



# THE VOICE

August 2017 Edition

## Contents:

Editor's Opening	1
Life Members	2
Directory	2
Editorial Disclaimer	2
Merchandise Available	2
President's Report	3
Jongbopsa Address	3
Korean War Memoirs	4
On 27th July...	5
From Bad To Best	7
Decisive Doctrine, Indecisive Navy	9
Operation Watchtower	9
A Failure of Identification	9
Notices	10
Men Versus Women	11
Dikko	12
Health and Fitness Facts	12
Bob Hope...	13
HMAS Wort	13
Korean Church Service Photos	14
Ceasefire Ceremony Service Photos	14
Farewells	14
The Ode	14

## Editor's Opening

It is the middle of winter here in country Victoria (and elsewhere in Australia, presumably) and mid-year is traditionally the slowest regarding news and events. That said, I do have a little to talk about.

The annual Korean Church service at the Korean Church of Melbourne, in Malvern drew 90 KVAA members, wives, children and grandchildren (17 of whom showed up unannounced, tsk, tsk) making it now the premier KVAA social occasion of the year, ousting the Christmas luncheon from top spot.

The first letter to arrive in *The Voice's* very own Post Office box was an unexpected and very welcome donation of \$50 to the KVAA from Alison Gilmore (widow of Ian). Thanks very much, Alison.

Now, to the main feature, a reply to last month's piece by Ben Davie (*Softies Had No Will To Live*). It comes from Jeffrey J. Brodeur, National 2nd Vice President, KWVA in the United States. He writes:

*His article...is way off base. After talking with many men from many units that proportion of men who voluntarily surrendered was very minute. I know for a fact the first men sent to Korea from Japan were with Task Force Smith and many of them were untrained and had settled into the peacetime Army, no fault of theirs.*

*When they arrived in Korea, one battalion, the 21st Infantry Regiment, was told to hold off the entire North Korean Army with weapons and ammunition used in World II. The US Army had downsized dramatically after WWII.*

*Some soldiers fought to the death, some were captured, many who were captured were executed with their hands tied behind their backs after they ran out of ammunition. The survivors regrouped. They bought enough time to get American reinforcements into Korea. The North Korean had dozens of tanks and the Americans had anti-tank weapons that were obsolete and useless against the Russian T-34 tanks.*

*The US Army 7th Division which consisted of the 31st and 32nd Regiments were on the Marine right flank during the Battle of the Chosin. They were led by LTC Don Faith who had a distinguished combat record in World War II with the 82nd Airborne Division and made 5 combat jumps. The 2 regiments fought valiantly against 4*

*(continues on Page 10)*

A committee should consist of three men, two of whom are absent – Sir Herbert Beerbohm Tree.

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# Directory

**Patron :** Major General David McLachlan AO (Retired)

**National President :** Victor Dey OAM

Phone: 03 946 72750 / Mobile: 040 987 8864 / Email: blueydey@bigpond.net.au

**National Vice-President :** Tom Parkinson

Phone: 03 9350 6608 or c/- Pascoe Vale RSL 03 9354 6364 or president@pascoevalersl.com.au

**National Secretary :** Chris Banfield

Mobile: 0412 832 148 / Email: lithiumicecream@hotmail.com

## Correspondence

The Secretary, 316 Nicholson Street, Fitzroy, Victoria 3065

## Subscriptions / The Voice

The Editor, PO Box 3, Grantville, Victoria 3984

**Treasurer :** Gerry Steacy

Phone: 03 9741 3356 / Mobile: 0423 261798 / Email: steacy32@bigpond.com

## Committee

Ron Christie, George Daniel, Milton Hoe, Ron J. Kennedy, Merrill Lord,  
 John Moller OAM JP, Allen Riches, Arthur Roach, Don Scally

## Appointments

**Chaplain:** John Brownbill RFD KCSJ 0418 359 085 / **General Committee:** Alan McDonald  
**Pensions:** Charlie Slater 9355 7264 / **Veterans' Affairs:** John Brownbill RFD KCSJ 0418 359 085  
**Editor:** Geoff Guilfoyle Phone: 03 59976240 Email: editor@kvaa.org.au

## Delegates

**ACT:** Colin Berryman OAM (Phone: 02 6258 2463 / Mobile: 040 896 2415 / Email: jacol57@bigpond.net.au)  
**Riverina:** John Munro RFD ED (Phone: 03 5480 3778 / Email: jrenmunro@bigpond.com)  
**Geelong:** Arthur Roach (03 5243 6113) / **New South Wales:** Merv Heath (02 4343 1967)  
**Queensland:** Harry Pooley (Phone: 07 3200 0482 / Email: htpooley@tpg.com.au)  
**Queensland (Kilcoy Region):** Kelly Frawley (Phone: 07 5497 1790 / Email: kelbes56@gmail.com)  
**South Australia:** John Jarrett (Phone 0411 420 162 / Email jarrett1432@bigpond.com)  
**Tasmania:** George Hutchinson (Phone: 03 6275 0762)  
**Western Australia:** John Southorn (Phone: 08 9531 2008 / Email: bessboss@westnet.com.au)

## Website

www.kvaa.org.au

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## President's Report

It has been a very hectic time in the Dey household since my last report. After recovering from the accident last November with great help from the district nurses, and getting over the skin graft, I was sent to hospital again for a week with cellulitis in my leg. Another week in hospital with a 24 hour intravenous drip. That sure fixed everything up.

One of the first-up duties to attend to after discharge from hospital was a meeting regarding the Korean War Memorial at the Footscray City Council Office with the Consul-General, his Project Manager, two Government reps, two DVA reps, two from the Council, KVAA Vice President, Tom Parkinson, and I, and the Professor from Swinburne Technical College who is the overseer of the project.

He showed slides of three draft copies of the designs already created. No decision was made but all present agreed number three was the favourite. With some slight changes, it maybe possible to finalize the selection in September.

