



# THE VOICE

October 2016 Edition

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## Editor's Opening

Last edition I lamented that no matter when *The Voice* went out, it did so without important stories or items that demanded inclusion, all of which came in too late. This is another instance. A week after the mailing of August's *Voice*, on Friday the 12th, long time KVAA Patron Major General James Hughes passed away. See Page 3 for a short biography.

The KVAA website has been revamped. Please have a look at it and send any compliments to webmaster, Rob Huntley, any suggestions to the editor (me) and any complaints to the Secretary.

To end, here's a letter (actually an email) we received from Edgar Green (ex-Middlesex Regt.) of the BKWVA regarding an unusual, one might even say, regal event...

Two members [Edgar Green and one other] of the BKWVA received an invitation from HRH, the Princess Alexandra of Kent, who is the Patron of the PDSA (Peoples Dispensary for Sick Animals) to attend a media shoot at the Korean Memorial on the Embankment between 0900hrs – 1100hrs where a horse of the Household Cavalry stood in for an American horse by the given name of Sgt. Reckless, which way back in 1953, served with the 5th American Marine Corp. This horse must have been the only one of its kind in Korea. All of the veterans that I have spoken to have all said the same; that they never saw a horse whilst serving out there.

An American, Lt. Col. M. Skaggs of their Marines, had photos taken alongside the stand-in horse; us two Veterans also had photos taken alongside the Colonel and the horse. After the shoot we were taken by car to the offices of Cleave & Company who are the Royal Jewellers where the presentation of the PDSA Dikin Medal (Animal VC) was presented to Lt. Col. Skaggs on behalf of the American Marine Corp by HRH. The historian, Robin Hutton, who had done all of the research into this horse was also presented with a miniature medal.

HRH spent a long time talking to all concerned and also with us two veterans. She was well up with the Korean War and was very interested in what we had to say. We were made most welcome and she did say that we both made fine ambassadors for the association. Both of us were sent a copy of the book which the lady had wrote regarding Sgt. Reckless. You can view all about this horse on [www.SgtReckless.com](http://www.SgtReckless.com).

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## President's Report

On August 3rd, Tom Parkinson and I had the pleasure of meeting the new Korean Ambassador to Australia his Excellency Mr Kyoung-Ha Woo at the Shrine of Remembrance, where a short memorial ceremony commemorating the Korean War ceasefire was held during which the Ambassador laid a wreath.

Those veterans, wives, widows and family members attending the annual Canberra reunion this month will meet the Ambassador and his wife, Mrs Jinah Lee, as they are attending both the Memorial Service and the Saturday evening dinner.

On Thursday, 18th August, the Fountain Gate Secondary College held their annual Presentation Ball at which 29 beautiful debutantes, including Maddie Singleton (see photo Page 13) and their partners were presented to Edna and I.

A fantastic night for these young people! The staff at Fountain Gate, the debs themselves, their partners and families are to be congratulated on organizing, hosting and conducting such a memorable evening.

At our General Meeting on August 31st, Ms Louise Evans, author of *Passage to Pusan* explained just how her grandmother (who lost her eldest son during the Korean War) worked, scrimped and saved to enable her to make her way to the UN Cemetery to visit her son's headstone and pay her respects. A very moving story indeed.

Regarding the memorial, the Consul-General, Mr Hong-Ju Jo, the Executive of the Melbourne Korean War Memorial Committee, Tom Parkinson and myself, have visited two sites in Melbourne, but no final decision has as yet been made.

With Summer coming on maybe we will all get that spring back in our step.

## Major General James Hughes

### A Brief Biography

James Curnow Hughes was born 18 August 1929 in Adelaide to Otto Hughes and Hilda Hughes (nee Curnow). He attended St. Peters College, Adelaide before heading off to the Royal Military College, Duntroon, from which he graduated on 13 December 1950. With the war in Korea well and truly underway he was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment, and spent the better part of a year in Korea, winning a Military Cross in the process.

From Korea he filled a number of staff and training posts and served in Malaya from 1957-1959 before becoming an Instructor at RMA Sandhurst in the early 1960s.

From instructor to student, he spent 1963 attending the Australian Staff College before becoming OC of 2nd Squadron, Special Air Service Regiment 2 August 1965. For the next three years he was Director of Army Recruiting in Canberra before receiving the command that would make his reputation.

Promoted to Lieutenant Colonel, he took command of 4RAR, arriving in Phouc Tuy Province in South Vietnam on 12 May 1971 where the Battalion was quickly committed to battle. It was during this time that he added a DSO to his MC, and also a Cross of Gallantry (SVN).

