



THE VOICE

December 2016 Edition

Contents:

Editor's Opening	1
Life Members	2
Directory	2
Editorial Disclaimer	2
Merchandise Available	2
Report on the President	3
Dedication of Service Speech	3
The British Rommel	4
Private Derby	4
Korean War Memoirs	5
Ripped From the Headlines...	6
There's Tension On the Towline	7
Notices	8
New Xmas Health & Safety Rules	9
The 2016 IgNobel Prizes	9
The RAN's First Fight	10
Between the Wars	10
From the (AWM) Vault	11
Humour	12
Ties That Bind	14
Out & About	14
Farewells	14
The Ode	14

Editor's Opening

Welcome to the December (Christmas) edition of *The Voice*. The KVAA Christmas luncheon has come and gone but, this being written before the event, I can't tell you how it went. Photos next issue.

Our Padre (and Padre to many other associations), John Brownbill, was the only Australian on the early November re-visit to Korea. Originally on the standby list, he was bumped up at the last moment. See the back page for a couple of photos.

We enjoyed better representation with the July re-visit, fielding a team of ten veterans (six of them members of the KVAA). One thing that struck me was that this venture wasn't sponsored by the South Korean government. The credit (and expense) goes to Lee Joong Keun whom *Voice* readers with a good memory will remember me mentioning in last issue. He is the editor of the book, *Korean War 1125* – oh, and he's also the President and Chairman of the Board of Booyoung Co., Ltd., a civil engineering construction company. Not only did Lee Joong Keun sponsor the visit, he also met with the veterans at the Booyoung Co., Ltd. headquarters in Seoul.

All 500+ photos and some digital video of this July 2016 re-visit will, hopefully, be up on the KVAA Inc. website by the time this edition of *The Voice* hits the streets. If not, try later in the month.

The editor's computer blew up (literally) in October. There was a bang as a power surge shorted the motherboard and potentially damaged the hard drives. Fortunately, the editor makes/updates copies of all data, backing it up to memory stick and a separate hard drive. Unlike a certain KVAA Treasurer (whom to spare embarrassment we shall not name) whose computer last year suffered a similar fate and he lost forever important membership information. Moral of story: back up everything.

Merv Heath's article on Monte Bello last issue resonated with at least one reader. I received the following email from Kath Richards...

I read with interest the article on Monte Bello Island blast. My husband was on one of the ships there, I think it could have been the HMAS Warrego, he served on her more than once. I have a photo he took from the ship and told me he was 12 miles out at the time. The crew had to turn their

(continues on Page 8)

Boss: You've got to find a way to make fewer mistakes on the job.

Worker: OK. How about I come in later in the morning.

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President's Report

Report on President

For those who don't know, when disembarking from his car on 3rd November in Albert Park for a Kimchi Seminar in support of the Melbourne Korean War Memorial Project, Vic was struck by a cyclist.

Both President and cyclist felt the impact. Being a Korea War veteran, Vic brushed himself down and continued on to the function. The cyclist, not quite as tough, was taken by ambulance to hospital.

However, the next morning, Vic was feeling the consequences of the collision and ended up ended up at Warringal Hospital in Heidelberg, in severe pain and unable to move his injured foot/leg.

He's now through the worst and recovering. We know this because he's complaining about being bored. So, in lieu of a President's Report, here's a relevant joke...

A pedestrian stepped off the curb and into the road one day and promptly gets knocked flat by a passing cyclist who wasn't paying attention to the road ahead.

"You were really lucky there," said the cyclist.

"What on earth are you talking about! That really hurt!" said the pedestrian, still on the pavement, rubbing his leg.

"Well, usually I drive a bus!" the cyclist replied.

At a lecture series a very poor speaker was on the platform. As he was speaking, people in the audience began to get up and leave. After about ten minutes there was only one man left. Finally the man stopped speaking and asked the man why he remained to the end. "I'm the next speaker" was the reply.

Dedication of Service Speech

Annual Commemorative Service, Canberra, 28-30 Oct.

Written and delivered by Colin Berryman OAM

I would like to acknowledge the presence of our esteemed guests, His Excellency, Kyoung Ha Woo, the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea; Colonel Choi Sungman, the Defence Attaché, of the Republic of Korea, and the Councillor to the Republic of Korea Embassy, Mr Jin Hae Kim. It is so significant to have you here to celebrate this service, in memory of our nation's contribution in the Korean War and its aftermath, until Australia withdrew the main body of its forces in 1956.

This Service is dedicated to you veterans who have been able to make it to this 2016 reunion, you swiftly decreasing, "Band of Brothers". Overall, there were 17,850 of us who served in Korea, from 1950 until 1956. Now there are less than 3,000 of us still alive. The years that have elapsed have taken their toll upon us. But we still remember the period of our service, which was significant for our nation, and for the nation we fought to protect: The Republic of Korea.

We remember with fondness our comrades who have left us, most importantly, those who paid the supreme sacrifice during their service in Korea. There was a total of 356 who lost their lives, 340 before the Ceasefire on 27 July 1953, and 18 after. As a matter of interest to us all, 281 lie in the beautiful United Nations Military Cemetery in Busan, Republic of Korea; 32 in the Commonwealth Cemetery at Yokohama, in Japan; one is buried in the sea, off the coast of North Korea and, sadly, 43 others have no known graves, 2 lost somewhere in South Korea, and 40 in North Korea, half of those, known to have fallen in the DMZ.

I would also like to welcome the family members of our "Band of Brothers", who have made it here today, especially our wives and the widows of deceased veterans, who have come along. You all, who have cared for us when we have suffered, and faltered along the way, are the most important people in our lives. It is great to have you here.

So far as I can recall, this reunion has been going for over twenty years. It was originally initiated by a dear and loving couple, Jack and Joan Casey. They were both from the NSW Korea War Veterans Association. We should all remember Jack and Joan for their past efforts. This year we must thank our caring National President, Mr. Vic Dey, OAM, and Ms Wendy Karem, for the continuance of the occasion. It is mainly because of their hard work that we are enjoying it today. We don't know at this stage, if it will continue on into future years.