My wife and I caught a bad virus off one of our great-grand-daughters on Sunday the 23rd. She is still bedridden and I'm moving at about 80%. Had to miss the Shrine Memorial Ceremony on the 27th, first time in three decades. My thanks to Vice President Tom Parkinson and the boys for doing such a fine job.

We're moving slowly towards the end of winter which, from my point of view, can't come quick enough. Take care and stay safe.

My high school assignment was to ask a veteran about the Korean War. Since my grandfather had served in 3RAR during the conflict, I chose him. After a few basic questions, I gingerly asked, "Did you ever kill anyone?" Granddad fell quiet. Then, in a soft voice, he said, "Probably. I was the cook."

## Jongbopsa Address

by Col Berryman OAM  
KVAA Inc. Canberra Delegate

*Address delivered before a distinguished audience, including His Excellency, Kyoung HA Woo, the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea and Colonel Choi Sungman, Defence Attaché, at the Jongbopsa Buddhist Memorial Service on 10 June 2017.*

Even though the Australian Force in Korea was comparatively small, it played a significant role during that sad and unfortunate conflict, and its uneasy aftermath.

The Navy gave magnificent support from its bombardments along the coast, and from its fleet air arm operating from *HMAS Sydney*. Our Air Force also performed an important role both in air attack operations by our magnificent No. 77 Squadron, and air transport medical evacuations and supply operations by No. 36 Air Transport Squadron.

Our Army operations throughout the war were of great value, and received great honour and respect from the United Nations, both in attack and defence roles, during the first mobile operations earlier, and also later, as the war became a bitter and bloody static struggle, at the 38th Parallel, where it had originally started. It also ended there, in an uneasy truce and armistice.

All three battalions of the Royal Australian Regiment served there until the last Infantry were finally withdrawn in March 1956, when Australian operational service ended in Korea. Our Third Battalion of the Regiment, among several other honours, was also awarded a US Presidential Citation, for its brave and stubborn defence of the UN line, at the Battle of Kapyong, during the almost over whelming offensive, made by the Chinese during April 1951.

There were 17,850 of us who served in Korea, from 1950 until 1956, when the last infantry were withdrawn. Now there are less than 2,500 of us still alive. The years that have elapsed, have taken their toll upon us. But we still are proud of our service, which was significant for our own nation, and for the nation we fought and served to protect, the Republic of Korea.

We, who remain, 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 then, 338 before the cease fire, on 27 July 1953, and 18 after the uneasy Armistice that occurred, on that date.

For a matter of interest, 281 lie in the beautiful United Nations Cemetery in Busan, Republic of Korea; 32 in the Commonwealth Cemetery at Yokohama, in Japan; one is officially buried at sea, off the coast of North Korea; and sadly, 42 others have no known graves, 2 lost somewhere in South Korea, and 40 in North Korea, approximately half of those, last known to have fallen in the De-Militarised Zone.

We also have great feelings of respect, towards the wonderful people of the Republic of Korea. We who served there, recall how hard and bravely their armed Forces fought, and the terrible sufferings their civilian population 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 own great courage and tenacity. They are now a prosperous people. It is a great honour to have them as our friends, and comrades.

# Korean War Memoirs

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

## Part Eight

The Chinese were always full of surprises. But the greatest surprise was when one evening a Chinese, speaking perfect English, brought us a large bundle of leaf tobacco, all neatly wrapped in the 'Shanghai News'. Henry and I were not smokers at that time but not so Eddie. Deftly he rolled us each a Super King Size cigarette. About six inches long they were, and we were still smoking them about half an hour later. Another surprise was in store. Later that evening, (everything happens at night to a POW of the Chinese), another Chinese came and saw us.

He bade us to 'Pack your everything, come, uh.' This was the standard phrase used by the Chinese when they wanted us to go somewhere.

'Looks like a Chogi some place', said Eddie. Chogi was the Korean for 'there', but came to mean, in prisoner parlance 'a journey', owing to the fact that the guards would frequently use it to mean that the destination was at hand, when nearly always there was another six miles or more to go.

To obey the first part of the Chinese guard's order was simple. We had nothing to pack. The second part was not so easy. We had become very weak and for the first time realized how thin we were. Our clothing flapped loosely about us. I suppose our journey was only a mile, but it took us, I imagine, at least three hours.

We didn't know where we were going and were resigned to an all night march, when we were motioned to a turning off the road and began climbing a steep hill. Complete exhaustion had almost overtaken us when we found ourselves opposite a substantial concrete building looking rather like an air raid shelter. We were informed it was a hospital.

A Korean girl, dressed in standard Korean army uniform with a Red Cross armband, led us inside. Like all Korean girls she was short and stocky, but unlike all, it seemed there was a spark of kindness in her broad Mongolian face.

She spoke a few words of English and soon made it plain to us that her opinion of the Chinese was not high. Without further loss of time she deftly swabbed our arms and bandaged them up. It was wonderful to feel at least partly clean again.

From then on our arms healed up surprisingly quickly though it was to be another three months before I could so much as hold a pen to write my name. Thus ended one of the worst episodes in our lives as POW's, but that was by no means the end of the story.

Late that afternoon, the officers got their first good look at the two British officers who had been kept so close to them, but out of sight. The two officers came down the street under heavy guard. Both looked cheerful and walked easily. They were very thin, and thongs which had bound them at the wrists and above the elbows had cut deeply into their flesh. Bones and tendons were exposed at several places. That we were very thin there was no doubt. To each other we looked like those photographs of Belsen survivors. I could join the tips of my thumb and forefinger round my wrist and then move up to the elbow without letting go; the same applied from above my elbow to my shoulder.