From the 4RAR Association Australia website:

*The Battalion actually remained in the field for the next seven and a half months. From June to December 1971, when the battalion was continuously engaged in patrolling, ambushing and attacking enemy bunker positions. During this period the Battalion conducted nine major operations. This included the major battle of Nui Le on the twenty first of September 1971, when D Company fought a fierce battle against two battalions and the Regimental Headquarters of the 33rd Regiment of the North Vietnam Army... In December 1971, most of the Battalion returned to Townsville, Queensland.*

James Hughes' post-Vietnam appointments were mostly of a training or policy nature, including a two year stint at the Royal College of Defence Studies in the United Kingdom (Dec. 1976 - Jan. 1978). He retired from the army as a Major General on 29 December 1983, a year after receiving an AO, Officer of the Order of Australia.

His post-service activities have been too numerous and varied to list here, everything from becoming Governor of St. Michaels Grammar School (1989-1995), a member of the Victorian Branch of the Australian Special Air Service Association, an Honorary Colonel of the Monash University Regiment, and a member of the RSL Defence Committee Victoria.

Back to school, he obtained a Dip. FP from Deakin University and became a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Management. He authored numerous scholarly papers, mostly military related, and became the Patron of the Royal Australian Regiment Association - Victoria Branch (since 1987), The Malaya and Borneo Veterans of Australia (since 1995), and most notably, the KVAA (since 1991).



Lieutenant Colonel James C. Hughes during his Vietnam War days.

## Revisit Speech

*Jenny Kerlake is the daughter of Charles (Chas) Cornell and accompanied him as part of the 2016 Korean Revisit Program for Australian Veterans from the 23rd - 28th of July. This is a speech she gave at one of the many banquets.*

It was only a couple of weeks prior to the arranged departure that our participation was confirmed. At first I was skeptical that my father and myself were to be provided with a fully funded return trip to South Korea to participate in Commemorative Services for the 63rd Korean War Armistice Celebrations. So I checked into the Korean Embassy website and confirmed that there was such a program being offered. It was only the next day when Ms. Emma Yoon from the Korean Travel Agency in Melbourne contacted me to begin to confirm arrangements for our trip that I eventually believed that we really were going to travel to South Korea!

I was in shock and I think my father was too – we began to check out what was required, fill out forms, check passports and arrange insurance. During the couple of weeks prior to our departure, we were greatly supported by Ms. Lucilla Kong (Secretary of the Office of the Defence Attaché at the Korean Embassy in Canberra), Ms. Emma Yoon from the Korean travel agency and our future guides in South Korea.

On Friday the 22nd July, my father and I boarded a flight from Albury to Sydney and then onto the Singapore Airlines flight to Seoul, which transited through Singapore. In Singapore we met up with a few more of our group of 10 Australian Korean War veterans and their carers. International airports, customs and security checks were all eventually negotiated and we were ultimately thrown into the caring arms of the team of guides and interpreters led by the amazing Flora.

I cannot speak highly enough of the amazing care and calmness of Flora and her team when dealing with a very tired group of old soldiers and their carers. The Booyoung Company Limited, who had so kindly funded our group on this revisit program, was providing outstanding care.

When our bags had been collected and the group gathered together, a welcome photo was arranged and then we were ushered into a very comfortable coach to be taken to our hotel, the Koreana, and then onto an Italian luncheon. All of the amazing restaurants that we were taken to gave us an international culinary journey that was mind-boggling. I have never had such delicious meals and I'm sure that we all put on weight as the food was irresistible! I have found a great recipe for Korean Beef Bulgogi – yum!

After settling down into the hotel we then commenced our whirlwind itinerary visiting the Changdeokgung Palace, where we learned that if Korean citizens presented to the Palaces in national dress they were allowed free entry. This was wonderful as we saw so many young people dressed so beautifully and celebrating their nationality. The young children were gorgeous!

On Sunday afternoon we visited the Booyoung Companies Head Office where executives had attended on their day off to welcome this group of Australian Korea War veterans, to thank them from their hearts for the sacrifices that were made to ensure that South Koreans could raise themselves from the rubble and make a future for their children. This welcome ceremony was very emotional as each of the veterans was able to talk about their experiences in those difficult years.

This welcome and all of the welcomes that were made to this group of veterans was amazing in the warmth and love which was openly given from the youngest to the oldest of South Korean citizens that we encountered.

On Monday the 25th of July we were driven to the Joint Security Area (DMZ). Here we learned that this thin strip of land was the most heavily land mined area in the world. It was here that I learned that the Korean War is not actually over; it is only on hold. It is hoped that a peaceful resolution can be achieved, that will one day allow the citizens of both North and South Korea to live in harmony.

It was with great solemnity that we then went on to visit the National Cemetery, where we met up with an awe inspiring group of young people that had also been sponsored by the Korean Embassy. These young people had in some way been associated with Korean War veterans and had come from all over the world. Korea was offering their wisdom to these young people, giving them hope as they were given hope following the devastation of war.