We believe that one of the reasons Jack Casey conceived that this reunion occur in October, was to commemorate the Battle of Maryang San. This battle was significant for us, because of the skill and fighting tenacity that was shown by the Australian Diggers, by taking the Maryang San feature, or Hill 317, as it was also commonly called. The battle was a bloody affair, and Australia lost 20 killed and 89 wounded. The enemy also received heavy loss, as 283 dead were counted, and 50 prisoners captured, during the assaults.

Of course, this reunion was not only conceived to honour an exploit of the Australian Army, but also to honour the magnificent efforts of our combined Services, including our Brothers from the Royal Australian Navy and the Royal Australian Air Force. We were all together in the sad affair, and all services, made significant contributions.

(continues on Page 4)

The British Rommel

The North African theatre of war – The Desert War as it is known – opened with an Italian invasion of Egypt between 13 and 18 September 1940. Despite overwhelming numerical superiority, Marshal Rodolpho Graziani advanced a short distance from the Libyan border and then dug in along an echeloned line running from Sidi Barrani on the coast south-westwards into the desert.

Sir Archibald Wavell, the British Commander-in-Chief, Middle Eastern Forces, was performing a spectacular juggling act, deploying and redeploying scanty forces over the vast extent of his command, mainly to thwart two separate Italian threats, one from Ethiopia, the other Graziani's from Libya.

Wavell's field commander with the Western Desert Force was Major-General Richard O'Connor, who quickly went on the offensive. In a ten-week Blitzkrieg, between 9 December 1940 and 9 February 1941, O'Connor advanced 500 miles, destroyed an Italian army of ten divisions, and captured 130,000 prisoners, 1,290 guns, and 400 tanks. He had done this with an army of just 30,000 men, mainly by improvising a series of armoured left-hooks which enabled him to outflank successive Italian defences. His total losses were just 476 killed, 1,225 wounded, and 43 missing.

O'Connor was convinced that he could have pushed on to Tripoli and ended the war in North Africa. Why he didn't is explained with one word – Churchill. The Prime Minister stripped O'Connor of most of his troops and sent them to Greece. By the time the remnant returned from that ill-conceived campaign, the actual German Rommel was on hand and eager to counter-attack.

Source: *Military History Monthly*, Nov. 2012

Private Derby

Animal mascots have long been an important part of British Army regiments' morale. Dogs, goats, ponies, and antelope are just a few of the many species to have held the prestigious title. The latter is the mascot of the Fusiliers, who began the tradition over 140 years ago, when the Royal Warwickshire Regiment (later the Fusiliers) adopted a live antelope as mascot while it was stationed in India in 1871. It was an Indian black buck antelope named Billy, a name which stuck to its successors for many years.

A well-known maharajah made a gift of the second Billy, presenting it to the 1st Battalion, The Royal Warwickshire Regiment, in around 1877. It came home with the battalion in 1880 and died in Ireland in 1888. There were two steady streams of supply of these animals: the battalion serving in India usually received them as gifts from the maharajahs, while the home battalion was given theirs by London Zoo.

The Mercian Regiment chose a Swalesdale ram as their mascot. Private Derby, as the ram is known, was the mascot of the Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment, who in turn had inherited him from the 95th Derbyshire Regiment.

The first Private Derby was adopted as a mascot in 1858 by the 95th (Derbyshire) Regiment of Foot at the siege and capture of Kotah during the Indian Mutiny Campaign of 1857-1858.

A fine fighting ram was spotted tethered to a temple yard by a commanding officer, who ordered that the ram be taken into the Army's possession. The ram was named Private Derby and marched nearly 3,000 miles in its five-year service with the regiment before it died in 1863. Since then, there has followed a succession of fine rams, each of which has inherited the official title of Private Derby, followed by his succession number.

Bizarrely, the Army recognises each Private Derby as a soldier and each has its own regimental number and documentation. Private Derby is a source of immense pride among the regiment, and he is always to be seen on parade with the soldiers; one of the tasks he undertakes in return for his daily pay of £3.75. In addition, he is on the ration strength and draws his own rations like any other soldier. Private Derby even has a leave card and takes an annual holiday during the mating season.

Source: *Military History Monthly*, Issue 23, August 2012

Dedication of Service Speech (continued from Page 3)

Also, because we are celebrating this occasion late in the month, it coincides with a popular Republic of Korea commemoration called "Turn Towards Busan", which respects the memory of those UN troops killed in the conflict, many of whom are buried there in the United Nations Military cemetery. As a result, here today, and also tonight, at the dinner, we will also participate in this Commemoration. Our much-respected M.C., Vic Dey, will lead us in these observances.

I would now like to conclude this address, with feelings of respect, towards the wonderful people of the Republic of Korea. We who served there, recall the terrible sufferings that they endured. Many of us are still haunted by the memory of those sufferings, and the starvation that was occurring, especially to the children. It is not a good memory. So many of them died. However, we must also now congratulate the people of the Republic of Korea for their miraculous recovery, which has been achieved, by their great courage and tenacity. They are now a prosperous people. It is an honour, to have them as our friends and comrades. Thank you.

Korean War Memoirs

By Lt. Col. Guy Temple, 1st Battalion, Gloucestershire Regiment

Part Four

We were making rather good progress and just before dawn we could see in front of us a hill, which looked as if it had good cover on it. We thought we could just about make it before daylight. We did indeed make it, but the cover turned out to be only a foot or two high. But we were there and if we lay low, no one would see us particularly as we thought no one would have any reason to come up to there. Although we didn't have any food or water, the weather was bright and sunny and we were happy and free. Free as the air. A wonderful feeling.

But as luck would have it, an old Korean granny with her grandson came up the hill looking for brush wood for their fires. And would you believe it, they stumbled right on our position. It was most unfortunate. We agreed that we had three options. First we could stay where we were and allow them to go their way, and raise the alarm. Secondly, we could kill them both but as we had no weapons, we would have to do it with our bare hands. And thirdly, we could continue on, in broad daylight, and take our chances. The first option would, almost certainly, lead to recapture. The second, we were just not prepared to undertake. So the third, though not appealing, was the best option, we thought, available to us.

