



THE VOICE

December 2017 Edition

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Note: the KVAA Executive/Committee meeting scheduled for 29 January 2018 at the Stella Maris will meet instead on Friday 2 February 2018. See Page 3 for the reason why.

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Editor's Opening

Those of you not on email or who didn't catch it in the papers, the long-term President of the KVAA Inc., Victor Dey, passed away at 8 p.m. on Friday 19th November. Given his age and that he has spent much of the year in and out of hospital, this is not, perhaps, such a shock.

Yet given his length of tenure as President of the Association, and that until the accident last yet in which he was struck by a cyclist, he was something of a human dynamo, displaying an energy and enthusiasm few other men his age could come close to displaying, his death is a huge blow to the KVAA.

Vic joined the organisation around 1987 and by 1992 was a Junior Vice-President. Two years later, skipping Senior Vice President, he took over from Jack Philpot as President in 1994, a position he held until 10 November.

Another loss is that of our National Secretary, Chris Banfield, who resigned at the end of the Committee/Executive meeting on 26 October. As he's not a politician, I won't cite the "I want to spend more time with my family" excuse offered by snollygosters the world over.

One reason for his departure is that he's involved with two other veteran related associations and misjudged how much time the KVAA would suck up; and the second is that problem that bedevils organisations everywhere: a clash of personalities and/or ideas and/or the way things should be run. It's the standard 'odd couple' scenario, with Chris playing Felix Unger to the KVAA's Oscar Madison.

Thanks for your considerable efforts, Chris. It tends to be a thankless position in which you are blamed for everything which goes wrong and given no credit when things run smoothly.

For a number of years now, I've been pointing out the ageing membership and lack of people willing to, or able to, step into key Executive positions or even fill the numbers on the Committee. That we've managed to go this far is a tribute to the effort put in by both Vic Dey and Alan Evered (National Secretary for much of the last decade). The lack of any succession plan has hurt us; everyone seemed to think they were immortal.

So, where to now for the Korea Veterans's Association of Australia? Turn to Page 3 for the answer.

Associate Member

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

Affiliated Associations

Association of Queensland Korea Veterans Inc.
Australian Korea Veterans Association Inc.
Korea War Veterans Association of NSW
Korean War Veterans Association of Sunshine Coast Inc.
The Sunshine State Chapter of the Korean War Veterans Assoc. Inc. of the USA

Allied Associations

Australian Peacekeepers and Peacemaker Veterans' Association Inc.

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 Rev. Burne Brooker†
 John Brownbill RFD KCSJ
 John Burke†
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 Victor Dey OAM†
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 Gerry Steacy
 Doug Wilkie JP
 †Deceased

Directory

Patron : Major General David McLachlan AO (Retired)

National President : Tom Parkinson

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

National Vice-President : Alan McDonald

Phone: 03 5975 4113 / Email: alanmc12@iprimus.com.au

National Secretary : Merrill Lord

Mobile: 04 328 36182 / Email: merrilllord78@gmail.com

Correspondence

The Secretary, PO Box 107, Frankston, Victoria 3199

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

George Daniel, Alan Evered, Milton Hoe, Ron J. Kennedy,
 John Moller OAM JP, Allen Riches, Arthur Roach, Don Scally

Appointments

Chaplain: John Brownbill RFD KCSJ 0418 359 085 / **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: htppooley@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

Editorial Disclaimer

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KVAA pocket badge	\$10.00	\$	Kapypong battle print	\$ 6.00	\$
KVAA lapel badge (undated)	\$10.00	\$	Tie (with KVAA Inc. logo)	\$20.00	\$
KVAA beer (stubby) holders	\$ 5.00	\$	Car number plate surrounds (set)	\$10.00	\$
Korean War bumper sticker	\$ 2.50	\$	Commonwealth Shoulder Flak	\$ 2.50	\$

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The Future of the KVAA

At the 29 November 2017 Committee/Executive meeting, the future of the organisation was subject to intense discussion. The following is the outcome of this meeting.

Merrill Lord has stepped up and accepted the role of National Secretary. She is a very brave woman. Luckily, she has former National Secretary Alan Evered to advise her. He is back on the Committee and has also taken on the role of Minutes Secretary.

The National Vice-President, Tom Parkinson, acting President for the past few weeks, has now been officially appointed to the role. He will also remain President of the Pascoe Vale RSL.

Alan McDonald has moved from the General Committee into the Vice-President position.

Service certificates and pins. This year's will go out/have gone out without the signature of either the President or National Secretary of the Association – for obvious reasons. This is also the last year of their issue. Why? See Page 4 for the answer (but finish reading this section first).

Membership cards. Issued yearly to members upon receipt of their yearly *Voice* subscription payments. These will no longer be sent out. Why? See Page 4 for the answer (but finish reading this section first).

New subscribers to *The Voice*. No problem, if you get it by email. Otherwise...not unless you are an actual veteran – and if you are, what took you so long to notice the KVAA and/or *The Voice*? See Page 4 for details, but finish reading this section first.

As for the future of the KVAA, I think Vic's passing has driven home the fact that the Association is in its sunset period. There are still tens of thousands of WWII servicemen and servicewomen around, and even if the average age is a little higher than Korea War veterans, they have numbers on their side. Conversely, the Vietnam War veterans have relative youth. We are sandwiched in the middle and fading fast.

The general feeling is to go on into next year, see how we are travelling, and decide on the fate of the Association at the Annual General Meeting in March.

The next big event is ANZAC Day. With only a couple of veterans (maybe three or four at a pinch) taking part in the march and the numbers at Stella Maris afterwards falling steadily each year, our participation (should we, shouldn't we, or in what way?) will need to be discussed AND DECIDED ON at the next General/Committee meeting.

