

# THE VOICE

December 2014 Edition

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## Editor's Opening

Welcome to the Christmas edition of *The Voice* which, as usual, is appearing just after the KVAA Inc. Christmas luncheons in Melbourne and Geelong – and, presumably, those interstate. In other words, too early for photos. Stay turned for the February edition by which stage everyone is looking ahead to Easter and Anzac Day. Hey, I didn't create the publishing schedule, I just slavishly adhere to it.

Speaking of interstate... Did you know that we have 121 members in NSW and 60 in Queensland. How are you guys and gals doing up north? It would be nice to hear from you once in a while, you know, via photos and short accounts of Korean War or veteran related functions you attend. Don't be shy.

If when you eagerly opened *The Voice* (I take it for granted that you all do so eagerly) a colourful slip of paper fell out, don't think it just an advertisement for a carpet cleaning company or a senior's discount for a hair saloon and discard it. It is, in fact, the yearly subscription Renewal Notice. Most of you fill it out and get it back to our Treasurer promptly; however, there are always a few who, for various reasons, forget to do so.

This makes our Treasurer, Gerry Steacy, very upset – and believe me, you don't want to upset our Treasurer (his crying is very annoying). Our policy used to be sending a reminder letter (two if the first didn't come back undelivered) followed by a phone call (two if required). This was a lot for Gerry to keep track of and also a drain on his time and KVAA Inc. finances. We are now putting the onus back on YOU.

You will receive one 'reminder' letter or a phone call and two 'free' *Voices* (February and April), and then...silence. Your *Voice* will be stilled forever – unless, of course, you realise the folly of your ways and contact Gerry to find out what is going on. In most cases it is simply forgetfulness or a change of address. To help you remember, the cut-off point is Anzac Day. So if you are *Voicelless* and it is Anzac Day, you'll know in what way you have erred.

Those of you who, on receiving *The Voice*, automatically turn to the *Life Membership* section on Page 2 (and who doesn't) will have noticed an additional name. Just under that of ex-editor, ex-pensions officer, and ex-committeeman, Des Guilfoyle, is that of Geoffrey Guilfoyle. Who the

*(continues on Page 4)*

### 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  
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## The UN Memorial Cemetery

The 14-hectare United Nations Memorial Cemetery Korea (UNMCK) in Busan, the only UN administered cemetery in the world, is in two parts. In the upper, Symbolic Area, 21 flags fly representing the combatant and non-combatant nations that participated in the war. A representative group of graves from these countries are here – including from Australia, New Zealand and Canada. The lower part of the cemetery consists of 21 plots with 2300 graves from Australia, Canada, France, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, South Africa, Turkey, United Kingdom and the United States.

UNMCK, initially known as Tangkok, was dedicated on 5 April 1951. In 1955 the General Assembly of the UN decided that it should be maintained as the UN memorial cemetery. The agreement with the Republic of Korea granting the land to the UN in perpetuity was signed in 1959, and the UN assumed administration on 31 March 1960. Since 1974 the cemetery has been administered by a commission made up by representatives of the 11 countries whose fallen remain there – including Australia.

While many countries, including Greece, India, Thailand and United States repatriated all their dead, Australia did not, as was our practice after the First and Second World Wars. There are 36 Australian burials in the Symbolic Area, and 245 in two burial plots in the main part of the cemetery. A further 44 Australians names are remembered on the memorial to the missing, from all services - army, navy and air force. All are named on the Wall of Remembrance, which bears the 40,896 names from all nations, except South Korea. Most of these men were initially buried on the battlefield, or in other cemeteries, including some in North Korea, before finding their final resting place.

Source: www.unmck.or.kr

## President's Report

As you are most probably well aware, this year has simply flown by. Your Executive-Committee has, in that time, attended many receptions and ceremonies on behalf of our Association. Next year being the 100th Anniversary of the Gallipoli campaign will also bring into focus veterans from all wars since World War One. Every veteran, from all services, should be very proud to have served their country in such devastating times.

The annual October reunion in Canberra was a little disappointing in numbers, as it appeared ill-health and hospitalization forced a huge drop in attendance, but the wives, widows, families and veterans who did attend enjoyed a fantastic weekend.

The Korean Ambassador Mr Bong-hyun Kim and Military Attaché Colonel Sandeok Hwang presented each veteran with a special medallion. A generous and beautiful gift.

Wendy Karam, our Canberra Reunion Secretary, had a run-in with a horse in which she came off second best. We send her our best wishes for a full recovery. We really want her back on deck.

At the Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital on 15 November, a small group gathered to pay our respects to fallen comrades and also to those who have since passed on. Joining us from Fountain Gate Secondary College was the Principal, Mrs Vicki Walters and students, Ryan Villa, Troy Norton and Maddison Singleton. The students placed a wreath under the Mulberry Tree planted by the "Little Angels" concert group four years ago. The tree has really grown and looks very nice and green.

I take this opportunity to wish all members, from our Patron to our newest member a very merry Christmas and a happy healthy New Year.

## Remembering Australia's Contribution

### A statement by Honourable Park Sung Choon

Minister of Patriots and Veterans Affairs,  
The Republic of Korea

On behalf of the President and the People of the Republic of Korea  
*Presented to Australian Veterans of the Korean War and their Families and Descendants, on the Eighth Annual Turn Toward Busan International Service of Honour and Tribute to the Korean War Fallen. The core global service was conducted by Minister Park in the United Nations Memorial Cemetery in Busan at 11a.m on Tuesday, November 11, 2014.*

How do we pay tribute to those brave sons from the great nation of Australia? The ones who saved our country in the dark years of the war? How do we express our sorrow that so many of them fell? We can rejoice and exclaim about their great valor; of their unflinching loyalty to their great Nation, and to the cause of freedom.

