

THE VOICE

October 2013 Edition

Contents:

Korean War Is Not Forgotten	1
Life Members	2
Directory	2
Merchandise Available	2
President's Report	3
Seeking Veteran Input	3
Geelong KVAA Xmas Lunch	3
Notices	4
Lest We Forget: The War Fighting To Be Remembered	5
They Were 7 Days Adrift	6
Myth vs Reality	7
The Far From Green Acres	8
Christmas Luncheon Invite	8
Onoda's War 1944-1974	9
The Origin of...	10
Out & About	11
One From The Vault...	12
State Reception Photos	13
Farewells	14
Special Thanks	14
The Ode	14
Editorial Disclaimer	14

Korean War Is Not Forgotten

A service in Cobram has acknowledged the contribution of the veterans who served in the 'forgotten war'. Cobram-Barooga RSL hosted a dedication service at Cobram Cenotaph on Wednesday last week [24th July] to mark Korean Veterans Armistice Day and commemorate the 60th anniversary of the signing of the armistice which brought peace to the Korean Peninsula. The dedication service included songs from school children, a prayer led by Father John Corcoran and addresses from Korean Veterans Association of Australia National President, Vic Dey OAM, and Vice-President Tom Parkinson.

Mr Dey said veterans were proud to have served in the war and fight under the UN banner to allow South Korea a safer future.

School children recited the poem, *The Soldiers Message*, which reads: "We were that which others cared not to be. We went where others feared to go and did what others failed to do. We asked nothing from those who gave nothing, and, reluctantly, accepted the thought of eternal loneliness – should we fail. We have seen the face of terror, felt the chill of fear,



Tom Hicks lays a wreath on behalf of the Cobram-Barooga RSL sub-branch.

warmed to the touch of love, have hoped, pained, cried. But, foremost, lived in times others would say best forgotten. At the very least, in later days, we will be able to say with greatest pride – we were soldiers."

The Korean War was a war between North Korea and South Korea which was supported by the United Nations. It commenced on June 25, 1950 and raged until July 27, 1953 when an armistice

was signed. For 35 years the Korean Peninsula had been under Japanese occupation until their surrender at the end of World War II. After the war the allies by a political agreement divided Korea into North and South with the 38th parallel being the political border.

There were 17 000 Australian defence force personnel who served during the Korean crisis – 339 were killed, 1500 wounded, 43 were missing in action and 30 taken as prisoners of war.

First published in the *Cobram Courier* on Wednesday 31 July 2013.
Thanks to Jessica Grumble for permission to reprint.

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Sister with Korean War Veterans Association Australian Chapter
Twinned with the South London Branch British Korean Veterans Associations
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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	\$			

TOTAL . . . \$_____ + \$2 pp = \$_____

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

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

President's Report



Vic Dey, National President, KVAA Inc.

The 60th anniversary of the cease fire which ended the Korean War makes it a big year for veterans groups worldwide. According to the correspondence we receive from those countries involved in the war, there has been, and will be throughout the rest of the year, numerous ceremonies marking the event.

Six decades on and the people of the Republic of Korea are still extremely thankful for the help that those UN countries, under the charter of the United Nations, gave them.

Around Australia, there have been multiple ceremonies relevant to the occasion. The last one, to my knowledge, is being held at Noble Park RSL on the 3rd November. (see Page 4 for details). John Laughton JP, Secretary of The Naval Association of Australia (Dandenong Sub-section) has arranged what looks like a huge program to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the ceasefire.

On Tuesday 1st October, Korea's National Foundation Day, there was a reception at the Brighton Town Hall hosted by the Korean Consul General and Mrs Jung Sung-Sub. My wife and I had much pleasure in accepting their invitation and attending the event. I see this as both a personal honour and recognition of our Association.

Another ceremony of note, one occurring before December's *Voice* is Remembrance Day: the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. On this day, wherever you are, please pause to remember the fallen in all wars and those who fought and have since passed on.

Seeking Veteran Input

My name is Graham Wilson; I am a retired WO2 of the Australian Regular Army (26 years, RAR and Intelligence) and now a full time military historian, researcher, consultant and writer living in Canberra.

I have been asked by the Army History Unit here in Canberra to write a book on the history of feeding the Australian Army from 1885 to 2010 and am now carrying out research for various parts of the book. I should add that I already have a track record with AHU, having written two critically and popularly well received books for them and am also a contributor to *The Oxford Companion to Australian Military History*.

By way of background, this book project started when I was looking for suitable images of Australian armoured vehicles in Vietnam to aid in the production of an historical painting (this work was carried out for a commemorative company I act as historical consultant for). One of the things I noticed was cases of US Army C rations in the bustle baskets of Australian Centurions and the question popped up in my mind "How often did Oz soldiers eat US rations in VN?"

