



# THE VOICE

August 2015 Edition

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## Cor! We Have a Sponsor.

Eagle-eyed readers of *The Voice* may notice some changes to the front page of this newsletter. For those who can't see it, try casting your eyes to the bottom left of the page. Do you C-Cor?

What is C-Cor and why do we need a sponsor?

I'm glad you asked.

Believe it or not, producing *The Voice* isn't cheap. It may look cheap, and the editor may come cheap [a six pack of beer and a couple of bags of chips and he's right for a month or two] but the 3ps – paper, printing and postage – ain't cheap. Throw in the cost of the labels and the aforementioned six pack of beer and chips, and we are talking real money. Additionally, the cost of postage has also risen, while the number of *Voices* going out has, very surprisingly, only gone down by 80 in the past five years. I suppose that if the Chinese and North Koreans had a hard time killing you it is understandable that the Grim Reaper is finding the task similarly difficult.

The upshot of all this is that expenditure is starting to outpace income. Instead of raising subscription rates and getting rid of the editor's six pack of beer and couple of bags of chips, we explored alternative sources of revenue/savings. The most obvious – Federal and State Government grants to veterans' organisations – doesn't appear to cover newsletters, printing and/or postage. The next idea, robbing a bank, suffered from the lack of volunteers willing to undertake the operation and the probability of zero return for maximum effort.

The notion of selling the KVAA Inc. Committee to a scientific establishment for medical research was vetoed by both the Committee and the lack of any interest from a scientific establishment. Conversely the idea of selling the KVAA Inc. Executive to a scientific establishment for medical research was vetoed by both the Executive and the lack of any interest from a scientific establishment.

Thus...sponsorship.

Although living down country has isolated me from the internal (some might say *infernal*) workings of the KVAA, it seems that this sponsorship deal came about through the efforts of the enterprising Mark Ahn, one of our Special members, who put his business links to

*(continues on Page 6)*

### Associate Member

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

### Affiliated Associations

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### Allied Associations

Australian Peacekeepers and Peacemaker Veterans' Association Inc.

The Voice is proudly sponsored by



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# Editorial Disclaimer

Articles in *The Voice* are printed on the understanding that, unless stated, they are the original works of the contributors or authors. The editor reserves the right to reject, edit, abbreviate, rewrite or re-arrange, any item submitted for publication. The view of contributing authors are not necessarily those of the Association, the editor or publishers of *The Voice*.

## Merchandise Available

|                            |               |    |                                  |               |    |
|----------------------------|---------------|----|----------------------------------|---------------|----|
| KVAA pocket badge          | \$10.00 ..... | \$ | Kapypong battle print            | \$ 6.00 ..... | \$ |
| KVAA lapel badge (undated) | \$10.00 ..... | \$ | The Hook 1953 battle print       | \$ 6.00 ..... | \$ |
| KVAA lapel badge (1950-57) | \$ 5.00 ..... | \$ | RAN silk print: Ships in Korea   | \$15.00 ..... | \$ |
| KVAA windscreen decal      | \$ 5.00 ..... | \$ | Tie (with KVAA Inc. logo)        | \$20.00 ..... | \$ |
| KVAA beer (stubby) holders | \$ 5.00 ..... | \$ | Car number plate surrounds (set) | \$10.00 ..... | \$ |
| Korean War map (laminated) | \$ 6.00 ..... | \$ | Korean War bumper sticker        | \$ 2.50 ..... | \$ |

**TOTAL . . . \$ \_\_\_\_\_ + \$2 pp = \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

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

Surname: ..... Given Names: .....

Address: ..... (Please Print)

State: ..... Post Code: .....

Cheques or money orders should be made out to: The Treasurer, KVAA Inc., 1 Kent Court, Werribee 3030, Victoria

## President's Report

*Editor's note: Always willing to avoid writing a bi-monthly report, our President this issue has provided me with an admitted timely alternative: his speech in the Inner Sanctum of the Shrine on 27th July.*

Sixty-two years today, the cease fire which ended the Korean War came into effect, leaving many memories for those who were involved; memories of our dearly departed KIA and, of course, all the wonderful men and women that served in Korea during the war and who have since passed on. We who are left must never forget their sacrifice.

Not only does a war take the lives of servicemen and women, but also the civilian population who get caught in the centre of every conflict. Those servicemen and women involved in a war, honouring their home country and assisting a allied country under siege, fully expect the harshness and hostility that war creates, but the civilian population caught in the middle of a conflict not of their choosing, suffer greater hardship. Cities, towns and villages were destroyed, fields laid waste and families forced to flee, or worse.

But to their credit the people of Korea rose from the destruction and devastation to become, not only a world power, but a very close friend of Australia – which proves that our efforts (and those of all the UN Countries involved in the Korean War) were not in vain.

So today while we reminisce about our time in Korea and its effect on our lives, let us also remember those South Korean civilians who also paid the supreme sacrifice, and those who survived and whose lives were forever changed.

I thank all present for your attendance today, which proves we do care and we do remember.

## Editor's Opinion

Normally this self-serving, ego-boosting section is titled *Editor's Opening* and located on Page 1. For obvious reasons it has received a name change and moved to Page 3 next to the *President's Report* for this edition. I'll let you judging whether this is merely a sideways move or an ego-deflating one.

Those of you who carefully read Page 2 each edition (and who wouldn't) will have noticed a change in our Albury-Wodonga delegate. Unfortunately, Paul Shimmen, who took over from Rocky Camps in 2012, is suffering from chronic ill-health and has tendered his resignation which the Executive has, reluctantly, accepted. The KVAA Inc. thanks Paul for his effort over the last three years – and Rocky was a hard act to follow – and all hope that your health improves. After many offers of bribes and threats of hellfire and torture if he doesn't agree, John Munro has enthusiastically rushed forwards to fill the vacancy.