Yet the sorrow for the Fallen is always there.

The war they fought was the watershed for our modern Korea. The nation was devastated, in utter ruin. But the victory we won together in Korea meant that the old feudal days were over. The only way forward was the modern way – and we took it!

Each time I visit the United Nations Memorial Cemetery, where 281 of your brave sons are buried, my mood becomes very solemn. I bow before the Australian Memorial, located among the graves of your comrades and loved ones. I pause at the Commonwealth Monument to *Those With No Known Graves*. Names are listed there of 43 Australian soldiers, airmen and naval airmen. I ask myself how the families of those who fell must feel. Their sons are buried so far from the pleasant homes they knew.

Are they forgotten by all others? Does anyone but family care that they perished to save our Korea?

That they fell serving so vigorously, in the full bloom of youth or manhood, under the Flag of your great nation – the Great Australia, that we Koreans know so well, and hold dear to our hearts. I swear to you that in my country, the Korean War is far from a Forgotten War! The sacrifices of all who came to our aid will never be forgotten! Not in one hundred years; nor in one thousand years!

Each year, when Australian veterans return to Korea, some wear the khaki slouch hats that are known so well throughout the world. The Korean people look at them in awe! They know the Australian soldier's reputation for bravery! Those of a certain age were witness to it many times, during the Korean War.

The Third Battalion of the Royal Australian Regiment was on occupation duty in Japan at the start of the war. Almost instantly, nearly every soldier there volunteered to serve in Korea.

Another thousand were raised through the voluntary K-Force for Korea, to augment and reinforce the battalion. And the Third Battalion of the great Royal Australian Regiment was soon in the thick of the fighting.

They went into North Korea, pushed past the North Korean capital. They fought hard, like their allies around them, when enemy armies from a second nation joined with those of North Korea.

*(continues on Page 6)*

## In The Beginning...

In the beginning, God created the Heavens and the Earth and populated the Earth with broccoli, cauliflower and spinach, green and yellow and red vegetables of all kinds, so Man and Woman would live long and healthy lives.

Then using God's great gifts, Satan created Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream and Krispy Creme Donuts. And Satan said, "You want chocolate with that?" And Man said, "Yes!" and Woman said, "and as long as you're at it, add some sprinkles." And they gained 10 pounds. And Satan smiled.

And God created the healthful yogurt that Woman might keep the figure that Man found so fair. And Satan brought forth white flour from the wheat, and sugar from the cane and combined them. And Woman went from size 6 to size 14.

So God said, "Try my fresh green salad." And Satan presented *Thousand-Island Dressing*, buttery croutons and garlic toast on the side. And Man and Woman unfastened their belts following the repast.

God then said, "I have sent you heart healthy vegetables and olive oil in which to cook them." And Satan brought forth deep fried fish and chicken-fried steak so big it needed its own platter. And Man gained more weight and his cholesterol went through the roof.

God then created a light, fluffy white cake, named it "Angel Food Cake," and said, "It is good." Satan then created chocolate cake and named it "Devil's Food Cake."

God then brought forth running shoes so that His children might lose those extra pounds. And Satan gave cable TV with a remote control so Man would not have to toil changing the channels. And Man and Woman laughed and cried before the flickering blue light and gained pounds.

Then God brought forth the potato, naturally low in fat and brimming with nutrition. And Satan peeled off the healthful skin and sliced the starchy centre into chips and deepfried them. And Man gained pounds.

God then gave lean beef so that Man might consume fewer calories and still satisfy his appetite. And Satan created McDonald's and its 99-cent double cheeseburger. Then said, "You want fries with that?" And Man replied, "Yes! And super size them!" And Satan said, "It is good." And Man went into cardiac arrest.

God sighed and created quadruple bypass surgery.

Then Satan created cuts to the Health Care System.

*Editor's Opening (continued from Page 1)*

hell is this second Guilfoyle and what has he done to deserve a Life Membership? – Oh. Wait! This second Guilfoyle is me.

I was presented with the Certificate at the Christmas luncheon. It didn't come as a total surprise as I do the design and printing of the Life Membership and Service certificates. So, my resume re the KVAA Inc. Well, it actually goes back to the late 1980s in an unofficial capacity, helping the then editor, Des Guilfoyle, well, edit, and providing the computer and printer – a 1970s daisy-wheel printer, believe it or not – and required stationery, such as paper. In the late 1990s I became unofficial transport officer for KVAA Committeeman, Des Guilfoyle, and the Association's flags and banner. After his death I was bumped up to Special Member status and the official keeper and transporter of the flags (all 28 of them) and banner. In 2009, I became Editor of *The Voice* – a position so stressful that my hair is turning grey and falling out (of course, age may have something to do with that, but I prefer to blame being Editor). Since then I've produced 36 editions of the newsletter – if that doesn't entitle me to a *Life Membership* then at least I deserve a *Masochism Beyond the Call of Duty* award!

On to other matters...

The story on Page 5 by Ronald Williams about *HMAS Warramunga's* participation in the Chinnampo evacuation is something of a companion piece to John Boyer's account of the same operation from the point of view of those aboard the *HMAS Bataan*. Unlike Boyer's story, this one was crafted from what amounted to an extended series of "bullet pointed" commentary.

KVAA Inc. President, Vic Dey, has provided me with a set of *Stars and Stripes* (Pacific Edition) newspapers covering part of 1951 & 1953, part of a facsimile edition published in 2000 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the start of the conflict. Hence I've started a *Ripped From The Headlines...* section in *The Voice* in which I reproduce snippets from this publication. For those veterans reading it, I hope it brings back memories (not necessarily good ones, of course).

