

THE VOICE

February 2012 Edition

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The Future of the AKVA

Here's a question for you from the *bleeding obvious* category: how many WWI veterans are still with us? Answer: none. The last of them lost that ultimate battle against time a few years ago. Also obvious is that the ranks of the next generation of Australian soldiers, those of WWII and Korea, are thinning. A number of organisations whose members are drawn from a specific unit, ship or battle have now ceased to exist or are moribund.

Most of you will be familiar with Harry Spicer and the Australia Korea Veterans Association Inc., centred in NSW. In December last year a letter went out to its members, parts of which are excerpted below. The contents are self-explanatory.

At our November meeting the future of our Association was discussed at length we are all getting older and we are having difficulty in filling the positions on the executive and committee.

We believe the most important thing for our members is to be kept in touch with what is going on within the Veteran community, it was therefore decided that from next year we will cease paying membership fees and that we would pay the membership fees of our members to become members of the KVAA (Korea Veterans Association of Australia) until our funds have expired. We decided that this would be the best we could do for our members at this time.

We will continue to function as an Association as we always have, we will put any notices for our members in the KVAA Newsletter that you will receive in due course, this means that you will be members of the two Associations.

The key words in the above statement are *getting older* and *difficulty, filling* and *positions*. What has befallen the AKVA is ultimately a fate that the KVAA Inc. will share. But not yet, fortunately. Our larger membership base adds a few years to our longevity. What can't be easily overcome is the increasing decrepitude of the members overall. The spirit might be as willing as ever; the flesh, less so.

So while it is always great when the KVAA Inc. picks up new members, it isn't so wonderful when it comes at the expense of another veterans' organisation. That said, to the members of the AKVA who are now also KVAA members...welcome aboard.

Associate Member

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

Affiliated Associations

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

Allied Associations

Australian Peacekeepers and Peacemaker Veterans' Association Inc.



Life Members

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

†Deceased

Directory

Patron

Major General J C Hughes AO DSO MC FAIM Dip FP

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Victor Dey OAM
 Phone: 03 946 72750
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Tom Parkinson 03 9350 6608

Secretary

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Treasurer

Gerry Steacy
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Committee

Ron Christie, John Duson, Keith Langdon,
 Allan Murray, Allen Riches, Arthur Roach, Ivan Ryan

Appointments

Chaplain: John Brownbill RFD KSJ 0418 359 085 **Pensions:** Charlie Slater 03 9355 7264
General Committee: Alan McDonald **Veterans' Affairs:** Ivan Ryan 03 726 6053
Editor: Geoff Guilfoyle 03 9546 5979 Email: Geoff_Guilfoyle@aanet.com.au
Publicity: Allan Murray 03 5962 6197 Email: kvaainc@bigpond.com
KSEAFSA & Kindred Korea Veterans Organisations: Alan Evered (Liaison Officer)

Delegates

ACT: Colin Berryman OAM 02 6258 2463, 040 896 2415, or jacol57@bigpond.net.au
Albury-Wodonga: Paul Shimmen 02 6041 3211 **Geelong:** Arthur Roach 03 5243 6113
New South Wales: Merv Heath 02 4343 1967 **Queensland:** Harry Pooley 07 3200 0482
South Australia: John Bennett 08 8556 7288 **Tasmania:** George Hutchinson 03 6275 0762
Western Australia: John Southorn 08 9531 2008

Correspondence

The Secretary, PO Box 2123, Rangeview, Victoria 3132

Website

www.austkoreavets.asn.au

Merchandise Available

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

TOTAL . . . \$ _ _ _

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

Surname: Given Names:

Address: (Please Print)

State: Post Code:

Cheques or money orders should be made out to:

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

President's Report



Vic Dey, National President, KVAA Inc.

In December 2011, the Fountain Gate Secondary College (our adopted school) held their presentation night which Tom Parkinson, Ron Kennedy, my wife and I attended. The KVAA Inc. sponsor the *Commemorations Participation Award*, which in 2011 was won by Ben Hill, Year 10 School Vice Captain. (See the *Out & About* section for a picture).

Also present, watch her grandchild, was one of our widows, Mrs Rita Clarke. It is a great experience to see these children progressing through their school years, with the older ones moving on to university, etc. We wish them well for their future.

Even six decades on from the Korean War, plaque dedication ceremonies are still a time for reflection. With eighty people attending, and from all reports, the ceremony at Kangaroo Flat (on the edge of Bendigo) on January 18th was a great success.

Thanks to Tom Parkinson for stepping in my shoes for the day, and at very short notice. Unfortunately, my wife had a fall at home on Sunday 14th broke a bone in her leg (three breaks) near her hip. She was operated on the day of the Dedication and had a titanium rod inserted in the bone. She is now out of hospital and in a rehabilitation centre. Many thanks to everyone for your kind thoughts-cards and phone calls. Deeply appreciated.

For those in Melbourne on March 7th at 12.30pm, the Shrine is the place to be. Award winning journalist and author, Cameron Forbes (Hellfire Pass – The Korean War) will speak about the giants of history - Mao, Stalin, and Truman - and of course the Australian commitment to the Korean War.

This year brings the usual many varied activities, and probably some not so usual or expected. I am sure that we will handle each situation in a true and correct manner, as we have in the past.

My best wishes to all those on the sick list, including Alan Evered and Ivan Ryan.

'Precision' vs Area Bombing

Editor's Introduction: This year sees the 60th anniversary of the British abandonment of the concept of precision bombing (which wasn't) for saturation bombing of a particular area. It was the beginning of a campaign which would leave hundreds of thousands of Germans and civilians of other nations dead, and make many times that number homeless. The debate still rages today about the morality of this switch and its effectiveness in destroying Germany's war capacity (German production actually rose throughout 1943 and peaked in 1944).