From there we three were taken to the notorious 'Pak's Palace', a North Korean Army interrogation centre run by a Major Pak. I spent seven and a half months at Pak's Palace. The record for anyone. The first two months was spent in interrogation by 'The Professor' mostly about radios. (The Professor was so named because he had been one at Seoul University before the war). Day and night it went on and on, it was difficult to lie and not get caught out. Eventually it occurred to me that I was being unnecessarily virtuous in not telling them what they wanted to know.

The 19 set and the 62 set that we had used, had both English and Russian writing on them, implying that similar sets had been sent to Russia during the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War. The 31 set, a VHF platoon set, was so unreliable, that if the communist world were to copy it, they would be doing themselves more harm than good. The Professor was probably the only interrogator to have, what appeared to be, a touch of humanity. (Much later on I discovered that he had been instrumental in the removal of "Spud" Gibbons finger nails before I arrived there.)

One day after a particular stormy session he said 'Well I think we have quarrelled enough, now tell me about the Canadian Navy', knowing full well that I knew nothing about it, and solemnly proceeded to take down the outrageous particulars I gave him. 'Sixteen battleships, thirty-two cruisers, sixty-four destroyers and submarines.' All 'graduates' had to draw maps of something. I was asked by the sergeant, we called the "map sergeant" – 'You have been to London?'

'Yes', I replied.

'Very well, draw me a plan of London docks, giving me the measurements of every building and the colour

*(continues on Page 8)*

## On 27th July 1953...

From *The Graybeards, Korean War 60th Anniversary Special Edition III, Vol.27, 2013*

Carroll Reusch, Tennessee, USA...

July 1953 was not an easy month. The enemy was doing their best to push us back so when the armistice was signed both sides would have to move back. Then, they would have the higher ground and better positions.

We had been eating C-rations for about a month as the end of the war neared. On July 27th, we were informed that there was hot food about a half mile back. Our leaders told us to go there in groups of three or four, which we did. Around four p.m. we learned that there was more hot food. I went back again, only because we had a number of troops who were about to rotate home, and hot food was no enticement for them. They stayed in their foxholes or under cover all day as rounds were going overhead from both sides. I believe they were just using up all their ammo.

I was the medic for the 2nd Platoon, C Co., 65th Inf., 3rd Div. About dark on July 27th we were assigned to go on patrol into "No Man's Land," as we did many other times. We were out only a short time before we got the call to come back in. Anyone who wanted to see some movement should have seen us motor back to our lines.

By my watch, at 9:55 p.m. everything became completely silent. All night long flares were sent up covering "No Man's Land" to make sure the enemy would not try to attack us. All went well overnight. The following morning U.N. forces replaced all ROK units on the front line so there would not be any confrontations that would restart the fighting. We were involved in that movement.

It was a great experience being a medic, as we had 38 South Korean Soldiers in our company of about 200 members. All of them, South Korean and American alike, always watched over me – as I did them.

Richard A. Drum, Pennsylvania, USA...

I was sitting on the deck of the *USNS General M.M. Patrick* when the truce was signed and announced over the ship's PA system. We had arrived at 7 a.m. that morning in Yokohama, Japan, having left Seattle POE on 14 July, 1953 at 11 p.m. There was great relief and celebration among all on board! Rumor was that the ship would "turn around" and send us all back home. However, that was not to be. So much for Army rumors! Our journey continued, and I arrived in Pusan, Korea on 7 August, 1953. There, I was assigned to the 55th QMBD in Pusan where I served until 24 March, 1954. I was discharged at Fort Meade, Maryland, 9 April, 1954.

John A. (Jack) Butler Texas, USA...

On the night of July 27, 1953, I was aboard *USS Winston* (AKA 94) in Pusan Harbor when we received word of the armistice. The mood on the ship was "Good, We're going home tomorrow." Sound familiar? Wrong! The next morning we moved to Sasebo, Japan and unloaded our LCMS and LCVPS.

The Corps of Army Engineers came aboard after tying a barge alongside. They had with them tools and material to build cages in the cargo holds of our ship. After the ship's cargo holes were outfitted with provisions for feeding, sleeping, and sanitation, 100 Marines came aboard to serve POW guard duty.

The next day we went to Koje-do, Korea, and started loading POWs from LCUS that transported them from the POW camp to our ship. The ship's crew was told not to have anything to do with the prisoners. The Marines, armed with M1s with fixed bayonets, would have full responsibility for the POWs.

From Koje Do, we moved to Inchon, a two-day trip, for the prisoner exchange at "Freedom Village." Anchored in Inchon Harbor was the hospital ship *USS Consolation*. As American POWs were exchanged, they were airlifted to the *USS Consolation* for physicals. The POW exchange, "Operation Big Switch," lasted about 6 weeks. Then we got to go home.

Jack C. O'Dell, South Carolina, USA...

I was in Panmunjom on July 27, 1953 for the signing of the cease fire. I was Maj. Gen. Randolph McCall Pate's personal guard. (He later became the 21st Commandant of the Marine Corps, 1956-59). He wasn't signing the documents; he was there as a spectator. All the leaders from North and South Korea showed up at the meeting in military vehicles. The Chinese, however, came in a white limo.

The meeting only lasted fifteen minutes, just long enough for everyone to sign the treaty and be gone. They had met for months beforehand, sometimes for only five minutes, sometimes for two to three hours. There apparently wasn't any need to stay any longer than they needed to, even though they had erected a special pre-fab building just for the signing.

Later, I was present at the exchange of prisoners. I was a Corporal at the time. When I retired in 1955, I was a Sergeant.

(continues on Page 6)

*On 27th July... (continued from Page 5)*

### J. Birney Dibble M.D., Wisconsin, USA...

What I remember most clearly about July 27th of 1953 is the almost total apathy on the part of the people I talked to on that day.

I had returned from Korea in March 1953 after 16 months over there. I served my first six months as a battalion surgeon with the 3rd Bn., 5th Marines, on the front lines, in combat. The remaining time was as the commanding officer of Easy Medical Company, a Navy/Marine hospital (comparable to an Army M.A.S.H.) four miles back of the MLR.