The next General/Committee meeting was scheduled for January 29 2018. However, this has been changed to Friday 2 February 2018 for 1030-1500 hours (10.30am to 1pm) at the usual place (Stella Maris Seafarers' Centre). The reason for this change is that members of a group called UN Supporters of Pukyong National University (located in Busan, South Korea) will be attending Stella Maris to meet with veterans. This is the University's student peace corps. (<http://www.nocutnews.co.kr/news/4541779> links to an article about them).

There are a number of other minor and major issues which still need working out in this post-Vic Dey world we have been unexpectedly thrust into – both the February and March meetings will be key to mapping out the future, so I urge you all to attend and have your say. Given that I couldn't delay producing *The Voice* any longer and the discussion is still ongoing, I will hopefully cover these matters more fully in the next *Voice*.

Speaking of *The Voice*... What now for this fine publication? See Page 4 for the answer.

Col Gets a Gong

So, who is Col and why does he get a musical instrument? The 'Col' is actually Colin Berryman OAM and 'gong' here is used in its colloquial term meaning award or medal. In this case, a Life Membership of the KVAA. Colin is our ACT delegate, which means Canberra, a city full of politicians, diplomats and bureaucrats and those who work for them. There will be more on Colin in the next issue of *The Voice*.

A company owner was asked the question, "How do you motivate your employees to be so punctual?" He smiled and replied, "It's simple. I have 30 employees and 29 free parking spaces. One is paid parking."

Mea Culpa!

A continuing series in which the editor admits that, rumour to the contrary, he isn't perfect.

Two errors in last month's *Voice* need correcting. I spelt Robert Coucaud as Robert Coucad (however, I did get the name right on the certificate) and labelled our former National Secretary as John Mollar, as in *dollar*, when it should have been *Moller*, as in, um... *toller*. Apologies to both. Also, on the certificate list the names of Lawrence Date, Jim Hebbard and James Reardon went missing. Apologies to you also.

The Future of *The Voice*

The short answer: secure. A proposal that subscriptions be abandoned and *The Voice* paid for out of accumulated funds was carried at the October Committee/Executive meeting and ratified at the November one.

So how does this work?

The KVAA is putting part of our accumulated capital to good use by making *The Voice* free for those who are CURRENTLY financial. In effect, making the 2017 fee a lifetime membership or, more accurately, lifetime subscription. Those currently not financial would be given ONE final warning – this edition – then cut off.

Each issue of *The Voice* currently costs around \$650 to produce and mail out (\$3,900 per annum). In 2009 we sent out nearly 700 bi-monthly; now it is 500. Not a huge drop over 8 years. Can the KVAA coffers cover the next, say, four years, at which time it should be down to around 250?

The answer is YES, especially as now a fifth of the number going out do so via email. So...

If you are the Patron of the KVAA, a Life Member, the widow of a deceased member or a representative of an association that currently receives a copy of *The Voice* but who does not (and never has) paid a subscription fee – then you need not do anything. Your *Voice* will continue to show up as usual.

If you are required to pay a subscription fee and have done so – then you also need do nothing. But...

If you are required to pay a subscription and are still in default despite a number of warnings, then, well, thanks for coming, because your copy of *The Voice* won't be. To make matters easy for you, here is a list of those who I think are currently unfinancial: Geoff C. Binder, William C. Black, William Boswell, Phillip H. Callant, Mervyn P. Campbell, Joseph Charlton, David Connelly, Malcolm B. Elliott, George H. Gamble, Jane Harrington, James Henderson, Melissa Hodson, Sang Kim, Koo Young Lim, Carmel Longmuir, Elsie Longmuir, Charles T. Maitland, Roger L. Marshall, Frank W. Matthews, Kevin J. McCoy, Alan P. McGowan, Norman Meek, Robert N. Moir, Robert Palmer, Kenneth Powell, Joseph P. J. Richards, Lorna Robertson, Walter R. Wilson, Ralph Wollmer, Gene Yoon.

If you think you are on this list unfairly, give me a call (see Page 2). If I'm not at home, leave a message and I'll get back to you.

It has been suggested that we have a once-a-year request for donations from those financially able to contribute. I've put that in the 'maybe' basket for consideration in mid-2018. Another way of keeping costs down is to drop from 14 pages to 12 pages per issue. As the money saved is marginal, not yet. Maybe in 2020 when the number of *Voices* going out will be lower than a politician's IQ.

That's it. The KVAA may be joining the dodo, but *The Voice* (depending on the Editor's health) will plough on – And don't forget the website, maintained thanks to the efforts of webmaster, Rob Huntley.

* * * *

One of my toughest tasks as editor is finding enough suitable content for inclusion in *The Voice* pertaining to the Korean War. My remaining Australian-related contribution is three Ramon Mason pieces, some potential longer stories from Ernie Holden and a snippet from Alexander Bates. It may no longer be *The Unknown War* or *The Forgotten War*, it is, however, from an Australian perspective, *The Unwritten War*. Extracting reminiscences from Australian veterans of the conflict is like drawing an honest statement from a politician – remarkable when it happens, and just as rare.

One solution is to plunder existing books for snippets. Maurie Pears and Fred Kirkland's *Korea Remembered* and Colin Brown's *Stalemate in Korea* come to mind; however, there is a resource I've previously left untapped: *The Graybeards*, the Korean War Veterans Association in the United States. Yes, it has an American bias, but the sheer diversity of content makes it a publication worth ~~ripping off~~, ahem, I mean...respectfully borrowing from with full attribution. There are still tens of thousands of Korea War veterans active (more or less) in the USA whereas in Australia that number is about 10. OK, it's about 2,000 – but it often seems like the same 10 guys.

I started last issue with reminiscences of U.S. veterans about what they were doing on 27 July 1953, and continue this time with *M*A*S*H* vs. *M.A.S.H* and *Sook Gets Soaked*. In addition, Guy Temple's *Memoir* is going to run for another few issues and Ian Saunders has provided a cracker of a story (see Page 5) so the 'Korean' content is present for this *Voice*.