In the first two years of WWII, the RAF tried to limit damage to civilians through 'precision' bombing during its raids into Germany. However, an August 1941 report into the RAF's Bomber Command noted that, while two thirds of the pilots on any given raid claimed to have bombed their target, in reality only 22 percent came within five miles of hitting it. Against the heavily defended targets in the Ruhr that figure fell to seven percent and, on moonless nights, only one crew in 15 came within 15 miles of hitting their aiming point. These missions came at a cost – an increasing one.

In 1941, the British produced 4,668 bombers of which 914, just under 20 percent, were lost to mechanical breakdown or enemy action. One in five planes. Throughout 1941 as German air defence stiffened, Bomber Command's losses mounted, for example, from 107 aircraft in August to 138 the following month. The loss rate among planes sent on raids to Berlin was 12.5 percent; against Mannheim, 13 percent, and the Ruhr took 21 percent. This does not include damaged planes that managed to struggle back to British airfields and that required considerable repair.

Recognising that if these losses continued that Bomber Command would be wiped out, on 13 November 1941, the organisation was ordered to conserve its resources for a renewed offensive in the Spring of 1942, effectively ending deep penetration raids for four months.

It also ended forever the idea of precision bombing in favour of area bombing, essentially, flattening the city containing the target and not just the target itself. The introduction of the new four-engine heavy bomber, the Lancaster, provided the weapon while the new head of Bomber Command, Air Marshall Arthur Harris, provided the will.

However, 1942 proved only marginally more sustainable, with the loss of 1,400 of the 6,235 planes produced. Over 20 percent. It wasn't until the arrival of the USAAF in numbers in 1943, and the development of the long-range escort fighter, that the tide turned. By 1944 the German air defence system was simply overwhelmed.

The switch from precision to area bombing had a consequence that stained the reputation of Harris and Bomber Command: a massive rise in civilian casualties. Though no dependable death toll has ever been compiled, the best estimate is that 400,000 to 600,000 civilians died as a result of area bombing.

Source: *World at War* magazine #21 Dec. 2011

Notices

In-Home Health Care

The Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Warren Snowdon has announced an \$8 million trial which will enable chronically ill veterans to have their health monitored by health professionals without leaving their home.

"This trial," Mr Snowdon said, "will take advantage of reliable, high-speed and high capacity broadband capability to change the way health services are delivered to the veteran community and allow veterans to access high-quality health care from home. Vital statistics will be monitored from home and veterans will also have access to video consultations with their GP or nurse coordinator when required. This will ensure the veterans' health can be observed, any irregularities can be identified and appropriate GP intervention provided in a timely manner."

Around 300 veterans will be able to participate in the trial in Toowoomba in Queensland, Coffs Harbour and Armidale in New South Wales, Mandurah and Geraldton in Western Australia and Kingston Beach in Tasmania, commencing from July 2012. Each will have individual health care plans developed for them in consultation with their GP and a nurse coordinator.

Importantly, the program will be closely linked with the Coordinated Veterans' Care Program, which provides ongoing, planned and coordinated care, led by a general practitioner with a nurse coordinator, to eligible veterans who have chronic conditions, complex care needs and are at risk of an unplanned hospitalisation.

All information will be provided via a secure format and the safety and privacy of personal data will be protected. More information about the new project is available at www.dva.gov.au

Request From Jeff Gentry

I am writing in the hope that some of your members may be able to help with some information on the Malayan Emergency in the 1950s. My farther Cpl. John Gentry (53561) served with 3RAR in Malaya and Singapore just after the end of the Malayan Emergency. He sadly passed away in August of 2011. I am trying to assist my Mum with a War Widows pension and would like any information your members may have on the herbicide spraying that was conducted by the British during the Malayan Emergency, in particular maps or known areas that the spraying was conducted. Any information would be most appreciated. I can be contacted by email jeff.g@three.com.au or phone 0413003119.

Anzac Day in Gallipoli and France

Going to Gallipoli or France for Anzac Day in 2012? If you, your family or friends are thinking about attending Anzac Day commemorations in Gallipoli or France next year, don't forget to register with the DVA. Attending an overseas Dawn Service is a once-in-a-lifetime experience for many Australians, and it's important visitors come prepared. Once registered, you will receive helpful information and tips on what to expect, what to bring with you and other important updates closer to 25 April 2012. For more information on Anzac Day in Gallipoli and France or to register for either service visit the DVA website.

NSW Clubs & RSL Members

Legislation granting current serving and ex-service Australian Defence Force personnel entry to RSL and services clubs as 'honorary members' without the need to 'sign-in' is now in force in New South Wales, as well as Victoria and Queensland. Under the newly introduced NSW provisions, 'service members' of the RSL and current serving Australian Defence Force personnel are granted 'honorary membership status' for the day they attend the club on producing either their Defence Force ID card, or for ex-servicemen and women their membership card of the Returned & Services League Australia, which is now uniform across the country. It will be a requirement that members of the RSL also produce evidence of membership of at least one RSL or services club. The new rule applies to RSL, Services, Ex-services, Memorial, Legion or other similar registered clubs, or a registered club that has objects similar to, or is amalgamated with, a RSL or kindred club.

A copy of the NSW RSL membership card is provided to club reception staff to assist the smooth introduction. The card stipulates in the bottom left corner whether the card holder is a 'Service Member' of the RSL. It may also denote that the holder is a 'Life Member' or 'Life Subscriber Member', both of which are recognized under this provision. Queensland RSL Members have a similar card, and the RSL Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania membership card also notes the club of which they are a member. The recognition of this honorary status will bring NSW into line with similar requirements which already exist in Victoria and which have also just been passed in Queensland.