Speaking of delegates...

I received this email from Col Berryman (ACT delegate) regarding the mention of Ken and Nancy Hummerstone by General Kwon in his Anzac Day address at the Stella Maris Seafarers Centre. For those who missed it, here is the relevant bit from the General...

*Captain Hummerstone came to Korea three weeks after he got married to his wife Nancy. After he died and was buried in UN Memorial Cemetery of Korea, his wife Nancy lived alone missing her husband. She wished to be buried next to her husband when she passed away in 2008 at the age of 91. Her last wish was fulfilled and she is now buried with her husband in Korea.*

And here is Col's response:

I read with interest the address of General Kwon published in our last Newsletter, and was especially surprised that he mentioned the story of Nancy and Ken Hummerston, and the internment of Nancy's ashes into Ken's grave at UNMCK. I don't know if I ever mentioned it, but it was me that was tasked by the then Repatriation Commissioner, on behalf of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and Nancy's surviving family in Tasmania, to take the Ashes over to Korea and inter them in the Grave, and perform the RSL Burial Ritual at the graveside. The arrangements for opening of the grave, etc. was made by DVA, our Embassy and, of course, the ROK Department of Patriots and Veterans Affairs. I was allocated the Task because I was at that time the Bereavements and Welfare Officer of both the ACT Branch of the RSL and the ACT & NSW TPI Associations. (I still am for that matter.)

The internment was arranged to occur during the April revisit in 2010, which was the sixty year anniversary of the outbreak of the war. Nancy travelled with me all the time. Customs also knew all about it and I had a clear run with her at both ends. I also had a special licence for her remains. Everything went according to plan, and we received a lot of publicity from the ROK Press. Our Ambassador and our Defence Attaché participated. The Attaché undressed the urn and placed her in the grave. As a matter of interest, I have attached the eulogy [*sorry, Col, too long for The Voice – editor*] that I delivered during the service. I also recall being introduced to the ROK Minister for Patriots and Veterans Affairs at the service which could have been General Kwon.

Speaking of services... Congratulations to KVAA Inc. member, Tony Guest, who, along with five other veterans (WWII and Korea) and carers, attended the Centenary of Anzac Dawn Service at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra on Anzac Day. Yes,

*(continues on Page 4)*

# Anzac Naval Commemorative Ball 2015

The Naval Commemorative Committee Victoria, invite all serving ADF personnel, Australian and Allied Veterans, your family and friends to attend the ANZAC Naval Commemorative Ball 2015.

**Venue:** Etihad Stadium Melbourne

**Date:** Saturday 17 October 2015 (Bookings and payment by **4th** September)

**Time:** 18:30 (pre Dinner Drinks & Canapés) for 19:00

**Dress:** Formal

**Cost per person:** \$130 (covers your food, beer, wine and soft drink. Spirits may be personally purchased).

## Booking Form

Please complete and send to the address below or scan and email to the email address below

Name: .....

Postal Address: .....

..... Post Code: .....

Email Address: .....

Mobile or Home Telephone No: .....

No. of Seats required: ..... @ \$130.00 per person = \$.....

If you order ten (10) tickets a full table will be reserved in your name. Tickets will be sent to the above postal address upon full payment.

### PAYMENT DETAILS:

Please pay via Bendigo Bank EFT on line or at any Bendigo Bank Branch.

**Name of Account:** Naval Commemoration Committee Vic. Account No 2

**BSB:** 633-000 **Account Number:** 152529822

If paying via Bendigo Bank EFT, it is important you identify yourself so we can track your payment.

Payments may also be by Cheque or Money Order, made out to: **Naval Commemoration Committee Vic Account No 2.** and posted to the address below.

For more information, booking or payment:

Booking Officer: David Dwyer

Email: davidgdwyer@hotmail.com / M: 0434 407 378 / H: (03) 9720 8183 / PO Box 645 Heathmont Vic. 3135

\* \* \* \* \*

*Editor's Opinion (continued from Page 3)*

120,000 other people also showed up, but few of them occupied the prime position above the Stone of Remembrance on the Parade Ground. Their four day stay in Canberra also included a guided tour of the Australian War Memorial by AWM volunteer and RAN veteran Mike Carr.

Congratulations to NSW member, Alan Hunter JP, who received an Order of Australia Medal in the Queen's Birthday honours list, now making him Alan Hunter OAM JP. This actually puts him one level up from KVAA Inc. President, Vic Dey, who also has an OAM but, alas, is not a JP. Also, for his work on behalf on Australia's MIAs, Ian Saunders received a well-deserved OAM. Speaking of honours...BKWVA President, William Speakman VC JP, received the Republic of Korea's highest decoration for military bravery and valour at a ceremony in Seoul on 27 July.

Some sad news reached me via Merv Heath, our NSW Delegate. Thomas Henry Hollis passed away in June. In April's *Voice* we put out a call for information on him on behalf of Annie Flagey of the French KVA and, along with sending her some information, was able to inform her that Tom Hollis maintained a Facebook page. For those who missed it, Hollis was one of the few remaining Australian veterans who was a POW, spending most of his 959 days of war service as a "guest" of the Chinese.