The Japanese onslaught in the Far East was one of the most successfully swift and extensive campaign in the history of warfare. Within four months they captured Hong Kong, Malaya, Singapore, the Dutch East Indies, southern Burma and most of the Philippines. Within another month Corregidor surrendered and the British were pushed out of Burma. And the cost to Japan? About 15,000 men, about 380 aircraft and 4 destroyers.

# The Chinnampo Evacuation

by Petty Officer (Medic) Ronald B Williams,

33579 HMAS Warrumunga, 17 January 1952 - 8 August 1952

*HMAS Warrumunga's* crew totalled 305 and her captain during her first tour of Korea was O.H. Becher (Commander James Ramsey took command for the second tour). The crew compliment included two medics. The medical Officer during 1951 was surgeon Lieutenant Begley. His 1952 replacement, surgeon Lieutenant James Villiers, joined the ship in Kure, Japan, the day Begley flew back to Australia. (This change of doctors proved very positive for the medical welfare of our crew - and made life easier for me too! Dr Villiers and I shared the work load and we remained friends after we both completed our terms in the RAN.)

The ship itself was showing signs of old age (having already served in World War II). She bore many dents, both large and small, much patch-up welding, a number of bent frames and a large dent in the stern. Paint failed to adhere to the hull, with large flakes peeling off all areas. The machinery and armament was just about satisfactory, though the radar equipment left a lot to be desired and was not up to the required standard. Worse still, the air warning system was not worth the top weight involved or the extra sailors required to operate it (even at its best it was a pathetic defence against fast attack aircraft).

November 1950 was quiet for the *Warrumunga*, the only highlight being escorting an American dredger to Chinnampo and refuelling from the American tanker, *USS Wave Laird*, before joining three Canadian ships on blockade patrol off north west Korea.

However, it was now the middle of the Korean winter. Snow storms occurred nearly every day. *Warrumunga* was not built for these conditions, leaving the crew uncomfortable (to put it mildly). The extreme cold caused the fresh water supply lines to our ships galley to freeze and it was necessary for our cooks to use blow torches to thaw out the water pipes!

To add to this discomfort, the tide of war had turned against the United Nations forces and the evacuation of thousands of UN troops was imminent. Four Destroyers, led by captain J. V. Brock DSC in the Canadian destroyer *HMCS Cayuga*, were ordered to assist in the evacuation of troops and wounded from Chinnampo (modern Nampo) near the mouth of the Taedong River and downstream from Pongyang.

We risked a night voyage up the river, ploughing through heavy seas and thick snow storms, then moved slowly up the channel. *Warrumunga* took a channel known as *Short Cut* because (as its name implied) it was shorter, according to the charts available, and would allow for about five feet of water under our keel. As we soon found out, this proved incorrect. Despite the charts indicating that at this time we should have had ten feet of water under our keel, and in the middle of the channel (only 500 yards wide), we ran aground!



Continuous shore bombardments required frequent resupply between patrols.

To avoid damage to our ship the Captain decided to wait until high tide so we could float her off. At 1150, she broke loose. Engine trials indicated *Warrumunga* had suffered no damage.

Proceeding up the river we came upon the Canadian destroyer *HMCS Sioux* that had also run aground! While extricating itself it had fouled an unlit buoy that had floated into the river and it was now firmly attached to their propeller shaft. *Sioux* signalled to us that they could handle the problem, so we moved on.

Due to a blinding snowstorm, our visibility was zero. At about 0300, lookouts could see the dock buildings through breaks in the snow. All ships were at action stations waiting for possible enemy attack as the Chinese were closing in on Pyongyang. The loading of UN and South

Korean troops commenced and within a couple of hours all were safely aboard a fleet of ships and junks.

Rather than risk another trip through the channel at night, Captain Brock ordered us to send a barrage of more than 800 rounds of heavy gunfire into the communist military areas and factories, leaving the Port ablaze before we departed on the 40 mile journey early the next morning. Even as our fleet of small ships reached the entrance to the Taedong River, the Chinese occupied the blazing and ruined city of Pyongyang.

After the disembarking of the troops at Inchon, and in freezing weather and very rough seas, *Warrumunga* returned to the Yalu Gulf patrol area and also spent time as a unit of the Inchon Support Element.

The Communist forces were racing south and, with Inchon now threatened, it was decided that evacuating troops from the city was necessary. This was successfully and efficiently done despite the snow storms and bitter cold. *Warrumunga* and two other ships were the only vessels to remain in the area, maintaining harassing fire until the 9th January 1951 when they too headed south.

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The brave Australians fought feverishly as the front was withdrawn southward. Then they fought again through that horrid cold winter and pushed the enemy back toward North Korea.

In the enemy spring offensive of 1951, the Battalion held back many times its numbers near the crossroads city of Kapyong. Along with New Zealand, Canadian, British and American allies, they stemmed the enemy offensive which was menacing Seoul. The Royal Australian Regiment bore the brunt. Their Battle Honor was more than deserved.

The Royal Australian Navy fought and patrolled at sea throughout the war. A destroyer and frigate steamed for Korean waters within a few days of the enemy invading our country in June, 1950. During the war Australia would commit four destroyers, four frigate ships and an aircraft carrier to the defence of our country. The naval aviators flying fighter bombers from the aircraft carrier *HMAS Sydney* were seen in many theatres of operations. Their audacity, bravery, effectiveness was awesome.

The Royal Australian Air Force also made a new mark in the annals of their proud service. The intrepid pilots and support airmen of the famous Number 77 Squadron were ready to return to Australia from Japan when the war began. Instead, the squadron diverted to Korea. It flew the most harrowing ground support missions imaginable. Many of its brave pilots perished. A squadron of Australian transport planes saw untiring duty in Korea, flying within the country and between Korea and Japan.