On Tuesday the 26th July we travelled to the Australian War Memorial at Gapyeong and our veterans were taken aback at the lush greenness and abundance of trees that now covered the mountains where they could only remember mud and dirt. Some of the veterans were able to pick up geographical features and recall battles that took place in the vicinity. We then travelled onto the Korean War Memorial where many of our veterans related to the dioramas that portrayed the bunkers and conditions that they endured during their time in Korea.

On Wednesday evening there was the grand banquet hosted by Minister Park and attended by 100s of Korean War veterans from all over the world. The gratitude of the Korean people was boundless and as those veterans that were sent to the Korean War said, 'please don't thank us any more, we are happy for you and for

*(continues on Page 10)*

# Korean War Memoirs

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

## Part Three

I think I had last eaten on the evening of the 22nd and it was now the evening of the 24<sup>th</sup> and I hadn't had any food at all during that time, but I didn't feel hungry anyway. I suppose it was because of lack of sleep. Most people would agree that the body can only register one major sensation at a time. By this I mean that one can feel either tired or hungry but not both at the same time.

During the day we were being fired at by a machine gun from a distant hill to the west. It was firing tracer rounds. I was very surprised at how very slowly the bullets seemed to come and that one could actually see them coming. Eventually, these bullets were nicking the shrub about two feet in front of my face, which I found somewhat bothering.

About this time, Dennis Harding said to me that our radio to Battalion Headquarters wasn't working, so would I run to them and ask if we could get some defensive artillery fire in front of our position. I ran along the ridge, only about four foot wide which meant there was no way of avoiding exposure. I covered the distance in short order. On the way back I passed Richard Reeve-Tucker who I saw had a bullet wound in the centre of his forehead. I spoke to him and he replied. This was quite remarkable. Minutes later he was found to be dead.

In the event, the plan for 'B' and 'C' Company to lead the withdrawal was cancelled and on the morning of the 25<sup>th</sup>, the Colonel gave the order that everyone was to find their own way back. Major Harding, who was now commanding the combined 'B' and 'C' companies, passed on the order and off we all went in small groups. I went with Major Dennis Harding and Sergeant Major Ridlington and we managed to avoid capture all that day and night.

The morning of the 26<sup>th</sup> was a truly beautiful morning; the only trouble was that I was hallucinating. Quite understandably I think, as I had not eaten for three days and not slept for four days and nights. My part of the battle had started at 1600 hours on the 22nd, I had been awake all through the nights of the twenty-second, the twenty-third, the twenty-fourth and the twenty-fifth. Most people had been captured on the twenty-fifth, but we stayed free for a day longer.

We had seemed to have evaded the first line of Chinese and were walking on, when, at about nine o'clock in the morning, we suddenly saw one lone Chinese sentry. At once, Dennis Harding pulled out his 38 revolver, a pretty silly weapon at the best of times, and took a shot at him. Not surprisingly he missed, but almost immediately about a Battalion's worth of Chinese soldiery stood up, appearing from nowhere. Being totally surrounded, there wasn't much we could do but surrender.

The sentry who had been shot at was furious – just hopping mad. However, all the other Chinese thought it was one great joke and they all broke out laughing. The poor chap was eventually appeased and the three of us were each allotted a Chinese soldier who was told to look after us. It so happened that the one who looked after me was very friendly.

One must remember that our side had napalmed theirs only about twenty-four hours before and we had seen the results, which were, to put it mildly, appalling. Many people will have seen what happens when a sausage, that has not previously been pricked with a fork, is fried. The skin splits and the contents erupt – a fairly close simile, I think.

Anyway, he offered me a cigarette, a roll your own of course, and pointing to his own small fox hole, indicated I should lie down on his kapok padded greatcoat and get some sleep. I did just that, getting about three hours in all. Kindness like this is, I have always thought, common place amongst front line soldiers. The hating is normally reserved to those some distance from the action.

At dusk we started walking, led and guarded by a few Chinese soldiers, and in the early morning came to an old school house. There we found Colonel Carne, Henry Cabral and about sixty other Glosters. Henry was Intelligence Officer of the Glosters and we had always been together since joining the army at the Training Battalion at Hollywood Barracks, Belfast; followed by Sandhurst, and Jamaica. That evening we again started walking North and were joined by others, not just British, but Filipinos and American. At this time I was still, frankly, quite tired. Not exhausted, but tired. Each night we walked something like ten miles. On the third night we stopped at a large Korean school house. The Chinese did not move us during the day because if they had it was probable that we would have been seen by American aircraft.

We noticed that in one corner, there was a trap door in the floor. Henry Cabral opened it and saw that there was a two foot space between the floor and the ground underneath. Not far away were four or five sacks of rice chaff. Henry and I soon realised that here was the chance to escape. The plan was that we would hide under the floor and others would place the bags of chaff on top of the trap door. When the party left that night to

*(continues on Page 6)*

march North, we would remain long enough to ensure no guards remained, then we would leave to go south. We were joined in this endeavour by Eddie Leach. Eddie was a Lieutenant and a tank platoon commander in the 3<sup>rd</sup> US Reconnaissance Company.