The Poplar Tree at the DMZ

by Kevin M. Hymel

The Americans and their South Korean allies simply wanted to trim a tree. A 40-foot-tall Normandy poplar growing near the thoroughfare between North and South at Panmunjom – known to the Americans as the “Bridge of No Return” – was blocking their view and needed to be cut back. What started out as a small chore would soon explode into an international incident.

On the morning of August 18, 1976, a jeep carrying U.S. Captain Arthur Bonifas, Lieutenant Mark Barrett and Republic of Korea Army Captain, Kim Moon Kwan, headed toward the tree followed by a half-ton truck carrying five Korean Service Corps workers and seven guards armed with pickaxe handles. The officers were armed only with pistols.

No sooner had the workers leaned their ladders against the tree and began sawing and hacking away at the offending limbs than several jeeps bearing North Koreans sped over the bridge. Their leader, Senior Lt. Pak Chun, stormed over to Kim and demanded, “What are you doing?” Kim told him they were just cutting a few limbs off the tree, not cutting it down. “Good,” was Pak’s only reply.

But a few minutes later the North Korean became agitated. He demanded the work be stopped and threatened the work party, telling them, “The branches that are cut will be of no use, just as you will be after you die.”

The officers chose to ignore the fuming lieutenant and continued directing the efforts of their nervous workers. Within minutes a North Korean truck pulled up and some 20 soldiers wielding pipes and axe handles jumped out. Captain Bonifas, who was deliberately keeping his back to Pak, did not have time to react when the North Korean yelled, “Chukyo!” (“Kill!”), and karate-chopped Bonifas in the back of the neck.

Bonifas went down as the North Koreans charged the work party and their guards. It became a free-for-all as the North Koreans clubbed and beat the outnumbered South Koreans and Americans. Lieutenant Barrett broke free of the fracas, but the North Koreans caught up with him near a ditch and beat him to death. Six North Koreans surrounded Bonifas, already on the ground, and swung at him with clubs and axe handles, crushing his skull.

Within minutes the one-sided fight was over two Americans lay dead and nine of their party injured. There was an immediate reaction in the United States. President Gerald R. Ford condemned the action as “brutal and cowardly.” All U.S. military personnel on leave in South Korea were ordered to return to their units. The carrier USS Midway left its position off Japan and headed toward Korea, and a squadron of McDonnell F-4 Phantoms in Okinawa was also dispatched, as was a squadron of General Dynamics F-111 fighter-bombers stationed in Idaho. The U.S. forces in South Korea were all placed on increased alert status.

Three days after the incident, a dump truck carrying 13 engineers, each wielding a chain saw, approached the poplar tree. Behind them were 140 armed and ready troops. Behind the troops was artillery, zeroed onto the area. The air above buzzed with seven Bell AH-1 Cobra gunships, and three Boeing B-52 bombers circled even higher. The engineers sawed down the tree in front of a crowd of North Korean soldiers who watched but did not intervene. The task was completed in 45 minutes without incident, and the tree was hauled off to South Korea to be cut into swagger sticks.

Back in the United States the show of force meant little to Marcia Bonifas. All she cared about was that her husband was dead. She had been planning to greet him at the airport when he arrived home from Korea. Now she was on hand when his casket arrived, on its way to burial at West Point. Captain Bonifas had been killed with only three days left in his Korean tour of duty.

Source: Military History magazine, October 1999.

The Last Voyage of the *Prinz Eugen*

The *Prinz Eugen* was considered a lucky ship. Commissioned on 1 August 1940 as a cruiser in the *Kriegsmarine*, it initially accompanied the battleship Bismarck on its ill-fated North Atlantic raid in 1941. After fighting at the naval Battle of the Denmark Strait on 22 May, *Prinz Eugen* would survive several narrow scrapes throughout the rest of World War II, being finally awarded as a prize to the US after Germany surrendered in 1945.

Prinz Eugen then began its second career as an “unclassified ship” of the USN. The cruiser that once roamed the northern seas was assigned to the sunny Pacific as one of many targets for the July 1946 *Operation Crossroads* atomic bomb tests at Bikini Atoll. Incredibly, *Prinz Eugen* survived the explosions. Later that year she was towed to Kwajalein Atoll, where she capsized. The *Prinz Eugen* now rests at the bottom of the Pacific, a submerged monument to the end of one military era and the opening of the next.

Source: *Strategy & Tactics* magazine No. 271 Nov.-Dec. 2011

Notices II

Do You Know This Soldier's Family?

The Parliamentary Secretary for Defence, Senator David Feeney, has called on RSLs, historians and ex-servicemen and women to come forward if they know the next-of-kin of 12 brave Australian servicemen who died in World War II prisoner of war camps.