# 11 September 1952

by Larry G. Francisco

6400084, 3RAR, 14 June 1952 – 20 September 1953

1 Platoon was on a knoll in front of 187, a new position that had to be dug. Lovely autumn days, things pretty quiet in the valley, some hard physical work to keep us occupied and low casualties – pretty good soldiering. Plenty of shelling but nothing directed at us, so that was all right. At night, we dug fighting pits on the forward slope, in good text book style carting the spoil away for disposal on the rear slope – very hard bloody work – then we laid miles of tanglefoot wire. Not a bad position. We dug pits for water, ammo, latrines but had only just started on hootchies. 1 Section had dug one, put logs and a layer of sand bags on, and also found an old Chinese dugout.

In the meantime, the rest of us were sleeping in pup-tents. We even had a fresh meal sent up, the first since we'd been in the line; meat balls and potatoes. We collected our grub, settled in little groups in the hollows, and in came a couple of whizbangs. The air was thick with flying meatballs and boiled potatoes. In an instant we were gone like rabbits. Not a soul to be seen and dinner was still floating back to earth.

Those two shots were the sighters.

Stood down in the morning. It was my birthday the next day. Half way through a C ration breakfast, the first one came in. Charlie started on the forward slope casually knocking out our carefully concealed pits. The OP came tearing over the hill before they got round to the one he was in. We went to our incomplete hootchie, a bit uneasy. The head cover we had wouldn't stop a grenade. A few shells came over but weren't landing too close. Freddie Williams was trying to get a close up photo of a shell burst. The rest of us were getting pretty apprehensive. Half decided to get into the Chinese dugout, the remainder stayed in the uncompleted pit.

Then Charlie got on the ball. He really plastered the place, nice and easy. It went on all day. He blew up the tents, the water, the ammo, the shit house. We were getting peppered. I remember thinking, "I'm 21 and I'll never be 22."

Our Lieutenant, Geoff Smith, came around to check on us, got blown over and said a few choice words. The Chow dugout took a hit, the entrance collapsed and we had to dig those inside out. They came coughing, spluttering and very dazed. By now we were in a trench, just waiting to cop it or for it to stop. It was a very long day.

Around sunset Charlie called it a day by taking a couple of shots at a nearby Centurion tank, which was behind us to the right. [The tank was from the British Tank Regiment and was dug in on the ridge line]. We presumed these were sighters because they would be able to see the sparks as the shells exploded off the 10 inches of armour. Some of the shrapnel started a little fire which spread to the tank's machine gun ammunition. One of the troopers jumped out and very gamely started shovelling dirt on the exploding ammo. That was when the last shell of the day went down the open hatch of the tank. There was just a muffled boom. That was it for the Centurion and its crew.

We came out in the dusk. The position was devastated. There were shell holes everywhere and our gear was in rags. I had the crown of a brand new slouch hat blown out. (Fortunately, I was nowhere near it at the time). I couldn't believe that the platoon was not wiped out, let alone had not taken a casualty.

I went back to the Ridge that night. The tank was being hauled out. Ray Simpson's section was taking care of the surviving trooper; they had the poor bugger well drunk and just about calmed down. Start off a hero and kill your pals. About a week later we got issued with tin hats, as if that was going to make any difference.

First published in *The Voice*, December 1997. This is an edited version.

## Henry VIII's Contribution to the Space Race

The earliest space suits were basically adaptations of the high-altitude pressure suits worn by aircraft pilots. But as the American space program progressed, more sophisticated gear was needed, particularly for walking on the Moon. The technical challenge was making a fully enclosed suit that would permit the astronaut maximum mobility and medieval armour was one historical precedent. The Tower of London had an especially fine example in the form of tournament armour made for Henry VIII. The armour was designed for foot combat, not horseback, and would therefore have no gaps at all. Each plate fitted flawlessly over the next, giving the wearer complete freedom of movement (as long as the wearing could bear the 42 kilo weight, that is). One NASA engineer supposedly said he wished they'd known about Henry's armour sooner as it would have saved time and money. NASA acknowledged its debt in the 1970s when it sent a replica Apollo suit to London to be photographed next to the armour.

Source: *BBC History Magazine* Vol.13, No. 7, July 2012

# Army Remembrance Pin

This pin acknowledges the service of men and women who have died while in Army.

The Army Remembrance Pin, a gift from the Chief of Army, is a symbol for the families of all Army members who have died while in service, both domestically and on operations, since 3 Sept. 1945. The pin also demonstrates the Army's deep appreciation of the members' and their families' contributions to the Australian Army.

The following family members are automatically eligible to receive the Army Remembrance Pin on application: spouse or recognised interdependent partner; children, including stepchildren; and parents and/or step-parents.

**How will I receive the Army Remembrance Pin?** The application form AE606 – Application for the Army Remembrance Pin allows applicants to choose between having the Pin dispatched to the nominated contact address by mail, or where practicable, to be presented by a current serving member of the Australian Army from a unit within the applicant's area.

Where an eligible applicant has requested presentation of the Army Remembrance Pin, Army Headquarters will identify a suitable presenting officer and the applicant will be advised by mail of the outcome of their application and the details of the presenting officer. The Army Remembrance Pin will be dispatched to the presenting officer who will contact the applicant directly and organise a time and location for presentation. Presentations are intended to be a private activity between the Australian Army and the recipient.

Note: Presentation by a member of the Australian Army is subject to the availability of a suitable person, as well as the operational and training commitments of units.

Where a presentation is not possible, the applicant will be advised and the Army Remembrance Pin will be dispatched by mail.

A person who is not listed as an eligible family member may apply to have special consideration to receive the Army Remembrance Pin. These applications will be considered by the Approval Authority on a case-by-case basis.