I sent this question out, just for my own curiosity, to a number of VN vets I know. The variety of answers I got back prompted me to start writing a paper on the subject, to be published on AHU's website. However, the Senior Historian at AHU was so tickled with the idea, that he asked me to change the project to a book on the history of feeding the Oz soldier from the 19th century onward.

I am writing to you to seek your assistance in contacting current and former soldiers who would be prepared to share memories of food, cooks, cooking, rations, messes, anything and everything to do with feeding the Australian soldier.

I am particularly keen to hear from former soldiers who served in WWII, BCOF, Korea and Malaya/Malaysia. I am also keen to hear from soldiers who served in PNG prior to 1975 and also soldiers who have served on recent peacekeeping and peacemaking operations, e.g. Bougainville. Finally, I am seeking input from soldiers who have served on contemporary and near contemporary operational deployments (Iraq and Afghanistan).

I have a questionnaire which I have developed in consultation with AHU. Although it looks a tad daunting, it is actually meant to be nothing more than a memory jogger. I don't necessarily expect every question to be answered (be nice if they were) and respondents can provide as much or as little info as they want.

I hope that you will be able to assist me and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

For further information or a copy of the questionnaire, contact Graham directly on duty_first@hotmail.com

Additional Note: Graham is especially keen to make contact with former Navy cooks who served soldiers on *HMAS Sydney* on route to and from Vietnam or other deployments involving soldiers.

Geelong KVAA Xmas Lunch

Date: 11 December 2013

Time: 12 Noon

Venue: The Gateway Hotel, Geelong

Cost: Special discount with your Senior's Card.

RSVP to Arthur Roach on 5243 6113 by Thursday 5 December.

Notices

Gallipoli 2015 Ballot

Australians planning to attend Anzac Day commemorations at Gallipoli in 2015 can apply for the ballot from 1 November. But there's no need to rush – the ballot is open for 3 months, closing on 31 January 2014.

The Anzac Commemorative Site at Gallipoli can safely, securely and comfortably accommodate 10,500 people. In 2015, this will comprise places for 8,000 Australians, 2,000 New Zealanders and up to 500 official representatives of the countries that served in the Gallipoli campaign.

Some of the places available to Australians will be reserved for special representatives including: direct descendants of Gallipoli veterans, widows of Australian First World War veterans, veterans of other conflicts, Australian secondary school students and their chaperones.

Widows of First World War veterans do not need to apply for the ballot and will be contacted separately by DVA regarding their interest in attending. Places for secondary school students and their chaperones will be allocated outside the ballot by State and Territory Governments. The remaining places (3,000 double passes) will be open for all Australians to apply.

Those who have already booked a tour to Gallipoli in 2015, which includes attending official Anzac Day commemorative services, should speak to their travel agent or tour operator regarding arrangements if they are not successful in the ballot. Tour operators are not in a position where they can guarantee a place at the commemorations.

For information on ballot eligibility or to apply from 1 November 2013, visit the Gallipoli 2015 website www.gallipoli2015.dva.gov.au

RASigs National Reunion

Dear RASigs serving and retired Members...

The President and Members of the Royal Australian Corps of Signals Association (SA) request the pleasure of your company for the 2013 RASigs National Reunion.

Date: 25-28 October 2013

Venue: Seppeltsfield Winery, Barossa Valley SA

For further details or to register, contact RASigs Assn. SA President, Bruce Long on 0417 227 533 or online at <http://www.rasigs.com> or

2013 Seafarers Commemorative Service

Due to a number of reasons it has been decided to combine this year's Annual Seafarers Church Service [St Paul's Cathedral] and Navy Wreath Laying Service [Shrine of Remembrance] in to one Seafarers Commemorative Service. This significant service will be conducted at the Cenotaph, Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne.

This combined service will take place on: **Sunday 20 October 2013** and will commence at **10.30 am**.

The Mission to Seafarers, Royal Australian Navy, Company of Master Mariners and ex-service organisations will be represented, along with several Consuls General.

HMAS Goorangai Memorial Service

The annual *HMAS Goorangai* Commemorative Service will commence at 11.15 on Sunday, 17 November with a short march from the RSL hall in King Street to the Ocean View Reserve. All ex-Navy men and women, and/or their descendants are urged to attend. Lunch at the RSL at 12.30. \$25pp. Booking for lunch are essential. To book lunch or for further details of the service, phone Jan on 9786 5371.

Korean War Ceasefire 60th Anniversary Service

Wreath Laying Service and Luncheon

Where & When: Noble Park RSL (next to railway station) on **Sunday 3 November 2013**

Cost: \$30 per person

Dress: coat and tie – medals

Family & Friends Welcome

Those wishing to attend please fill out and return the form by **Monday 21 October 2013** to:

J. laughton JP, 36 Tamarisk Road, Narre Warren, Vic. 3805

Name: _____ Phone No.: _____ Mobile: _____

Others Attending: _____

Payment enclosed \$ _____ for _____ person / people attending.