My last three months in the Navy were at the Great Lakes Navy base near Zion, in northeast Illinois. When discharged on June 30, 1953, I returned to Cook County Hospital, where I had interned from 7/49 to 6/51, and began a four-year general surgery residency.

On the 27th, I was making rounds in the morning and asking each of the 25 patients under my care this question: "Have you heard that the Korean War will end today?" None had. Then, I asked, "Do you know where Korea is?" All except one said, "No." One said, "Yes, it's near Japan." She knew this because her brother had been in the Army in Korea.

One out of twenty-five! I was shocked. Even taking into account that this was a county hospital, with low-income and no-income patients, I found it hard to believe. I casually asked some of my fellow doctors and nurses the same two questions and was a bit relieved. Almost all were able to locate Korea on their mental map, but very few knew that the war was to end that day.

We've all heard that Korea was the "Forgotten War." It wasn't. It was the "Unknown War" You can't forget something you never knew!

### Norbert Bentele, Illinois, USA...

On the morning of July 27, 1953 I was at the 10th Corps Headquarters Communications Bunker to check on trouble reports and perform other duties; I was Platoon Sgt of the I&M Platoon of T&T Company, 4th Signal Bn., Tenth Corps. We knew the truce signing could happen any time, as the South Koreans were demonstrating against the signing, urged on by President Rhee.

A hard battle on the MLR at Heart Break Ridge had just ended. Shortly after 10 a.m. we got word over our lines from 8th Army Headquarters that the truce had been signed by General Mark Clark and would take effect at 10 p.m. that night. There was no celebrating at all; it was business as usual, and our work went on as planned the rest of the day. Everyone was betting the cease fire could not hold, and that we would be back to a shooting war in less than a month. They felt that the Chinese were gaining some rest time and we would be paying for stopping the action.

All day artillery on both sides laid down barrages which never stopped. Later that evening several of us went up to our long range radio site, which was on a high peak of a mountain and got a good view of the MLR, which was lit up from horizon to horizon with flares, search lights, artillery, etc. At 10 o'clock everything shut off. It went dark all across the MLR. We had eerie, strange feelings. We waited to see if anybody would fire after the 10 p.m. deadline. No one in our sector did: it was over!

It was hard to believe it had lasted so long.

### Paul Bonham, Indiana, USA...

The 3rd Infantry Division was moved into the Kumsong Sector in Central Korea on July 17th stop the tide of the Chinese Army as it made a gigantic push in an effort to gain ground during the last days of the conflict. I was the Executive Officer in Baker Battery of the 9th Field Artillery Battalion.

We had six 155mm towed howitzers which fired a 96-pound projectile a maximum of 12 miles. During the next 10 days the guns were seldom silent as the 3rd Division and the 9th Corps Artillery fired almost around the clock and stemmed the tide of the Chinese advance. The news of the impending cease fire did not slow any of the fighting as many, many fire missions were fired at "the enemy in the open."

When 2200 hours came on 27 July 1953, and the cease fire order was given, an eerie silence fell over the front; it will always be remembered. Rifle fire, mortars, guns, and howitzers were all silenced. As the Executive Officer, I gathered all the firing mechanisms for the howitzers and placed them under my bunk for the remainder of the night. There was no celebrating, just a careful revelation that it might not be for real.

On the morning of the 28th, the entire battery appeared in formation and the terms of the armistice were read. Each man signed a paper averring that he understood the terms and would bear no arms. There was some celebrating as the howitzers and equipment were cleaned and the guns of the 9th Field Artillery Battalion were covered for the first time in nearly three years of continuous fighting. The Battalion moved to a rear area for a few weeks, then proceeded to an area further south. The new location was a tent city, where the men rested and it was Army all over...training, repairing, marching in review, repairing...

For several members, it meant getting ready for the trip home. That's when I left in late September.

# From Bad to Best

## The Food of the Royal Australian Navy

by Lieutenant Tom Lewis

The food of the navy has changed over time, and most would agree – from bad to good to best!

As one of the original sailors' training ship *Tingiru* recalled, they received for breakfast a steaming bowl of hot cocoa, and a hard sea biscuit. But every trainee had to be quick for meals, and it almost appeared as if the Navy made a practice of ensuring some missed out as a form of encouragement.

As one recalls: "...the call was made 'Come and get it' – and if you were last you didn't get any, and if you were on watch it was gone by the time you came down and you didn't get any until the next meal".

Sometimes on shore things were no better. Max Hinchcliffe recalls that at his first meal at the RAN College "someone dipped into the honey and brought out a mouse." However, this didn't cause too much fuss because "...the rest of us were too busy knocking the weevils out of the biscuits".

There were plenty of grumblings about food in the early days of the RAN. The Member for Corio investigated some navy complaints. He found: the diet of the men in *Yarra* and *Parramatta* consisted of a breakfast of porridge and bread and butter, a lunch of roast meat and potatoes with no other vegetables, and pudding only twice a week, and a supper of bread and butter and tea. What we now call lunch was then-called dinner. The evening meal was called tea, and the pipe was "hands to tea" at 1600.

Life was a little better if you were an officer – because you paid for better food. VADM Peek recalls how when he joined the RAN in 1928 the Wardroom and Gunroom, although they received one shilling and three-pence a day food allowance – fed themselves to a better standard by putting in two shillings out of their five shillings a day pay.

How good the mess fare was depended on messman and obviously how much the officers decided to contribute. English pies were a favourite, VADM Peek recalls, and on Sunday night they usually had tinned salmon.

John Ross, serving before the war on overseas deployments, recalls that although fresh fruit and vegetables disappeared after a few weeks at sea, fresh bread was always made. Ross also recalls how the addition of money to the food allowance allowed 'three-course lunches' and 'four-course dinners'.

