid in January and July. Each primary school student will receive an annual amount of \$410 and each full-time secondary school student will receive an annual amount of \$820. Payments will assist families with the cost of additional education expenses like purchasing school books and uniforms or towards the cost of school excursions and camps.

Payments will be made into the bank account where the recipients' current DVA education allowance is paid. For more information or other assistance regarding education allowance payments visit www.dva.gov.au or call DVA on 133 254 or 1800 555 254 for non-metropolitan callers.

Shrine of Remembrance Exhibitions

Australians in Papua

Eastern Visitor Centre, 8 June 2012 - 27 January 2013

Between July 1942 and January 1943, Australia fought three costly campaigns against Japanese forces in Papua, New Guinea: at Kokoda, Milne Bay and the Beachheads. This shrine exhibition remembers the brave men of Kokoda and acknowledges the lesser known Milne Bay and Beachheads campaigns, which, with the victory at Kokoda, brought an end to enemy power in Papua and helped secure Australia.

Australia's Entry Into the Vietnam War

Visitor Centre, 28 July 2012 - 3 September 2012

In the mid-1960s, Australia, concerned about the rise of communism in Asia, committed troops to bolster South Vietnam against the communist North. During the Vietnam War (1962-1973) some 60,000 Australians served. The Australian Task Force (ATF) stationed in Nui Dat in the southern province of Phoc Tuy, was the largest component of Australia's military commitment. Additional support for South Vietnam was provided by the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam (AATTV). This display pays tribute to the ATF and AATTV and the men and women who served with them.

Peace

Western Visitor Centre, 21 September 2012 - January 2013

Evidence of our commitment to peace is frequently overshadowed by the emphasis given by the media to reports of conflict. This exhibition asks the question: what is peace? It examines international, national and local efforts that seek to ensure stability and opportunities for creative collaboration in our world. Australia's role in peacekeeping in recent decades and in international initiatives for peace, contributes to the narrative.

China's Fighting Hordes: The PLA

by David Richie

In 1950, the Chinese People's Liberation Army had a strength of 650,000 men. These troops were organized in four field armies (numbered 1-4) and a reserve (sometimes called the 5th Field Army), each of which was responsible for a "military area" of three to six "zones." These field armies were supported by a militia of 5,500,000 lower quality troops with less training and poorer equipment. In addition, the Chinese Air Force accounted for an additional 10,000 personnel, and the as yet inoperative Navy had 60,000 men in its cadres.

Each Chinese field army of between 130,000 and 600,000 men was composed of three "group armies" (numbered 1-23). Each group army of 30,000 to 80,000 men was composed of two to six armies (numbered 1-77). Each army of 15,000 to 30,000 men was composed of three or four infantry divisions (numbered 1-239) plus artillery transport, training and special duty regiments and engineer, recon signal and AA Battalions. Sometimes, an army might be reinforced by one of a handful of artillery divisions and Mongolian cavalry regiments maintained by the PLA. With or without these attachments, an army was fully capable of operating independently and was thus the basic operational unit of the PLA.

PLA divisions were triangular, consisting of three infantry regiments and a very small HQ and support staff. At full strength, each regiment consisted of 3,242 officers and men organized in three 852-man infantry battalions, a guard company, an artillery battery of four 76mm guns, a mortar company with six heavy mortars, a small medical unit with a single medical officer, a stretcher company (usually staffed by civilians), a transport company and a recon/signal company that included some engineers. Generally, during this period, regiments were 30% or more understrength.

The PLA intervention in the Korean War was a hesitant, piecemeal affair. Initially, it seems to have been designed to scare the UN away from the Chinese frontier. Thus, when 1st Field Army Commander and Deputy Commander of the PLA General Peng Te-Huai ordered the first units to cross the Yalu secretly on 14 October 1950, they were designated "Chinese People's Volunteers," a fiction that fooled no one, but that allowed the Chinese to plausibly deny their involvement, if necessary. The skirmishing in which these "volunteers" engaged in October was almost certainly intended as a warning – but it was a warning that MacArthur and his staff chose to ignore. When the October fighting provoked no change in UN policy, the Chinese upped the ante. More troops were sent to Korea, and a full-scale attack was planned.