(Make cheque or money order payable to: **NAA Dandenong**)

Henry 'Harry' Gordon is a journalist, sportswriter, foreign correspondent, editor, author and historian. As a young war correspondent he served with Australian troops in the Korean war during the advance to the Yalu River and the punishing winter of 1950-51. Later, among other achievements, he became a regular contributor to the *New York Times Magazine*, editor-in-chief of the *Herald and Weekly Times* publishing group and chairman of the *Australian Associated Press*. He has written 14 books - one of which, *An Eyewitness History of Australia*, won the National Book Council's First Prize for Australian Literature. The following article was published in *The Age* in Melbourne, the *Sydney Morning Herald*, and over two pages in the *Gold Coast Bulletin*. It is printed here with the permission of the author. The additional photographs were also supplied by the author.

Lest We Forget: The War Fighting To Be Remembered

by Harry Gordon 27 July 2013

Sixty years ago today, a mighty war ended. It was the first military showdown of the Cold War, one that provoked a real risk of nuclear conflict between two great powers. It was both multinational and fratricidal. Ironically, though, it failed to make much impact on public consciousness then, and is largely unremembered today.

The armistice which provided a formal finish to the Korean War will be celebrated in major capitals, including Washington, Canberra, Sydney, London, Istanbul, Seoul and Ottawa. Even Pyongyang. The war lasted three years, from mid-1950, and it involved 17 nations representing the United Nations, versus invading troops from North Korea and China.

The casualties were enormous: at least 2 million Koreans – from the South and the North, civilians and soldiers – died. U.S. forces lost 36,500, killed among a UN casualty list of 142,000. Australian servicemen suffered 1584 casualties, with 340 killed. It won't be just in the big cities that such losses are reflected upon. Around cenotaphs and other monuments in hundreds of smaller towns around the world, from Plover in Wisconsin to Bundaberg, there will be gatherings of veterans, their families and local notables. A sad truth is that for these veterans, it will be the last big anniversary.

The war does not deserve to be forgotten. It began because the Korean peninsula was torn apart with an act of sudden aggression from the north. An arbitrary, quite artificial, dividing line had been drawn across the 38th parallel, to separate occupying forces from US and Russia. It had the effect, of course, of also separating families and friends. Ever since that line was violated, people on either side have come to hate those on the other side.

For all its awful toll, for all its grand theatre – the mighty advance by UN forces that ended with a successful invasion of North Korea; the surprise intrusion and winter advance by the Chinese army; the public sacking of the much-lauded General Douglas MacArthur – the truth is that the war failed to make a lasting impression on the consciousness of the outside world. Not only has Korea been branded with a label that has become a cliché – the Forgotten War – it has become a victim of neglect, by comparison with other wars, in popular culture and even in military history.



Australian war correspondents (from left) Lawson Glassop, Ronald Monson and Harry Gordon on the Chonchon River bridge at Sinanju during the UN advance through North Korea towards the Yalu River in late 1950.

Some histories and memoirs, official and personal, have been published – but to modest audiences. No films or novels of consequence have emerged. Only the television comedy *M.A.S.H.* might be said to have penetrated the popular awareness barrier, and for all its fierce satire it hardly did justice to the harshness of the conflict.

It began, for Australian infantrymen, with battles on an almost weekly basis. The temperature sank well below zero. Frostbite was frequent and cruel. Chinese bugles sounded eerily in the night. Commanding Officer Charlie Green was mortally wounded by shellfire. Jack Stafford faced a tank with just a Bren gun, and knocked it out. A drum major called Tom Murray dived into a frozen river, rescued a wounded man whose stretcher craft had

capsized, and swam him to safety.

This pattern of action, amid what seemed like endless discomfort, was repeated later in the signature battles of Kapyong, Maryang San, the Samichon and the Hook. The setting for much of the last two years of the war – with its sandbagged trenches, barbed wire, live-in tunnels, primitive weapons and constant no-man's land – were surely reminiscent of World War I's Western Front.

And throughout it all the Royal Australian Navy and Royal Australian Air Force, the first UN forces

(continues on Page 12)

They Were Seven Days Adrift

Part Two

No author credited

The second day passed and it was just as hot and cloudless. During the morning each man received a tiny morsel of meat and one mouthful of water. This had to suffice for 24 hours. On the third day, Friday, December 4, Lieutenant Palmer, who was in charge of the rafts, decided to try and raise the sunken whaler. It looked a hopeless task, but the men set to work.