* * * *

A special mention to Alan Hunter OAM who donated \$450 to the KVAA. That covers postage for 1½ editions of *The Voice* – which is ironic as Alan gets his copy via email. So those who do receive it by snailmail, thank Alan Hunter.

Normally I would praise those who renew their subscription early. So thank you to Arthur Alsop, Colin Burgess, Harold Harman (subscription, AM for wife Norma + \$60 donation), Brian King, Merle Osbourne and Gordon Parker for doing so. However the changes outlined above have converted your subscription fee and small donation into a donation only. Though the KVAA thanks you for jumping the gun, your accountant probably won't.

The 24 January 1953 Patrol

by Ian Saunders OAM

On 23 January 1953, Major J. W. Norrie, the OC of A Coy 3RAR, was tasked to devise a plan to snatch a prisoner from well inside enemy territory. A plan was devised employing 3 Pl A Coy led by Lieutenant F. C. Smith.

Starting at 1900 hours on 24 January 1953, a freezing winter evening, the 31 man patrol travelled 1,000 yards from A Coy Lines, Hill 355, Little Gibraltar where Lt. Smith and 12 members established the First Base. L/Cpl. F. L. MacKay and 12 members established the Forward Base 400 yards to the North soon after Sgt. John Morrison with Pte's. MacKay, Mealey, Terry and Mellor moved a further 600 yards to the objective area where he put his party to ground along an embankment running immediately beside the enemy trench lines.

Two enemy picket first challenged then opened fire on Sergeant Morrison when he entered the trench and were killed by the sergeant. With automatic weapon fire erupting from close at hand, Morrison and his party withdrew thirty yards and called artillery fire onto the enemy position. A fierce firefight was heard coming from the Base Group position and large numbers of enemy were seen to be moving in the area.

The snatch party withdrew and linked up with L/Cpl. MacKay's Forward Base Group from where Sergeant Morrison led both groups south toward Lt. Smith's First Base Group. Two hundred yards on, they sighted a cluster of enemy soldiers, twenty in total, heading south to join the ongoing firefight. Assessing that they would pass close to his party, and realising that his men may not be seen or, in the confusion of battle, may be mistaken as friendly, Morrison selected a suitable fire position and waited.

In the ensuing ambush, all twenty enemy soldiers were killed before being able to return fire.

By this time, the battle at Lieutenant Smith's position was dying down, and in the moonlight, enemy troops could be seen moving over the feature. It was obvious from this that Smith and his men at First Base had not fared well.

Lt. Smith, believing an approaching enemy platoon was Sgt. Morrison's group returning, allowed the enemy to get within five yards before he realised his mistake. Many of the First Base party were wounded in the ensuing firefight before the enemy were repulsed and dispersed, only to quickly return and attack in an estimated company strength from three different directions.

During a lull in the action, and despite an estimated twenty enemy KIA, Lieutenant Smith gave the order for all able-bodied to follow him.

Private Scurry, leaning against a tree holding his leg, is quoted as saying, "I'm afraid I won't be able to help you, sir."

Lieutenant Smith told his men to roll down the hill but only four responded: Privates Gale, Murray, Whiting and a unidentified soldier. Private Whiting recalls seeing the Lieutenant further up the hill receiving the full impact of a grenade. The fourth, unidentified, soldier to respond was apparently killed or captured by the enemy.

The three who escaped hid overnight then made their way back to friendly territory early in the morning, arriving a A Coy lines with their weapons at 1330 hours on the 25th. Using the process of elimination, that fourth unidentified man was likely the wounded Private Scurry who, upon assessing his chances of survival if he stayed, elected to follow despite his wound. It is quite probable, as it may well be for Lieutenant Smith and Private Saunders (also MIA), that his body was not recovered by the enemy for burial.

With the firing at First Base stopped, Sergeant Morrison decided to withdraw his men (the 'snatch' party and L/Cpl. MacKay's Forward Base Group) towards Coy lines via the high ground from where the enemy could be seen forming up and moving to outflank them. He reformed his group into Scout (3 men), Assault (7 men) and Rear (8 men) parties before moving along the ridge.

Before moving off, six enemy soldiers were seen behind the reformed unit and were killed by Morrison and L/Cpl MacKay. The firing, naturally, alerted other enemy troops as to their presence. After moving 100 yards they were hit on the right flank by a force coming up the ridge. Once the volume of incoming concussion grenades eased, the Assault Party charged them the attackers, with Private's Bromley, L. E. Smith and L/Cpl. MacKay wounded in the action.

As the Assault Party pulled back, the group was again attacked in the right flank and also the rear. As the Assault Party again took care of the right flank, Private's Terry, Brady and J. H. MacKay broke away from it to help deal with the clash at the rear.

None of them was seen again.

(Private Terry received a posthumous MID for his actions and is listed as MIA as is Private Brady. Private J. H. MacKay was later found to be a POW.)

Despite, as the Australian War Diaries record, having lost 32 KIA in these actions, the enemy continued to harass Morrison's column, throwing an estimated 40-50 concussion grenades without causing further casual-

(continues on Page 6)

Korean War Memoirs

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

Part Ten

December '51

This was December '51 and the time when the North Koreans thought the war had ended. To cries of 'Changey, Changey' from the guards and with only a modicum of hope in our hearts that the war was really ending we, the remaining ten, marched out of the gate carrying, on an improvised stretcher, Colonel Hugh Farler, a U.S. Air Force navigator, who was too weak from beriberi to walk.

Throughout that night we trudged. Chris was at one end of the stretcher, while Larry with his septic arm, George with burns all over his body, Walt with mammoth boils and myself with a septic leg and damaged wrists, taking turns at the other. Chris saying to Hugh, 'Now if we carry you, don't you bloody well die!' We must have been a sorry sight.