Family members who believe they are eligible to receive the Remembrance Pin are requested to complete form *AE606 – Application for the Army Remembrance Pin* (<http://www.army.gov.au>). Application forms can be emailed directly to: [army.remembrancepin@defence.gov.au](mailto:army.remembrancepin@defence.gov.au) or sent by mail to: Army Remembrance Pin, R1-3-A051, PO Box 7901, CANBERRA BC, ACT, 2610. Please note: Applications for the Army Remembrance Pin are to include a certified 'True Copy' of the deceased member's Certificate of Service.



*Cor! We Have a Sponsor (continued from Page 1)*

good use. Thank you, Mark.

The sponsorship will pay for production of *The Voice* for the rest of 2015 and into 2016 and help fund Mark Ahn's AKYA (Australian-Korean Youth Association).

So what does C-Cor do? The clue is in its full name: C-Core Broadband.

Communications is its core business (hence C-Cor), and by that, I mean, telecommunications networking (broadband, satellite and cable and all their permutations). If you are setting up or upgrading a business, company or institution of some sort (educational, government, etc.) then C-Cor Broadband can provide in installation, maintenance and repair of the required communications infrastructure from the optic fibre cabling in the walls to the dish on the roof. They even provide technical training.

Now most of you reading this probably date from the time when a communications system meant land-line telephones and a switchboard with a b&w television in the staff lounge. But your grandchildren are living in a world where businesses need – and private consumers demand – HDTV content via 3Ghz wireless Broadband networks. You mightn't know what that means but, trust me, most of you grandkids do, and even if they don't, they make use of such systems each day, and even if they don't, they soon will or currently use similar or alternate communications methods. Whatever you need, C-Cor can provide – even land-line telephones and a switchboard with a b&w television in the staff lounge...Ok, maybe not a b&w television. You may have to settle for a colour flatscreen.

Believe it or not, there is a connection, albeit a tenuous one, between the KVAA Inc. and C-Cor Broadband. The company has been around for nearly 25 years, and since the 2006, with John Goddard as Managing Director. John Goddard is ex-RAAF, having spent 13 years in uniform and his father was a Korea War veteran.

So if any of your grandchildren run or intend to start a business, or even work for one looking to upgrade their communications infrastructure, then tell them to C-Cor Broadband.



## Battleships in the Pacific

(A United States – Japan WWII comparison)

On paper, both sides were just about evenly matched. The Japanese had an advantage early in the war because of superior crew training, tactics and, in some cases (as with torpedoes), weapons.

However, battleships were never really decisive during the Pacific War. They were the slowest (outside of the “combat” transports which carried ground troops) warships in use. Their size made them good targets. Most of the decisive surface actions were fought at night in restricted waters. Not good conditions for using 30,000 ton battleships.

More easily used in this role were cruisers, which were faster than the battleships and averaged about 10,000 tons. Even more actively used were the destroyers. These ships were the “infantry” of the Pacific Naval War, and suffered accordingly.

Japanese battleships were somewhat heavier than US vessels, although American ships were, on the average, more heavily armed. In addition, the Japanese had four “fast” battleships which could keep up with carriers and cruisers.

Japanese battleships were from 31,000 to 64,000 tons in weight and armed with eight to twelve large calibre guns (14 inches in most cases, 18 inches in the largest ships). Their secondary armament consisted of twelve to eighteen 5.5” to 6” guns plus twenty or so 25mm anti-aircraft guns. Speed varied from 25 to 30 knots.

American battleships fell naturally into two groups. First was a collection of World War I vintage vessels armed primarily with 14” guns, though one had 12” pieces. These tended to be very slow, more heavily protected, and equipped with huge amounts of anti-aircraft guns (as compared with the older Japanese ships).

Most carried from eight to sixteen 5”, something around forty 40mm and upwards of fifty 20mm guns. Some of the very oldest vessels also carried from six to ten 5” single-purpose guns as well. They displaced from 26,000 to 36,000 tons and generally served as gunfire support ships in as much as none of them could keep up with the aircraft carrier task forces, since their speed was only some 20-21 knots under the best of conditions.

The second group of American battleships comprised vessels completed from 1941 on. These were uniformly fast vessels, of about 28 to 30 knots and were armed with nine 16” guns apiece. Displacement was 35,000 tons.

These vessels provided excellent anti-aircraft coverage for the carrier forces, mounting sixteen to twenty 5” guns, from fifty to a hundred 40mm, and some forty to seventy 20mm pieces. In addition to providing anti-aircraft coverage for the fleet, these vessels were designed to meet and fight the Japanese battle fleet should the opportunity arise.

Source for both articles: *Strategy & Tactics* magazine No. 29

## Submarines in the Pacific

(A United States – Japan WWII comparison)

Both sides had a considerable number of submarines on hand at the beginning of the war and these proved a mixed bag. The Japanese badly mishandled theirs, attempting to use them against “military” targets exclusively, rather than against shipping. The US, of course, loosed its submarines against Japan’s merchant marine. In effect, the submarines won the war.

Japanese submarines were not materially inferior to American ones and were, in some respects, superior. Most displaced from 1,140 to 2,900 tons, with occasional units above and below these figures. Deck armament was usually one or two guns of from 3” to 5.5” calibre, supported by up to as many as four 25mm anti-aircraft guns, though occasionally these were missing. From four to eight 21” torpedo tubes were carried, generally with from two to three torpedoes per tube available.

Speed was from 14 to 23 knots on the surface and from 7 to 10 knots submerged, which was rather typical for the period. Endurance tended to be good and many Japanese submarines carried mines, which were rare among American submarines.