Here I must admit that one of my worst fears is claustrophobia. Luckily, Henry and Eddie didn't suffer from this problem, so they went in first and I ended up directly under the trap door, which allowed me to see a chink of light along its edge which helped a bit. We also had arranged for three people, who looked slightly similar to Henry, Eddie and myself, to try to be counted twice by the Chinese when they counted their prisoners just prior to departure. This seemed to work at the beginning, but they did another count while on the march. This time coming up three short.

At this point, they stopped the column, pulled out 'Jumbo' Wilson, a Gloster officer, and made him return to the school to help in the search for us. When the search party arrived back at the school, we heard Jumbo feebly calling out 'Guy, Henry, Eddie, are you there!' After a pause, we heard him say to the Chinese interpreter or someone, 'No, they aren't here', and they left.

After another half hour, I cautiously pressed open the trap door, which proved easy as the sacks were very light and fell aside with no problem. We got out and left the building. It was a clear, cloudless night so we easily found the North Star and then headed off, 180° in the opposite direction.

After about three hours walking, we came to a river and agreed that if we wished to keep going South, there was nothing for it but to take a swim. Being optimists, we took off our shirts and trousers and holding them above our heads waded in. As it turned out we were able to wade all the way across, finding the water not exactly cold, but shall I say 'refreshing'. We got to the other side and got dressed. (*Continued next issue*).

## Notices

### Seeking Information on...

Grant Woodbridge is seeking to talk to anyone who served with his father Wallace (Wally) Alfred Woodbridge (12th Platoon, D Company, 2RAR) in Korea. Woodbridge (s/n 2401254) served in Korea from 23 March to 30 December 1953 and was discharged on 7 May 1954. There's a couple of photos of him at the AWM website (<https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/HOBJ4441>) for those who need to refresh their memories as to what he looked like. If you served with Wally Woodbridge you can contact him directly on [canberrafisher@gmail.com](mailto:canberrafisher@gmail.com) or contact the editor.

### The POW Inter-camp "Olympics"

David Leak, the son of Korea War veteran and POW Leonard Leak, has in his possession a book about a Prisoner of War inter-camp "Olympic Games" which was held in Pyuktong, North Korea, between 15-26 November 1952.

The book, which was published by the British and American Prisoners of War, is a detailed account of the events which took place during the games with reports and photographs, lists of participants, the events they competed, and the results. This list included a number of Australians.

He wondered if any member of the KVAA has any information about this book (such as how many copies were produced) or any other details about the Olympics.

If you can help, contact David directly on [david.leak@ntlworld.com](mailto:david.leak@ntlworld.com) or give the editor a call (leave a message if he's not home).

### Attention Korea War Veterans...

who have grandchildren and/or great grandchildren and/or nieces and nephews and/or great nieces and nephews and/or any other familial permutation you can think off...

### The 2017 Scholarship Program for Descendants of UN Korean War veterans is now open.

Host University: Hankuk University of Foreign Studies (<http://www.hufs.ac.kr>). Hankuk University of Foreign Studies (HUFS) was established in 1954. In addition to its focus on the theory and practice of foreign languages, HUFS encourages students to use the language skills that they have acquired to study the politics, economy, society and culture of each region of the world. HUFS is a specialized university that educates students to become creative experts, international Koreans and independent researchers who will contribute to the development and exchange of culture. Places are available for TWO Australians who have graduated from High School or, for those seeking further education, a Bachelor or Master's diploma/degree.

Scholarship Benefits: admission and tuition fees and on-campus housing paid for by HUFS

**Application Submission Deadline: November 25, 2016**

For more details and/or an application form, contact the Secretary or Editor. See Page 2 for details.

# HMAS Tobruk, Monte Bello and the Bomb

by Mervyn Heath

Eight months after the *HMAS Tobruk* returned home from war service in Korea in 1951, the Anzac's sistership was involved in the first atomic explosion at the Monte Bello Islands. During eight months service in Korea she had steamed 39,000 miles and fired 2,316 rounds from her 4.5 inch armament. Fitted with the latest gunnery equipment, she had carried out pin-point bombardments on both coasts of Korea hitting trains, railways, railway bridges and troop concentrations. Her role at Monte Bello appears to have been searching for Russian submarines and other intruders.

The choice of Monte Bello by the British Government was influenced by the fact that the USA was reluctant to allow them to use their test sites in Nevada. Co-operation between the two Second World War allies had been strained when Klaus Fuchs, the naturalised British scientist who had worked at Los Alamos, and who had given so much information to the Soviets, was arrested as a spy in early 1950. The small shallow harbour at the Monte Bello Islands was chosen by the British because the UK had many ports used by international shipping, and they wanted to determine the effects of an atomic explosion in a port or harbour, produced by firing a device mounted below the waterline in the hold of a ship. The Prime Minister, Bob Menzies, agreed, and in August 1951, *HMAS Warrego* and its *GPV Brolga* conducted a detailed hydrographic survey of the islands in preparation for the tests that were code-named Hurricane.