“In March this year, the Gillard Government announced that twenty prisoners of war who were killed while escaping during WWII will be posthumously awarded the *Commendation for Gallantry*,” Senator Feeney said. “So far eight families of these servicemen have been found. We’re looking for the rest. I am asking RSLs, historians, ex-servicemen and women and Australian Defence Force families to come forward if they have

Name	From	Number	Executed	Location
Bell, Alex John	Ballarat, Vic.	VX73838	16 Mar. 1943	Thambyajayat, Burma
Bell, Joseph Ken	North Melb., Vic.	VX34637	16 Sept. 1942	Kuala Lumpur
Bell, Joseph	Richmond, Vic.	VX50944	18 June 1942	Malaya
Cumming, Thomas	Northcote, Vic.	VX31570	6 June 1942	Tavoy, Burma
Danaher, Clifford E.	Ascot Vale, Vic.	VX31946	6 June 1942	Tavoy, Burma
Gale, Victor L.	Balwyn, Vic.	VX62289	2 Sept. 1942	Changi
Glover, Alan W.	East Melb., Vic	VX57043	6 June 1942	Tavoy, Burma
Harvey, Howard F.	Townsville, Qld.	NX49419	11 May 1943	Sandakan
Jones, Caryle Ben	Murrurundi, NSW	NX45920	22 Mar. 1942	Djambi Camp, Sumatra
Mull, Alan (Major)	Maroubra, NSW	NX12243	10 Mar. 1943	Thambyajayat, Burma
Quittenton, Matthew	Canterbury, NSW	VX45344	6 June 1942	Tavoy, Burma
Reeve, Arthur	Geelong, Vic.	VX27292	6 June 1942	Tavoy, Burma

information about the next-of-kin of these brave servicemen. Their bravery should never be forgotten.”

Anyone who is related to any of the following men, or knows of someone who may be related, can call the Directorate’s telephone enquiry line on 1800 111 321 or write to:

Directorate of
Honours & Awards
Department of Defence
PO Box 7952
CANBERRA BC, ACT, 2610

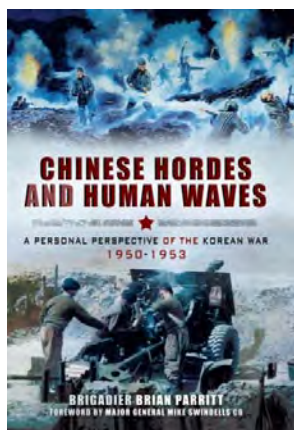
Chinese Hordes and Human Waves by Brigadier Brian Parritt CBE CNI

Hardcover, 224 pages, 16 pages b/w plates
Publication Date: March 2012

Price: \$26.37 via Amazon.com, \$39.95 elsewhere
(but shop around).

Brian ‘Polly’ Parritt, called up for National Service in 1949, soon undertook and completed a full-time commission and trained as an officer at Sandhurst. This was the start of a 35-year military career which culminated in five years as Director of the Intelligence Corps. As a member of the 20th Field Regiment, he arrived at Pusan in 1952 and was based at Tok Chon, north of Seoul.

Through his experience as an intelligence officer and qualified Chinese-speaking interpreter, Parritt provides an analysis of the causes of the war in Korea, why the British Commonwealth became involved, the Battle of the Hook, the plight of prisoners-of-war, the failure of intelligence, and how the bravery of troops on the ground counter-balanced errors of policy in the conduct of the war.



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

Shrine of Remembrance Exhibitions

Japan's Entry Into The Second World War

20 January - June 1942, Eastern Visitor Centre

Japan scored a series of stunning victories in the six months after declaring war in Dec. 1941, a time when thousands of Australians died and many more became prisoners of war. This exhibit commemorates Australia’s darkest days - from Pearl Harbour to the battle of the Coral Sea in May 1942, when the tide of the war in the Pacific began to turn.

Lieutenant Colonel and Helena Cass

24 February - May 1942, Western Visitor Centre

Accounts of Cass’s service over two wars, in South Africa, and at Gallipoli, Krythia and Fromelles during the WWI. Includes stories of Cass and his wife, Helena, a Canadian war nurse, and uses Cass’s personal photographs, letters, diaries, uniforms and medals.

Bereaved Families Revisit

by Karen Butterworth

Karen Butterworth is the daughter of KVAA Inc. member Maurice (Maurie) Butterworth and the niece of John (Jack) Butterworth who was KIA in Korea on 25 July 1952 at the age of 23. In October last year she participated in a tour to South Korea sponsored and managed by the Republic of Korea's Ministry of Patriots & Veterans Affairs (MPVA). This trip, entitled "2011 Bereaved Families of UN Allied Forces of the Korean War" provided opportunities for those in attendance to honour the memory of loved family members who sacrificed their lives in the Korean War.

Accompanied by my father and sister, we hoped to honour the memory of a much loved brother and uncle, Private Jack Butterworth. Our travelling group numbered 27 and consisted of representatives from Australia, England, Ireland, Canada and New Zealand. While each family on the tour had a unique story to tell about their father, brother, uncle or grandfather who was lost to this tragic war between 1950 and 1953, we were united in the shared friendship that was formed as we got to know each others' stories and shared our sense of loss.

Our six day itinerary was carefully planned and included visits to the United Nations Memorial Cemetery in Korea (UNCK), the Commonwealth Monument at Gapyeong, the Seoul National Cemetery, the War Memorial of Korea, and a trip to Panmunjeom and the DMZ. We were privileged to take part in formal commemoration services which included moving speeches, prayers and the laying of wreaths. For most people on the tour, the highlight was most definitely our visit to the UNMC as there we had the opportunity to visit the graves of our loved ones and marvel at the beauty of their final resting place.



Maurie at the grave of his brother, Jack

In addition to the more formal ceremonial occasions, we dined with the mayor of Busan, attended a formal dinner at the residence of the Australian Ambassador, Sam Gerovich, and we gathered at a farewell dinner hosted by the Minister for *Patriots and Veterans Affairs*.

Our travels in ROK provided an introduction to the rich and varied culture of Korea. We delighted in the beauty of the Changdeok Palace and the delights of dressing in national costumes and attempting to play traditional musical instruments. We explored the street markets and were entertained by a most energetic performance of *The Marionette*.

Our range of experiences meant we could not but be impressed by the amazing progress this country has made since the war ended approximately 60 years ago. We marvelled at the transition that has taken place in such a relatively short time and

we were proud to see the great prosperity of the country our relatives fought for.