By early November, Peng had in Korea about 200,000 men of the 13th Group Army (38th, 39th, 40th and 50th) and the independent 42nd and 66th Armies. The 42nd Army (which was drawn from 14th Group Army) included the 1st and 2nd Motorized Artillery Division and a cavalry regiment. Attached to the 66th Army (which was drawn from one of 1st Field Army's group armies) was the 8th Artillery Division and the 42nd Truck Regiment. This force was augmented during November by 70,000 men of the 9th Group Army (20th, 26th, and 27th Armies). It was these forces that fought the UN during the winter of 1950-51.

February of 1951 found the PLA forces in Korea bled white. The failure of the crude Chinese logistics system had caused Peng to resort to human wave tactics that exacted a frightful cost from the PLA trained cadres. Fresh troops were needed if the Chinese were to accomplish anything further. Thus, late in the winter, elements of two new group armies entered Korea, the 3rd (12th, 15th, and 60th Armies) and the 10th (63rd, 64th, and 65th Armies). In addition, the 13th Group Army's 47th Army also joined the fight. These fresh forces became the spearheads for the first Chinese spring offensive. They were the last major PLA reinforcements sent to Korea during the mobile phase of the war.

During this period, the PLA was a light infantry force, whose doctrine was rooted in the principles of revolutionary guerrilla warfare that had guided it during its formative years. True, the 3rd Group Army was in the process of being mechanized and 3000 Soviet military advisers were trying to teach the Chinese their theories of multi-echelon warfare, but the PLA units that fought in Korea in 1950-51 followed basically the same doctrine as the forces that fought the Japanese a decade before. In this new war, the PLA amply demonstrated both the strengths and the weaknesses of its organization and doctrine.

As befitted a lightly armed infantry force, the Chinese specialty at this time was infiltration. The basic technique was simple. First, a third or so of the PLA attack force would filter past the enemy flank and establish a blocking position at some choke point in the enemy rear. In this part of the operation, PLA discipline and expertise in night combat operations were invaluable. Entire Chinese divisions would march through the night across trails that UN patrols would not essay in daylight. With the dawn, the Chinese column would be under cover and would remain there (often unmoving in bitter cold) for the entire day, resuming its march when darkness once again provided concealment. Once the blocking troops were in position, the main PLA assault force would make a convergent attack from front and flanks.

Against the road-bound UN forces spread out in the broad northern reaches of the mountainous Korean

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Notices II

HMAS Anzac D150-D59-F150 & HMAS Tobruk D37-L50 Reunion

All personnel who served on above ships are invited to participate in the National Reunion at Frankston, Victoria on 18th October - 23rd October 2012 and attend a Passing Out Parade at *HMAS Cerberus*. All replies regarding membership and/or the reunion to:

John "Rebop" Golotta. (President)
22 Troedel Street, Pearcedale,
Victoria, 3912.
Phone (03) 5978 7808
Mobile 04417399168
Email: hm.anzac@bigpond.com

Korea War Veterans Memorial Reunion

Where: Canberra, ACT 2602

When: 19th 20th & 21st October 2012

October 2012 sees the gathering of veterans, family and friends, for the annual commemorative service and functions in Canberra. For information packs and bookings please contact Ms Wendy Karam on 0418 124677 or email: wendykaram@yahoo.com.au

HMAS Bataan Veterans Assoc. Reunion

Where: Greenmount Beach Resort, Coolangatta

When: 13-16 September 2012

Contact: John Laughton 03 97047799 or

Email: johnfl@aapt.net.au for details or to book

Seeking Jimmy Bailey

Seeking Jimmy Bailey from Creswick, Victoria. He joined the Army as apprentice 23 July 1948, discharged 49/50 then joined the Navy. Served in Korea 50/51 on HMAS *Tobruk* as a stoker/mechanic. Our last contact was 52/53. Contact Mike Tynan on (03) 5339 9728.

Parade College

Seeking information on all ex-students of Parade College in Melbourne who served in Korea, Malaya, Vietnam and Iraq. The College wishes to draw up a nominal roll of all ex-servicemen who served in these areas and who attended Parade. Contact johnosss49@hotmail.com if you can help.