The custom of supplementing your mess food was also observed sometimes on the lower deck. Sailors serving on (an earlier) *Tobruk* in Hong Kong, for example, would put in a shilling a payday.

Food in WWII, of course, varied widely from ship to ship and location to location. Nevertheless, many ships' companies did not miss the opportunity to go ashore for some variety when they could. WE Reeve noted that during his time in the Mediterranean: "Leave ashore meant the usual chores, haircut (much better than the ship's crew) and a good meal was a must. It was quite a relief to have food served that had not been cooked in the Navy style."

Stan Nicholls notes of his time in *HMAS Shropshire* in the Japanese Pacific war the ship's company had "...boiled eggs for breakfast, tinned sausages and 'redlead' for lunch and camp pie or bully beef for supper. Some variation...was tinned beans and pork for the action station breakfast followed by frankfurts for lunch and tinned fruit and our 'favourite' bully beef for supper".

Of course, the limitations on the ships' cooks have always been quite harsh. An Oberon submarine's galley, for example, turned out three meals a day for 73 people. The whole thing was about the size of a Fremantle Class patrol boat's galley. The patrol boat's galley is, of course, about the size of a small suburban bathroom, and full of machinery, ovens, ranges and so on. Yet these cooks managed to turn out magnificent meals: Saturday night at sea often saw two huge roasts with all of the trimmings, cooked to a quality that would rival any restaurant.

In the early sixties, when Errol Hunt first joined as a sailor, the quality seemed to be high and also consistent – if a little unusual by today's standards. Breakfast, Errol recalls, was often 'train smash' and not, as we might think, sausages and mashed potatoes, but a sort of 'tomato au gratin' – tinned tomatoes with cheese on top. Also at breakfast were devilled kidneys, and what was known as 'yellow peril': smoked cod, in fact. Errol adds: "Eggs were always on the menu, as was bacon." What were known as 'Tiddy oggies' – a term for pastries – were often served for dinner.

As regards other meals: "Anything with batter around it was in night clothing – something was wrong with it, we said, so they used to disguise it. I remember we usually had duff (a generic navy term for dessert) with lunch. The meals were always wholesome – I never had a complaint, because it was always like Mum used to give me, and she was a great cook. Baked dinners were more than the norm; even baked lunches. Evenings always had soup to start. Afternoon tea – there was always a spread for that: a sit-down time with bread and Vegemite; bread and jam, and so on. Evening meal at six o'clock we had a 'meat and three veg' type meal. At

(continues on Page 8)

*From Bad to Best (continued from Page 7)*

2100 we had kye – slab cocoa – and rock cakes. I can honestly say I never went hungry”.

Errol remembers, understandably, that by the second or third week at sea the meals began to go down in quality. He also noted that if the “chief victualler and the chief cook got on well the quality was good”. (The Victualling Branch [SV rating] was amalgamated with the Stores Naval branch in the early 90s, and cooks became responsible for their own Rations Management Accounting).

PO Megan Payne joined the Navy in January 1979 and went through cookery school training of 18 weeks. She has seen vast changes in Navy food during her time in service, mainly relating to differences in attitude towards people’s health. For example, when she first began cooking in the RAN, there was a tendency towards fried and oily food on the menus, and there was one type of potato offered. In those days there were no vegetarian choices, and no choice as to whether you could have cold meats, salads and so on – more healthy alternatives.

Megan thinks the food choice and quality today have improved by a great percentage. She has seen changes brought in such as a higher standard in dietary training, guided by nutritionists. A ship’s menu has to be approved by a medical officer to ensure it fits in with dietary requirements.

Most training done in conjunction with TAFE Colleges, and there are now taskbooks to be completed after training, so extending it. Navy cooks today often compete with outside chefs in cooking competitions. Working part-time in restaurants is seen as normal further employment whilst ashore and perhaps even desirable to gain wider experience. International cuisine is now part of the Navy’s menu – Thai beef is a normal offering in many messdecks. And Strawberry Charlotte – a dessert of sponge fingers soaked in kirsch, molded with an English custard, set and served with a strawberry coulis – is perhaps an indication of the sophistication of today’s galley and its highly skilled commanders.

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Source: *Navy News* 3 Sept. 2001

*Korean War Memoirs (continued from Page 5)*

of the roofs’.

I said it was impossible, but the interrogator said rather flatteringly ‘You are a British Officer and so must know everything’. I still demurred, with the result that I was placed in a hole in the ground with a pistol held close to my head. I soon saw the error of my ways and said that I could do what was required after all.

I started by being, as I thought humorous, by putting in Coca-Cola machines and things like that. When one had to draw the same map three or four times, I soon realised it didn’t pay as I could never remember where I had put things. Amongst others stock questions there was frequently the old favourite. ‘Who started the war and why did you?’ or for pilots, ‘What happens when you press the button?’ This was the ejection switch they were referring to. (I was told, by an American, that some Korean or Chinese had ‘pressed the button’ on a shot down plane, and was propelled through the canopy and came down ‘deader than a mackerel’).

When the Russians turned up, dressed in blue suits, white shirts, without collar or tie and wearing Trilby hats, then the questions would be more sensible, otherwise they were absurd in the extreme. There were two other interrogators at Pak’s Palace, one was called ‘four eyes’ on account of his bright blue spectacles. He was fat, pompous and strutted about the place. The other was, of course, Major Pak himself, an evil looking little man. I was very glad I had nothing to do with either of them.

There were about fifty United Nations men of all races there, and the death rate for so small a community was pretty high. After some two months a list of about twenty names were read out and we were told that they would be going North. Henry’s name was one of them and mine was not.

The ‘Professor’ was standing there so I asked him if I could join the party, as Henry and I had always been together. He said ‘No’ and added that I would be better off where I was. At the time I didn’t believe him, but he proved to be right.

Henry left, to be marched up North. He died on the way, his body being flung into a ditch. Eddie remained to die at Pak’s and, because we hadn’t the energy, we buried him in the same shallow grave as a U.S. Air Force Colonel who had died that morning.