Off we went, walking very quickly until we came across a Korean farmer. He looked at us enquiringly, and as I spoke a little Russian, I told him we were Russians on our way to the front. This seemed to satisfy him, but when I tried it again a little while later with another Korean, it clearly didn't. However, we went on towards a really tall range of mountains which were only about four or five miles ahead of us.

Suddenly there were shots from all around us, over our heads but enough to make us realise that we were about to be recaptured. And captured we were.

Now, the village where we were recaptured had been recently bombed by the Americans using incendiaries, and all that was left was ash. So one could reasonably expect the villagers to be somewhat less than friendly. However, I made sure that the Koreans knew that we were 'Yongook' (English) and not 'Megook' (American). We were escorted by these Korean soldiers, to another village and taken into what passed in Korea for a restaurant, and, given an exceedingly good meal. We were very surprised, as it, in fact, was by far the best meal we had eaten for what seemed a long time, and for a very long time to come.

Then, from there we were taken to a civilian gaol. This gaol was not a building as such, but a cave cut into the rock face, the entrance being secured by a wrought iron gate. We were ushered in to this 'black' hole and when our eyes got accustomed to the dark, we could see that the rock floor was covered with pools of water which in turn formed little 'dry' islands. On these islands were sitting other prisoners. These were Koreans, who we discovered were Christians, and that was their crime. They had obviously been there some time because their hair was down to their shoulders, which was unusual in those days, particularly for Koreans.

By using signs and much smiling, they made us feel very welcome. It wasn't till a little later that we discovered that they were covered in lice. In an attempt to isolate ourselves from this problem, we each found ourselves an 'island' completely surrounded by water. Because lice can't swim we felt a bit more secure.

We stayed in this civilian gaol for three days, and were then marched North. We ended up we knew not where. However, we somehow discovered that it was from here that some other prisoners of war had subsequently been released for propaganda purposes. We agreed, among ourselves, to play our cards carefully, without in any way 'going across to the other side'. This we did, but to no avail.

The Koreans then handed us over to some Chinese to whom we explained that we had got separated from the others with whom we had been captured, and then got lost. But, here we are and of course we are very sorry for any trouble we may have caused.

They appeared to accept this story and took us on to, what was known for some reason as the 'Bean Camp'. I never saw a bean there and all we got in the way of food was 'goliang' and not much at that, served twice a day. Goliang, or sorghum as it is known in America, is a grain, rather like pearl barley, but with a mauvish tinge. It has a fairly pleasant neutral taste and I reckon is probably more nutritious than white rice.

For the most part the British had no problem eating this goliang, but not so the Americans, who could scarcely force it down. I always supposed this was because they were either talking or dreaming about exotic meals they had eaten back in the States. Myself, I had no such memories, having spent my formative years in an English public school in wartime, where a typical lunch would be overcooked cabbage with caterpillars floating in luke-warm water, accompanied by what we called 'Belsen Broth' – ie bones with very little flesh on them.

The Americans were always dreaming about exotic meals – T-bone steaks followed by angel food cake (whatever that may be). Many said that in the dream they were just picking up knife and fork when they woke up. There was somebody who claimed he had actually eaten the meal in his dreams. (Continued next issue).

Ripped From the Headlines...

Courted Death To Save Their Mates

by Charles Madden

The Melbourne Argus, August 5th, 1952.

Reports of the action in which Lieutenant Laurie Ryan, of Coburg was lost – he has been posted missing believed killed – have revealed great gallantry among the men of the 3rd Battalion Royal Australian Regiment whom he led.

Four men searched devotedly for Lt. Ryan under the continued, concentrated fire which had struck him down as he led a night assault on the enemy trench massed with automatic weapons.

His signaller, Pte Alf White of Pelican Flat, near Newcastle, and his runner Pte Bobby Dean of Bentley (NOK Mrs K Box, same address) laid him in a shell hole for temporary shelter in the heat of the action while aid was brought.

When they returned within a few minutes they could find no trace of him. With Cpl. Les Tynan of Kent St., Rockhampton, and Pte Vic Dey of Foch St., Preston, they combed the whole area under continued enemy fire and a hail of grenades. Although they were sure they had returned to the same shell hole, it was empty.

From statements collected before the withdrawal and afterwards, it was concluded that Lieut. Ryan, either killed or fatally wounded, had been dragged into the enemy trench during his men's brief absence. After the signal to withdraw had been given to Pte White, who had maintained contact with company HQ, it was found two others were missing. They were Privates William Lord of Drayton Rd., Toowoomba, and Thomas Wallace of Rae St, North Fitzroy. Both have been posted missing, believed wounded in action, believed POW.

In his search, Pte White had found three other wounded men and carried one bodily, supported another for 50 yards, and handed the third over to other help halfway. He himself did not withdraw until the last of the casualties had been taken down the hill. He then assisted in the evacuation of the wounded, under very heavy mortar fire, still keeping in touch with company HQ by radio.

His company commander Captain Colin Brown, of 3rd Avenue, St Peters Adelaide, has said that his outstanding resourcefulness, energy, courage and total disregard for his own safety, made possible the return of several badly wounded men.

Stretcher bearer Thomas Jubb of Hexam P.O., Victoria, was another who returned three times to the parapet of the trench to drag badly wounded men back for treatment under the slight cover 10 yards downhill. While the action continued he carried the most seriously wounded men to the bottom of the hill and back to the patrol's firm base, nearly 500 yards away unaided, and tended the wounded under heavy mortar fire, remaining until the last had been carried to safety.

Postscript: William Lord and Tommy Wallace remain missing, and with Laurie Ryan, are presumed KIA.