*HMS Campania* led a Royal Navy taskforce of four ships to Australia that arrived in Fremantle on 31 July 1952. The taskforce included the sacrificial lamb, *HMS Plym*, presumably fitted with an unprimed atomic bomb somewhere below its waterline. At 0800 WAST on 3 October 1952, an atomic device, of the power equivalent of 25,000 tons of TNT, was exploded eight and a half feet below the waterline in the ageing frigate, and about nine metres above the seabed. The *Plym* was moored about 300 metres off the headland between Main and Cocoa beaches on Trimouille Island. At the time of firing *Plym* was on a heading of 156 degrees.

Britain's first atomic test weapon was a plutonium-239 bomb which used an implosion technique. This technique was also used in the second atomic bomb exploded over Nagasaki in 1945, and differed from the Hiroshima bomb that used the "gun" technique. The implosion type reduced the likelihood of a premature chain reaction, and increased the ultimate explosive yield of the weapon.

The *Tobruk*, along with the *Sydney*, *Shoalhaven*, *Macquarie* and *Murchison* were employed carrying out air, surface and anti-submarine patrols in the area surrounding the Monte bello Islands before and after the test. It was at the height of the Cold War and it was quite likely that the Soviets would attempt to observe the test by submarine. According to the McClelland Royal Commission held in 1985, these patrols were not in the vicinity of the test itself or its fallout. Having made this assertion, the Report fails to specify the general location and movement of the patrols, especially after the tests. According to the Report, "no RAN vessel was close enough to the blast to have been in any danger. Nor it seems were any of the ships in the path of the fallout from the blast".

Orders had specified that no ship was to be within 10 miles of ground zero at H hour. One of the closest vessels was *HMAS Hawkesbury* which was about 20 miles or 32 kms to the east of the islands. If a surface ship could be placed so close to the blast then presumably a Soviet submarine could attempt to be as close as well. This probably didn't escape Navy operations, and anti-submarine patrols after the detonation must have been close to the Monte Bellos.

At the Lake Macquarie Reunion I spoke to four members who were on the *Tobruk* at Monte Bello. They described themselves as survivors, and said that many of their shipmates had passed on. They said that cancer was a big health issue of those who had been onboard. They said that they had watched the blast from a distance of 60 miles dressed only in shorts and sandals. A map in the Royal Commission Report shows the *Tobruk* and *Murchison* south-south-west of Trimouille, about two-thirds of the way towards Onslow at H hour.

The cloud from the explosion rose to about 1800 feet after one second, and after 20 seconds the fireball had cooled down through 3000 degrees Celsius to 1500 degrees Celsius. Most of the cloud reached a maximum of 10,000 feet after about four minutes, where its ascent was substantially stopped by a temperature inversion. Local fallout began at one minute after firing, with most of it falling as contaminated rain, as well as solid particles from the crater and parts of the *Plym*. Most of this close-in fallout fell to the north and west of ground zero, with many pieces landing on Trimouille Island. Most of the identifiable pieces came from the stem of the ship.

The fallout was characterised by a black deposit which was found to be mainly composed of oxides of iron and hence the remains of the *Plym*. The initial orange flash was enveloped by a great uprush of water, with clouds of smoke, steam and spray bursting into the sky. At first the cloud moved in a dangerously southerly direction, but within 30 minutes of the explosion it had moved in a northerly direction towards Port Hedland, and was 50 miles long.

(continues on Page 8)

According to the Report, the cloud from a shallow water atomic burst, such as Hurricane, consists mainly of sea salts and water drops. When dry these particles are generally smaller than the particles in the cloud formed by a land burst. The smallness of the particles would mean that the fallout would extend to great distances and could explain the detection of fallout at Rockhampton. Furthermore, the hygroscopic (water absorption) characteristics of the sea salts would facilitate the rainout of the radioactive particles. Despite this, the conclusion of the section of the report dealing with this is that “most of the ... (fallout) ... activity fell in the sea to the north and west, as intended.”

When browsing through the Report I was struck by the focus on aerial contamination and fallout. I did not find one reference to tides, ocean currents or water temperatures. Having been to Onslow and Monte Bello on the *Warrego* in 1956, I recall the enormous movement of tides and surges of water. I could find no word about the movement of contaminated sea-water or its contamination lifespan.

Like everyone else, I well know what happens to the windscreen of my car parked at the beach. It becomes covered in a smudge of salt. At the beach, or onboard ship, we lick our lips because of the salt air. The report acknowledged (5.5.15 vol.1) that, “The nature of the Hurricane test was such that the sea water inevitably became contaminated. The Hurricane Trial Orders acknowledged this, and the distillation of contaminated sea water for drinking water was stopped immediately the dose rate reached 0.1 mr/h.” No details are given of when this occurred, in which ships or at what locations.