Early next morning, we arrived at our destination, a place known by its inmates as the Peace Camp, but we came to call it "Traitor's Row". Again we were informed by a Korean General that we were going home. At the end of a long harangue in Korean, he stated 'how nice it has been to have you'.

Hugh did not survive the good news and died later that day, where upon Chris said to Hugh, "I told you not to bloody well die and now look what you've done". It was callous of us, but I remember we all laughed.

We stayed another three days at Traitor's Row, taking good care to distance ourselves from the original inmates. It was quite clear that they had been 'turned' and had been actively supporting the enemy. I did hear that Marine Condron had even been making broadcasts. After the three days about eight of us were taken by truck far north to Camp 5 on the banks of the Yalu River.

We arrived at night and were put in a small building a little distance from the main camp. It was then that the strength of the British Army regimental system came to the fore. Somehow, the corporals and private soldiers, who were inmates of Camp 5, came to know that we were there. Gradually, mostly one at a time, the senior member of each British regiment made their way to our house at some risk to themselves. They reported verbally with the names and condition of the other soldiers of their unit. I remember being very moved by this. But, there was one snag – none of us had pencil or paper, so I had to try to commit the details to memory.

A few days later we were supplied with an air letter card and a pen to write our first letter home. In order that it should get past the Chinese censor and, that word should get back that I was alive, I wrote a glowing report of conditions here. But then, of course, things were vastly different from Pak's Palace anyway.

I think we only stayed there some five days before being taken by truck to Camp 2, the Officers' Camp. This was again a school that had been taken over by the Chinese. At once I was greeted by the Glosters there and it was Jumbo Wilson who told me about Henry Cabral's death on their march up. This was a blow as I felt I could have saved him, had I been on that march with him. The 'Professor' back at Pak's Palace had been right when he had said that I might well be better off remaining there, instead of going on the march north as Henry did.

I was shown to my room, a former class room, where my sleeping area was on the wooden floor between Randle Cooke of the 8th Hussars and Carl Dain of 45 Field Regiment RA. They both made me very welcome, as did Bob Hickey and Doug Patchett and indeed all the other 20 or so who were in the same room. The sleeping space was just enough for one thin man and, of course, we all fell into that category. There were no pillows, but we were given a kind of quilt which was luxury indeed. However, an advantage of being so close to one's neighbours did mean that one gained a little heat thereby. (Continued next issue).

The 24 January 1953 Patrol (continued from Page 5)

ties. The Australians moved on in some haste, afraid of being outflanked. Private Horgan didn't immediately notice this and, suddenly seeing his comrades gone, raced to catch them.

The enemy eventually disengaged, their withdrawal allowing Sergeant Morrison's 18-member group (including 10 wounded) to complete the last 500 yards to A Coy lines without further interference.

The Casualty List:

1 KIA – Private Waters.

6 MIA – Lieutenant Francis C. Smith and Privates Francis Brady, Joseph W. Hodgkisson, John P. Saunders, Arthur J. Scurry, Lionel J. Terry.

10 WIA – L/Cpl. F. L. McKay and Privates T. H. Bromley, F. Ellis, G. T. Griffiths, L. E. Smith, R. A. White, L. J. Matthews, P. Mellor, D. M. Murray, T. J. Whiting.

7 POWs – Privates Glen Brown, John F. Davis, Brain T. Davoren, John H. MacKay, James McCulloch, Vivian E. O'Brien and Anthony Poole (all survived and returned home in 1953).

M*A*S*H vs. M.A.S.H

by J. Birney Dibble, M.D.

Nineteen years after the Korean War ended, a TV program began that became one of the most watched series in history. In fact, its final episode was watched by 125 million people, the most in TV history at that time. It was, of course, M*A*S*H, which ran from 1972 to 1983.

I looked forward to the first episode with great anticipation. But, I almost turned it off after just a few minutes. I gritted my teeth and watched it to the end, then vowed never to watch it again. But I did. One more time.

It was just so far from the reality that I had lived through with the First Marine Division in Korea from January 1952 to February, 1953. I was a battalion surgeon with the Third Battalion of the Fifth Marines for six months, then a surgeon (and Commanding Officer) of Easy Medical Company for the rest of my tour. Most veterans will remember that a Medical Company was the Navy/Marine equivalent of an Mobile Army Surgical Hospital.

Hawkeye Pierce distilling martinis in the doctors' tent? Hot Lips Houlihan selecting who to invite to her tent? Klinger cross-dressing? Enlisted man Radar O'Reilly standing up to the commanding officer, a colonel? All the Koreans speaking English? I couldn't stand it!

But, after a couple years of shunning the program, I attended a medical conference in Boston and met a young man who had been in the First Marine Division in Korea. He asked me if was enjoying the M*A*S*H series on TV. I told him what I thought and why.

He thought for a moment, then asked, "Do you enjoy watching *Hogan's Heroes*?"

"Yes, I really do!" I said.

He replied, "Do you think that was really the way it was in a German prisoner of war camp?"

I thought that over for a moment, then laughed out loud, and said, "OK., I see what you mean."

From then on I could watch the program and enjoy it without trying to compare it to the reality I had known. I could laugh with Hawkeye Pierce and all the other nutty characters, realizing that this was parody, not supposed to be realistic.

And there were some really poignant scenes that could have been from real life in a battlefield hospital.

Source: *The Graybeards*, Vol.25, No.3, May-June 2011

Definition of a pickle: A cucumber soured by a jarring experience.

Sook Gets Soaked

by Yubill C. O. Kang, Middlesex, England

More than half a century ago, around 1955 or so, just after the Korean War ended, my family was still taking refuge in Taegu, southern Korea, after fleeing from the north. My mother, a devoted Christian, always encouraged us to go to church, even under those awful circumstances. I remember that the church we used to attend was on the top of the hill, and we had to walk such a long distance (or it seemed so as we were so young) to get there.