While our experiences in ROK were many and varied, the thing that remained constant was the extreme care and kindness shown to us at all times by the many people involved in the planning of our trip. A special thank you must go to our guide, Sharon Choi, and staff from the MPVA; all of whom made our experience in ROK one that will be remembered with pride and gratitude for many years to come.

An Iwo Jima Footnote

In the Battle for Iwo Jima, approximately 20,700 of the 21,000 Japanese defenders died while only 216 were captured. The Americans fared worse in terms of casualties: nearly 28,000 men were either killed or wounded, greater than the total number of Allied casualties incurred during the D-Day landings in France in June, 1944. Despite this, on 26th March 1945, the island was declared secure.

The word to note here is 'secure', for although the fighting was over, the island was not yet cleared of enemy combatants. A number of Japanese soldiers continued to live in the vast rabbit warren of tunnels dug by the defenders, coming out at night to scavenge for food. They surrendered one by one, but the last holdout lived underground on the island until 1951, six years after the war ended!

Source: Matt Dattilo, *Matt's Today in History*, 18 Feb. 2008. <http://www.podshow.com/feeds/mattstodayinhistory.xml>

Notices III

Korea Revisit Programs 2012

Mr Min Kim from the Korean Embassy has alerted the KVAA Inc. that the ROK is likely to host two revisit programs this year: a 30 person Australian contingent for 22-27 April, and, a 4 person Australian contingent for 'Turn Towards Busan' 9-14 November. While neither re-visit has been confirmed, those wishing to attend should get in early. Preference will be given to those who have not taken one of these trips before and are healthy enough to do so. An up-to-date passport will also help. If interested, contact Alan Evered ASAP.

KVAA Inc. Delegate Changes

The KVAA Inc. now has a delegate in the ACT in the form of Colin Berryman OAM. The passing of Rocky Camps left a hole in the NSW-Victoria border region, now filled thanks to Paul Shimmen who has agreed to act as our Albury-Wodonga representative. Contact details for both delegates are listed in the Directory on page 2.

Cancellation

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the proposed Gapyeong Battle Remembrance of Saturday 28th April, to be held at the Queensland Korean War Memorial, Cascade Gardens, Gold Coast, has now been cancelled. Their task completed, the earlier Memorial Committees have disbanded and the Gold Coast City Council and the Returned and Services League have assumed the caretaker responsibility of care and maintenance of the Memorial on behalf of those Australian Veterans and Korean Associations involved. Current and future ceremonies for Gapyeong are currently under consideration by the Association of Queensland Korean Veterans and the Gold Coast Korean Society who will advise accordingly.

A Call To All NSW Members! (from the Editor).

Even without the new members from the AKVA, the KVAA Inc. has a substantial presence in NSW (now easily eclipsing that of Queensland). What is missing is much in the way of content originating from NSW. I'm not talking photos of your granddaughter's 18th birthday (unless she drop-dead gorgeous, in which case, send them to me); I'm talking about Korean War related ceremonies and dedications, Christmas lunches, and special occasions – both advance notice of, and reports and/or pics of the occasion itself. Written accounts of your time in Korea or revisits are also welcome. Don't panic if you doubt your ability to put pen to paper. I can usually tidy up any result. While *The Voice* doesn't rely on input from its members, it certainly helps keep the newsletter relevant and (I hope) of interest to the readers.

Subscription Reminder!

For those who haven't yet filled out and/or returned the renewal form from last issue of *The Voice* (and there are still a few of you – no names, but we know where you are and where you live!) could you do so ASAP. Your subscriptions are what keep us going, financially speaking. Don't forget, if you renew before the end of the February 29th General Meeting, you'll go into the draw to win \$50.

Please submit your renewal direct to:

The Treasurer, KVAA Inc. Gerry Steacy, 1 Kent Court, Werribee Vic 3030.

* * * * *

The Ship's Bell

A ship's bell is looked upon with almost reverential awe and considered so precious that it is preserved even after the ship has been broken up. This suggests that the bell once had a purpose other than merely sounding the hour and calling sailors out of their bunks to duty.

This assumption is reinforced by the fact that, after all, the bell could not be heard in the bowels of a ship nor could it be imagined that sailors would wake up each time the bell was sounded, assiduously to count the number of its strokes, to ascertain whether their turn had come to go on watch. Actually, they are called on deck by word of mouth or – a whistle.

Originally the bell was used to repel the nefarious forces of the ocean which followed ships, according to popular belief, waiting for an opportunity to harm or destroy them. But they could not endure a loud, clanging noise. Hearing it, they would scatter far and wide.

Horsebells and those that once were attached to the hem of the High Priest's cloak initially served the same purpose – to scare away demons.

Source: *How Did It Begin?* by Rudolph Brasch, Angus & Robertson 1993

In From The Cold

Part Two 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 2011. This is part two of his edited (and due to space reasons, heavily truncated) report on the function.

Twelfth session – *Conquering Kowang San: myth and misunderstanding in the shade of Maryang San, October 1951*, presented by Nigel Steele. This talk dealt with the official British history outline of *Operation Commando*, the five day battle which culminated in the assaults against Kowang San (hill 355), Maryang San (hill 317) and the Hinge. All hills were eventually taken: Kowang San officially by the Borderers, Maryang San, officially by 3 RAR, and the Hinge, including hill 217, officially by the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers. However, Nigel's paper mainly dealt with the belief of many Australians that 3RAR were instrumental in capturing all of the objectives because the British units on either side failed or only partly achieved their objectives.