Shrine of Remembrance Lectures

Return to ANJO: Documentary Screening

Wednesday 29 August 12:30 pm

Documentary film maker, Dr David Smith, and his father, searchlight operator, Gordon Smith of the 67th AASL, visit RAAF Landing Ground Truscott for the 50th anniversary of the completion of Australia's secret WWII airbase. Truscott was a crucial departure point for heavy bombers making sorties over South-East Asia and critical in the defence of Australia following the bombing of Darwin in 1942.

The Mothers Who Mourned During the First World War

Tuesday 4 September 12:30 pm

A group who are often overlooked in our commemorations of war, mothers gave their sons in large numbers during the Great War. The ways in which mothers mourned, the sacrifices they made and the ways in which the government authorities attempted to publicly recognise their grief will be the subject of this lecture.

The Boy From Bowen: Dairy of a Sandakan POW

Thursday 6 September 12:30 pm

Leslie Bunn Glover, one of the last men standing of the POWs who survived the atrocities of the Death Camps of Sandakan and Kuching under their Japanese captives, will be sharing his life story. In his recently published memoirs, Leslie, aged 92, recalls the horrors he faced as a POW slave labourer for the Japanese.

The Architect of Kokoda

Monday 10 September 12:30 pm

There have been many books written on Kokoda in the last twenty years and most mention Bert Kienzle in passing. To quote Alan Powell, author of *The Third Force*, "No man on the track did more to ensure the Australian victory than Lt Bert Kienzle." But Bert's story is more than just about wartime Kokoda. From birth to death, his was an extraordinary life.

Harry's War (Documentary Screening)

Tuesday 18 September 12:30 pm

Join Richard Frankland, author and film maker, for the screening and discussion of his documentary, *Harry's War*, which tells the story of his uncle, Harry Saunders who fought for Australia in the South Pacific campaign during World War II.

The Cowra Breakout

by Matt Dattilo

Matt Dattilo is an amateur historian from Indiana, USA, who puts out his own podcast, Matt's Today in History. Each episode lasts only about 5-10 minutes and covers a variety of topics, many military related. They are free to download and can be found at: <http://www.mattstodayinhistory.com>

On 15 August 1944, 545 Japanese prisoners of war attempted an escape from the Number 12 Prisoner of War Compound near Cowra in New South Wales, Australia. Although not known for sure, it is believed that this is the largest prison escape in modern history.

By the middle of 1944, there were nearly 20,000 Axis POWs in Australia; 4,000 of them were held at the Number 12 Compound. The prisoners were of several different nationalities: Japanese, Koreans who had served in the Japanese military, and Italians who had been captured in North Africa. Like every Allied nation which held POWs, Australia followed the Geneva Convention with regard to the treatment of prisoners. This did not mean there were no problems, most of them caused by the huge cultural divide which existed between the Australian camp guards and the Japanese prisoners.

The Australians were constantly on the lookout for a large Japanese breakout. It was not an irrational fear, for one year earlier Japanese POWs in New Zealand had staged a riot and attempted a break-out at a camp near Featherston. Because of this incident, the Number 12 Compound was fortified with several machine gun positions in addition to the rifles carried by the 22nd Garrison Battalion, the unit responsible for camp security.

In late July of 1944, an informer among the POWs told the Australians that a mass escape plan was about to be executed. To stunt this attempt, camp officials announced on August 4th that all the Japanese enlisted men were to be moved to another camp, leaving their officers and non-commissioned officers behind. The men were given one day to prepare themselves for the move. That proved to be one evening too long, for the plan was further along than anyone except the planners imagined.

Several hours before sunrise on August 5th, nearly 600 Japanese prisoners attempted to go over and through the camp's barbed wire fences. They attacked three sides of the camp at once, armed with blankets to help in their climb over the fence and homemade weapons of all types. A few minutes later, most of the buildings in the Japanese part of the camp were set on fire, presumably as a diversion.