First by weight of numbers they sank the raft until it floated some two feet underwater. Then they hoisted the whaler's stern on to it, jumped off and the buoyancy of the French floats did the rest. Baled out, and her many holes stuffed with scraps of canvas, the whaler floated free. All that day the sailors rowed and baled, 20 in the boat, the remainder towed behind on the rafts.

The fourth day dawned, and for the unkempt now silent hungry men it brought no greater promise than the rest. The meagre breakfast over, conclave was held, and from the talk of 'ifs' and 'ands' a decision came to separate once more, and send the whaler seeking help. The first thing done was to divide the remaining food and water.

"There was still three and a half gallons left in the barricoc, but as the only other container was an empty beer bottle, that full was all the water we could take. For rations there were six tins of bully beef and 10 tins of condensed milk left, out of which we kept in the boat six tins of milk and two tins of beef. We decided, and all agreed, that only the strongest should go in the boat, and so the choosing began. What an unenviable job it was thought yet in fact, raft or boat, the chance was equal.

"The time was about a quarter past eleven when we started off on a flat calm sea under a merciless sun. Five small dinghy oars were all we had to row with, and apart from them, there was not much else except a boat hook stave and one whaler oar. The course was pretty erratic, we had no rudder and after a while we began to wander about so much that steering gear became an absolute necessity. Wireman Lamshed proved our saviour. Setting to with his knife, he cut up some of the bottom boards and with great skill carved a rudder, screwing the pieces together. The thing worked like a charm, and from then on our course became steady to the south east. Just as light began to fail we had our first ration of milk. Two tins among 29 – about a teaspoonful to each man. All that night we rowed and baled. It was the fifth, and to make matters worse, it seemed to grow colder."

Meanwhile unknown to the three parties of castaways [motorboat, whaler & rafts], they were being sought far and wide over the Timor Sea. Lieutenant Commander Richards and his party rowed steadily south-east for almost a day and a half. Then for a few hours the motor was made to run, and while the fuel lasted, they progressed rapidly. Over an oily sea they rowed again until a longed for breeze sprang up to fill the sail and ease their aching arms. On Saturday, December 5, at a quarter past ten, just as their companions, hidden ever the horizon prepared to part, they were discovered by a roving aircraft. The rest was easy. Food and water and medicine fell from the sky to be retrieved by eager hands. The next day *Kalgoolie* found them, 20 sun-burnt shouting men, and took them into Darwin.

Two hundred miles to sea, the whaler edged slowly southward. Sunday passed and Monday morning broke its hopeless dawn. The weather changed, and great cumulus clouds began to drift across the sky but no rain came. A wind sprung up and a following sea began to drive the wallowing whaler forward.

"Our strength began to ebb. We were thirsty, terribly thirsty, and the sun beat down continually. Yesterday we had no water and we knew there would be none this day. Nothing to eat, either, but that did not worry us very much. A drink was all we wanted. That day we saw an aircraft, ours or theirs, we shall never know. Night descended for the seventh time since our ship went down. Our heads seemed light and we rowed and baled and rowed again, like automatons doomed to row forever. About midnight the wind dropped and in the still, silent, blackness a voice spoke: Reedman, where did you learn to row? 'Harrow, sir,' came the prompt reply. That was all, and no more talk that night until the rapidly lightening sky proclaimed another day.

"About 11.30 in the morning clouds appeared and rain squalls came. We started rowing like maniacs, chasing a squall we could not hope to catch. Exhausted, we could only wait until finally one bore down upon us. The precious water pelted down, enough to fill a milk tin in a couple of minutes. We revelled in it, let it fall into our mouths and licked it off our arms. The rain passed, and once more we took up our oars. We had been underway for perhaps two hours when somebody said they could hear an aircraft's engine.

"We listened and sure enough a faint drone was audible. We scanned the sky and shortly saw a flying boat low down. We started waving madly and tried to reflect the sun on pieces of tin. At first our efforts seemed in vain but suddenly the plane turned and came straight towards us flying low. It passed over and we saw the crew

(continues on Page 12)

Myth vs Reality

There are dozens of ‘facts’ about World War Two that have little or no basis in reality. Usually starting as propaganda, they have become so pervasive, so often repeated that they have become ‘fact.’ American neutrality, for instance, or after the fall of France in May 1940 that Britain ‘stood alone’ against the Nazi menace. Other myths include Britain starting the war as the underdog, that the Soviets annihilated the German armour at Kursk in the July 1943, that D-Day June 1944 was the beginning of the end for Germany, and so on. The following ‘facts’ are three of the more popular, starting with that most pervasive of all...

The Polish Cavalry Charges the Panzers

During the German advance on Warsaw along the “Polish Corridor” in September 1939, the Polish cavalry charged the advancing panzers and were cut to shreds. Horse vs tank. Antiquity vs modernity. This event has become a metaphor for hopelessness.

The trouble is, like so many other ‘facts’ of history, it is a myth. It never happened, at least, not the way the myth has it.