Australian doctors and nurses served in the Commonwealth Hospital in Kure, Japan. They did noble work in caring for the wounded. But after the enemy was driven back into North Korea in 1951, they asked to begin armistice talks. The line stopped moving northward. For two long years both sides wrangled at a conference table. On land and on sea and in the air, soldiers, sailors, naval aviators, airmen from Australia continued to suffer. Australian doctors and nurses continued to treat the unending flow of wounded.

Yet the many allied nations whose sons were in battle were very cautious with their words. There was fear of inciting a great global war. So Australia's sons were suffering in Korea, were fighting so bravely in Korea, yet not much was said about them... as though giving them their fair due would cause even greater conflict. Not much was officially written about them or about the global importance of what they were doing. The true story of what was being called a "police action," and "a conflict," but not a war, began to slide into history's dark envelope.

Today, we are trying to open up that envelope, and show its contents. We are trying to show the entire world that the Australian soldiers and sailors and airmen who perished in Korea are not forgotten! We are trying to show the world that the service of all who came to South Korea's aid was not in vain.

Along with their comrades in arms from other nations, the soldiers and sailors and airmen from the great Australian Nation changed the history of our world! They very soundly defeated a menacing regime that would have enslaved our young and free nation.

The invasion of South Korea was meant to be prelude to ever greater conquest by the enemy and its sponsor; to the downfall and entrapment of many nations into the bleak world that existed behind their Iron Curtains. The invasion of Korea was the invasion of the free world... a test to see if it could be done.

Volunteers from Australia, one of the greatest of all the democracies, came stolidly forward, and proved that they would not let it be done!

Today, we all look toward the United Nations cemetery in Busan where many of your brave comrades are buried. We look beyond, far north, where others rest in unmarked graves. As the surf strikes our beaches, we think of those brave hearts who perished at sea. We all Turn Toward Busan on this day, and in our hearts, we remember Australia's brave Fallen sons.

We will never, never forget them!

From the bottom of my heart, I express my country's love and gratitude to every Australian sailor, naval aviator, soldier, airman, doctor and nursing sister, who served in Korea. I express our profound sympathy and sorrow to all the survivors of those who perished, and for those the war marked forever.

Let us turn toward those who are buried in Busan, and make the world restore their brave deeds and great achievements to its history.

Let us bring light to those shining hours, when the brave sons of Australia fought so valiantly, and taught the world a great lesson about the tenacity of a truly free people.

How my heart bleeds for those who fell. How my heart fills with pride at what they and their comrades achieved! On this free day, let us all Turn Toward Busan and honor those who fought against aggression, and with their resolve and their courage and their blood, changed the future of the world.

# Attack on Pearl Harbor

by Brian Dunning

*Did the American government have advance knowledge of the Pearl Harbor attack, and allow it to happen? Many people think so and over the decades various authors have declared it so. U.S. science reporter and skeptical blogger, Brian Dunning, examines these claims.*

Every schoolchild knows the story of December 7, 1941, “A date which will live in infamy”. Japanese aircraft carriers crept to within striking distance of Hawaii and launched a morning sneak attack which struck at 7:55am. Two waves of 354 Japanese bombers, dive bombers, torpedo bombers, and fighters decimated an unprepared U.S. Pacific Fleet. They sank four battleships and two destroyers and heavily damaged eleven other ships, destroyed or damaged 343 aircraft, killed 2,459 servicemen and civilians, and injured 1,282 others. Less than 24 hours after the first bomb fell, the United States declared war on Japan. One question has plagued the conspiracy minded ever since: Was the United States truly caught by surprise, or did the government have advance knowledge of the attack and allow it to happen, as an excuse to declare war?

We should begin by establishing that the overwhelming majority of historians are not moved by this theory. It is promoted really only by a few authors and anti-government activists. However, that doesn't make it wrong. Most Americans have heard the theory suggested, usually in the context of it being an open question. It's not. The jury is not “out” on this one, despite a tiny minority of amateur historians making a majority of the noise. But we'll give the fringe their day and look at their evidence.

Perhaps the most popularly known clue is that the United States' three aircraft carriers were safely out of harm's way. They were out on maneuvers, and were not in port in Pearl Harbor with the rest of the Pacific Fleet. If the American commanders wanted the attack to happen, they would probably still choose to protect their most valuable assets. Less well known is that a Japanese midget submarine was spotted at 3:42am, four hours before the attack began. A destroyer, the USS *Ward*, was called in which failed to find that sub, but did find and sink a second sub at 6:37am, still more than an hour before the air strike. The *Ward* radioed in “We have attacked, fired upon, and dropped depth charges on a submarine operating in defensive sea areas.” Would not this action have put the Fleet on high alert, unless someone overruled it?

At 7:02am, a full 53 minutes before the first bomb fell, radar operators at Opana Point detected the incoming Japanese aircraft. They alerted their superior, Lt. Kermit Tyler, who failed to make any report, but did however take his men away from their posts and to breakfast. Tyler's lack of action has long been considered suspicious by the conspiracy theorists.

Indeed, nearly a full year before the attack, the Commander-in-chief of the Pacific Fleet, Admiral Husband Kimmel, wrote to Washington: “I feel that a surprise attack (submarine, air, or combined) on Pearl Harbor is a possibility, and we are taking immediate practical steps to minimize the damage inflicted and to ensure that the attacking force will pay.”

Then, ten days before the attack, Kimmel was ordered to make just such a defensive deployment of the Fleet. And yet, on that morning, the ships were sitting ducks at their berths, the men asleep in their bunks, and most of the American aircraft were parked on the fields in plain view, packed into tight bunches, as if to deliberately make easy targets. It's also been pointed out that since the ships were sunk in the harbor, most were raised and repaired. Had they been sunk at sea they would have been lost. If you wanted to be attacked, but also wanted to be able to bounce back, this was the way to do it. Combined with the fact that the Americans had broken the primary Japanese diplomatic code called Purple and made some progress breaking the military code JN-25, and had access to some Japanese intelligence, it seems hard to reach any conclusion other than the United States knew the attack was coming and deliberately allowed it to happen.