American submarines did not differ greatly from Japanese ones, though there probably were more older ones on hand. They displaced from 500 – for the very oldest – to 2,730 tons, with a deck armament usually comprising one gun of 3” to 5” calibre, though three vessels carried two 6” pieces. From four to ten 21” torpedo tubes were carried, with one or more sets of reloads.

Unfortunately, the American submarine torpedo was rather poor at the beginning of the war and time was required to remedy the faults in the system. Speed was from 14 to 21 knots on the surface and from 8 to 11 submerged, fairly typical of the period. The average endurance of the US submarines at the start of the war was less than that of their Japanese counterparts.

Fundamentally, there were few marked differences between Japanese and American warships. What made the difference was the degree of training, tactical skill, and the material advantages gained from superior torpedoes and such. This helped the Japanese keep ahead for the early part of the war. But as the US Navy became more proficient, more sophisticated, and more technically skillful, these advantages melted away.

\* \* \*

# Notices

## Navy Week - Bowling Challenge

The Royal Aust. Navy and the Naval Commemorative Committee of Victoria are calling all bowlers to come and enjoy a day on the greens as they invigorate the Navy Week bowls tournament. This event goes back to 1977 and has had many winners from across the Melbourne region.

**Date:** Friday 23 October 2015

**Time:** 0930 with official welcome.

**Place:** Mulgrave Country Club, Melbourne

**Format:** Fours (3 games of 12 ends)

The cost is \$100 per team which includes a catered lunch and afternoon tea supplied by our host club. All monies raised after the cost of the event will be used as prize money for the day's event.

For an application form contact the Editor

## KVAA Inc. Calendar of Events:

### August - December 2015

- 22 August: St. George's Church, St. Kilda service at 2pm  
(Contact Ralph Wollmer 95838134 for details)
- 26 August: Committee / General Meeting at Stella Maris
- 30 Sept.: Committee / General Meeting at Stella Maris
- 4 October: Austin Health Remembrance Gardens 1100 hours  
Refreshments to follow. Wreaths/flowers can be laid and medals worn. Enter Gate 9 Waterdale Road (ticket at boom gate, parking free of charge)
- 8 October: *Voice* Mail Out at 1330 hours Ringwood RSL
- 23-26 Oct: Korean War veterans reunion in Canberra
- 28 October: Committee / General Meeting at Stella Maris
- 11 Nov.: Remembrance Day
- 14 Nov.: Austin Health Remembrance Day Service 1045 hours.  
(To Be Confirmed)
- 25 Nov.: Committee / General Meeting at Stella Maris
- 2 December: Christmas Luncheon (Certificate & Pin Presentation)
- 9 December: Geelong Christmas Lunch
- 10 Dec.: *Voice* Mail Out at 1330 hours Ringwood RSL
- General/Committee meeting and AGM are held at 10:30 am at the Stella Maris Seafarers Centre, 600 Lt. Collins Street. No meeting in December.

### Navy Week (17-23 October) Program

- 18 October: Seafarers Church Service St. Pauls's Cathedral 1030 hours followed by the Navy Week wreath laying service at 1245 hours in the Sanctuary, Shrine of Remembrance.
- 19 October: Golf Day, Waverley
- 20 October: HMAS Cerberus Family Day
- 21 October: Seminar, The Shrine of Remembrance
- 22 October: HMAS Goorangai Service, Queenscliff RSL 1100 hours
- 23 October: Bowls - Mulgrave

## Seeking...

Information on David Walter Gillam (6179, 3RAR). Major Allison McGrath, the granddaughter of David, is seeking any information on his service in Japan and/or Korea or any photographs anyone might have.

Gillam was posted to 67AIB (3RAR) on 15 Feb. 1949 and sailed with the battalion on the *USNS Aiken Victory* to Korea on 28 September 1950 and left on 12 July 1951. He was absent from the unit during the Battle of Kapyong being in 1RHU, Japan from 9 April to 7 May 1951 for unknown reasons.

Allison has his complete record of service but no detail of his activities or company/platoon in 3RAR. He enlisted in Tasmania and after Korea service served in Tasmania in a number of postings finally being discharged as a WO1 on 27 August 1972. He passed away in 1995.

If you can help please contact Peter Scott at pscott@kern.com.au or call the Editor on (03) 5997 6240 (leave a message).

## 2RAR Association

Membership of 2RAR Association is open to all serving and ex-serving members of 2RAR and 2/4RAR and attached personnel. Our objective is to perpetuate the close bonds of mateship and *esprit de corps* and to preserve and continue the memory of those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Contact Gordon Hurford  
on (07) 5443 5583 or  
2rarsecretary@gmail.com

## HMAS Bataan Reunion

The HMAS Bataan Veterans Assoc. of Aust. Annual Reunion is being held 10-13 September 2015, in Coolangatta, QLD. For details contact John Laughton JP on (03) 5904 9457 or 0417 336 423 or by email: johnfl@aapt.net.au

## Scarves for Sale

Winter is here. Time to rug up, and what better way than with a woolen scarf (with coloured vertical stripes, representing the nations who served in the Korean War).

Want one? Call Tom Parkinson on 9350 6608 or at the Pascoe Vale RSL on 9354 6364. The cost of the scarf is \$35 plus \$5.20 p&p.