Lt. Col. Maurie Pears MC (Retired) was at the conference as a member of the Discussion Panel. He was a Platoon Commander in C Coy 3 RAR, the company tasked to take the 220 metre feature leading up to 355 when the KOSBs had been held up in their initial assault. Our history relates that C Coy under the command of Major Jack Gerke DSO, took the 220 metre feature then continued forward to dislodge the Chinese from their positions on the Hill 355 feature itself. Maurie agrees with this, as his platoon was leading the assault during these attacks. Nigel stated that if Major Gerke led his Coy further than the 220 metre feature, he would have done so against the official orders, as they stated that he was to stop his advance below the main feature.

It seems that this controversy will stay with us forever. Perhaps Jack Gerke did disobey orders, but it seems that it would have been good sense and tactics to continue the attack on to the main objective when he saw the way clear to do so. Maurie had us all in fits of laughter at this stage, as he jokingly took his coat off in front of Nigel. However, it was all in good fun and it did add some colour to the conference. I am hoping to get a copy of Nigel's paper when it is published. Nigel of course was on loan to the Australian War Memorial a couple of years ago, and played a major role in setting up the Post 1945 exhibition. He in fact was responsible for the Korean Section of the Exhibition. The *Kapyong Panorama* is Nigel's work.

Thirteenth session – *Panel discussion: The sharp end of the war*. The Panel consisted of five distinguished veterans of the Korean War. Each gave an interesting account of their own vast experiences and also answered numerous questions from the floor. Brigadier Jim Shelton gave an excellent account on Maryang San. His A Coy came under tremendous pressure during the assault, as it attacked from the front of the feature, where the previous more conventional attacks carried out by US forces had failed.

Jim stated that at times he thought he was fighting the battle alone, while the other companies were attacking from the flanking ridgelines of the feature. A Coy, although drawing a lot of fire, also took a lot of the enemy's attention away from the other companies attacking around their flanks. This ploy had been a major part of the tactic devised by Colonel Hassett.

Alf Argent was also very interesting in his description of Kapyong from an Intelligence Officer's viewpoint. Maurie was witty and further advanced his claim that they were on the main feature of 355 first. Colin Kahn was quite willing to talk about his near death when he was seriously wounded. He was hit by three bullets that penetrated the zipper seam of his armoured vest. He quiet openly claims that he had an out of body experience when he was hit and saw himself being attended to on the ground, but went back when thinking of his dear wife.

Sir James told an amusing story about a patrol he led down to the valley behind Maryang San shortly before it was regained by the Chinese. He told how he led his men to a ruined village ('Jocks' he called his men. Apparently the ranks of the KOSBs are referred to as Jocks, just as ours are referred to as Diggers). He went on to say that one of the buildings was two-storied, and he put a ladder against the wall, climbed it, and peered through the window to behold a beautiful naked Asian woman and a Chinese Officer. He quickly climbed down the ladder and hurried his Jocks out of the village. Although his Jocks persisted in asking what he had seen he did not let on that the building must have been an enemy brothel. The Panel was great.

Fourteenth session – *Care of the wounded: Australian military nursing in the Korean War*, presented by Dr Rebecca Fleming (Historian, Department Veterans Affairs). Rebecca has recently completed her PHD with a thesis about military nursing and discussed the formation of the Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps in 1951,

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shortly after the Korean War started. Many of the nurses, who mostly served at the 130 General Hospital in Kure, Japan, had seen prior service with BCOF. Rebecca also detailed the work provided by the RAAF Nurses who travelled to and from Korea with 38 RAAF Transport Squadron (DC3s) who were mainly responsible for evacuating casualties from Korea to Japan.

Rebecca gave detailed histories of each Australian nurse who served. One who especially interested me was Lieutenant Nancy Millicent Hummerston OAM (nee Holmes) who served with both BCOF and BCFK. Nancy died in 2009, and I had the privilege of taking her ashes to Korea in April 2010 for interment in her husband's grave at the United Nations Memorial Cemetery, Busan. This was done at the request of her family through the DVA. Her husband was Captain Kenneth John Hummerston, 2 IC of C Company 3 RAR, who was killed in action, along with his driver, when their carrier ran over a mine on 3 October 1950. They were the first army personnel to be killed in Action in Korea.

He and Nancy had been married in Japan prior to his deployment. Nancy never re-married and as a result had asked that her ashes be interred with him. I was asked to do this because, as well as being a veteran, I am also the RSL Welfare and Bereavements Officer here in the ACT. I was also requested to perform the RSL Funeral ritual at the interment, which I did in conjunction with the Military Attaché and our Ambassador.

Closing session – *From Korea to Vietnam: Australian strategic policy after the Korean War*. This talk was delivered by Dr Peter Edwards AM (Australian Official Historian, Southeast Asian Conflicts 1958-75). Dr Edwards compared the policy prior to the Korean War, which apparently was in some state of turmoil, to the policy which also led us into the other Asian emergencies and confrontations, and finally the war in Vietnam. Most of these conflicts, with the exception of the Indonesian confrontation, were against the Communist philosophy. They were fought to maintain close relationships with Australia's great and powerful friends, principally the United Kingdom and the United States of America, and also with focus on our immediate area the Asia Pacific region.

It was for these same reasons that we entered the Vietnam War, and the method of fighting it was similar to Korea ie. with limitations. After Korea our policy became known as one of Forward Defence under which Australian Forces were structured and equipped to fight mainly in in Southeast Asia. His conclusion is that the Korean War was an important conflict and should not be termed *Forgotten*, and that it shaped Australia's policy for the remainder of the twentieth century.