What actually occurred was that a portion of the *Pomorska Cavalry Brigade* was sent to attack into the rear of some rapidly advancing German units. The lancers emerged at a clearing occupied by a resting and unsuspecting German infantry unit. The Poles deployed into combat formation, drew their sabres and charged. Surprise was total, allowing the horsemen to plough through the shocked infantry, decimating them.

At that moment, a German armoured unit appeared on the scene, and their fire cut into the flanks of the lancers who withdrew. The engagement was observed by some Italian war correspondents, and it was from their confused and excited report that the myth of the lancers charging the panzers was born.

Source: *World at War* magazine No. 30 June-July 2013

The Nazi Iron Fist 1

Despite propaganda to the contrary, the German armed forces in 1939 were relatively small and poorly equipped. In September 1939, the German army contained about 3,200 tanks, but 45 percent of them were a training model, armed only with two machine guns, which was obsolete when it was introduced in 1934. Another 40 percent were light tanks.

In total, Germany had just 300 modern tanks adequately armoured and gunned. In 1939 only about 50 tanks a month were being built, and in the entire year only 45 of the most modern Mk-IV models came off the assembly lines. The term armored, or Panzer, division was a misnomer. Although the so-called Panzer division had 2,000 vehicles to support the tanks, not one of them was tracked and only one type was armoured.

The situation of the infantry divisions was worse. Only four were motorized, and eighty-six had less than a quarter of the transport required to make them fully mobile. Nearly two thirds of them relied on requisitioned civilian vehicles. In reality German infantry divisions, like their First World War counterparts, relied on horsepower. In September 1939 the German army depended on 445,000 horses for basic transport and in the course of the war it used about 2.7 million horses.

There were other major weaknesses. The standard rifle was based on an 1896 design, there were no heavy mortars, the main anti-tank gun was so ineffective it was known as the “door knocker,” and the light and medium howitzers were based on a First World War design. Fifty divisions had no pistols, light or medium mortars, or 20mm anti-aircraft guns, and thirty-four divisions had no armored cars.

The Luftwaffe was little better. Forty percent of its crews were not fully trained, and there was only one fighter pilot school, with the result that by 1941 half of the aircraft losses were caused by crashes and accidents. Fortunately for the Germans, in 1939 the Polish armed forces were even more poorly trained and equipped, and its leadership inferior.

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

The Nazi Iron Fist 2

On May 10, 1940, when the German attack in the West began, their forces were outnumbered. They had 135 divisions with 2.7 million men compared with an Allied (French, Belgian, Dutch, and British) force of 144 divisions and 3.7 million men. The French had 3,250 tanks and the Germans 2,500 (of which 1,500 were armed only with machine guns or light cannon and nearly 400 were captured Czech light tanks). The Allies had 14,000 artillery pieces, the German army 7,400. The British forces were completely mechanized whereas the German army was desperately short of trucks (only a quarter of German production was going to the army and that level was unable to replace normal peacetime wear and tear) and highly dependent on horsepower.

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

The Far From Green Acres

The 20 November 1943 U.S. invasion of Japanese-held Tarawa (in the Gilbert Islands) went very wrong, very quickly. Insufficient attention to tides, topography and logistics, in addition to an ineffective naval and air bombardment (not for the last time) and extremely accurate Japanese counter-fire, saw the timetable disrupted from the start. Getting ashore actually grew more – not less – hazardous as the day progressed and the number of working landing craft dropped precipitously – 16 of the original 87 remained operational at sunset.

After the first wave landings, about 150 wounded marines and soldiers were stranded on the reef. Two USN lieutenants, John Fletcher and Eddie Heimberger, working independently, began rescuing the men and helping them to the returning landing craft for transport out to hospital ships. Commandeering an LCVP after his own craft was knocked out, Heimberger came under fire from a Japanese sniper. Heimberger killed the sniper and called in further support fire, which the *USS Maryland* and *USS Colorado* supplied. Heimberger then continued his task of retrieving wounded, even collecting the regimental surgeon from the 8th Marines to help. He received the Navy Cross for his actions.

After the war, dropping his last name and using his middle one - Albert - instead, Lieutenant Heimberger enjoyed a successful Hollywood career as Eddie Albert, today best known for his television show *Green Acres*.

Source: *World at War* magazine No. 30 June-July 2013

The Korea Veterans' Association of Australia Inc.

Victor Dey OAM (President) and The Committee
request the pleasure of your company at the annual KVAA Inc.