*Here's an interesting piece sent to me by Ian Saunders. It is the declassified affidavit of Private William E Curtis, dated 17 March 1954, and sworn in Boston, Massachusetts, regarding his capture and treatment by the Chinese. Note: this is a verbatim and unedited transcription. Curtis was not a writer, nor particularly well educated, and the text frequently reflects this.*

## **The Affidavit of William Curtis**

I was assigned to Company "E", 9th Regiment, 2nd Division and was captured 19 February 1953, at 1930 hrs in a valley near Podong, Korea by the Chinese Communist (CCF). There were approximately 150 Chinese soldiers that ambushed us. During the capture, the Chinese stuck their fingers in my eyes, stuck straw up my nose, punched and kicked me and threw me in a river. During all of this I was wounded in the forehead by a concussion grenade. They applied no medication whatsoever nor any assistance.

The Chinese Communist took us in a cave and questioned us about positions, weapons, outfits and personnel afterward marching us approximately 3 miles northwest to a bunker. They threatened to shoot us if we did not keep the same pace as they. I was extremely weak from the wound and the beating, and because of the threat left me in great fear. They kept us in a bunker for 3 days forcing me to operate an American Radio Set SCR 300 at gun point. The CCF wanted to know all incoming messages but I falsified the incoming messages and gave them false information. They fed us (two Americans and one ROK soldier attached to us) a bowl of rice with one or two cups of water.

On the third day they took us out of the cave for the purpose of taking pictures. The same night they marched us approximately 10 miles north. We left at 1700 hrs and arrived at 0700 hrs the following morning. We arrived at a Korean Village that was a transportation center. I don't know the name but it was about 13 to 15 miles from our lines because we could hear the artillery firing on "Old Baldy."

They held me and the sergeant with seven ROK soldiers in the village for 30 days. During the 30 days stay a female interrogator questioned me for approximately 15 days of the 30 days, on and off. They fed me a bowl of rice a day mixed with other food called sorghum. They threatened that if I didn't give any information they would shoot me. I have been slapped occasionally by a Chinese officer, is equivalent to a major, for not telling the truth.

On about the 29th day they gathered 15 Americans, 18 ROK soldiers and me to have a group picture taken. I believe this village was a collecting station. On the 30th day we marched from 1700 hrs to about 2000 hrs at a distance, I believe, of 3 miles northeast. They place us under an underpass and we waited until 2100 hrs when two trucks arrived. They loaded us on the trucks and moved us in an unknown direction. We rode all that night and all the following day until 1300 hrs. At 2300 hrs while traveling by truck our convoy was attacked by a light bomber that dropped anti-personnel bombs which lasted approximately ten minutes.

At about 0900 hrs the following morning, while en route by truck we were strafed and bombed by approximately ten American Jets. This strafing occurred for approximately 20 minutes in a large city. We loaded again on the trucks at approximately 0930 hrs moved generally north for approximately 40 or 50 miles arriving at a small village at about 1300 hrs. We stayed at the village until dusk and then loaded on trucks again.

The convoy followed cable lines for about 3 miles and then continued parallel with a stream. The convoy consisted of 34 PWs: 1 Canadian, 3 Britishs, 2 Australians, 10 Americans and 16 ROK's. My truck carried 6 Chinese guards, 1 Chinese officer, 2 Chinese nurses, 1 Chinese doctor and 1 55 gal drum of gasoline.

We arrived at about 1900 hrs at a small camp that was well guarded and was a supply depot. At this camp we were forced to load rice. We were held in this camp for 30 days, during which time they forced us to work by picking up stones approximately 3 miles from camp and occasional interrogations.

They fed us fairly well although we had a few cases of malnutrition. From our camp we viewed numerous dog fights between our planes and the Chinese planes but everytime our planes were present they would send us indoors. A SFC Burt O'Donnell, from the 9th Regiment, 2d Division was kept separated from us for about 28 days and was given very little food and wasn't allowed to speak to anyone. There were 25 Columbians, 14 Britishs, 4 Australians and approximately 27 Americans in this camp.

At about 1700 hrs 3 May 53 the Chinese loaded 52 PW's on 2 American and 2 Chinese trucks, each truck having 4 guards and 1 Chinese officer. We traveled until 1500 hrs, 4 May 53 and arrived at an area which had approximately three or four villages and were considered a part of Camp #5, which was near the Manchurian border. We crossed a vein of the Yalu River. We slept over night and left at about 0800 hrs 5 May 53 arriving in the main part of Camp #5 at 1815 hrs. Arriving at Camp #5 on 5 May 53 which is located approximately 2

*(continues on Page 10)*

miles south of the Chinese border.

This Camp is a part of a big city named Pyokdong. The City has harbors due to the fact that I have witnessed loading and unloading of large ships. There were approximately 1250 PW's in this Camp. The Camp consisted of 6 companies. My Company (Co #6) consisted of 22 Columbians, 1 Filipino, 8 Turkishs, 1 Canadian, 6 British, 3 Australians and 37 Americans. There approximately 10,000 or 15,000 Chinese soldiers surrounding the camp. Within the Camp we had a rotation of 6 guards on duty at all time guarding us. There were 8 Chinese officers. The Officers worked in the capacity of platoon leaders and asst platoon leaders within the company. The Company Commander (equivalent to a major) lived across from our barrack.

I have witnessed an American body being brought from the Chinese mainland. The American was on a stretcher and had blonde hair. When we observed the body the Chinese soldiers covered his face with a blanket and chased us indoors yelling that he wasn't an American. While our stay at Camp #5 they forced us to write an autobiography answering all questions such as: how much money we have; parents disposition, etc. I have also seen two Russians in this Camp. One of them spoke to Turkish soldiers. I have witnessed a General of short and stumpy Chinese nature with gold teeth in his mouth, and with associates that were neither Chinese nor North Korean.