Two Australian privates, Benjamin Hardy and Ralph Jones, fought through the throng of escapees and attempted to man a nearby machine gun. They fired at the Japanese in an attempt to stop them, but the crowd soon engulfed and killed the men. Of the 545 Japanese who attempted to escape, 359 of them were successful. Some of the prisoners had not tried to escape at all, but had remained behind to set fires and then commit suicide.

It took 10 days to round up the last of the escapees. The officers in charge of the escape attempt had ordered their men to do no harm to any civilians they ran across; to a man, they all followed this order. When it became obvious they had no hope of permanent escape, some killed themselves rather than face a return to the camp while others fought until they were killed by Australian soldiers. All told, 234 Japanese died in the escape attempt and the week and a half that followed; 108 were injured. Four Australian soldiers died.

Number 12 Camp remained in service until the last POWs were returned home in 1947. Privates Hardy and Jones were posthumously awarded the George Cross for their heroism during the escape attempt. Today a large Japanese cemetery can be found in Cowra and a Japanese garden commemorating the breakout has been built nearby.

The Origin of the CIA

America's Central Intelligence Agency owes its existence to the British. Before the Second World War, the USA had no centralised intelligence organisation. However, in 1940, as a result of British pressure, President Franklin Roosevelt authorised the creation of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) to co-ordinate the nation's spying activities. The OSS was officially disbanded after the war, but many of its personnel remained in government service and provided the nucleus for the CIA when it was established by President Harry Truman in 1947.

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

Cadet To Colonel

It was possible for a flying cadet at the time of Pearl Harbor to finish the war with eagles on his shoulders. That was the record of John D. Landers, a 21 year old Texan, who was commissioned a second lieutenant on 12 Dec. 1941. He joined his combat squadron with 209 hours total flight time. He finished the war as a full colonel, commanding an 8th Air Force Group – at age 24.

As the training pipeline filled up, however those low figures became exceptions. By early 1944, the average AAF fighter pilot entering combat had logged at least 450 hours, usually including 250 hours in training.

Reflect (continued from Page 1)

peninsula, blocking the future of a vibrant, democratic South Korea. Imagine if strengthened communist forces had got more countries in an iron grip in the Cold War. Australian history has not paid the attention it should to the Korean War and the role of our soldiers, airmen and sailors in it. To an extent it is still a forgotten war.

What delights me as an Australian is that South Korea remembers. South Korea remembers with large banners which greet Australian veterans as heroes. It remembers in beautiful, small ways. At the Pusan cemetery a young Korean woman gave me a single white flower which I laid on the grave of Dennis O'Brien, the first Australian to be killed at the Battle of Maryan Sang. I have become a friend of the O'Brien family. And that has been the privilege for me, getting to know the veterans and their families.

I honour you.

China's Fighting Hordes: The PLA (continued from Page 5)

peninsula the Chinese night-march/infiltration/convergent attack technique was devastating. Its first result, in fact, was to get Chinese troops across the Yalu and in position for their November attack without the UN High Command being aware of their presence. From the time of that initial attack until the spring of 1951, the UN was kept off-balance by the technique.

Once UN forces gained the narrower and less rugged southern portions of the peninsula and were able to form a less permeable line, PLA infiltration techniques ceased to be effective, and the battle soon settled down to a more conventional struggle in which the PLA could not hope to compete against superior UN firepower. This, of course, is the other side of the tactical coin: if you move light and fast, you can't carry much. If you can't carry much, you can't compete in a war of material.

Source: Strategy & Tactics magazine No. 111

Please photocopy page or cut along the dotted line

Annual RAAF Service

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

Point Cook Museum Tour and Plaque Commemoration

Tuesday 2nd October 2012

Museum tour: 10:00 (RAAF Base Williams museum)

Commemoration Service: 11.45 Memorial Parade Square (Holy Trinity Chapel if inclement weather)

(Note: with medals at Service).

Followed by Lunch at the Werribee R.S.L. in Kelly Park, Synott Street, Werribee (Pay own way)

Melways 198 J,4 (tour & service) / Melways 205 K,8 (Werribee R.S.L.)

Bus transportation: Free to Members. (Note: the bus has room for only 22).

(The bus leaves from the Stella Maris Seafarers Centre, 600 Lt. Collins St., at **9 am**).