Christmas Luncheon

Venue:	Batmans Hill on Collins 623 Collins Street, Melbourne
Date:	Wednesday 4th December 2010
Time:	1130 hours for 1230 hours
Bill of Fare:	Traditional Christmas Dinner
Meal Cost:	\$25 per person
Drinks:	Own Cost at Hotel Prices
Award Presentation:	Certificates of Service 10, 15 & 20 Year Pins
Entertainment:	<i>The Swing Masters</i>
RSVP:	22 November 2013

Book early as there are only 170 places

Please detach and return to Gerry Steacy, 1 Kent Court, Werribee, Victoria 3030

RSVP: 22 November 2013

Please return your acceptance and payment by this date. We are committed to confirm guest numbers and pay the caterer seven days prior to the function.

Please confirm attendance for ___ people.

Names of those attending: _____

Enclosed please find my cheque / money order for ___ people @ \$25.00 per person: \$____.00

Please make cheques / money orders payable to: **Korea Veterans Association of Australia Inc.**

Onoda's War 1944-1974

In December 1944, as their nation careened toward defeat in World War II, the Japanese army sent Lieutenant Hiroo Onoda to the small Philippine island of Lubang about eighty miles southwest of Manila. An intelligence officer, Onoda had been briefed on Lubang's importance: Its small Japanese garrison guarded the entrance to Manila harbor. Given a generous supply of explosives to destroy port and airfield facilities, he was ordered to conduct guerilla operations against the advancing Americans and Filipinos until further notice.

Although Onoda would be greatly outnumbered, he was cautioned against both surrender and the honorable alternative of ritual suicide; or *hara-kiri*. "You are absolutely forbidden to die by your own hand," General Akira Muto told the twenty-three-year-old officer. "It may take three years, it may take five, but whatever happens, we'll come back for you. Until then, so long as you have one soldier, you are to continue to lead him."

For most of the world, the war ended when Japan surrendered to the Allies the following August. But for Lieutenant Onoda, World War II had barely begun. Living on coconuts, bananas, and whatever they could steal, he and a handful of compatriots carried out a small reign of terror among the island's peaceful farmers and gathered intelligence to guide the Japanese counterattack that Onoda knew must come. Staying nowhere for very long, they swept out of the mountains to attack farmers, burn houses, and destroy crops before melting back into the jungle. Farmers began refusing to work the land near the mountains,

After five years, in September of 1949, one of his men, Yuichi Akatsu, disappeared. A few months later, Onoda found a note in Akatsu's handwriting: "When I surrendered, the Philippine troops greeted me as a friend." But Onoda was convinced that this was a trick. He had been sent here by his division commander; if the war were over, the division commander would have come and told him so. He would wait for a countermanding order delivered just as his original orders had been: face to face.

In May of 1954, another of Onoda's men, Shoichi Shimada, was killed in a skirmish with the islanders. By now, the Japanese government knew about Onoda's war but did not know how to get him to surrender. It sent envoys who placed a Japanese flag bearing Onoda family names at the site of Shimada's death. But some of the names in the note were misspelled, and Onoda, who had been trained in deception by the Japanese army, considered this as evidence of yet another trick. He continued his personal war.

In 1959, Onoda's brother, Toshio, came to Lubang with a search party. For six months, they stalked the length and breadth of the island announcing through loudspeakers that the war had ended. Watching and listening from his hiding places in the jungle, Hiroo Onoda was convinced that the entreaties were spoken by an impostor who closely resembled his brother and could even imitate his voice, Onoda's belief that his nation continued to fight World War II remained unshakable.

After all, when he had left Japan in 1944, every citizen had seemed to agree that death was preferable to surrender. If Japan had lost the war, all Japanese would be dead. Likewise, if his side had won, Onoda's commanding officer would have informed him. Since he had seen living Japanese and had not been contacted by his commander, the once-young officer's hermetic, twisted logic proved that the war must still be in progress. The soldiers – by now reduced to just Onoda and one other man, Private First Class Hinshichi Kozuka – remained where they were.

Onoda pronounced the same judgment on the stacks of newspapers that were left by Toshio and the radio broadcasts he heard on a transistor set stolen from an islander's hut. He was impressed by his enemies' cleverness, however, and the lengths to which they would go in order to deceive him. By 1972, when he and Kozuka managed to evade a 13,000-man army that swarmed over Lubang, Onoda's hit-and-run guerilla campaign had killed about thirty Filipinos.

Later that year, Kozuka died during a raid against farmers. Onoda became lonely. With no one left to convince of his cause's righteousness, self-doubt crept in. One day, after two years alone, Onoda was about to attack a man he found camped in a tent when the stranger spoke to him in Japanese. The newcomer was a good-natured twenty-four-year-old college dropout by the name of Norio Suzuki, who had actually come looking for Onoda as a lark. After a friendly campfire chat, Onoda said that he might be willing to consider a proper surrender after all. Suzuki returned to Japan and tracked down one of Onoda's former superior officers, Yoshimi Taniguchi, now a mild book dealer in Tokyo, and persuaded him to go to Lubang and accept Hiroo Onoda's surrender.