Or, at least, so we might conclude if we considered only the above points. But it turns out that if we examine each of these points not just with a narrow focus to see only the suspicious side, and look at the complete event in context, no good arguments for a conspiracy remain. Most of the points made by conspiracy theorists were raised by the 2000 book *Day of Deceit* by Robert Stinnett, who really boiled down the innuendo from the preceding 59 years and condensed it into a cohesive conspiracy. However, it should be noted that many more authors (almost all others) find him to be wrong. Chief among these is probably *Pearl Harbor: Final Judgement* from 1992, written by Henry Clausen. In 1944, the Secretary of War ordered Clausen, then a lawyer in the U.S. Judge Advocate's office, to conduct an independent investigation into what really happened in the days and months leading up to Pearl Harbor, and to find out who screwed up. His report remained top secret until its substance was finally published in this book.

*(continues on Page 8)*

Clausen found plenty of sloppiness, but nothing that could be characterized as a cool, smoothly-running conspiracy. Agencies operated independently, decoding Japanese transmissions and then filing them away rather than sharing them. There was plenty of knowledge that hostility was building, but no experience in how to deal with it and no specific knowledge that it was so imminent. Roosevelt knew as much as anyone, and issued warnings and ordered preparations that were poorly handled all the way down the line.

One thing that conspiracy theorists and historians agree upon is that Admiral Kimmel was unjustly made the scapegoat for Pearl Harbor. Ten days after the attack, he was reduced in rank and replaced by Admiral Nimitz. It's also agreed that he did the best he could given the limited amount of intelligence Washington shared with him, and this is one point where the conspiracy theory simultaneously kicks in and breaks down. Historians say he was held accountable for bad decisions; conspiracy theorists say he was made the scapegoat for the secret orders from Washington. But, nearly everything that happened at Pearl Harbor was on Kimmel's own orders. Let's look at some.

When Kimmel received the order to assume defensive positions ten days before the attack, viable threats at the time were from espionage and sabotage, not actual attacks. Thus the aircraft were moved out into the open and tightly packed, where they could be best guarded against saboteurs. The ships were similarly grouped in the harbor. It was the wrong interpretation of the order, but it was a reasonable one in the context of what Kimmel knew was happening.

How true is it that the three carriers were safely hidden out at sea? Not very. The carriers were not clustered safely together; they were widely scattered throughout the Pacific on separate duties. Being alone out at sea even with their carrier groups, each isolated far away and unable to support one another, was not at all considered safe. The *Saratoga* was just coming out of a lengthy overhaul in Seattle and was underway to Pearl Harbor via San Diego at the time of the attack, but the *Enterprise* and the *Lexington* had in fact been at Pearl and recently sent away. Why?

Kimmel had sent them, separately and on staggered schedules, to deliver Army aircraft to reinforce Midway and Wake islands. Because of the Japanese spy network on Hawaii, great caution was taken to disguise this movement of forces. The *Enterprise* was scheduled to return by December 5th, at which time the *Lexington* would leave; Kimmel wanted to make sure that Pearl had coverage from at least one carrier at all times. The *Lexington* left on schedule, but unfortunately, bad weather struck the *Enterprise* and kept its group at sea for two extra days, resulting in an unforeseeable 2-day span of no carriers in Pearl Harbor. There was never any mysterious directive from Washington to hide the carriers. Had the weather not intervened, there would have been at least one carrier in Pearl at all times, which was the maximum force available.

Even so, there's a powerful reason why the absence of carriers would not support a conspiracy theory. World War II was the first time that aircraft carriers proved themselves to be the most important assets in naval warfare. At the time of Pearl Harbor, we'd not yet learned that, and the battleship was considered the most crucial weapon. That's why the Pacific Fleet had nine battleships and only three carriers. Conspiracy theorist descriptions of the battleships as old, useless, and expendable are a misstatement of history. They were the best we had, and their perceived value was such that at the time of the Pearl Harbor attack, six new battleships of the *Iowa* class were under construction, and a further six of the *Montana* class were planned. It wasn't until the *Battle of Midway* in 1942 that we learned the value of carriers, and construction shifted to those.

Was the Ward's sinking of the submarine covered up to prevent an alarm? The Ward's report made it to the desk of the watch officer at 7:15. At 7:30, Kimmel and Rear Admiral Claude Bloch both received it separately by telephone. By the time the Japanese attacked, 25 minutes later, Kimmel and Bloch were still conversing to determine the significance of the sub incident. Kimmel's opinion was that this was probably one more in a long line of false reports of submarines they'd been accustomed to receiving. Five minutes before the air strike, Kimmel ordered the destroyer *USS Monaghan* to go and verify the Ward's story. The *Monaghan* never made it. Kimmel's hunch was only conclusively proven wrong in 2002, when the midget submarine's wreck was discovered.

When Opana Point picked up the Japanese attack force on radar, their station was still under construction and was not yet fully operational. It had been staffed but nobody had yet received any training. The serviceman at the scope had, in fact, never used the equipment before at all. Lt. Tyler was a fighter pilot, and this was only his second day at Opana Point, and he had not been trained yet either. When Tyler was informed of the inbound target, he assumed it to be a flight of B-17's known to be inbound on that same course, which was a pretty common event. Since nobody perceived that anything unusual was happening, Tyler famously said

*(continues on Page 10)*

# Hill 111

by Douglas (Kipper) Franklin

310864 MMG 2RAR 17 March 1953 - 6 April 1954

At last light on the night of the 24th July 1953, I was in a machine gun pit on the trench line on Hill 111 of *The Hook* with Dan Mudford, John Perring and Ron Walker, when we started to get incoming fire from the North Koreans. We saw some activity near the marines' bunkers. Some of the marines came down the trench line and told us that the Chinese were just in front of us.