One Sunday morning, my sister Sook (8 years old) and I (3 years old) were on our way to Sunday school. We had just reached the main road and we were holding hands tightly with each other. We were just about to cross. We hesitated for a while, and we saw an American GI jeep closing in fast in the near distance.

All of a sudden, my sister, who was a bit unpredictable then (and still is), suddenly yanked my hand hard and started to run across the road. I had no choice but to be dragged by her. I heard a shrill shriek from the jeep. We jumped into a stream that was running by a bank, absolutely full of fear.

I sensed instantly that we were in big trouble for daring to cross the road at that instant. I hurried to get up from the shallow water. I was soaked through and through, as was Sook. I stood up, petrified and dripping wet.

I looked up the bank and saw two GIs peering down and shouting at us. They were apparently as frightened as we were. One of them came down, lifted me, and put me down on the bank. Then, I saw that the jeep had turned completely around due to the sudden braking, which explained how urgent and panicked they were.

The two GIs were saying something to us in English. Then, one of them stroked my head, went back to the jeep, and left. Of course, I never knew who they were (they might be current members or might have been of KWVA) and never understood what they were saying to us. But, I sensed that they, after all, were very gentle and tried to comfort us.

I was only 3 years old but I still remember it vividly and it has remained with me all these years. I was too young to understand the whole situation and what was going on in the country at the time but I knew, vaguely, that they had come to help us.

During that period we used to sing a rude song that mocked Kim Il-sung, the so-called "Great-Leader" of North Korea, and about the invasion of the south. I was always singing that song without realizing the meaning of the words.

That was probably the only song I knew. People used to ask me to sing it often, and they always had a good laugh. I still can recite it with the tune and the whole verse.

I thank God everyday for what the U.S. and its people did for me and the Koreans - at least half of the country, the south. I also thank God everyday that the U.S. and its people uphold world peace and the lives of innocent people with such courage and bravery.

Source: *The Graybeards* magazine Vol.25, No.2, March-April 2011

They Said It!

(And many now probably wish they hadn't; however, some were prophetic and others make a point as relevant today as it was then.)

1916-1949

- The population is still quite inadequate ...Australia could maintain 100,000,000 people – J. W. Gregory, University of Melbourne, 1916.
- Science could make rural industries commercially profitable, making the desert bloom like a rose – Prime Minister William M. Hughes, 1916.
- The Hill is occupied by thousand of barrackers...who are sure they understand cricket better than the umpires – Seymour Hicks, author, 1925.
- Nobody in England or America has any idea of the intensity of the servant problem in the southern hemisphere – Dame Nellie Melba, 1925.
- The best view of Canberra is from the back of a departing train – Percy Deane, Public Servant, 1928.
- Australia is a good country, badly managed – George Meudell, politician. 1929.
- We will overthrow and smash the power of the capitalists and big land owners – Australian Communist Party pamphlet, 1931.
- Bustlines and soft curvy hips are in vogue again – *Australian Women's Weekly* fashion page, 1940.
- Australia should make it easy for every family to have a home – *Australian Women's Weekly* editorial, 1943.
- Australians have always been enthusiastic if not particularly intelligent drinkers – Sydney Baker, 1945.
- Even dealing with a potato is beyond the culinary resources of an Australian hotel – Professor D. W. Brogan, 1947.
- The Snowy River Hydro-electric Scheme would lead to development of great inland cities – Mr Lemmon, Minister for Works, 1949.
- Television will make no sweeping changes in the lives and habits of people – *Australian Women's Weekly* editorial, 1949.

The First Air-Sea Battle

The first naval action in which surface vessels never exchanged a shot is usually considered to be the *Battle of the Coral Sea* (8 May 1942). This is, in fact, untrue, for the first such engagement actually took place on Christmas Day in 1914. The cause of this historic, if largely forgotten battle, was a British plan to attack the German Zeppelin base at Cuxhaven. It was hoped that a small task group of three seaplane tenders supported by two light cruisers and six destroyers would be able to infiltrate the Heligoland Bight undetected, launch a surprise airstrike against the base, which was supposedly home for the Zeppelins attacking England. Unfortunately, the force was sighted by a German submarine and the resulting German reactions led to several naval "firsts."

The first air attack against a navy ship.

0730 local German time, Zeppelin L-6 attempted to bomb the seaplane tender *Empress*, which had become separated from task group because of engineering problems. The captain of *Empress* avoided damage by watching the Zeppelin's rudder and turning in the opposite direction. L-6 proved immune to the ship's anti-aircraft fire, which was provided by bolt-action rifles. The nearby light cruisers attempted to support *Empress* but had to cease fire several times to avoid hitting her. Thus, history's first air-sea action ended inconclusively. Two hours later, two German seaplanes arrived and conducted an unsuccessful attack using hand-held bombs.

The first sea-launched air attack against a land target. Seven of the nine sea-planes carried by *Empress* were successfully launched, but only one found the target and three made it back to the task group.

The first air attack against a naval task group.

Just before 1000 hours, a combined force of German seaplanes and Zeppelin L-5 attacked the force as it was searching for its own returning seaplanes. Once again, both sides were ineffective and no casualties were incurred, although one of the cruisers was showered by splinters.

The first air attack against a submarine.

At 1100 hours, Zeppelin L-5 came upon the British submarine E-1 I as it was trying to recover three seaplanes which had run out of fuel. The submarine's skipper, Lt. Cdr. Martin Nasmith, collected the crews, scuttled the seaplanes, and dived just as the Zeppelin dropped two bombs. Both missed. In all of this action, no one on either side was killed or even injured. Three of the British seaplanes were recovered and all but one of the crews returned to England aboard British ships or submarine. One crew was picked up by a Dutch trawler and returned to England separately.

Both sides learned lessons from the incident. The British discovered that Zeppelins could not hit a rapidly manoeuvring warship and that the small bombs carried by German seaplanes were a threat only to personnel exposed above deck. The Germans learned that a coastal defence relying on U-boats, seaplanes, and Zeppelins was not adequate to prevent British incursions into their waters.