Evacuee Saw Air Raid

by Cpl. Ernie Peeler

TOKYO—Communist North Korean pilots indiscriminately bombed and strafed Seoul and Kimpo air base Sunday through Tuesday, Ed Krunsky, official of Northwest Airlines, told Pacific Stars and Stripes in an exclusive telephone conversation Thursday morning.

Krunsky was evacuated from Korea Tuesday along with other Americans under an air cover furnished by the U.S. Air Force.

THE AIRLINE official said that four Russian type Yak fighters came over Kimpo early Sunday evening, strafing a C-54 MATs transport that was parked on the ramp. A gasoline truck was also hit and set ablaze during the attack, Krunsky said.

During the air raid, several American dependents were in the administration building of the air base, but were not hit.

KRUNSKY SAID two South Koreans were wounded.

"Although we were surprised by the attack there was no panic by the Americans or the South Koreans at the base," Krunsky said.

"On Monday evening several Yak fighters came over Seoul proper. When they first came over they circles the city at a high altitude. Then they came in lower and dropped a few bombs. One of the bombs struck an apartment house, doing little damage. Another bomb struck in the street, killing one South Korean and wounding several more. It was clear to those of us who witnessed the attacks that the North Korean pilots had no definite target in mind."

THE FIRST CLASH with the Yak fighter by Americans planes was also witnessed by Krunsky.

"The American planes arrived Tuesday to aid in the evacuation of Americans. As they came in several Yak fighters headed for Kimpo air base but were chased off by our planes. A few minutes later the Yaks returned and were engaged by our aircraft. Three Yak planes were then shot down. I saw one North Korean pilot bail out," Krunsky said.

The airline official said that the evacuation went off with precision and efficiency.

Source: *Stars and Stripes (Pacific Ed.)*, June 29, 1950

There's Tension On The Towline

by Max Thomson

For so many of our warships "The Long Tow" has meant that final ignominious haul at the end of a towline to that graveyard for ships some 24 nautical miles off Sydney Heads or, in more recent years, further afield to Far East shipyards for final break-up at the end of a ship's service life.

Towing operations have involved some epics of high drama on the high seas for RAN ships, especially in times of war. Often they did the towing. Sometimes they were under tow themselves because of circumstances that were dramatic to say the least.

Some Australian warships became involved in the marathon towing operations. Classic among them was the experience of *HMAS Vendetta*, the famed destroyer of the renowned "Scrap Iron Flotilla."

Lying in dry dock in Singapore, immobilised in refit, *Vendetta* became the target for bombers during the swift, merciless Japanese thrust down the Malay Peninsula in WW2. Just 13 days before Singapore fell to the Japanese, *HMAS Vendetta* was hauled out of the dry dock for the long, long tow to Australia which involved roles played by the tugs *Stronghold* and *St. Just*.

From Sourabaya, the former Shanghai ferry *Ping Wo* took over the tow and a six-and-a-half week haul to Fremantle. High seas in the Great Australian Bight forced *Ping Wo* to hand over the tow to an ocean-going tug with *Ping Wo* standing by as escort for the haul to the east Coast.

Mediterranean

Earlier in the war, in waters even further afield, *HMAS Vendetta* had been involved in another towing operation. Off Tobruk it had tried to take in tow the hospital ship *Vita* after it had been attacked by 10 German bombers. *Vendetta* notched up some 39 trips into and out of Tobruk carrying almost 5000 troops and some 600 tons of supplies to the beleaguered "Rats of Tobruk."

One hundred miles off Tobruk another Australian destroyer, *HMAS Nestor*, was crippled by sustained German air attacks. In a brave action with enemy aircraft still pressing home their attack on *Nestor* and its convoy, *HMS Javelin* took *Nestor* in tow but after 10 hours of struggling *Javelin* was obliged to send *Nestor* to the seabed after taking off her ship's company.

Flagship

In a national sense, the most spectacular tow involving an RAN warship took place just six years after the end of The Great War. In conformity with the Washington Peace Treaty. The 22,000-tonne battlecruiser *HMAS Australia* was towed up Sydney Harbour accompanied by a veritable armada of small craft and was ceremoniously scuttled 24 miles outside The Heads.

Schools closed and it was well nigh a day of national mourning when the 11-year-old flagship – the largest warship ever to have been in the RAN – was sent to its final watery grave after an exciting span of service in WWI and a key role when the German Fleet surrendered in the Firth of Forth in November 1918. She had proudly led the Australian fleet into Sydney on October 4, 1913 when responsibility for the Australia Station was taken over by the newly-constituted Royal Australian Navy from Britain's Royal Navy.

Contrastingly, one of the smallest ocean-going units of our Navy in WW2 went off to war and returned from war under tow. One of the first of the Fairmiles – the forerunners of our Navy's sleek patrol vessels we know today – *ML 817* had a range of just under 1000 nautical miles, so she was towed for much of the long trip to New Guinea. There she did anti-submarine patrols, canopy work and many operations along the New Guinea coast harassing Japanese barge traffic in a series of "Cloak and Dagger" type activities sometimes with US torpedo boats.

Involved in the AIF beach-head landing at Lae, *ML 817* and *HMAS Shepparton* were attacked by nine Mitsubishi bombers and their fighter escort. With 50 holes and significant punctures in its hull. *ML 817* had its engines thrown out of alignment and shafts twisted. Able to make only three knots on one engine, and with no shipyard facilities available, *ML 817* was towed down the New Guinea coast and across the Coral Sea to Townsville by a tanker, then hauled all the way down the east coast to Sydney by *HMAS Deloraine* for repairs after which she went back "up north" again.

ML 817's commanding officer, Lt. Cdr. Athol Townley, had been involved in the sinking of one of the Japanese midget submarine in Sydney Harbour on the night of May 31, 1942 when he commanded the patrol vessel *Steady Hour*. In post-war years he became Australia's Minister for Defence after a series of portfolios in the Menzies Government.