Oddly enough, someone had already commented that Eddie looked bad, and that we might have to do just that. Some had been horrified by what they thought was his callous approach but his forecast was 100% accurate. (Continued next issue).



## Decisive Doctrine, Indecisive Navy

Japanese naval doctrine called for fighting the decisive battle, to be executed by massed battleships and carriers. Despite that doctrine the Imperial Japanese Navy (IJN) often fought indecisively. Midway is a striking example. There, Admiral Yamamoto utilized most of the carriers and battleships of the Combined Fleet for his operation. Had he concentrated all those ships into one force, it's doubtful the USN could've brought to bear the strength to challenge him in an all-out fight for the island.

Instead of taking advantage of his superior strength, though, Yamamoto divided his fleet into several independent task groups and sent them off on various missions across the Central and North Pacific. That allowed the USN to gain local superiority in the waters off Midway. Yamamoto wasn't aware of US strength, owing to Allied deception measures and to poor Japanese naval intelligence about the situation. Regardless, his operational plan called for an unnecessary dispersion of IJN strength just at the time it was supposed to be fighting its decisive action.

Midway brings up another oddity of IJN doctrine: Japanese commanders tended to overestimate the importance of spirit and determination to carry through to victory. Those factors were supposed to overcome Allied material superiority. Even so, for all their talk about "samurai spirit," IJN operations often came off as overly cautious. For example, after the air clashes at Midway the IJN still had overwhelming superiority in surface warships plus three light carriers. Yet Yamamoto failed to muster the determination to order the completion of that critical operation.

On the other side the USN carrier groups was in poor shape, having lost most of their planes while sinking four Japanese carriers on 4 June. While Yamamoto wouldn't have been able to launch any further big carrier strikes, he would've had the air cover necessary to protect his fleet from what was left of American air-power at Midway, and his superiority in surface ships could've allowed them to fight their way to the island to support the amphibious landing. In the end, though, Yamamoto lost his samurai spirit, took the path of caution and broke off.

Source: *World at War* magazine #20 Oct.-Nov. 2011

## Operation Watchtower

Eight months after the Japanese struck with a vengeance at Pearl Harbour, the United States launched its first amphibious offensive of World War II – code-named Operation Watchtower.

The American offensive entailed the deployment of some 11,000 assault troops from the 1st Marine Division to an out-of-the-way Pacific island named Guadalcanal. The Japanese were constructing an airfield on the island, from which they intended to launch attacks against Allied shipping to Australia and New Zealand.

Following an unopposed landing on August 7, 1942, the 1st Marine Division hacked its way through razor-sharp kunai grass and thick jungle undergrowth to heat a hard-won path to the airstrip. On August 8, the Marines seized it with little resistance from the enemy (most of whom were Korean labourers who had fled into the jungle). They renamed the airstrip Henderson Field after a Marine pilot who had died during the Battle of Midway two months earlier. On the night of August 9, however, a Japanese cruiser force sank four Allied cruisers off Savo Island, after which the U.S. fleet withdrew with most of the landing force's supplies. Determined to reclaim their airstrip, the Japanese launched a counteroffensive. For the next six months the Marines withstood their determined foes. When the last Japanese troops evacuated Guadalcanal on destroyers in February 1943, an estimated 1,600 Americans had been lost in land battles; another 2,000 men and 26 U.S. ships had been lost in engagements at sea. It was a serious wound, but not a critical one.

The blow to the Japanese, however, was deadly. Their campaign not only cost them 600 airplanes, 26 ships and more than 25,000 men, but it proved to be a turning point in stopping Japanese expansion in the Pacific.

Source: *Military History* magazine, August 1999.

## A Failure of Identification

Following the sinking of the *Shoho* at the Battle of the Coral Sea on May 7th, bombers and torpedo planes from the *Shokaku* and *Zuikaku* were launched with orders to attack the *Lexington* and *Yorktown* at sunset. Failing to locate the American carriers, these planes turned around and headed back to their own carriers. Forty-five minutes after sunset, three of the aircraft spotted the lights of a carrier. They signalled to the vessel in Morse code, were answered, and began to circle the carrier to land. Suddenly, the carrier started firing at them. The pilots quickly realized that they had mistaken the *Yorktown* for one of their own carriers. They immediately flew away from the enemy guns. A few minutes later, three more Japanese planes started circling the *Yorktown*, waiting to land. This time, one was shot down.

Source: Victor Cross, *Battlehawks, 1942*, Lucasfilm Ltd. 1988

## Notices

### Passage To Pusan Documentary

*Passage to Pusan* is the true story of Australian matriarch Thelma Healy and her 15,000km solo journey to war-torn South Korea in 1961 to find the grave of her soldier son, Vince, who died fighting in the Korean War a decade earlier.

The *Passage to Pusan* documentary is based on the book of the same name by Australian journalist and author Louise Evans. It retraces the footsteps of Louise's grandmother Thelma to Pusan, South Korea to Vince Healy's grave and explores the life of Thelma, Vince and the Healy family growing up in Sandgate and Brisbane during the Depression, WWII and the Cold War years.

The documentary is proudly produced by the Korean Cultural Centre Australia with assistance from the Australia-Korea Foundation and filmed by Arirang World, South Korea's English-language broadcaster.

The *Passage to Pusan* documentary will premiere as part of the annual Korean Film Festival in Australia. Melbourne's dates are **5th to 11th September** for the whole festival and **Monday 11th Sept. at 5.30** for *Passage to Pusan*.

Please note that RSVP is essential. Those who wish to attend need to RSVP to [koffia.melbourne@gmail.com](mailto:koffia.melbourne@gmail.com) (subject: KVAA member RSVP) by no later than **Friday August 25** to secure their seats. Please provide guest's name(s) as well if you are bringing by any guests.