The Sole Sea Battle by Michael Muschamp

It is somewhat surprising that the participants at the *In From the Cold* meeting seem to have ignored utterly the contribution of the various navies involved in the Korean War. McArthur's 'masterstroke', the invasion at Inchon in September, 1950, broke the domination of the North Korean stranglehold on 80% of South Korea. Aircraft from USN, Royal Navy and the RAN carriers played a vital role and the constant naval patrols off both coasts ensured minimal North Korea sea activity. Surface ships included those from the RN, RAN RCN, RNZN, Royal Dutch Navy as well as a very large force of the US Navy.

Most of the North Korean navy, as it was then, in the form of six MTBs, came to grief one Sunday in July 1950, less than a month after hostilities commenced. The action, ship-to-ship, is the last such ever recorded.*

In company with the light cruiser, *USS Juneau* and the frigate *HMS Black Swan*, the Royal Navy's cruiser *Jamaica* sighted a group of light craft near a bay on the east coast. *Juneau* opened fire with her 5" guns, to be followed by *Jamaica* with both 6" and 4". It was all over in less than an hour. *Jamaica's* guns sank two of the six MTBs, *Juneau* and *Black Swan* one each while one ran aground. The remaining craft fled seawards, the US Admiral in *Juneau* ordering *Black Swan* to give chase at 'maximum speed'.

Sad to say, the Admiral had failed to refer to Jane's *Fighting Ships* (if, indeed, he had a copy) which would have revealed that the British frigate, 'downhill with the wind behind her', had a top speed of some 18 knots, about half that of the Russian-built MTB.

Several survivors were fished out of the 'oggin' by *Jamaica*, in which I was an 18-year-old midshipman. They were asked, through the Korean interpreter we had on board, why they hadn't used their torpedoes. In the comparatively confined space of the bay, they might well have inflicted severe damage to the UN mini-fleet.

"Oh," they replied, "the Russians were going to teach us how to use them next week."

*Editor's note: I was originally thought, 'Wow! That's a big claim.' I then had a long think about it and concluded that Michael is probably right. A few sub-to-surface-ship actions (ie Falklands War) and carrier or land-based planes attacking surface vessels (the Falklands and Gulf Wars), but no major direct ship-to-ship action of which I'm aware.

Funnies

Dogs vs Cats

Excerpts from a dog's daily diary:

8:00 a.m. Oh, boy! Dog food! My favourite!
9:30 a.m. Oh, boy! A car ride! My favourite!
9:40 a.m. Oh, boy! A walk! My favourite!
10:30 a.m. Oh, boy! Getting rubbed and petted! My favourite!
11:30 a.m. Oh, boy! Dog food! My favourite!
Noon Oh, boy! The kids! My favourite!
1:00 p.m. Oh, boy! The yard! My favourite!
4:00 p.m. Oh, boy! To the park! My favourite!
5:00 p.m. Oh, boy! Dog food! My favourite!
5:30 p.m. Oh, boy! Pretty Mums! My favourite!
6:00 p.m. Oh, boy! Playing ball! My favourite!
6:30 a.m. Oh, boy! Watching TV with my master! My favourite!
8:30 p.m. Oh, boy! Sleeping in master's bed! My favourite!

Excerpt from a cat's daily diary:

Day 183 of My Captivity: My captors continue to taunt me with bizarre little dangling objects. They dine lavishly on fresh meat, while I am forced to eat dry cereal. The only thing that keeps me going is the hope of escape, and the mild satisfaction I get from shredding the occasional piece of furniture. Tomorrow I may eat another houseplant.

Today my attempt to kill my captors by weaving around their feet while they were walking almost succeeded; must try this at the top of the stairs. In an attempt to disgust and repulse these vile oppressors, I once again induced myself to vomit on their favourite chair, must try this on their bed. Decapitated a mouse and brought them the headless body, in an attempt to make them aware of what I am capable of, and to try to strike fear into their hearts. They only cooed and condescended about what a good little cat I was. Hmmm, not working according to plan.

There was some sort of gathering of their accomplices. I was placed in solitary confinement throughout the event. However, I could hear the noise and smell the food. More importantly, I overheard that my confinement was due to my power of 'allergies.' Must learn what this is and how to use it to my advantage.

I am convinced the other captives are flunkies and maybe snitches. The dog is routinely released and seems more than happy to return. He is obviously a half-wit. The bird, on the other hand, has to be an informant; he speaks with them regularly. I am certain he reports my every move. Due to his current placement in the high metal room, his safety is assured. But I can wait; it is only a matter of time...

The Right Incentive

An older gentleman was on the operating table awaiting surgery and he insisted that his son, a renowned surgeon, perform the operation. As he was about to get the anaesthesia, he asked to speak to his son.

"Yes, Dad, what is it?"

"Don't be nervous, son. Do your best and just remember, if it doesn't go well, if something happens to me, your mother is going to come and live with you and your wife..."

Hitler and the Pig

Adolf Hitler is speeding through Germany with his chauffeur at the wheel on his way to an important address. Driving down a country road, the chauffeur (who is distracted, looking out the window at the countryside) doesn't see a pig walk out onto the road, and he hits in with the car.

Stopping the car, he jumps out, and Adolf climbs out also to see what is going on. The chauffeur, very distressed by what he's done asks Hitler what they should do, and Hitler tells him impatiently that they're in a hurry and they should move the pig to the side of the road and go to the address and worry about it later.

All the way to the address the chauffeur, who is a fairly good-hearted person despite his employer, is worried about the family who owned the pig and wondered how they'd react to discovering the pig, so when they arrived he asked Hitler whether he shouldn't drive back to the farm and let them know what happened.

Hitler agrees before hurrying to the podium, and the chauffeur hurries back down the road.