East Coast

Destroyers, frigate and corvettes all wrote chapter and verse in the annals of towing operations in WW2. In the Indian Ocean the tanker *Anna Knudsen* was torpedoed by a German submarine and *HMAS Tamworth* secured

(continues on Page 8)

There's Tension On The Towline (continued from Page 7)

a line to the stricken ship and hauled it to Aden. Off our own East Coast, *HMAS Mildura* towed the crippled American freighter, *Peter II Burnett*, after it had been torpedoed by a Japanese submarine 675 nautical miles east of Sydney. It was an operation in which other corvettes such as *HMAS Deloraine* and *Gympie* were involved, the American destroyer *USS Zane*, and the Free French destroyer *le Triomphant*.

HMAS Deloraine had also been involved in the rescue of a big American tank-landing ship torpedoed off the NSW coast with the merchantman, *Portmar*, which sank, but *Deloraine* hauled the damaged LST to Byron Bay.

In one of the most unique convoys to travel the wartime Pacific, the frigate *HMAS Hawkesbury* at one stage managed to secure a tow line to a massive American floating dock that had broken adrift from its big ocean-going tug on the haul to Leyte Gulf. The sight of a warship hauling a big dock back into its rightful place in the convoy columns and handing over the tow to a tug was a little epic of wartime naval drama.

HMAS Hawkesbury also witnessed an incredible operation in which Melbourne's venerable paddle-steamer, *Weeroona*, was towed in a big convoy to The Philippines to serve as a US convalescence vessel. Old *Weeroona* hung on to it's end of the towline during atrocious weather conditions despite all manner of drama that occurred to other vessels in the 90-ship convoy.

Source: *Navy News* 16 February 1990

Notices

Looking For Alec Nitsche

Here's one I'm a little reluctant to place for obvious reasons. Any money you can spare should be going to the proposed KVAA Korean War Memorial; however, if you are flush with funds, and have a little extra, you might want to contribute something to this worthy project.

National Peacekeeping Memorial

We are aiming to raise \$1.1M to complete the Australian National Peacekeeping Memorial on ANZAC Parade in Canberra for dedication on 14 September 2017. This is a special day as it marks 70 years of Australia's non-stop contribution to international peace, security and stability.

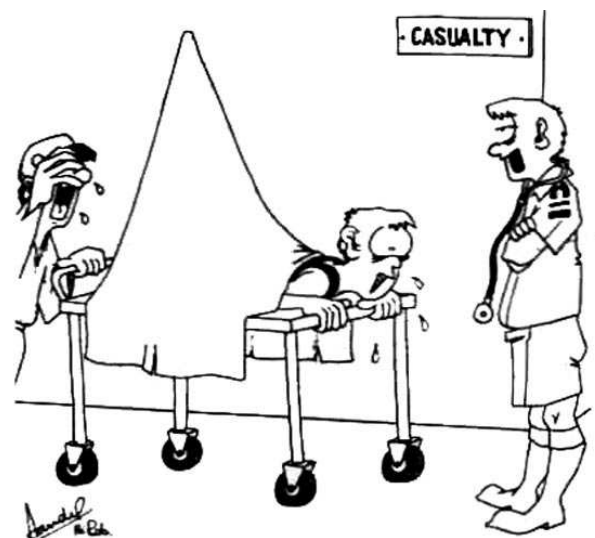
It is estimated that over 80,000 Australians have served on a range of Peacekeeping Operations, with a loss of 33 ADF and Police men and women, along with 9 ADF Men and Women who died in the Sea King Chopper Crash on 2 April 2005, whilst deployed to an ADF Disaster Relief Operation in Indonesia.

You can help in recognising the service, courage and sacrifice of our peacekeepers by donating to the project. Any amount over \$2 will be tax-deductible. Donation forms available from the Editor or download from the website at www.peacekeepingmemorial.org.au

Editor's Opening (continued from Page 1)

backs till the flash had gone (he said he could feel the heat on his back) and as the ship started to move away from the area he took the photo. On the back of the photo he wrote "A deadly smoke cloud rises after H bomb exploded". He never mentioned it till he got his medal in the mail; in fact he never talked much about his war service especially Korea. I don't know if he will talk about it even now as he is in advanced stages of vascula dementia and is in care. He has also endured the removal of skin cancers over the years, some very aggressive.

I wonder how many other members of the KVAA were in some way involved with the nuclear tests in Australia? But, as Kath observed, many veterans are reluctant to discuss their time in the armed forces. I should know: trying to get articles from them for *The Voice* or website is about as easy as juggling elephants.



"Okay – are you the pole-vaulter who had the accident?"

New Xmas Health & Safety Rules

What happens when the bureaucracy gets hold of traditional Christmas songs?

Jingle Bells

*Dashing through the snow
In a one horse open sleigh
Over the fields we go
Laughing all the way*

A risk assessment must be submitted before an open sleigh is considered safe for members of the public to travel on. The risk assessment must also consider whether it is appropriate to use only one horse for such a venture, particularly if passengers are of larger proportions. Please note, permission must be gained from landowners before entering their fields. To avoid offending those not participating in celebrations, we would request that laughter is moderate only and not loud enough to be considered a noise nuisance.

While Shepherds Watched

*While shepherds watched
Their flocks by night
All seated on the ground
The angel of the Lord came down
And glory shone around*

The Union of Shepherds has complained that it breaches health and safety regulations to insist that shepherds watch their flocks without appropriate seating arrangements being provided, therefore benches, stools and orthopedic chairs are now available. Shepherds have also requested that due to the inclement weather conditions at this time of year that they should watch their flocks via cctv cameras from centrally heated shepherd observation huts. Please note: the Angel of the Lord is reminded that before shining his/her/its glory all around she/he/it must ascertain that all shepherds have been issued with glasses capable of filtering out the harmful effects of UVA, UVB and Glory.

We Three Kings

*We three kings of Orient are
Bearing gifts we traverse afar
Field and fountain, moor and mountain
Following yonder star*

Whilst the gift of gold is still considered acceptable as it may be redeemed at a later date through such organisations as 'cash for gold' etc., gifts of frankincense and myrrh are not appropriate due to the potential risk of oils and fragrances causing allergic reactions. A suggested gift alternative would be to make a donation to a worthy cause in the recipient's name or perhaps give a gift voucher.