Cars: those driving to the event are required to list their car registration no. plus the names of all passengers

Members wishing to attend please fill out and return the form by Monday 25 September 2012 to:

Gerry Steacy, 1 Kent Court, Werribee Victoria 3030.

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

Car Registration No.: _____ OR Bus required YES / NO (please circle).

Names of those attending: _____

Hoofkrieg, Not Blitzkrieg

The German Army in World War II was by no means the motorized juggernaut of popular conception. The reality is quite different. The mass of the German Army was composed of traditional “leg” infantry divisions - and the transport for these units was provided by the horse. When Germany went to war in 1939, each infantry division had a large horse establishment. The inventory could vary from 4,842 horses for a first wave division to 6,033 for one in the third wave. Although the campaign in Poland presented no real problem for the infantry, many units did have some difficulty in procuring replacements for the horse casualties.

The 1940 campaign turned out to be a great boon for the German Army. Not only was the campaign a major success, but the occupation of France, Belgium, and the Low Countries gave the Germans access to the horse breeding areas of Holland and Normandy. The Germans usually acquired horses through purchasing commissions. These commissions bought horses from farms in Germany and the occupied territories at a set standard price. The commission could also sell horses that were no longer fit for military service.

Generally, the army preferred to buy horses at ages of three years or younger. The horses would then be put through a conditioning and training program to acclimate them to military service. When they reached five years of age, they would be sent to depots run by individual field armies. The army would then parcel the horses out to component divisions as needed. Mistakes were often made; valuable studs were bought, as well as as sick or over-aged horses which were useless to the army. Nonetheless, the system worked reasonably well. From 1939 to 1943, the German army bought or requisitioned some 1,210,000 horses.

After the Luftwaffe’s failure over Britain, the Wehrmacht turned east towards Russia. This required an incredible concentration of horses. By 13 June, 1941, the Fourth Army alone possessed some 130,000 horses, most of which were located in Poland. The total horse strength for the army in the east at the start of the invasion of Russia, 22 June 1941, was 650,000.

The invasion had serious consequences for the German armies’ horse situation. The lack of readily available forage, strenuous marching, and adverse climatic conditions took a heavy toll of the more delicate French and Dutch breeds. Also, the Germans could not use the native Russian panje horses immediately, as German horsedrawn vehicles were too large and heavy for them. Large amounts of fodder, not to mention replacements, had to be sent by rail from Germany, thus putting an additional burden on the already badly strained supply system. Although the Germans were able to avoid outbreaks of really catastrophic diseases, like glanders, they were beset by outbreaks of other equine disorders, of which the most serious was mange. The number of cases soon overwhelmed the German veterinary hospitals, which could only handle 550 horses at any one time. This situation culminated in the disastrous winter of 1941-42, when 180,000 horses died.

During the 1942 campaign, the situation was somewhat better. Limiting offensive action to Army Group South allowed the Germans to institute conservation measures. Horses in quiet sectors could get green fodder by grazing. Also the Germans built fighter vehicles for the native Russian horses. In fact, throughout the Russian campaign the army was usually able to meet most of its needs in terms of horses.

The Germans also saved on horse power by several administrative and organizational measures. First, the number of horses on establishment was steadily revised downward. By 1943, a full strength “attack” division required only 3,300 horses. Static divisions in the West required even less, as their artillery had been placed in fixed positions along the Atlantic coast. Divisions slated to remain in the West gave their horses to divisions leaving for the Russian front.

Yet the Germans also pursued a number of measures that were extremely wasteful. Prime among these were the Luftwaffe field divisions. Each one of these marginally useful units required over 1,000 horses. Equally wasteful was the raising of an SS cavalry division, which required 5,000 to 7,000 horses. While Germans also employed foreign cavalry units, these supplied their own mounts. The grave consequences of using horses transportation, however, were made manifest in the West in 1944. With hundreds of Allied fighter-bombers operating over the roads in France, the slow-moving horse-drawn columns were easy targets. Heavy losses in horses led to heavy losses in equipment, especially artillery. They also forced the Germans to resort to looting in order to obtain replacements. Such desperate measures allowed the Germans to maintain a large number of horses.