Four hours later, stumbling down the road, his arms full of sausage and bread and his breath smelling of liquor, the chauffeur returns.

Hitler in a rage demands to know what has happened to him, and the chauffeur explains, "I did what I thought was right. I went to the farm where I killed the pig. When I went and knocked on the door and gave them the news, they gave me this sausage and bread, fed me the best ale I've ever tasted and let me have their way with their beautiful nubile young daughter and then sent me on my way."

Hitler seemed confused by this and asks his chauffeur, "Well what exactly did you tell them?"

To which the chauffeur replied "I really can't understand it either, all I did was tell them "I'm Hitler's chauffeur, and I killed the pig."

Out & About

Alan's Northern Tour

In the 2nd half of November 2011, Alan & Nicole Evered, whilst in northern Victoria, dropped in on a number of KVAA Inc. members.



Ben Standish (ex-RAN), Mildura



Margaret & Lindsay Rainbow, Donnelly



Molly Nowak (widow of Theo), Swan Hill

Geelong KVAA Xmas Lunch

Gateway Hotel, Geelong, 2 December 2011



Fountain Gate Secondary College Awards Night

19 December 2011



Cr. Wayne Smith, JP, Deputy Mayor, City of Casey receiving a *Certificate of Merit*.



Ben Hill, Year 10 School Vice-Captain, receiving the FGSC *Commemorations Participation Award* with is sponsored by the KVAA Inc.

KVAA Inc. Christmas Luncheon Pics

Batmans on Collins, Melbourne, 7 December 2011



Dong Up Kim and wife, Jin, with Gerry Steacy



Vic Dey with Michael Littleton



Jim Hughes and Vic Dey with John Boyer

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Korean War Plaque Dedication Kangaroo Flat (Near Bendigo, Victoria), 20 January 2012



Harold Harman, John Handley and Ivon Hutcheson (President, Kangaroo Flats RSL)



George Coleman & Arthur Slee



KVAIA Inc. Patron, Major General James Hughes, with Harold Harmon



Ivon Hutcheson, Rev. John Brownbill and Tom Parkinson



Mick Griffen, John Duson, Arthur Roach and Leo Gleeson

From the Dustbin of History

- The U.S.A. dropped more tons of bombs on Vietnam during eight years of “low intensity” combat than ALL the airforces of ALL the belligerents expended on each other during the six years of “high intensity” combat known as World War II.
- In 1937, the British Army Riding School at Weedon had a budget of 20,000 pounds for 38 students – more than 526 pounds per man – while the Tank Corps School, with 550 students, had to make do with 46,000 pounds, or about 83 pounds per man.
- At The Hague in 1899, forty-four nations solemnly agreed by treaty to refrain from conducting aerial bombardments of cities. This was four years before the Wright Brothers flew the first heavier-than-air machine and 15 years before airplanes sported any armaments.
- During the American Civil War, in the depth of winter, one of the favourite tricks that the soldiers would play on the bugler was to put water in his bugle at night and let it freeze. The next morning the bugler would be unable to blow reveille until he thawed out his bugle.
- When the highly talented, and blind, Bohemian general, Ian Zizka, died in 1434, his skin was tanned and used to top a drum so that he could continue to lead his troops. *[Any volunteers for an Australian version? - Editor.]*
- When Satanta, a Kiowa chief of considerable talents, discovered that he had rustled some distinctly inferior horseflesh from a U.S. Army remount station at Fort Larned, Kansas, he dispatched a note to the post quartermaster expressing the hope that the Army would acquire better stock before his next visit.
- In 1529 the youthful Duke of Alba (1502-82), yearning to spend a few hours with his young bride, rode from Hungary, where he was serving against the Turks, to Spain and back again. He covered a distance of some 2,200 miles in the remarkably short time of 17 days, for an average daily rate of nearly 130 miles.

Donations 2011

To all members of the KVA A Inc. who have so generously donated funds to the Association from across Australia and overseas, a sincere thank you to each and every one of you. It proves the Association's strength is solid, and that comradeship with the ranks remains equal to that forged during the Korean War. May we all grow stronger as the year progresses. (Gerry Steacy, Treasurer, KVA A Inc.)

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Douglas Charman	Hedlel Green	Brian Kimmins	Joseph Phillips	Gerry Steacy	† deceased

The Last Flattop Down

On 21 February 1945, during the titanic struggle for Iwo Jima, the escort carrier *Bismarck Sea* was operating 45 miles east of the island when, at 6:45, she fired on an enemy plane off the port bow. A second kamikaze, coming in low from the starboard side, was not spotted until it was 1,000 yards away. *Bismarck Sea's* gunners depressed their weapons as low as they could and managed to set the attacker ablaze, but its pilot pressed on regardless until he struck the ship abreast of the after elevator which dropped onto the hangar deck. Two minutes later, an explosion devastated the after section. *Bismarck Sea's* Captain, J.L. Pratt, ordered his crew to abandon ship. The carrier burnt and exploding for nearly three hours before she finally rolled over at 10 p.m. – the last American aircraft carrier sunk in World War II. Of *Bismarck Sea's* crew of 943, 218 officers and men were lost.

Source: *Military History* magazine, Feb. 1995

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Farewells

Edward "Ted" McCarter, 22874, 3RAR,
on 1 December 2011

&

Dexter "Rocky" Camps on the 18 Jan. 2012 at the Wodonga hospital after a long illness. Rocky was the KVA A Inc. Albury-Wodonga delegate.

'Rocky' Camps at the Shrine of Remembrance on 25 June 2010.



The Ode

They shall grow not old,
As we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them,
Nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun,
and in the morning
We will remember them.

LEST WE FORGET