#### How to get your ticket(s):

Please check your name at the KOFFIA desk located near the escalator/bathroom (NOT the ACMI reception) and get your tickets there.

For more info: Korean Film Festival in Australia at (<http://www.koffia.com.au/>) or Korean Cultural Centre Australia (<http://www.koreanculture.org.au/>)

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

*Chinese divisions until LTC Faith was killed and they had expanded all their ammunition. They were on their own with no artillery or air support and the Marines were too far away to help. Many of the captured were wounded and were incapacitated.*

*As far as the Marines went, they had one regimental combat team and many were battle hardened veterans from WWII. The man who wrote the article is off base. Many of the captured American were wounded, incapacitated and didn't easily surrender as this man stated. I did read some instances of collaboration but not as prevalent as this article written 60 years ago portrays.*

*This man doesn't portray any of the many battles Americans outnumbered by Chinese and North Korean sometimes 10 to 1 held off numerous human wave attacks such as Bloody Ridge, Heartbreak Ridge, the Chosin Reservoir, Pusan Perimeter, Battle of Inchon, Chip Yong-ni, Pork Chop Hill and Old Baldy to name a few. Nobody I have ever talked to willingly or wanted to surrender.*

### Navy Week Victorian 2017

The Naval Commemoration Committee of Victoria (NCCV) with the support of the Navy League of Australia and the Naval Association of Australia have scheduled several events, starting on Saturday, 21 Oct. 2017, to support the Australian Defence Force, and Navy in particular.

This is the 50th anniversary of hosting the current Australian White Ensign. It is also the 75th anniversary of the loss of many Australian warships during WWII.

The most important activity will be the Navy Week Victoria Ball. [see below]. Earlier in the day, there will be a seminar from 10.00 am to 3.00 pm at which the Chief of Navy will be the keynote speaker.

Sunday, 22 October 2017 will be the Seafarers Church Service, conducted at 10.30 am, St. Paul's Cathedral. This important service for mariners has been conducted since 1907.

More information is available on the website at <http://navyvic.net> or speak to the KVAA National Secretary, Chris Banfield who is, coincidentally, also the Secretary of the NCCV.

#### Navy Ball

Date and Time: Saturday 21 October 2017 at 1900 hours

Dress: Black tie & miniatures

Cost \$155 per person

Venue: Melbourne Town Hall

Guest of honour will be Chief of Navy VADM Tim Barrett AO CSC RAN. All service, ex-service men and women, plus families and friends are encouraged to attend. Arrange a table, or go solo. Email Sandra: [navy.week.victoria@gmail.com](mailto:navy.week.victoria@gmail.com) or post to 7 Clarence Place, Cranbourne East, 3977. Please include a telephone number. For more info go to [navyvic.net](http://navyvic.net)

#### Canberra Reunion

Dates are now set for the 2017 Korea War Veterans Annual Commemorative Reunion held in Canberra from Friday 27th October to end Sunday 29th October 2017. Cost will be \$470 which includes 3 x breakfasts, 3 x Dinners, 3 nights' accommodation on a twin share basis, bus transport to the Service and on Sunday. A deposit of \$50 is to be paid by the 5th August with the balance of the payment being paid by 21st September. Shorter or longer stays available. This is a national event open to veterans, their families, friends and carers. Enquiries to Wendy Karam: [wendy.karam@bigpond.com](mailto:wendy.karam@bigpond.com) or phone 0408 913 695. Application forms are also available from the Editor.

# Men Versus Women (A Neverending Battle)

## Why Computers Are Female

- No one but their creator understands their internal logic.
- The native language they use to communicate with other computers is incomprehensible to everyone else.
- Even the smallest mistakes are stored in long term memory for possible later retrieval.
- As soon as you make a commitment to one, you find yourself spending half your pay cheque on accessories for it.

## Why Computers Are Male

- They have a lot of data but still can't think for themselves.
- A better model is always just around the corner.
- They look nice and shiny until you bring them home.
- It is always necessary to have a backup.
- They'll do whatever you say if you push the right buttons.
- In order to get their attention, you have to turn them on.
- Big power surges knock them out for the night.
- They are supposed to help you solve problems, but half the time they ARE the problem

\* \* \*

Husband to wife: "Today is a fine day." Next day he says: "Today is a fine day." Again, next day, he says same thing: "Today is a fine day."

Finally after a week, the wife asks her husband: "Since last week, you are saying today is a fine day. Why?"

Husband: "Last week when we had an argument, you said, I will leave you one fine day. I was just trying to remind you."

A prospective husband in a book store: "Do you have a book called, *Husband – the Master of the House?*" Sales Girl: "Fiction and Comics are on the 2nd floor."

Someone asked an old man: "Even after 70 years, you still call your wife – Darling, Honey, Luv. What's the secret?"

Old man: "I forgot her name and I'm scared to ask."

Wife: "I wish I were a newspaper so I'd be in your hands all day."

Husband: "I too wish that you were a newspaper, so I could have a new one every day!"

A bookseller conducting a market survey asked a woman "Which book has helped you most in your life?"

The woman replied, "My husband's cheque book!"

## Love and Marriage

Judging from the specimens they pick for husbands, it's no wonder that brides often blush.

Marriage is like a violin. After the music is over, you still have the strings.

Marriage is the only war in which you sleep with the enemy.

I love being married. It's so great to find that one special person you want to annoy for the rest of your life.

Marriage is like a hot bath. Once you get used to it, it's not so hot.

Spouse: someone who'll stand by you through all the trouble you wouldn't have had if you'd stayed single.

The bonds of matrimony are only a good investment when the interest is kept up.

There are two theories about how to win an argument with a woman. Neither one works.

When a man marries a woman, they become one. The trouble starts when they try to decide which one.

Too many couples marry for better or for worse, but not for good.

## Why Ships Are Female

Why is a ship referred to as "she?"