Source: Carl O. Schuster, *Strategy & Tactics* magazine No. 108.

The Stuka Ace

Stuka pilot Hans-Ulrich Rudel was, by the end of the war, the most highly decorated serviceman in Germany. During his career he flew a world record 2,530 combat missions, with verified hits against almost 2,000 targets. That tally included 519 tanks, 70 boats, 150 self-propelled guns, four armored trains and 800 other vehicles. He also sank a battleship, two cruisers and a destroyer and shot down nine enemy aircraft. In one particularly dramatic incident, Rudel landed his aircraft behind Soviet lines to rescue a downed Stuka's crew. His own overloaded plane then wasn't able to takeoff, and everyone had to start running on foot when Red Army soldiers began to close in on them. He and the others with him were chased for several miles. Their escape included a 700-yard swim across icy water, only to be captured by other Soviets after climbing out of the river on the other side. Rudel made another escape and-despite being barefoot, wet and wounded-he managed to make his way back to German lines. A 100,000 ruble bounty was placed on his head by Stalin. As the war ended, Rudel remained determined not to fall into Soviet hands. He finally led west a flight of three Ju87s and four Fw190s in a flight that ended in surrender to US forces on 8 May 1945. What makes this record even more remarkable is that the Stuka was considered an obsolete plane (outclassed by nearly every other fighter) by 1941.

Source: *World At War* No. 30, June-July 2013

Between 1940 and 1960 the US Army fielded six distinct new tank types. Since then (as at 2014) only two new tank types have been deployed.

Brewery Capture Turns Flat

by Max Thomson

If ever a ship won a claim to RAN fame it was the corvette, *HMAS Mildura*, in an assignment that must have been the envy of every ship in the fleet at the end of WWII.

Sydney-built and named after the Murray riverland city, *Mildura* had been in the thick of things at the height of enemy submarine activity along Australia's eastern seaboard. Endless convoy assignments, anti-submarine patrols, ship torpedoings, rescue work and mine-sweeping had all been part and parcel of the war as sea for *Mildura*.

At war's end the corvette was in Philippine waters around the fleet base at Subic Bay, Manila, where she was switched to work with the British Pacific Fleet. As senior ship of a minesweeping group she led the sweep along the sealane approach into Hong Kong ahead of the British battleship *HMS Anson*, the aircraft carrier, *HMS Indomitable*, a cruiser and a gaggle of destroyers. *Mildura* was the first allied warship to re-enter Hong Kong harbour.

In the days and weeks that followed the corvette was kept busy but amid all the fascination of seeing Hong Kong's picturesque harbour steadily returning to some semblance of routine there was a lighter touch when *Mildura* steamed down the coast a shade to "capture" a brewery. The Japanese there handed over their rifles and *Mildura* returned to Hong Kong harbour with crates and crates of "goodies."

But the whole operation then turned decidedly sour. When the crates were opened and the brewery's production subjected to eager sampling it was adjudged to be "just plain 'orrible'". Very inferior beer indeed which saddened an entire ship's company and soured an entire operation which, at the outset, looked like being one of the most gleeful ever undertaken by a ship of the Royal Australian Navy.

Cynics from the ship's company, all these years onward, simply say: "What could you expect – our ship was named after a city that produces orange juice."

Source: *Navy News* 14 July 1997

Tanks for the Memory

The development of new weapons was not a risk-free process and all combatants during WWII had some spectacular failures. The British produced some aircraft that were less eagles and more turkeys: the Westland Welkin fighter, the Bristol Buckingham medium bomber, and the Vickers Windsor and Warwick bombers. The Typhoon, intended to replace the Spitfire and the Hurricane, proved inferior to the German Focke-Wulf-190. The second attempt, the Tempest, proved little better. However, it was in the field of armour, that the British had their most wide-spread failure.

The Churchill tank was developed in six months, but it took another two years gradually to eliminate serious defects in the design. Indeed, throughout the war the British had major problems in developing an adequate tank. The Crusader was so unreliable that normally a quarter of the fleet was nonoperational and in need of repairs. The Covenator was a total failure – it even had the engine radiator positioned in the crew compartment making it less than perfect for summer conditions in the desert where the occupants didn't really need more heat.

The result of these failures was that the British had to rely on American tanks, at first Grants and Stuarts and then the Sherman, and by the summer of 1944, two thirds of the tanks in the British army were U.S. models.

Source: Ponting, Clive, *Armageddon*, Sinclair Stevenson, 1995

Outbuilding Japan

The USA was actually outproducing Japan in warships from the very beginning of the war in the Pacific and increased its margin of superiority with each month that passed. By June 1943 the U.S. industrial might was fully engaged and ships were hitting the water with great rapidity. Roughly speaking, it takes from six months to a year from completion to reporting for duty with the fleet.

Warship Construction

(January 1941 - June 1943)

Japan (24 vessels):

- 2 x aircraft carriers
- 2 x aircraft carriers (light)
- 2 x escort carriers
- 1 x battleship
- 3 x light cruisers
- 14 x destroyers

United States (256 vessels):

- 6 x aircraft carriers
- 2 x aircraft carriers (light)
- 16 x escort carriers
- 4 x battleships
- 2 x heavy cruisers
- 10 x light cruisers
- 106 x destroyers
- 48 destroyers escorts
- 62 x submarines

Note: This total does not include 26 escort carriers (546 aircraft) and 21 destroyer escorts built for (and turned over to) the British during this period.

Source: *Strategy & Tactics* No.29

HMAS Wort by Ian Hughes

A series of cartoons from the *Navy News*, circa 1980s-2000s.