We would not advise that the traversing kings rely on navigation by stars in order to reach their destinations and suggest the use of AA route finder or satellite navigation, which will provide the quickest route and advice regarding fuel consumption. Please note as per the guidelines from the RSPCA for Mr. Donkey, the camels carrying the three kings of Orient will require regular food and rest breaks. Dust masks for the three kings are also advisable due to the likelihood of dust from the camel's hooves.

The 2016 IgNobel Prizes

The 26th annual ceremony, held at Harvard University, awarded each winner a trillion Zimbabwe dollars (worth around 0.4 US cents).

Here are some of the 2016 winners:

The reproduction prize went to late Egyptian doctor Ahmed Shafik put pants on rats to see how different materials affected the rodents' sex life and fertility.

The IgNobel for economics was awarded to Mark Avis and Shelagh Ferguson from New Zealand and Sarah Forbes from the UK. They analysed the perceived personality of rocks from a marketing perspective.

Why white horses are most horsefly-proof and why dragonflies are fatally attracted to black tombstones netted Gábor Horváth, Miklós Blahó, György Kriska, Ramón Hegedüs, Balázs Gerics, Róbert Farkas, Susanne Åkesson the physics prize.

The prize in literature went to Swedish Fredrik Sjöberg who wrote three books on dead and not-yet-dead hoverflies.

Evelyne Debey, Maarten De Schryver, Gordon Logan, Kristina Suchotzki, and Bruno Verschuere won the psychology prize for asking a thousand liars how often they lie, and for deciding whether to believe those answers.

The biology prize was awarded jointly to Charles Foster, for living in the wild as, at different times, a badger, an otter, a deer, a fox, and a bird; and to Thomas Thwaites, for creating prosthetic extensions of his limbs that allowed him to move in the manner of, and spend time roaming hills in the company of, goats.

Atsuki Higashiyama and Kohei Adachi, got an IgNobel for investigating whether things look different when you bend over and view them between your legs.

The IgNobel Prizes, parodies of the Nobel Prizes, given out each year for 10 unusual or trivial achievements in scientific research. The prizes are presented by genuine Nobel laureates at Sanders Theater, Harvard University. It contains a number of running jokes, including Miss Sweetie Poo, a little girl who repeatedly cries out, "Please stop: I'm bored", in a high-pitched voice if speakers go on too long. The awards ceremony is traditionally closed with the words: "If you didn't win a prize – and especially if you did – better luck next year!"

The RAN's First Fight

Overview of the Royal Australian Navy in World War One.

With the outbreak of war the Royal Australian Navy's first task was to protect Australia's ports, shipping and trade routes. One of the RAN's first achievements in the war was the capture of German naval codes. These codes provided invaluable intelligence on German naval operations.

The greatest threat to Australia, however, lay in the German Pacific Squadron and Pacific colonies that could serve as bases for German warships. To remove this threat the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force was organised and dispatched to capture the colonies.

On September 7, 1914, the personnel from the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force landed at Rabaul covered by the guns of the RAN. Though Australia suffered its first war casualties, including the loss of *HMA Submarine AE1*, Rabaul and the other German colonies were quickly occupied. The Navy's ships then joined the hunt for the raider, *von Spee*. After the loss of the German colonies, and not wanting to engage Australia in battle, *von Spee* departed the Pacific in an attempt to reach Germany.

With the removal of the German naval threat to Australia, the RAN set about preparing for its next task. This was the escort of the 1st Australian Imperial Force to the Middle East. Although administered by the Military Board, the 1st AIF was a specially raised expeditionary force and not a formal part of the Australian Army. Whilst the convoy was en-route, *HMAS Sydney* was detached to investigate the sighting of a strange warship off the Cocos-Keeling Islands. This ship turned out to be the German light cruiser *SMS Emden*. In the ensuing battle *Sydney* destroyed the *Emden* and thus won the RAN's first battle honour.

The Navy had been fighting the war at sea for some nine months before the Australian soldiers landed at Gallipoli. Even at Gallipoli the navy was in action. *HMAS Submarine AE2* became the first Allied warship to penetrate the Dardanelles; her feat was instrumental in the decision not to withdraw the soldiers after the first day. The Turkish Navy in the Sea of Marmora eventually sank *AE2*, and her ship's company became prisoners of war. On the peninsula the RAN Bridging Train provided vital service to the troops, as well as being the last Australians to leave the Gallipoli peninsula.

For most of the Great War, Australian ships served in foreign waters. The newer cruisers operated with the Grand Fleet in the North Sea. The old cruiser, *HMAS Pioneer*, had the distinction of firing her guns in anger more than any other RAN ship. *Pioneer* was part of the force blockading the German cruiser *SMS Konigsberg* in the Rufiji River, East Africa.

The torpedo boat destroyers, after service in Asian waters, were transferred to the Mediterranean and operated as part of the naval force hunting enemy submarines. Still other ships patrolled the Indian Ocean and waters closer to home. For the RAN it was truly a world war.

With the surrender of the German High Seas Fleet after the Armistice in 1918, Australia and the Australian light cruisers were given pride of place in the Grand Fleet. Though Australia's naval casualties were light, she had lost both her submarines and the other ships were showing the signs of five years war service.

Source: *Navy News* 15 October 2001

Between The Wars

Overview of the RAN between the Great War and the Next Great War.

With the end of the Great War, the Royal Australian navy reverted to the peacetime routine of training exercises and cruises. The monotony of peacetime exercises was only broken by a punitive expedition to the Solomon Islands in 1927. Members of the RAN could also look forward to the possibility of exchange service with the Royal Navy or the occasional overseas deployment.

During the inter-war years the overall fortunes of the RAN fluctuated and reflected the general economic and social trends. Diminishing budgets and increasing operating costs coupled to a general desire for disarmament, all combined to reduce the size and operating tempo of the Navy. Following the scuttling of the battle-cruiser, Australia, as part of the Washington Naval Treaty, and due to the age of the other cruisers, a small re-armament program was instituted.