- She shows her top sides.
- She hides her bottom.
- Coming into port, she always heads for the buoys.
- There is usually a gang of men around her.
- It takes a lot of paint to make her good looking.
- It takes a good man to handle her.
- It's not the initial expense that breaks you, it's the upkeep.

\* \* \*

## Romance...or not

*These are the top entries to a competition asking for a two-line rhyme with the most romantic first line and the least romantic second line:*

My darling, my lover, my beautiful wife,  
marrying you has screwed up my life.

I see your face when I am dreaming,  
that's why I always wake up screaming.

Kind, intelligent, loving and hot,  
this describes everything you are not.

Love may be beautiful, love may be bliss,  
but I only slept with you 'cause I was pissed.

I thought that I could love no other,  
that is until I met your brother.

I want to feel your sweet embrace,  
but don't take that paper bag off your face.

I love your smile, your face, and your eyes,  
Damn, I'm good at telling lies!

My love, you take my breath away,  
What have you stepped in to smell this way?

What inspired this amorous rhyme?  
two parts vodka, one part lime.

## Dikko by Bob Dikkenburg

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



## Health and Fitness Facts (you didn't want to know)

- The average human foot has about 20,000 sweat glands and can sweat up to a half cup of liquid per day.
- To burn off one plain M&M, you need to walk the full length of a football field.
- Every time you lick a stamp, you consuming 1/10th of a calorie.
- Falling coconuts kill more people in the world than sharks do.
- There are more bacteria in your mouth than there are people in the world.
- If Barbie was a real woman, she'd have to walk on all fours due to her proportions.
- If you are 12 kilos overweight, you have nearly 5000 extra miles of blood vessels through which your heart must pump blood.
- Sugar was first added to chewing gum in 1869 by a dentist. William Semple.
- It's impossible to sneeze with your eyes open.
- When you sneeze, all your bodily functions stop, even your heart.
- Human thighbones are stronger than concrete
- Every human spent about half an hour as a single cell.
- Strawberries have more vitamin C in them than oranges.
- In an average lifetime of 70 years, the total resting time of the heart between beats is estimated to be about 40 years.
- In a lifetime, the average meat-eater consumes the equivalent of 760 chickens, 20 pigs, 29 sheep, five cows and half a trawler-load of fish.

Source: *Navy News* Vol.47, No.15, 26 August 2004

# Bob Hope...

ON TURNING 70: "I still chase women, but only downhill."

ON TURNING 80: "That's the time of your life when even your birthday suit needs pressing."

ON TURNING 90: "You know you're getting old when the candles cost more than the cake."

ON TURNING 100: "I don't feel old. In fact, I don't feel anything until noon. Then it's time for my nap."

ON GIVING UP HIS EARLY CAREER, BOXING: "I ruined my hands in the ring. The referee kept stepping on them."

ON NEVER WINNING AN OSCAR: "Welcome to the Academy Awards, or, as it's called at my home, 'Passover.'"

ON GOLF: "Golf is my profession. Show business is just to pay the green fees."

ON PRESIDENTS: "I have performed for 12 presidents but entertained only six."

ON WHY HE CHOSE SHOW BIZ FOR HIS CAREER: "When I was born, the doctor said to my mother, 'Congratulations, you have an eight pound ham.'"

ON RECEIVING THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL: "I feel very humble, but I think I have the strength of character to fight it."

ON HIS FAMILY'S EARLY POVERTY: "Four of us slept in the one bed. When it got cold, mother threw on another brother."

ON HIS SIX BROTHERS: "That's how I learned to dance. Waiting for the bathroom."

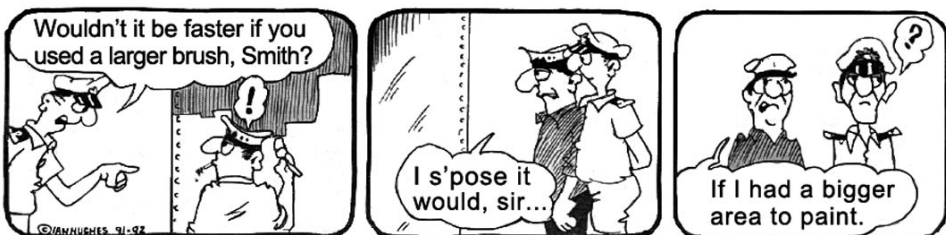
ON HIS EARLY FAILURES: "I would not have had anything to eat if it wasn't for the stuff the audience threw at me."

ON GOING TO HEAVEN: "I've done benefits for ALL religions. I'd hate to blow the hereafter on a technicality."

# HMAS Wort

by Ian Hughes

A series of cartoons which appeared in *Navy News* in the 1980s & 1990s.



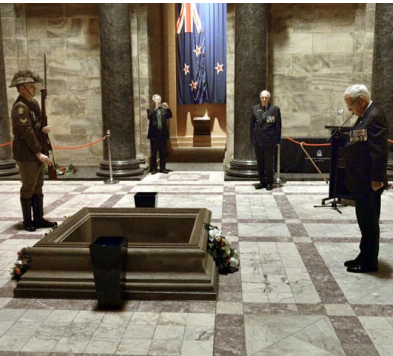
# Korean Church Service Photos

The annual Korean War Memorial Service at the Korean Church of Melbourne, Malvern, on Sunday 25 June.



# Ceasefire Ceremony Photos

64th Anniversary Korean War Ceasefire, The Shrine of Remembrance, Thursday 27 July 2017



## Farewells

- Victor Anderson, 29459, *HMAS Tobruk* on 20 May 2017
- Peter D. R. Childs, 376220, 2RAR on 15 December 2016
- Mervyn Holland, 17594, 1RAR & 3RAR on 13 June 2017
- Cecil J. (Pat) Malone, 125678, 2RAR on 14 April 2017

## 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

Approximately 90 percent of all US service personnel captured by the communists during the Vietnam War were downed pilots and aircrew.