I asked myself the question: if the distillation of contaminated sea-water was dangerous then how much more dangerous was wind blown sea air containing contaminated salt particles. The Report itself acknowledged that, “even over lightly contaminated water the airborne activity was always above normal background and that therefore, ‘no one who took part in the operation is likely to have avoided inhaling small amounts of fission products’”. Not only was the movement of ocean currents not addressed (someone correct me if I am wrong about this) but there was not a word about the areas patrolled by the *Tobruk* and others in the days immediately after the test. Could the Toby’s path have crossed with contaminated ocean currents, and the crew ingested contaminated salt air?

The Royal Commission did find that two RAN divers had been exposed to the risk of ingesting contaminated sea-water and that their ship, *HMAS Koala*, had been contaminated. “Bad weather between 12 and 15 October resulted in the sinking of a landing craft auxiliary (LCA) at its moorings near Daisy Island. On the evening of 30 October, *HMAS Koala* recovered this LCA and was to take it to *HMS Tracker*. The LCA, when monitored, was found to be heavily contaminated with radioactive mud and sand. A decision was taken to dump the LCA in deep water as soon as possible and this was done but not before *HMAS Koala* was contaminated’.

On 31 October, it was discovered that the, “boom area and the hoisting equipment of the vessel were contaminated with radioactive mud, sand and seaweed and that the contamination had been spread around the ship. As the crew walked in the contamination it was carried through the ship on their sand shoes (?). The Captain’s carpet was found to be contaminated and along with other items which could not easily be decontaminated, it was dumped overboard’. Decontamination of the ship by washing it down took the crew 48 hours to complete.

Two divers, W. Smith and Brennan, entered the water and attached cables to the sunken LCA in order for the *Koala* to winch the craft to the surface. Smith gave evidence that he had swallowed sea water during his descent. The Royal Commission commended the Navy for its thorough effort in decontaminating the *Koala*, and rightly so, but was undisturbed and tight-lipped at the decision to send two divers into contaminated sea water, sand and mud, about one nautical mile from ground zero. Given that the Report was forthright and caustic in many matters, this led me to the conclusion that the welfare of naval personnel was not high on the Royal Commission’s political agenda.

Operation Hurricane must have been a major effort for the RAN. The boom working vessel *HMAS Karangi* carried out a preliminary survey in 1950. The *Warrego* and *Brolga* did their detailed survey in 1951. The *Karangi* and *Koala*, also boom working vessels, laid moorings, marked channels and carried stores. The *Karangi* recovered moorings subsequent to the test. The minesweeper *Mildura* made three ferry trips from Fremantle, and the *Warreen* and the *GPV Limicola* provided logistical and ferry support from Fremantle, Onslow and the Fortescue River. *HMAS Hawkesbury* was tasked as the Area Security Patrol Ship during the preliminary stages prior to the test, and was Safety Patrol Ship after the test until January 1953. The tug *HMAS Reserve* towed an oil fuel lighter to the area and remained to provide fuel in an emergency. The *Tobruk*, *Sydney*, *Shoalhaven*, *Macquarie* and *Murchison* conducted the air, surface and anti-submarine patrols. *HMAS Culgoa* was also involved.

With the successful detonation of the *Plym*’s atomic bomb, Britain, with the assistance of Australia, joined the United States and the Soviet Union as the world’s third nuclear power. The *Tobruk*, which was to return to the firing line in Korea, played its part in this historic development in world nuclear politics.



# The Truckie & the Emu

A truckie walks into an outback cafe with an emu behind him. The waitress asks them for their orders.

“A hamburger, chips and a Coke,” says the truckie.

“Sounds great,” says the emu. “I’ll have the same.”

A short time later, the waitress returns with the order.

“That will be \$9.40 please,” and the truckie reaches into his pocket and pulls out the exact change and pays.

The next day, the man and the emu come again. The truckie orders, the emu has the same, and again the truckie reaches into his pocket and pulls out the exact amount.

This goes on every day for a week. The waitress cannot hold back her curiosity any longer. “Excuse me, mate, but how do you manage to always pull the exact change from your pocket?”

“Well,” says the truckie, “a few years ago, I was cleaning out the back shed and found an old lamp. When I cleaned it a genie appeared and offered me two wishes. My first wish was that if I ever had to pay for anything, I would just put my hand in my pocket and the right amount of money would always be there.”

“That’s brilliant,” says the waitress. “Most people would ask for a million dollars or something, but you’ll always be as rich as you want, for as long as you live.”

“That’s right. Whether it’s a litre of milk or a Rolls-Royce the exact money is always there.”

Still curious the waitress asks: And what’s with the emu?”

The truckie pauses, sighs, and says: “My second wish was for a tall bird with long legs who agrees with everything I say.”