The food, clothing and medical care was fair with the exception of an inoculation we received that we didn't know what it was for. We had five buildings constituting our company (Co #6). The other buildings varying in number of which I do not know the exact number. They were built of clay and one story high.

The position of the Camp was located in a valley with a sector of the camp on high grounds. We were surrounded by hills and mountains, the hills were comprised mostly of vegetation and the mountains of rocks. An Allied cemetery was located on a hill approximately 100 yds north of our camp. We had a vein of the Yalu River approximately 50 yds north of the camp which we used on occasions for drinking and washing. The Yalu River, as I stated early was approximately 2 miles northwest of our camp. Our location is similar to a peninsula due to our front and sides being separated from the mainland by a stream and river, part of the Yalu river. Our rear had no water cutting us off.

Immediately after arriving in Camp #5 we went through an oral lecture which gradually developed into 7 main groups (PW's) with a Chinese officer bribing initially with candy, cigarettes etc. One English soldier (George Smith) attached to an Austrian outfit became a political communist lecturer and gave lectures favoring the Communists. He also made a radio broadcast and received approximately 75000 Yens not in money but on paper, granting him the use of privilege to purchase up to that amount. SFC Burt O'Donnell (same O'Donnell mentioned early in the statement) was removed from Camp #5 and placed in solitary in a location that is unknown because he wasn't cooperative with the Communists. He wrote letters home making jokes of the Chinese and never answering the Communist questions truthfully.

On 27 June 53 they told us that the treaty had been signed and that we are going to be the first one to move out. At 0500 hrs 1 Aug 53 we walked up to the assembly point of the Camp and listened to a General on rules and regulations. We then loaded on trucks to a railroad depot. Then we loaded on freight cars with 55 men per car with doors shut and no windows. We traveled for 2½ days congested like a bunch of cattles. We arrived at Kaesong on the 3 Aug 53 at 2300 hrs. The following day we were given a shave and hair cut, compelled to take a bath and given a change of clothing. We loading in trucks on 5 Aug 53 about 1030 hrs and arrived at Panmunjon at about 1100 hrs and were greeted by our forces.

## **Horse Power**

During all of World War II, the German armed forces mobilized a total of about 2.75 million horses. Of those, some 1.25 million were typically in service on any given day. The branch of the army in charge of maintaining the animals was the Veterinary Inspectorate, which was organized into 236 veterinary companies, 48 veterinary hospitals and 68 equine transport units. The total manpower in those formations included 37,000 blacksmiths and 125,000 other personnel. The same officer, General Curt Schulze, was in charge of the inspectorate throughout the war.

Source: *Strategy & Tactics* magazine, No.279 Mar.-April 2013

## **Big Idea, Nil Result**

Impressed by the heavy Soviet tanks encountered by his invading troops during Operation Barbarossa, Hitler early in 1942 sketched out the design for a super tank intended to outclass anything the Red Army could hope to field. It was to have weighed 1,500 tons, and it was to have been armed with two 80cm (30.5 inches) forward-facing cannon and two 15cm (six-inch) guns in rear-mounted turrets. Its frontal armour was to be 250mm (9.8 inches) thick, and it was to be powered by four submarine-class diesel engines. The vehicle was neither named nor developed beyond the preliminary sketch stage.

Source: *Strategy & Tactics* magazine No. 284

## How You Receive *The Voice*

*ATTENTION* members of the Longmuir, Lehman and Moseley families plus individuals like Allison Welsby and Michael McKeown – in short, anyone who receives *The Voice* by snail-mail and who has an Internet address. The Editor has finally figured out a way of shrinking *The Voice* from a 8-20MB Adobe *Indesign* document to a manageable 1.2 to 2.2MB sized pdf.

So far 85 members and others receive their *Voice* electronically. I appreciate that you may prefer the mailed version rather than reading it on the screen or printing out your own copy; however, opting to receive it electronically means you receive *The Voice* in colour and 5-7 days before everyone else gets their mailed version.

If you don't mind receiving *The Voice* via email could you simply email me back with a **Yes**.

## Medallion Update

*KVAA Inc. statement re:  
the 60th Anniversary of the*

*Korean War Commemoration Medallion*

Our February issue of *The Voice* invited Korean War Veterans to attend our 2015 AGM in Melbourne and have the opportunity to be presented with the *60th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration Medallion*. Names and the time served in Korea were required “immediately” in order to produce sufficient quantities for those wishing to attend and receive. Registered Australian Korea Veteran organisations were all notified on 6 February 2015 suggesting they contact those preparing the Medallions for presentation to their own members.

General Young Hae Kwon made presentations:

- At our Melbourne Anzac Day reunion to 27 responding veterans.
- Travelled to Queensland 15-18 May for another 29 presentations

Melbourne Consul-General Hongju Jo made presentations:

- on 27th May 2015, presented Medallions to a further 25 Veterans

KVAA Inc. President, Vic Dey, and Claire Kwon, daughter of General Young Hae Kwon made presentations:

- the remaining 18 Medallions at the Korean Church of Melbourne War Memorial Service on 21 June 2015.

Any that could not be presented will either be posted or delivered to those who responded but were unable to attend. KVAA Inc. are NOT the custodians of this Medallion

## Punching Above Its Weight

The first naval ship *Jervis Bay* started life as a Tasmanian roll-on-roll-off passenger/cargo vessel. Built to the order of the Commonwealth Government Line of Steamers (CGLS), the ship reached Australia for the first time in November 1922 and thereafter she normally made three round trips from Australia to the UK each year.