As the enemy came into view we opened fire with our Owen guns. Some of the marines had taken cover in our (now crowded) pit, which annoyed Ron who told then in very plain words, "Get out you, bastards!"

A shell hit the top of the ammo bunker, blowing dirt all over us. I was temporarily stunned; could not see or hear for quite some time, and Dan was wounded and taken from the pit.

As I recovered, I picked up an M1 carbine leaning against trench, the property of a marine who had been shot, and turned it onto the advancing Chinese.

Nothing! The rifle had jammed.

I found my Owen gun and, to get a better shot, lay on top of the trench. Firing at the nearest enemy, I was in turn shot at and hit in the upper arm. I slid back into the gun pit, spurting blood from an artery and was promptly send to the Command Post where a Marine medic gave me first aid. Dan Mudford was also there, but could not hear.

After a while we were evacuated from the line with some wounded marines on a Canadian half-track that platoon Sergeant Doug Jordan obtained from somewhere. (I haven't seen him since that night, but, thanks Doug).

I began to feel really sick. My arm was hurting and I was covered with blood. We were all taken to an Indian medical unit where I was given morphine. Dan and I were separated and I have not seen or heard of him since.

I was then placed in an ambulance with another wounded soldier from 2 Battalion and two others from God-knows where – I was too sick to see who they were – and driven to the Norwegian Mobile Surgical Hospital. None of the staff their could speak English so communication was via hand motions. We quickly got the hang of it, even leant to roll over to get our injections. Entertainment came in the form of Korean children who sung and danced for us.

After 10 days I was discharged from the hospital. My own clothes having been discarded, I was dressed in a Marine shirt, pants and boots. As there was no transport, getting back to the battalion was no easy matter. I hitchhiked with another soldier from 2 Battalion.

At one point we were pulled up by the Military Police, first by Marine MPs wanting to know where we were going and why I was dressed as I was. I told them my story and also showed them my pay book. Accepting this, they pointed the way to the Battalion.

Our next encounter was with English MPs who also wanted to know who we were and where we were going. We told them the same details as we gave the Marine MPs and they escorted us to the Battalion. I reported in and was told to go to the HQ store and get kitted out with a new uniform.

After I had been back for a while, all of the Section from Hill 111 that night was assembled in front of the Coy HQ. There we were congratulated by Major Wilson on our performance and learnt that Sgt. Brian Cooper, as Section leader, had been awarded the Military Medal on behalf of the Section.

## Addendum by Ron Walker

51915 MMG 2RAR 17 March 1953 - 6 April 1954

At approximately 10am on or about 29/30th July '53, the Vickers Machine Gun Section was summoned to assemble outside the Support Coy. orderly room, where it was addressed by the Coy. C. C. Major T. Wilson. He congratulated the assembled troops on their sterling efforts during the attacks by the enemy on Hill 111 (left of 2RAR position, *The Hook*) during the night of 24th/25th July, and that as a consequence of their efforts, a Military Medal had been awarded to the Section, and as per protocol, the Senior W.C.O. of the Section would be assigned the Award.

In deference to their memory, the fact that they were recipients of the award, the names of ALL personnel should be recorded for posterity. The members of this Section were: Brian Cooper (Sgt.); Kevin Power, Ron Walker. (Corporals); Privates Arthur Tranter, John Perring, Kenneth Cranston, D. Hill, Allen Madgwick, and also Corporal Douglas Franklin (W.I.A.), Private Allen Casey. (Section Sig.) and Soo Kyo Soong (KATCOM). Absent were Private Dan Mudford (W.I.A. serious) and Private H. Mathews, Section Cook (duties elsewhere).

# My Dad's War

by Ramon J. Mason ex 3RAR & 1RAR

The war to end all wars,  
that's what they swore,  
'come join up boys, you'll be right,  
join up boys, it'll be a short fight'.

To do service for his country,  
that's what it must be,  
which makes a man leave his home,  
and go fight and die all alone.

Winston Churchill's hair-brained scheme,  
more a nightmare than a dream,  
to land our troops upon Gallipoli,  
the result was a horrible tragedy.

This was the 1915 battles,  
all our young men slaughtered like cattle,  
while trying to open up the Dardanelles,  
our brave lads lived, fought and died in hell.

It's not the only ill-conceived plan  
attributed to this mistake-prone man.  
A glorious mistake they all said,  
go speak of glory to our gallant dead!

I can't pretend to know the reason why  
men must fight and men must die.

I only say that this I know,  
the young men are the first to go.

First to go away and fight,  
first to die; this isn't right.

There is no glory, it's a festering sore,  
when will we abolish it; "Glorious War".

And when it was all over and done,  
can anyone tell us what we'd won?

Could anyone convince all the parents and wives,  
that there was a reason for losing their loved-ones' lives.

All war will end upon the day,  
when the young men stay away.  
When we make the big decision,  
war is to be fought by politicians.

*Attack on Pearl Harbor (continued from Page 8)*

"Don't worry about it," and they did in fact all go to breakfast. But once the attack began, they ran on foot back to the radar station and helped as best they could. A 1942 court of inquiry cleared Tyler of any blame, and he went on to have an exceptional career in the Air Force.

Now of course, all this only pertains to what happened at Pearl Harbor on the day of the attack. It doesn't address the much larger question of what President Roosevelt might have known or wanted to happen, or other people in Washington. The reason I don't go into that is that it doesn't matter. Even if this presumed conspiracy to allow the attack did exist, it failed to have any effect where the rubber meets the road. No orders from Washington altered the state of readiness at Pearl Harbor. Obviously the attack ultimately did play into the hands of anyone who wanted war with Japan; every tragedy somehow benefits somebody. That doesn't make every tragedy a conspiracy.