## Contact Changes & Certificates

The KVAA Treasurer, Gerry Steacy, is heading to Canada for a couple of months so I, the editor, will be handling (mishandling?) Membership Roll changes (additions, subtractions and corrections) in his absence. Instead of sending correspondence to the usual address (1 Kent Court, Werribee), post it instead to Geoff Guilfoyle at 1134 Bass Highway, Pioneer Bay, Victoria 3984. Phone calls to (03) 5997 6240 and email

editor@kvaa.org.au. If phoning, be aware that I screen calls. Talk, and if I’m present, I’ll pick up the phone. If I’m not there, leave a message, name and contact number.

Regarding matters financial...not the editor’s department. Our temporary treasurer will be Ron Christie: phone (03) 9764 5542.

Usually at this time of year, Gerry and I put our head together and try to figure out the Certificate of Service recipients for the year. With Gerry back in Canada, I’m flying solo.

At first it seemed straightforward until I noticed that some longtime members don’t appear to have ever received a certificate. Is this true? If so, is there a reason why? Did they leave then rejoin years later? And when I say ‘long term’ I mean many joined sometime before 1996 (when Gerry took over the record keeping).

So, attention Phillip H. Callant, Frank Connelly, Stanley Gallop, Kevin G. Harper, John Holford, George A. H. Lang and Reuben C. Standish. Although I can’t issue certificates you should have

### KVAA Inc. Certificate of Service Recipient List

(to be presented at the KVAA Inc. Christmas Luncheon)

<b>10 Years Service</b>	Peter R. Jones	Ormonde Petherick
Philip W. Tuckett	Ronald H. Joyce	Laurie H. Price
<b>15 Years Service</b>	Walter G. Kennewell	Allen Riches
Tony Bees	Michael J. Littleton	Rex E. Smith
John B. Brownbill	Charles T. Maitland	Frank Wyatt
Mervyn P. Campbell	Kevin J. McCoy	<b>30 Years Service</b>
William E. R. Carter	William F. Murphy	Geoff C. Binder
Raymond C. Duckett	Brian A. E. O’Brien	John Boyer
Ronald J. Gibson	Edmond Parkinson	Ronald Christie
Cecil J. Malone	Allan P. Ryan	James I. Craven
Eric G. Watson	Ivan P. Ryan	Victor A. Dey
Peter J. Webb	Ellis M. Smith	John A. Duson
Hubert N. Wilson	John E. Southorn	Milton H. Hoe
Malcolm E. G. Wright	Gerry P. Steacy	Denis Lehmann
<b>20 Years Service</b>	Frederick Thompson	Lewis Martin
John D. Bryer	<b>25 Years Service</b>	Frank W. Matthews
William L. Cass	Sydney H. Bennett	Norman Meek
Gerard J. Fenning	Collin J. Burgess	Jack Philpot
Mervyn B. Heath	Maurice C. Gathercole	Noel B. Riley
Alan P. Hunter OAM	Ronald J. Kennedy	Don Scally
Terrance J. Ireland	Norman Lewis	Arnold Stephens

Note: The 30 year certificate does not come with a pin.

received a decade ago, I can at least bring you up-to-date. If you are after a certificate – and you may not want one – contact me and let me know the date you think you joined and I’ll see what I can do.

Attention anyone else who has also missed out. Same deal. Let me know the date you joined.

Revisit Speech (continued from Page 9)

what you have achieved in your great nation’.

Finally it was time to leave South Korea and we were all physically and emotionally exhausted, it had been an amazing journey. For the Australian veterans it had been a time to reflect again on their involvement in the Korean War all those years ago, and for the carers that had travelled with them on this journey, it was a recognition of the roles that they had played and how this impacted on their lives. Once again, my sincere thanks go to all those who arranged and funded this awesome trip and to the other veterans and their carers who were such a pleasure to travel with, you are amazing.

## Geelong Christmas Luncheon

Arthur Roach advises that the Geelong Christmas Lunch for KVAA members, families and friends in the region (and further afield) is booked and ready to go for:

12 noon, Wednesday, 14th December  
at

The Gateway Pub/Hotel,  
Princes Highway  
(Opposite Broderick Road)  
Corio, Geelong  
(Melways 434 G4)

Recently a major airline offered businessmen who travel on their airline free tickets for their wives. After a very successful period the airline contacted the wives to ask how they personally enjoyed their trip. 75% of those contacted said: “What trip?”

### Christmas Luncheons Invite

#### The Korea Veterans’ Association of Australia Inc.

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

## Christmas Luncheon

**Venue:** Batman’s Hill on Collins St., 623 Collins Street, Melbourne

**Date:** Wednesday 7th December 2016

**Time:** 11:30 am for 12:30 lunch

**Bill of Fare:** Traditional Christmas Dinner

**Meal Cost:** \$35 per person

**Drinks:** Own Cost at Hotel Prices

**Award Presentation:** Certificates of Service 10, 15, 20, 25 & 30 Year

**RSVP:** 25 November 2016

*Book early as there are only 80 places*

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Please detach and return to **KVAA Inc., PO Box 2123, Rangeview, Victoria 3132**

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Please confirm attendance for \_\_\_ people.