Brandenburgers (Not Hamburgers)

The German military unit known as the Brandenburgers was the brainchild of *Wehrmacht* Counterintelligence (*Abwer*) during the interwar years. Inspired by the reputation of World War One guerrilla commanders, such as Britain's Lawrence of Arabia and Germany's own von Lettow-Vorbeck, the Brandenburgers were originally to be a cadre to lead such as guerrilla operations in the enemy rear. Their training included infiltration, living off the land, sabotage, and intelligence work. Recruits had to be able to speak foreign languages and were often recruited from Germans in which the *Wehrmacht* was expected to operate. During WWII, Brandenburgers fought on all fronts, specializing in behind-the-lines operations, their methods becoming as they frequently disguised themselves by wearing enemy uniforms. During the lazy year of the war, the Brandenburgers were converted into a conventional panzergrenadier division, a waste of their potential.

Source: *Strategy & Tactics* magazine No. 262 May-June 2014

A Promising Officer

On 24 October 1917, what became known as the Battle of Caporetto commenced. By the time it ended on 9 November, the Central Powers had killed 30,000 Italians and taken nearly 300,000 prisoners, destroying the Italian 2nd Army in the process. It was the worst Italian defeat of WWI.

During the campaign one German officer in particular distinguished himself, a young Captain in charge of the Wurttemberg Mountain Battalion of the elite Alpencorps.

On 25 October, he outflanked the Italians ahead of him capturing Mt. Matajur, Kolovrat Ridge, and several hundred surprised prisoners without firing a shot. He then wheeled his force behind an Italian counterattack, assaulted it from the rear and took another 500 POWs, including 12 officers. That brought his prisoner tally to 1,200.

Leaving a few of his older men to guard them, the Captain then pushed his battalion two miles further into enemy territory and cut the Italian supply line. Leaving the bulk of his men to guard the area they'd just secured, he took 150 troops farther south to surprise an enemy brigade of over 2,000 men who, believing this small group was the vanguard of a larger force, quickly surrendered.

The officer and his men then doubled back to capture the town of Jevszek and yet another 1,000 POWs, bringing his total to 5,000. There were more to follow.

The Captain advanced on Mrzli Mountain, where he got an idea. Walking alone toward the Italian perimeter, he waved a white handkerchief and shouted to the defenders that his small unit was the vanguard of a big push. Thinking they were about to be overwhelmed 1,500 Italians dropped their weapons and gave up.

The Wurttemberg Mountain Battalion, spearheaded by the Captain and 150 troops, had already captured 6,500 prisoners, while their main objective, Mount Matajur, still lay ahead of them.

Due to a misconception, most of the battalion was sent off in another direction leaving the Captain with 100 men and six heavy machine guns. Making the best of a bad situation, he directed the machine gunners to open fire on the Italian position at the base of the mountain. Following that, he once again pulled out his handkerchief and approached the enemy entrenchments alone, convincing the defenders to surrender and bagging another 1,200 enemy troops. The Captain then rushed his men to the summit of the peak where he had them fire at the positions of the remaining Italians. These 120 soldiers, the last in the sector, duly gave up.

The Austro-Hungarians and Germans continued to push south, the Wurttemberg Mountain Battalion capturing the city of Longarone and in the process helping to bag 10,000 troops of the Italian Fourth Army just as the offensive ended.

Not a bad effort for a junior officer. Oh, and the Captain's name?

Erwin Rommel.

Source: *Strategy & Tactics* magazine No. 260 Jan-Feb.2014

Waterhen's War

In 1933, the British Admiralty agreed to loan *Waterhen*, *Stuart* and three 'V' class destroyers to the RAN to replace the 'S' class ones then in service. *Waterhen* arrived on the Australian Station in December 1933. Between then and September 1939 she was paid into the reserve three times, and was in reserve again in 1939. With the outbreak of war she was recommissioned, for the last time, on September 1.

In company with *Stuart* and *Vendetta*, *Waterhen* sailed for the Mediterranean on October 14, 1939. For more than a year while the "Scrap Iron Flotilla" grappled for control of the ancient Mediterranean sea routes, *Waterhen* was almost constantly at sea.

Waterhen finished her days on the "Tobruk Ferry Service" – what those on British ships called the "Suicide Alley" run – for the supply and reinforcement of the beleaguered garrison at Tobruk. When the hospital ship *Vita* was attacked by Luftwaffe dive bombers on April 14, 1941, while sailing from Tobruk harbour unescorted, it was *Waterhen* to the rescue.

HMAS Vendetta circled the disabled *Vita* whilst all personnel transferred to *Waterhen*. The transfer of 497 patients and nurses was completed within one hour and *Waterhen*, her decks literally covered with the wounded, made for Alexandria.

"There was a heavy sea running and the emptying of the hospital ship was one of the most ticklish tasks we had to do," Petty Officer R. W. Raymond said on his return to Australia.

On June 28 1941, *Waterhen*, in company with *HMAS Defender* sailed from Alexandria for Tobruk on what was to be her last run. At 1945 on June 29 off Sollum, both ships were attacked by Luftwaffe dive bombers. Still unharmed and with the bombers apparently leaving one Stuka came down for a last attempt.

According to petty Officer Raymond, "The plane came nearer to the sea than any I have ever seen. We were twisting about and at a crucial moment our steering gear jammed. The Stuka's bombs just missed a gun crew and exploded beside the engine room. You could have rowed a boat through the great gash in the side of the ship."

As darkness fell on June 29 1941, *Defender* took *Waterhen* in tow. It was soon apparent that she could not be saved. The working party were taken off, and at 0150 on June 30 1941, the 'old chook' rolled over and sank. She was the first ship of the RAN to be lost by enemy action in World War II.

Source: *Navy News* 5 July 1991

Dedication of Service Speech

by Colin Berryman OAM,

KVAA ACT delegate at the Korea Veterans Reunion in Canberra, October 2017

I would like to acknowledge the presence of our esteemed guests, His Excellency, Kyoung Ha Woo, the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, and Colonel Choi Sungman, the Defence Attaché of the Republic of Korea. Both of them, and all other members of their staff, have been so kind and supportive of us over the years, at these reunions. They have joined us with all sincerity in our endeavour to celebrate our own, and our nations' contribution, in the Korean War 1950-53, and its aftermath.