This program resulted in the acquisition of the heavy cruisers HMA Ships *Australia* (II) and *Canberra* and a number of other smaller ships. In order to support Australian industry the government ordered the seaplane tender *HMAS Albatross* from Cockatoo Island Dockyard in Sydney.

Fortunately, the government saw the Navy as having a wider role in collective security and international operations, whereas the Army was deemed as being purely for home defence with the small permanent land force existing to administer and train the militia. As such, funding for the Navy, whilst not extravagant, tended to exceed that of the Army and Air Force.

Source: *Navy News* 15 October 2001

From the (AWM) Vault

Photographs (now copyright expired) taken by the Donald Douglas (Doug) Bushby, an Australian working in Korea as a UN accredited war correspondent. Released into the public domain by the Australian War Memorial.



Australian soldiers, probably of 2RAR stand around a Chinese officer, Hshwang Shon Kwang, (squatting and partly obscured) as he signs a green 'peace' flag, with unarmed Chinese soldiers looking down from their positions. Bushby was visiting the Australian position just after the cease fire, and with the assistance of Australian troops made contact with the Chinese forces. During the conversation Bushby offered the Chinese officer, who spoke perfect English, his wallet as a gift, and asked if he could have one of the 'peace' flags in exchange. The Chinese obliged and he brought two flags to the Australians, signing both with Bushby's pen.

Photo P04641.122, Jamestown Line Area, Hook, 28 July 1953



Hshwang Shon Kwang presenting a red 'peace' flag to Bushby

Photo P04641.119, Jamestown Line Area, Hook, 28 July 1953.



Australian soldiers, probably of 2RAR in their front line positions. Sandbag protected dugouts abound. Probably taken shortly after the ceasefire.

Photo P04641.103



Informal portrait of Australian soldiers, probably men of 2RAR, near the Hook feature, taken on or near the ceasefire of 28 July 1953.

Photo P04641.110



Looking back towards UN positions, Australian soldiers, probably 2RAR, go about their duties on the reverse slopes behind the Hook feature.

Photo P04641.106. 28 July 1953

(continues on Page 13)

Humour

Painting the Church

There was a Scottish painter named Smokey Macgregor who was very interested in making a penny where he could, so he often thinned down his paint to make it go a wee bit further.

As it happened, he got away with this for some time, but eventually the Baptist Church decided to do a big restoration job on the outside of one of their biggest buildings.

Smokey put in a bid, and, because his price was so low, he got the job.

So he set about erecting the scaffolding and setting up the planks, and buying the paint and, yes, I am sorry to say, thinning it down with turpentine.

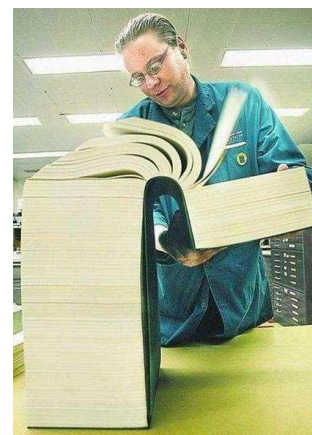
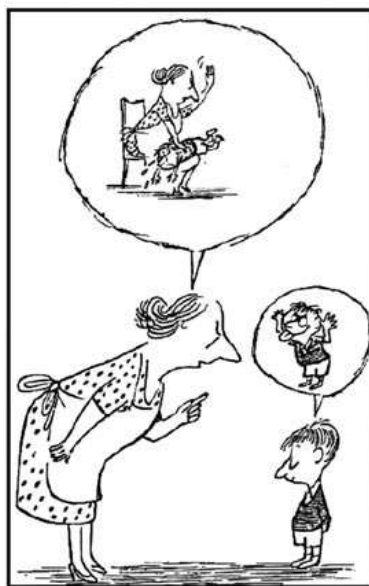
Well, Smokey was up on the scaffolding, painting away, the job nearly completed, when suddenly there was a horrendous clap of thunder, the sky opened, and the rain poured down washing the thinned paint from all over the church and knocking Smokey clear off the scaffold to land on the lawn among the gravestones, surrounded by telltale puddles of the thinned and useless paint.

Smokey was no fool. He knew this was a judgment from the Almighty, so he got down on his knees and cried: "Oh, God, Oh God, forgive me; what should I do?"

And from the thunder, a mighty voice spoke...
"Repaint! Repaint! And thin no more!"



I'm getting so old that all my friends in heaven will think I didn't make it.



The instructional manual, *How to Understand Women* is being released soon in two versions. The one above, is the abridged edition.

Fourteen priests were on a flight to New York. When they came into a large storm, they told the stewardess to tell the pilot that everything would be okay because 14 priests were on board. Later the stewardess returned from the cockpit.
"What did the pilot say?" one priest asked.
"He said he was glad to have 14 priests aboard but he would rather have four good engines."