Source: Dunning, B., *Attack on Pearl Harbor*; Skeptoid Podcast. Skeptoid Media, Inc., 2010, <http://skeptoid.com/episodes/4211>

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# Notices

## John Clarence Scott

1 RAR Association is seeking family contacts for Korea War veteran John Clarence Scott who passed away last year. His Regimental number was 2/4733. An original of 1RAR, he served in Korea as a private from April 1952 until March 1953. He was born 6 March 1932 at St Leonards NSW. If you know of, or can help locate, Scott's next-of-kin, contact our ACT delegate, Colin Berryman, on 02 6258 2463, 040 896 2415, or email [jacol57@bigpond.net.au](mailto:jacol57@bigpond.net.au)

## I Come to Say Good Bye

I'm here by your grave, at last my friend.  
I hear the angels cry.  
I see your smile. I hear your voice.  
I come to say good-bye.  
Memories come of that time long ago.  
I watch you as you die.  
I hear your cry. I feel your pain.  
I come to say good-bye.  
You're not alone in this foreign field.  
Your friends are here, close by.  
The birds still sing, the flowers bloom.  
I come to say good-bye.  
I slowly kneel by your grave in prayer.  
You speak, and I reply.  
I touch your stone, and shed my tears.  
It's time to say good-bye.  
So rest in peace, my boy-hood friend,  
As angels sing on high.  
My prayers and thoughts are here with you.  
I've said my last good-bye.

Written by Isabelle McBride after visiting Pusan Cemetary, 20 April 1998, where she watched her husband, Albert, kneeling at the grave of his friend, Gordon Waldner, killed in Korea on 2 October 1952.

## Ripped From The Headlines...

### Weyland Doubts Chance of Return For Van Fleet Jr.

FREEDOM VILLAGE Aug. 5 (AP) – General O. P. Weyland, commanding general of FEAFF, said today he was “not optimistic” that Lt. James A. Van Fleet Jr. “would ever return.”

The young son of General Van Fleet, former Eight Army commander, failed to return from a B-26 mission over North Korea more than a year ago.

Weyland added:

“OF COURSE WE are very much on the lookout for him as well as many others, but I am afraid if he were alive we would have heard something from him by now. I am not very optimistic.”

Among other early arrivals at Freedom Village this overcast day were General Maxwell Taylor, Eight Army commander; General Sun Yup Paik, chief of the ROK army, and Secretary of the Army Robert Stevens, who is part of Secretary of State Dulles’ party.

Stevens said Dulles would be unable to come to Freedom Village today.

\* \* \* \*

### Nine Allied Nations Ban Press Interviews For PWs in Korea

MUNSAN, Aug. 5 (UP) – Allied repatriates from nine nations will not be permitted to be interviewed by the press in Korea, but most of them will be allowed to talk after reaching Japan, an American spokesman said today.

Three of the nine nations will not even allow the names of their repatriates to be released.

The nine nations barring press interviews are Belgium and Luxembourg, Ethiopia, France, Greece, The Netherlands, the Philippines, Thailand, Turkey and South Africa.

AFTER REACHING JAPAN, however, the returnees of Belgium and Luxembourg, Ethiopia, France, Greece, The Netherlands, Thailand and Turkey will be allowed to talk as long as a representative of their respective governments is present.

The Netherlands, Philippines, and South Africa will not allow even the names of their repatriates to be released.

Returnees of all nations except the U.S. are to be repatriated via Japan. British Commonwealth forces, Canada and Colombia will follow the same policy as the U.S. in allowing any man to be interviewed provided he consents and is considered physically fit.

Source: *Stars and Stripes (Pacific Ed.)*, Wednesday Aug. 5, 1953

## The Miss-the-Mark 14

It’s hard to imagine anyone deliberately designing a submarine torpedo as bad as the Mark 14, but the Naval Torpedo Station in Newport, Rhode Island, managed to pull it off. This U.S. fleet-wide standard torpedo ran 10 to 12 feet below what it had been set for, thanks to a misaligned depth sensor. It also failed to explode when it passed beneath a ship’s keel, as its complex Mark 6 magnetic-influence exploder had been tested in New England waters that were magnetically very different from the South Pacific. Even when the Mark 14 did manage to hit a ship, the result was often just a loud clang, as the contact-exploder would break when the 3,280-pound torpedo hit a steel hull at 46 knots.

Worst of all, NTS Newport refused to admit any flaws with its product, and the fixes that did finally correct the Mark 14’s performance were effected in the field by submariners tired of returning from patrols with expended torpedoes and nothing to show for it. The Mark 14’s overall record from the beginning of the Pacific War through August 1943 was seven misses, duds, premature explosions or circular runs (at least one sub was sunk by its own torpedo) for every 10 fired. What came to be known as the “Great Torpedo Scandal” was the result of an incompetent Navy design and development facility run by bureaucrats who refused to listen to the submariners actually using their product.

Source: *Military History* magazine May 2014

## Santa Wants a Raise

### The Top Ten Reasons Why

10. The hours, the weather, the trend toward smaller chimneys.
  9. *Nike* won’t give him a lucrative side-contract.
  8. Reindeer and elves have unionized, driving up his cost.
  7. New tax on flying sleighs.
  6. Insurance for flying a sleigh has tripled over the past two years.
  5. Needs extra cash to cover off-season gambling losses.
  4. Air traffic controllers demanding higher kick-backs.
  3. Cost of living increase at the North Pole.
  2. Children don’t leave as many cookies as they used to.
- And the number one reason is...
1. The Mrs told him to.