By 1 Feb. 1945, the Wehrmacht employed a total of 1,198,724 horses. In fact the shortage of motor vehicles forced even panzer divisions to employ horses for transport. Thus did even the most modern part of the German army return to its horse-drawn roots.

Source: *Strategy & Tactics* magazine No. 107

Letter to the *Kilcoy Sentinel*

Editor's Intro: Many of you will be familiar with Kelly Frawley from Kilcoy from previous editions of The Voice. Well, here he is again, this time with a letter of mild rebuke penned for his local paper and published on 5 July. The reason will become evident as you read it.

Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Kelly Frawley. I am a member of the Kilcoy R.S.L. Sub Branch. I am a Korean War veteran, one of two Kilcoy Korean War veterans (the second, Snowy Muir, sadly passed away last year). I am 80 years old. I was a Flight Mechanic in the RAAF stationed in Kimpo, Korea for 6 months and 9 months in Iwakuni, Japan. I celebrated my 21st birthday in a trench in bitterly cold Korea.

The Korean War, often referred to as the Forgotten War, is now pretty much old hat. Yet it was fought for 3 gruelling years from 25 June 1950 to 27 July 1953. Thousands of young Aussies went into battle against a skilful, courageous, and numerically superior enemy. Many were wounded, killed or prisoners of war. They were all members of regular units and volunteers. The Nation as a whole was not involved, so it is not surprising that Korea has faded from the memory of our fellow countrymen. On Anzac Day, a radio announcer made reference to Australian participation in World War I, World War 2, Malaysia, Borneo and Vietnam. He had forgotten Korea.

On 25 June 1950, without warning or declaration of war, masses of North Korean troops swept over the 38th parallel and captured the capital of South Korea, Seoul, thus starting the Korean War. Throughout the 3 year conflict the three branches of the Australian Defence Force were supported and supplied by a variety of units based in Japan. For those of us that served in the Korean War the memories remain vivid.

It brings back memories of the dust, heat and humidity as well as the bitter cold of the Korean winter. Men slept with their boots on and their weapons cradled lest they be frozen in an emergency. All were affected and it has influenced our lives in varying ways. The terrain was harsh and unforgiving. Destruction of cities, provincial towns and villages was the norm. Death and carnage pervaded the whole country. The really sad thing is that the total casualties have never been accurately determined.

Sources in South Korea estimate between two and a half and three million dead. This includes all Korean civilians, Chinese and North Korean military, South Korean military and United Nations forces. Australian casualties were: 339 killed in action or died of wounds; 1,216 wounded; 29 prisoners of war. Thousands more were injured or became ill from a variety of causes.

On Friday 27 July please spare a thought for those brave Australians who took part in this largely forgotten campaign.

Retirement of Rex Hoole

Given that the youngest Korea War veteran is now pushing 80, there can't be many still in full time paid employment. So hats off to Rex Hoole, the local butcher at Boggabilla in Queensland (Population 650, located just south of Goondiwindi). Particularly renowned for his beef sausages locally, he is now 84 and still working 5 days a week. However, this month, after 50 years, he is closing his business and retiring to Goondiwindi to "do many interesting things." His butcher shop is a show of Korea War memorabilia and he is extremely proud of his service in Korea. We wish him well in his retirement.

An Opportunity Lost

In April 1915 German troops on the Western Front unleashed the first gas attack of the First World War. Within two months, three professors at the University of Melbourne – Orme Masson (Chemistry), William Osborne (Physiology) and Thomas Laby (Natural Philosophy) – had produced a protective gas mask that was far in advance of the crude pattern which British forces were forced to use for the next year. To test their invention, the professors had a trench dug in the university grounds, filled it with poisonous fumes, and persuaded as many of their friends as they could to enter the pit.

Having proved their respirator's effectiveness, and despite British objections to such independent action, 10,000 were ordered for the Australian Imperial Force and dispatched to Egypt. The masks, along with a young graduate of the university, Lieutenant Arthur Rossiter, who was sent to provide instruction in their use, arrived in April 1916. Lieutenant General Sir Alexander Godley, commander of II ANZAC Corps, was unwilling to see his men trained with a type of mask different to that used by other British formations. So Rossiter was sent on to the Australian high commissioner in London.