Names of guests attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed please find my cheque / money order for \_\_\_ people @ \$35.00 per person: \$\_\_\_\_.00

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

# 27 July Service Photographs

63rd Anniversary of Korean War Ceasefire, The Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne



(l-r) Shrine guard, Korean official, Vic Dey; Tom Parkinson; Dean Lee (Shrine CEO); Air Vice Marshall Chris Spence AO (Chairman of the Shrine Trustees); Ambassador Kyoung Ha Woo; Consul-General Mr Kongju Jo, Shrine guard.



Last edition of *The Voice* featured photos of the fairly simple (especially when compared to the one in Queensland) Korean War Memorial in London. Here's another example to consider: The Korean War Veterans Wall of Remembrance in the Toronto suburb of Brampton, Ontario. This monument holds 516 tablets that are replicas of the grave markers of all 516 Canadians who fell in the Korean War. The monument was built using funds raised by the veterans themselves and is the site each year of many national ceremonies, foremost of which is the July 27 Korean War Veterans Day ceremony.

# Gobbledegook

Although “gobbledegook” was in known use as early as the first decade of the 20th century, it was made famous by Maury Maverick, a Texas Congressman and chairman of the Smaller War Plant Corporation. In 1944, he attended an all-forces meeting and when he demanded to know just what were traumatic disturbances at the air-sea interface”, he was told these were what the laymen called waves.

Returning to his department, he circulated a memorandum cautioning against the use of gobbledegook and demanded of all staff: “Be short and say what you are talking about. No more ‘finalising’, ‘effectuating’ or ‘dynamics’. Anyone using ‘activation’ or ‘implementation’ will be shot.” The memo was leaked to the press which put the word into general use. The inspiration is the vain gobbling of the inordinately stupid turkey.

# An Acting Dynasty

The famous Hollywood film dog, Rin Tin Tin, began his life in a German Army camp close behind the front in France in 1918. During an American attack on that position, the puppy who later became famous to millions around the world as “Rinty” was found by Corporal Lee Duncan and taken as a pet. (His name for the animal came from a then-popular French toy doll.)

The German Shepherd got his film career started when, shortly after the war, a talent scout saw him make some spectacular jumps at a dog show, and was captivated by the animal’s expressive face. Rinty and 11 generations of his progeny have since been featured in numerous film and TV productions.

Source: *Strategy & Tactics* magazine No.277 November-December 2012

# HMAS Wort

by Ian Hughes

A series of cartoons which appeared in *Navy News* in the 1980s-2000s.



*I was married by a judge. I should have asked for a jury – Groucho Marx*

## Debutane Ball Photos

Fountain Gate Secondary College, Melbourne; 29 debutantes and their partners, 18th August.



Vic Dey with Fountain Gate Senior and School Captain, Maddie Singleton, looking very different to the Maddie Singleton the KVAA first encountered four years ago, on 27 July 2012, at the Shrine.



## Korea Revisit Photos

23rd-28th July 2016



John Moller and Charles (Tex) Cornell receive a warm welcome.



Charles Cornell and his daughter Jenny Kerslake



(veterans, front row, l-r) Elton Watkinson, Bernard Hughes, George Ball, Ron Christie, George Saxby, Korean Sponsor, Lee Joon-Heun, Bryan Edwards, Milton Hoe, John Jarrett, John Moller, Charles Cornell.

# Cascade Gardens Ceremony Photographs

63rd Anniversary of Korean War Ceasefire, Korean War Memorial, Broadbeach, Gold Coast  
 About 250 people, around half from the local Korean community, attended the Ceasefire Ceremony at the Korean War Memorial on the Gold Coast. These photos by Andrew Hangyeol Lee come via Yang Kim, a Korean member of the Queensland Korean Veterans Association (Gold Coast). Thanks to Special member, Mark Ahn, for passing them on.



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George Hutchinson, KVAAs Tasmania delegate, at the Memorial and Korean War plaque at Collinsvale, (near Hobart). Anniversary of Kapyong.

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Here's another photo of a Korean War Memorial (or, rather, part of), this one via Colin Berryman's son and daughter-in-law in Washington D.C. in August. These figures are very striking; I'd hate to enter the gardens at night and encounter them. Something to think about for the proposed Melbourne Memorial.

## Farewells

Major General James Curnow Hughes AO DSO MC FAIM  
 Dip. FP (Deakin), 47001, 3RAR on 12 August 2016

John Edmond Leigh, 2400207, 3RAR on 22 July 2016

William Brian Russell, 5400220, 3RAR on 4 August 2016

Rudolph K. Sullivan, 34861, *HMAS Bataan*, on 5 July 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