## Editorial Disclaimer

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## 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

## About *The Ode*

*The Ode* comes from *For the Fallen*, a poem by the English poet and writer Laurence Binyon and was published in London in *The Winnowing Fan: Poems of the Great War* in 1914. This verse, which became the *Ode for the Returned and Services League*, has been used in association with commemoration services in Australia since 1921.

*The Ode*: is it ‘condemn’ or ‘contemn’?

Every year, after ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day, the Department of Veterans’ Affairs receives many letters asking about *The Ode*. The issue raised by most letters is whether the last word of the second line should be ‘condemn’ or ‘contemn’. Contemn means to ‘despise or treat with disregard’, so both words fit the context.

DVA’s Commemorations Branch has been researching the poem and its background. The lines comprise the fourth stanza of the poem *For the Fallen* by Laurence Binyon, and were written in the bleak early days of World War 1. By mid-September 1914, less than seven weeks after the outbreak of war, the British Expeditionary Force in France had already suffered severe casualties. During this time, long lists of the dead and wounded appeared in British newspapers. It was against this background that Binyon, then the Assistant Keeper of Prints and Drawings at the British Museum, wrote *For the Fallen*. This poem was first published in *The Times* on 21 September 1914.

*The Times* shows ‘condemn’. Some people have suggested that the use of ‘condemn’ in *The Times* was a typographical error. If it were, one would have expected then that the word would be correctly shown in *The Winnowing Fan*, published only a few months later and for which Binyon would have had galley proofs on which to mark amendments. Binyon was a highly educated man and very precise in his language and use of words. There is no doubt that had he intended ‘contemn’, then it would have been used.

There have been variations in punctuation within the poem across the years and a change in the spelling from ‘stanch’ to ‘staunch’. Dr John Hatcher, who published in 1995 an exhaustive biography of Binyon, does not even refer to any possible doubt over condemn/contemn, despite devoting a solid chapter to *For the Fallen*.

The British Society of Authors, who are executors of the Binyon estate, says the word is definitely ‘condemn’, while the British Museum, where Binyon worked, says its memorial stone also shows ‘condemn’. Both expressed surprise when told there had been some debate about the matter in Australia. Interestingly, the text used in 1916 by Sir Edward Elgar to set the poem to music has eight stanzas; the eighth being inserted between what now is regarded as the third and fourth stanzas.

The condemn/contemn issue seems to be a distinctly Australian phenomenon. Inquiries with the British, Canadian, and American Legions reveal that none has heard of the debate. Despite an exhaustive search by Commemorations Branch through Binyon’s published anthologies, no copy of the poem using ‘contemn’ was found. The two-volume set *Collected Poems*, regarded as the definitive version of Binyon’s poems, uses ‘condemn’. Although inquiries are continuing, there now seems little prospect of finding anything to support even a little the ‘contemn’ claim.

In Australia, the Returned and Services League, in its League handbook, shows ‘condemn’, while a representative of the Australian War Memorial said it always uses ‘condemn’ in its ceremonies. So how did the confusion start? No-one knows, but certainly the question has been debated for many years. Surely now it’s time to put the matter to rest.

Source: Dept. of Veterans’ Affairs via Anzac Day: traditions, facts and folklore [www.anzacday.org.au](http://www.anzacday.org.au)

## Brain Teaser Answer

What common English word, 9 letters long, and each time you remove a letter, remains an English word down to the last letter? Answer: startling - starting - staring - string - sting - sing - sin - in - i

# Medal Award Ceremony & Korean Cultural Event

The Australia Club & Hamer Hall, Victoria, 23 September 2014



## Out & About

### Austin Health Remembrance Day Service

Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital, 14 November 2014

The annual service was conducted in the Memorial Gardens and at the Kapyong-Maryang San Bridge. Among the attendees were students from Fountain Gate Secondary College, Ryan Villa, Troy Norton and Maddison Singleton along with the School Principal, Mrs Vicki Walters.



Keith Langdon receiving two *Certificates of Appreciation*, one for his service with B.C.O.F. and the other in the Korean War, from the Federal member for Deakin, the Hon. Michael Sukkar, on 7 October.



Veterans participating in the *Turn Toward Busan* ceremony in Korea paying homage and respect to *Fallen Korean Soldiers and Patriots* at the National Cemetery of Korea. KVAA Inc. Committeeman, Alan Evered and his wife, Nicole, stand with the veterans at the national urn, where incense is burned in honour and memory of the hundreds of thousands of fallen Korean soldiers, including tens of thousands whose remains were never located.



Our crack team of envelope stuffers: (l-r) Edna Dey (obscured), Vic Dey, Marina Darkin, Alan and Nicole Evered, Val and Ron Christie, Elaine Langdon (taking photo) and Keith Langdon. Absent: Don Scally.

## Farewells

Tony Best, 36396, 1RAR on 21 May 2014

Gordon James Bull, 12917, 2RAR on 9 September 2014

Raymond V. Glode, 12763, 1RAR on 3 August 2014

C. Duane Hough, 3241557, *USS Bradshaw* on 1 Sept. 2014

John R. Metcalfe, 45683, *HMAS Sydney* on 9 May 2014

George W. Reed, 27943, 1RAR on 3 October 2014

Vernon G. Ridge, A5612, 77 Squadron in late Sept. 2014

John R. Scanlon, 2401349, 3RAR in June 2014

Ronald Tuckwell, 30279, *HMAS Warramunga* & *HMAS Anzac* on 15 August 2014

Leslie M. Wasley, 2401537, 2RAR on 30 Nov. 2014

Colin D. F. Wilson, 17555, 3RAR in late Sept. 2014

Frederick J Windebank, 33730, 2RAR on 7 Nov. 2014