There, British anti-gas experts examined specimens of the Melbourne design and decided that, while it had many useful points and was well-made, it also had certain defects that a new pattern then being developed was expected to overcome. The Australian mask was therefore not adopted, and the existing 10,000 masks were shipped to England to be cannibalised for their chemicals, rubber and aluminium. A fine example of Australian ingenuity was largely wasted.

Source: *Wartime*, Issue 18, 2002, Australian War Memorial

Korean Church of Melbourne Memorial Service Photos

Korean Church of Melbourne, Malvern, Sunday, 19 August 2012



Vic Dey, Rev. R. F. Wootton, Ron Christie & Dongup Kim



Barbara Wollon & Betty Holl

George Sykes & John Boyer

Wahn-seong Jeong



Christine Shrubsole & Margaret White

John Laughton & Les Hughes

Bernie Shrubsole

Humour

You Know You Are Getting Old When...

Going out is good. Coming home is better!

When people say you look "Great" they add, "for your age!"

When you needed the discount you paid full price. Now you get discounts on everything...movies, hotels, flights, but you're too tired to use them.

The 5 pounds you wanted to lose is now 15 and you have a better chance of losing your keys than the 15 pounds.

You realize you're never going to be really good at anything... especially golf.

Your spouse is counting on you to remember things you don't remember.

You used to say, "I hope my kids GET married. Now you say, "I hope they STAY married!"

You miss the days when everything worked with just an *ON* and *OFF* switch.

Now that you can afford expensive jewelry, it's not safe to wear it anywhere.

You read 100 pages into a book before you realize you've already read it.

What used to be freckles are now liver spots.

Everybody whispers.

Now that your husband has retired...you'd give anything if he'd find a job!

You look down and see your mother's hands.

Power-walking seems as physically challenging as a pro-wrestling or boxing.

Jane Fonda was starring in *Barbarella* the last time you wore a bikini.

The cop who pulls you over looks just like your grandson.

You look back nostalgically on your "mid-life" crisis.

You can no longer recall your true hair colour.

You've stopped counting freckles and started counting liver spots.

You realise when Errol Flynn was your age he had been dead twenty eight years.

Deductive Logic

Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson were out camping. They went to sleep that night, when suddenly Holmes woke up Watson, and said, "Look upwards and tell me what you see?"

Watson looked upwards and said, "I see the sky."

"And what does that tell you?"

Watson thought for a moment, then said, "Geophysically, by the position of the stars, it tells me it's about 3 am. Climatically, by the slight cloud cover and cold temperature, it tells me it may rain tomorrow; philosophically, it tells me that we are indeed insignificant, and metaphorically it tells me that God is great."

"Anything else?" asked Holmes.

"No."

Holmes burst out, "Watson you stupid idiot – some bastard has stolen our tent!"

The Late Greeter

Charley, a new retiree-greeter at Wal-Mart, just couldn't seem to get to work on time. Every day he was 5, 10, 15 minutes late. But he was a good worker, really tidy, clean-shaven, sharp minded and a real credit to the company and obviously demonstrating their "Older Person Friendly" policies.

One day the boss called him into the office for a talk. "Charley, I have to tell you, I like your work ethic, you do a bang up job, but your being late so often is quite bothersome."

"Yes, I know, and I am working on it."

"Well good, you are a team player. That's what I like to hear. It's odd though your coming in late. I know you're retired from the Armed Forces. What did they say if you came in late there?"

"They said, 'Good morning, General, can I get you coffee, sir?'"

Three Parrots

A man goes into a pet shop to buy a parrot. The shopkeeper shows him three identical parrots on a perch and says, "The parrot on the left costs \$500."

"Why does that parrot cost so much?" asks the customer.

"Well," replies the owner, "it knows how to organise complex military manoeuvres."

"How much does the middle parrot cost?" asks the accountant.

"That one costs \$1,000 because it can do everything the first one can do plus it is an expert in logistics."

The startled customer asks about the third parrot, to be told it costs \$4,000. Needless to say, this raised the question, "What can it do?"