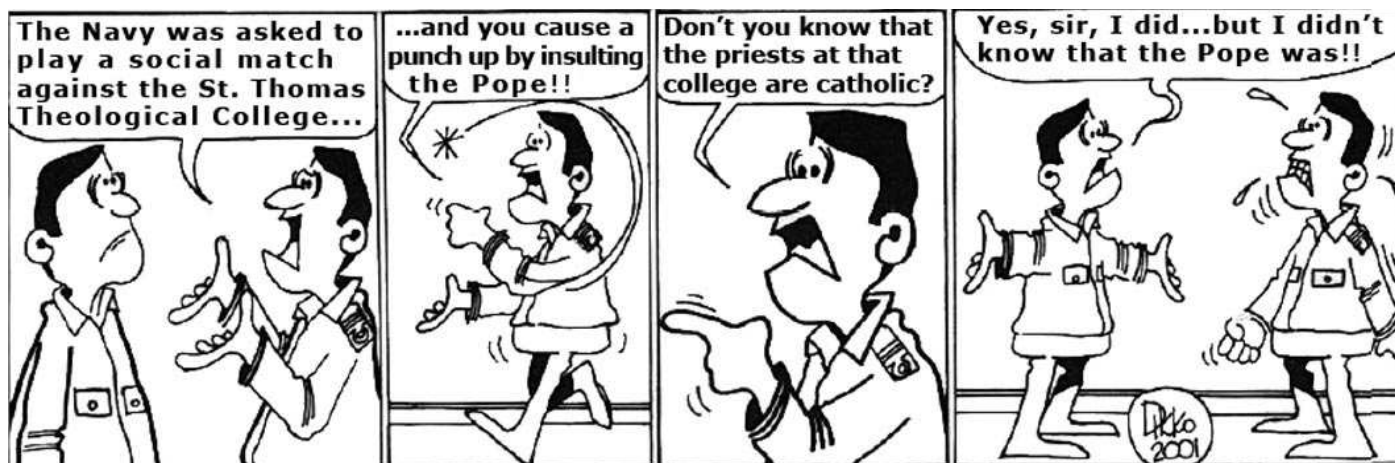
Bigger In Texas?

A Texan farmer comes to Australia for a vacation. Here he meets an Aussie farmer and gets talking. The Aussie shows off his big wheat field and the Texan says, "Oh! We have wheat fields that are at least twice as large."

They walk around the farm a little and the Aussie shows off his herd of cattle. The Texan says, "We have longhorns that are at least twice as large as your cows."

The conversation has, meanwhile, almost died when the Texan sees a herd of kangaroos hopping through the field. He asks, "And what are those?"

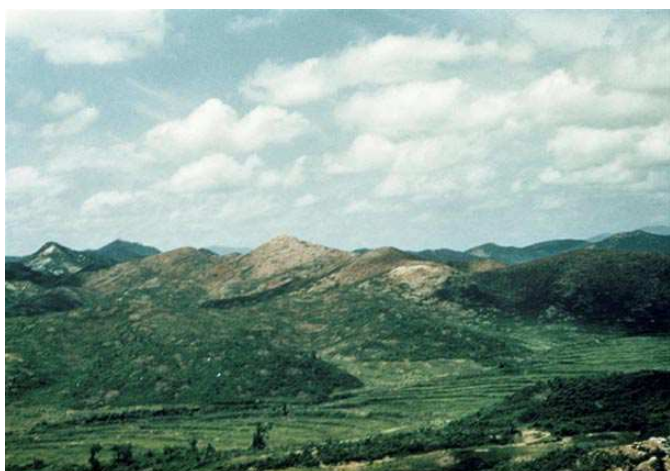
The Aussie replies with an incredulous look, "Don't you have any grasshoppers in Texas?"





Australian soldiers, probably 2RAR, in their front line positions, possibly near the Hook feature. The men are either repairing their frontline fortifications or starting to dismantle them prior to retiring south of the agreed demilitarized zone. The photograph was taken on or about the ceasefire on 28 July 1953.

Photo P04641.104.



Looking across a cultivated valley from Australian positions held by men of 2RAR at the Hook feature. The completely denuded hill tops at centre probably mark them as enemy positions heavily bombed by the US Air Force or by artillery fire.

Photo P04641.108. Jamestown Line Area, Hook. 28 July 1953.



Several hundred North Korean POWs watching a sporting event on a parade ground at Nonsan POW camp. Taken through the barbed wire perimeter fence.

Photo P04641.038. Late July 1953.



Punmanjom. A tight knit group of North Korean or Chinese negotiators (left) face their UN counterparts in the handover area during Operation Little Switch. A convoy of North Korean or Chinese ambulances (Lubin51 or GAZ51) carrying United Nations (UN) prisoners of war, including Australians, has pulled up at far left and some of the prisoners are becoming brave enough to pull down the curtains that had concealed the landscape during their journey. Tents at right are for medical examinations and debriefing of former prisoners.

Photo P04641.087



Allied officers waiting for the handover of POWs to begin at Panmunjom, during Operation Little Switch.

Photo P04641.098

Ties That Bind

The Healy-Kim Clan story

Over 50 years after two bereaved mothers Thelma Healy from Brisbane, Australia and Kim Chang Keun from Seoul, South Korea were united by the grief of a lost son and husband in the Korean War – their grand daughters Louise Evans and Grace E. Kim have been united by the book *Passage to Pusan*. The Healy-Kim links run deep.



(l-r) Grace E. Kim, Olwyn Green, Louise Evans

For years Mrs Kim travelled to Pusan's United Nations Memorial Cemetery to tend the grave of Mrs Healy's son Vincent, (3 RAR) who died in the Korean War along with Mrs Kim's husband Lt Kim In-Hyung. The two mothers became pen pals but never met. Mrs Kim first met the extended Healy clan in 1989 in Brisbane when she travelled from Seoul via Sydney together with her youngest son Hee Kyoung Kim, his wife and their two children, including Grace E. Kim, then aged nine.

In 1999 the Healy-Kims met again in Sydney when Mrs Kim attended Kapyong Day at Holsworthy Barracks. Another 16 years passed before Louise and Gracie meet for the first time at the home of the indefatigable war historian Olwyn Green, Korean War widow of Lt Col Charlie Green and author of *The Name's Still Charlie*. Former Australian Ambassador to Korea, Mack Williams, set up the meeting after reading *Passage to Pusan*.

Out & About

2016 Kimchi Seminar

Albert Park, Vic., 3rd Nov. 2016



John Brownbill, Korea Re-visit

8th-14th November 2016



Civilian Medal of Merit Presentation

RACV, Collins St., Melbourne 23rd Nov. 2016



Edna Dey (centre) accepts the award on behalf of the KVAA President, Vic Dey OAM, with Vice-President, Tom Parkinson (second from the right).

Farewells

Elton H. Watkinson, *HMAS Shoalhaven* on 28 Nov. 2016

Henry "Harry" Wills, 400184, 1RAR & 2RAR on 9 Nov. 2016

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