On March 9, 1974, twenty-nine years after his guerilla war began, Lieutenant Hiroo Onoda marched out of the jungle. Taniguchi read the order to give up, and the next evening Onoda turned over his sword to a Philippine commander. The wayward soldier was freshly shaved, wore his ancient, patched uniform, and carried his obsolete rifle. On his return to Japan, Onoda received a hero's welcome.

But Japan was a different nation from the one that he had left. Hiroo Onoda soon emigrated to Brazil, where he became a farmer much like those he had spent most of his life terrorizing.

Source: *Library of Curious and Unusual Facts*, Time-Life Books

The Origin of...

Between the Devil and the Deep

In wooden ships, the “devil” was the longest seam of the ship. It ran from the bow to the stern. When at sea and the “devil” had to be caulked, the sailor sat in a bo’sun’s chair to do so. He was suspended between the “devil” and the sea and the “deep” and a very precarious position, especially when the ship was underway.

Chewing the Fat

“God made the vittles but the devil made the cook,” was a popular saying used by seafaring men in the 19th century when salted beef was staple diet aboard ship. This tough cured beef, suitable only for long voyages when nothing else was cheap or would keep as well (remember, there was no refrigeration), required prolonged chewing to make it edible. Men often chewed one chunk for hours, just as it were chewing gum and referred to this practice as “chewing the fat.”

Devil to Pay

Today the expression “devil to pay” is used primarily to describe having an unpleasant result from some action that has been taken, as in someone has done something they shouldn’t have. Originally, this expression described one of the unpleasant tasks aboard a wooden ship. The “devil” was the wooden ship’s longest seam in the hull. Caulking was done with “pay” or pitch (a kind of tar). The task of “paying the devil” (caulking the longest seam) by squatting in the bilges was despised by every seaman.

He Knows the Ropes

In the very early days, this phrase was written on a seaman’s discharge to indicate that he was still a novice. All he knew about being a sailor was just the names and uses of the principal ropes (lines). Today, this same phrase means the opposite and that the person fully knows and understands the operation or business.

Log Book

In the early days of sailing ships, the ship’s records were written on shingles cut from logs. These shingles were hinged and opened like a book. The record was called the “log book.” Later on, when paper was readily available and bound into books, the record maintained its name.

Port holes

The word “port hole” originated during the reign of Henry VI of England (1485). King Henry insisted on mounting guns too large for his ship and the traditional methods of securing these weapons on the forecastle and aftcastle could not be used. A French shipbuilder named James Baker was commissioned to solve the problem. He put small doors in the side of the ship and mounted the cannon inside the ship. These doors protected the cannon from weather and were opened when the cannon were to be used. The French word for “door” is “porte” which was later Anglicized to “port” and later went on to mean any opening in the ship’s side, whether for cannon or not.

Splice the Main Brace

A sailing ship’s rigging was a favorite target during sea battles since by destroying the opponent’s ability to manoeuvre or get away would put you at obvious advantage. Therefore, the first thing tended to after a battle was to repair broken gear, and repair sheets (sails) and braces (lines passing through blocks and holding up sails). It was the custom, after the main braces were properly spliced, to serve grog to the entire crew. Thus, today, after a hard day (or, not so hard day), the phrase has become an invitation to have a drink.

Taken Aback

One of the hazards faced in days of sailing ships has been incorporated into English to describe someone who has been jolted by unpleasant news. We say that person has been “taken aback.” The person is at a momentary loss; unable to act or even to speak. A danger faced by sailing ships was for a sudden shift in wind to come up (from a sudden squall), blowing the sails back against the masts, putting the ship in grave danger of having the masts break off and rendering the ship totally helpless. The ship was taken aback.

Took the wind out of his sails

Often we use “took the wind out of his sails” to describe getting the best of an opponent in an argument. Originally it described a battle manoeuvre of sailing ships. One ship would pass close to its adversary and on its windward side. The ship and sails would block the wind from the second vessel, causing it to lose headway. Losing motion meant losing manoeuvrability and the ability to carry on a fight.

Out & About

Dedication Service Cobram Cenotaph, 24 July 2013



60th Anniversary Service Cascade Garden, Sunshine Coast, 27 July 2013



John Moller OAM laying a wreath.

Annual Korean War Memorial Service St. Andrew's UCA Church, Malvern, 23 June 2013



One From the Vault...

via Richard Garrett

Richard Garrett...*The November 1951 intake of 120 Korea Special recruits went to Support Company, 2 Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment Trainees Battalion at Puckapunyal for basic training. These numbers were reduced as time went on. In February 1952, we were sent to a very basic canvas camp at Scrub Hill for our DP3 training alongside a very dusty range road which was used at that stage by troops of the Armour School who were being taught to handle the newly arrived Centurion tanks. Our kitchen area edged onto the road which was used by vehicles, quite often at lunch time. So enough said in that regard.*

The enclosed photo, which I took, was at the back of the long two lines of marquees join end to end. I am afraid I never wrote the names on the back, so I can only identify a few. Someone may be able fill in the gaps. Left to right is Bob Neagle and Ron Parret, with George Murphy on the stump.