To which the owner replies "To be honest, I've never seen him do a darn thing, but the other two call him General."

My Living Will

Last night, my kids and I were sitting in the living room and I said to them: "I never want to live in a vegetative state, dependent on some machine and fluids from a bottle. If that ever happens, just pull the plug!" They got up, unplugged the computer and threw out my wine!

62nd Anniversary Service Photos

Commemorating the Cease-fire of the Korean War (1950-1953)

The Shrine of Remembrance, Friday, 27 July 2012

Being mid-winter in Melbourne, it naturally poured rain in the morning. The last thing we needed being a good soaking, the service was moved into the awe-inspiring interior of the Shrine itself. Of course, being mid-winter in Melbourne, the rain cleared by the time of the service and a weak sun made an appearance. We stayed put anyway. Despite the lack of the usual march to the *Pool of Reflection*, it turned out to be a good move. The sombre and formal interior of the Shrine provided an atmospheric experience, the brass of the RAAF Air Force Band echoing about the chamber as did the words of the speakers.



Mea Culpa! (My Mistake)

Yes, it is the latest instalment of the *Oops, I Goofed Show* starring the Editor in which I eat humble pie then, after a thorough whipping, send myself to bed without my supper (humble pie is very filling but lacks much in the way of nourishment). In the last edition of *The Voice*, on the front page no less, I stated in regard to the post-march meeting at the Stella Maris on Anzac Day that...*KVAA Inc. member Les Peate flew all the way from Ottawa, Canada for the event. [I suspect he was actually in Australia on unrelated business, but why let the facts get in the way of a good story].*

I have since received an email from someone claiming to be Les Peate in which he says that not only was he NOT at the Stella Maris on the day in question, he wasn't even in Australia. So how did I get it so wrong?

Possibility A: It was noisy, crowded and I was busy stuffing my face with sandwiches when I wasn't taking photos. I misheard or misinterpreted what Alan Evered said over the PA and, in typical journalistic thoroughness, didn't bother checking the facts with him later.

Possibility B: Les *did* actually attend Anzac Day at the Stella Maris and is sending the email to mess with my mind (Shame on you, Les, my mind is fragile enough as it is).

Possibility C: Les *did* actually attend Anzac Day at the Stella Maris and the email claiming not to have done so is from an imposter.

I don't know about you; however, I prefer my version of reality, that is, C. Your choice may differ. A more pertinent question to ask is: why was Les Peate in sunny Ottawa, Canada, when he could have been in cold, rainy, wind-swept Melbourne on Anzac Day? Some people really are perverse.

One From the Vault...



Tom Bryant (right) and friend standing on the Imjun River, winter 1952.

Editorial Disclaimer

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Monster Bat Raffle Winners

Congratulations to Valda Dyke of Fawkner and Arthur Slee from Altona. You are the two winners of the KVAA Inc. Monster Bat Raffle. A monster bat will be dispatched to you in due course. Try not let it bite you, and good luck housebreaking it— Oh, wait. Sorry. Apparently you have both won a signed **cricket** bat each.

A jet-powered sled, *Oxygen*, is claimed as the fastest ever, reaching a speed of 399 kph on Lake George, New York in 1981. This claim, however, is disputed by supporters of a certain Santa Claus. However, as Mr Claus has never submitted his machine for proper testing, *Oxygen* remains the all-time speed champion.

Farewells

Stanley R. Arnold, 11836, 3RAR 2RAR,
on 12 May 2012

Ronald John Douglas, 27705, 3RAR
on 13 June 2012

Roy Reginald Godfrey, 51089, 3RAR
on 12 July 2012

Robert H. Higham 3401053, RAAMC, RMO,
2RAR on 27 May 2012

Raymond R. Kelcey 3400602, 1RAR 3RAR
on 25 July 2012

Donald Campbell Muir, 12912, 1RAR
on 1 April 2012

Ronald A. Nicholson 28181, 1RAR
on 24 April 2012

Alan Renton, 33009, 1RAR
on 19 July 2012

Kevin Leslie Simms, 31457, 2RAR
on 9 July 2012

Charles Alfred Smith, 210322, 1RAR
on 14 July 2012

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