Following a Government decision to disband the CGLS, the five ‘Bays’ and the two ‘Dales’ (the cargo ships *Ferndale* and *Fordsdale*) were sold in 1928 to the White Star Line Ltd for a total of 1.9 million pounds.

On 24 August 1939, *Jervis Bay* was requisitioned at London by the Admiralty and taken in hand for conversion to an armed merchant cruiser. Captain Edward Fegen, RN was appointed to command of the vessel. From her entry into operational service with the Royal Navy until her last ill-fated voyage, *Jervis Bay* was employed in escorting Atlantic convoys.

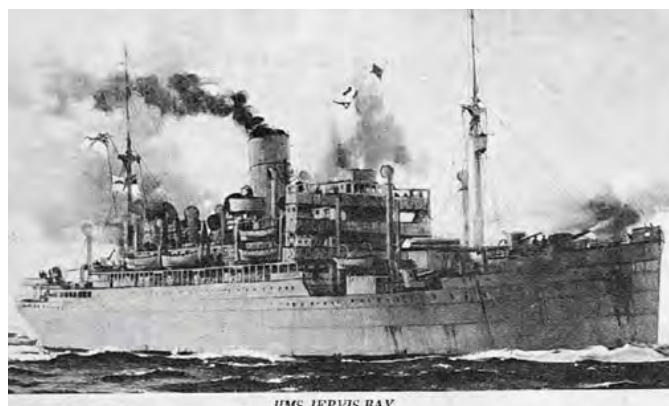
On 5 November 1940, convoy HX84, comprising 37 ships escorted by *Jervis Bay* was en route from Halifax to Britain. During the evening, the convoy was attacked by the German pocket-battleship *Admiral Scheer* at approximately the mid-point of the voyage.

*Admiral Scheer*'s main armament was six 11-inch and eight 5.9-inch guns. *Jervis Bay*, in contrast, carried seven 6-inch guns as her main weapon.

The Commodore of the convoy ordered all ships to scatter and to use their smoke-making apparatus to cover their dispersal, whilst *Jervis Bay* engaged *Admiral Scheer*. Although hopelessly outclassed, *Jervis Bay* held off the pocket-battleship for over an hour before she was sunk with the loss of 198 lives. The time gained by her stand confined the number of merchant ships lost to five. (The convoy had originally comprised 38 ships, but one had straggled and was not involved in the attack).

On November 22, 1940, the *London Gazette* announced the posthumous award of the Victoria Cross to Captain Fegen “for valour in challenging hopeless odds and giving his life to save the many ships it was his duty to protect.”

Source: *Navy News* Vol.20, No.11, 17 June 1977



HMS JERVIS BAY



# Out & About

## Korean Church of Melbourne, 21 June 2015



## Evered's Odyssey July 2015

Long time readers of *The Voice* will know that this time every year (that is, winter) KVAA Inc. Secretary, Alan Evered, and our unofficial "Assistant Secretary", wife Nicole, don their guise as Grey Nomads and head north where mercury actually rises above freezing.



(l-r) Rex Hoole being presented with medallion and certificate, John Toohey (President, Goondiwindi RSL) and Alan Evered. Note the missing shoes.

(l-r) John Robinson, President, Kilcoy RSL shaking hands with Kelly Frawley, our Queensland (Kilcoy region) delegate.



Nicole & Alan at the Alexandra Headland Korea War Memorial



(continues on Page 13)



## Ceasefire Ceremony Photos

62nd Anniversary Korean War Ceasefire, The Shrine, 27 July 2015

Despite some technical issues – a wreath that kept toppling sideways, some trouble with the P.A., and the program being slightly out of step with reality – not to forget the cold, and a deluge of rain the night before and that morning – the service in the Inner Sanctum of the Shrine was a sombre and touching affair.



Shrine representative, Adrian Lombardo, opens proceedings.



Guest speaker, Consul-General Hongju Jo



KVA Inc. Committeeman, John Moller, after placing a wreath.

## HMAS Wort by Ian Hughes

A series of cartoons which appeared in *Navy News* in the 1980s-2000s (now in public domain).



## St. George

How many of you know about St George? He was a Turkish-born Roman Soldier, beheaded on April 23rd, AD303 for refusing to help persecute and torture Christians. He became England's patron saint in 1415, when Henry V's soldiers won the battle of Agincourt after praying for the saint's aid. St George is also the patron saint of ex-Soviet State Georgia which uses the cross on its flag. St George is the patron saint of farm workers, butchers, soldiers, archers, riders, shepherds, saddle makers & scouts. Given that Saint George was originally a soldier, the soldiers, archers, riders, saddle makers and scouts part is understandable. But farm workers, butchers and shepherds? It seems a tenuous connection. On the other hand, if you do need a saint to protect you, why not make it a warrior.



## Tax Cartoons



## I Gave you ONE job...



## Farewells

- John James Boughen, 12524, 1RAR on 12 March 2015
- Donald J. Daniels, A36549, *HMAS Sydney* on 26 May 2015
- Thomas Henry Hollis, 2400311, 3RAR on 20 June 2015
- Ian Mangan, 5400123, 3RAR on 27 April 2015
- Rex William Murfet, 6845, 2RAR on 28 April 2015
- Allan A. Shepherd, 28055, *HMAS Shoalhaven* on 28 Feb. 2015
- Alexander P. Thompson, 33723 1RAR in early June 2015
- James Gifford Woods, 13325, 1RAR on 13 March 2015

**Correction:** In the June 2014 edition of *The Voice* we listed Raymond C. Maley (*HMAS Sydney*) as having passed away on 30th October 2014. The actual date was 8 October.

## 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