The War Fighting To Be Remembered (continued from Page 5)

committed to battle against the North Korean invaders, roamed dangerous skies and frozen seas. Forty-one pilots of the Mustangs and, later, Meteor jets of 77 Squadron – one in every four – were killed, and seven taken prisoner.

The war had no living-room audience, having pre-dated live long-range television in the US and Britain - and any kind of television in Australia. It provoked no great moral outrage or protest, probably because of its raw beginnings. In Australia there were no peace marches, no anti-war demonstrations.

The troops went away in small batches, and when they came home there was not a single welcome parade: no sense of triumph, no visible outpouring of national pride. Despite the dead we left behind, its memory has been allowed to slumber.

It shouldn't be that way. These days, with wars that are just as remote and even less popular, we at least know how to celebrate our heroes.



Work during the retreat from the Yalu River brought many difficulties to Australian war correspondents. Here Harry Gordon (left) of the Melbourne *Sun News-Pictorial* and Ronald Monson (*Sydney Daily Telegraph*) wrestle in the cold with their typewriters.

Q: Why did the Arabs lose the June 1967 Six-Day War?

A: Because all their Soviet equipment came with the following User's Manual: "Retreat deep into your own territory and wait for snow."

They Were Seven Days Adrift (continued from Page 6)
wave. A bundle fell into the sea. We rowed over and eager hands dragged it on board.

"It was only blankets, but stuffed inside we found a note: *Your captain is safe, we have found the raft and dropped them food and water. We are returning to Darwin to send out a ship for you.* We celebrated with a good long draught of our precious rain-water. Rowing was stopped and throughout the following night the whaler drifted. Dawn of the seventh day adrift found the anxious sailors scanning the horizon for signs of their expected rescuers. Up came the sun and soon we realised what a foolish thing we had done in drinking our water. It was hot, very hot, utterly still and our thirst grew stronger with every passing minute. Late that afternoon the weary men sighted *Kalgoorlie's* mast and as the sun began to set she came alongside."

The seven day voyage was ended! The drifting raft was never seen again, nor sight of sound of those it bore upon the sea. The search went on for many days until at last hope gone, the books were entered: *Lost at sea – December 1942*, and closed.

Source: *Navy News*, Vol.2 No.73 April 1959

State Reception Photos

Government House, Melbourne, 1 August 2013



Billy Gulley, Charlie Slater, Mick Griffin and Gerry Steacy



Ron Christie, Gerry Steacy, Ron Jordan, Les Jordan (in chair) & Governor Chernov



Sally Brownbill, John Brownbill and a serving Army officer



William Baldwin, Arthur Slee and George Sykes



Laurie Price, George Sykes, Bernie Schultz, John Boyer, former Victorian Premier Ted Baillieu, unknown dignitary



Milton Hoe and grandson



Tom Parkinson, Vic Dey and dignitaries.



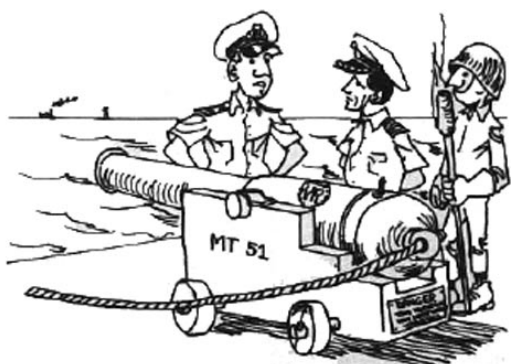
The Modern Australian Navy



Large, comfortable warships



Efficient and resourceful officers



Equipped with the latest weaponry



Fit and hard-working crews

The defence of our seaways is in good hands

Farewells

Lucy Eyrie Boland (nee Rule), N11483, Senior Sister
RAAF No.391 (Base) Squadron on 20 January 2013

Ross McGregor Colley, 24575, 3RAR
on 26 May 2013

Alfred Jaccobs, 2400470, 3RAR
on 7 August 2013

Francis Robert (Kiwi) Thurston, 6701, 2RAR
on 4 August 2013

Mervyn C. Wheeler, 310719, 3RAR
on 29 June 2013

Special Thanks

A very special 'Thank You' to Christine Campbell, the State Member for Pascoe Vale, for her effort in bringing about the State Reception at Government House on 1st October – almost certainly the last for Korea War veterans. Without her considerable effort, the event probably would not have occurred.

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

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