Again this service is dedicated to you veterans who have been able to make it this year, 2017, sixty-four years after the uneasy cease fire occurred in Korea. Also we should dedicate it to those who are also too sick and incapacitated, to attend this year. We should also dedicate this service to our wives and carers, who have been able to make it here today, and to the widows of our mates, who have passed on, who are also here today, and also their carers, as they the widows, too like us, have also grown old and frail.

We will also fondly remember our 358 comrades who paid the supreme sacrifice during their service in Korea. In addition to those, we should now, also remember, and think of them with fondness, those thousands, of our comrades who have passed on and faded away since their service. We are now fading away so very quickly; I suppose our time has naturally come to its end. We who are left are now all past eighty, and lucky to have enjoyed long lives. There are now less than 2000 of us remaining, out of the 17,850, who served in Korea, and are shown on the Nominal Roll, as veterans of the Korean War.

I would also like to make special mention of our 42 comrades, who have no known graves, and as a result are still declared Missing in Action. Two of these were lost in South Korea, early during the war, and the remainder, in North Korea. Twenty one of these are within the DMZ. As you are aware it has never been possible to organise searches for those lost in North Korea because of the belligerent attitude of the North Korean Government, and also the agreed conditions of the Armistice, with regard to access into the DMZ. Nor does it seem likely that future searches will be possible, at least in our lifetime, because of the increased aggressive attitude of the North Koreans.

However, we are still attempting to achieve something, in conjunction with the Department of Defence, through a Committee, which has been convened to explore any possibilities of some recovery. A possibility does exist that Australian remains could be among the several thousands of unknown remains the US Government has stored in their National Memorial Cemetery in Hawaii, commonly called the Punch-Bowl. These have been stored since the US Government repatriated their own dead from the UN Cemetery in Busan, and from some exchanges of remains that the North Koreans have reluctantly made some years ago, from North Korea.

In order to ascertain the possibility that Australians may be among them, our government is arranging Memorandums of Arrangements, that they may search among them for Australians, and we have provided DNA samples provided by families of our MIAs to assist in that search. We also have arranged a similar Memorandum with the Republic of Korea, who are always on the search for remains from the war, in the south. I only mentioned this because this week I attended a committee meeting at the Russell Street offices, about the MIAs, on behalf of our Association.

I would again like to conclude this address with feelings of respect towards the wonderful people of the Republic of Korea, who have through their courage and tenacity, made such a miraculous recovery, after the terrible sufferings they endured during that dreadful war. It has been an honour to serve beside them in their attempt to defend themselves against that tyrannous invasion all those years ago.

2018 Scholarship Program

For descendants of UN Korean War veterans

The scholarship program is designed to provide higher education in Korea for descendants of UN Korean War veterans in order to recompense the sacrifices made by those Korean War veterans of UN allied nations and to strengthen friendship with those nations. There are two places available for descendants of Australian veterans, the host institution being Hankuk University of Foreign Studies (www.hufs.ac.kr).

The courses available are at Bachelor, Master and Doctoral level, and a list of the majors can be found at <http://international.hufs.ac.kr> (undergraduate) and www.hufs.ac.kr/user/hufsenglish/index.html (graduate).

More details/forms/required documentation can be found at <http://international.hufs.ac.kr> or can be obtained from the editor. A number of Australians grandchildren have already taken advantage of this program and can offer mentoring to those considering grasping this opportunity.

Out & About

Australian Korean War Veterans' Night
RACV City Club, Thursday evening, 9 November 2017.



Veterans Day Presentation

New York, 12 November 2017



Hannah Kim being awarded the St. Joan of Arc Medallion from the 65th Infantry Honour Task Force. She also visited Puerto Rico in August to record the stories of the Borinqueneers, who served in the 65th Regiment of the U.S. military. They are the only Korean War unit that received the Congressional Gold Medal. For those who don't remember, Hannah is the former aid of Congressman Charles B. Rangel of New York, a Korea War veteran who served in the U.S. House of Representatives for 46 years.

Sod Turning Ceremony

Korean War Memorial, Quarry Park, Maribyrong, 27 November 2017

In the presence of Mr Jo Hongju (Consul-General of the Republic of Korea), Mrs Joy Winstone (Secretary of the Melbourne Korean War Memorial Committee), Mr Cesar Melhem MLC, Minister for Veterans), Hon. Bruce Atkinson MLC (President of the Legislative Council), Councillor Cuc Lam (Mayor of the City of Maribyrong), Tom Parkinson (President of the Korea Veterans' Association of Australia) and Edna Dey (widow of Vic Dey, late President of the KVAA).



Farewells

Victor Albert Dey OAM, 31529, 3RAR, on 10 Nov. 2017
President, KVAA Inc. 1994-2017

William F. (Walter) Fortune, 11936, 1RAR on 2 July 2017

Stanley Gallop, 51132, 3RAR on 25th November 2017
KVAA Committeeman 1988-1994. KVAA Life Member.

Neal Joseph Kinnane, 1400269, 3RAR on 20 June 2017

Eric Hartold Francis Smith, 2389, 1RAR in February 2017

Peter J. Webb, 3410125, 1RAR on 3 November 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



Major General. Kook-Bohn Jeong, Secretary-General, I.F.K.W.V.A. (left), Alan Evered (Centre) and Vic at a dinner on 25 Feb. 2009.



Vic Dey, all dressed up and on his way to Korea.



Private Vic (Bluey) Dey cleans his Owen gun in readiness for a night patrol on 15 August 1952.



At the Shrine of Remembrance, 27 July 2012

Albert C. Wyllie-Shovlin (former Secretary of the BKWVA, UK)... *I am stunned to hear that my friend Vic has passed away! Somehow, I have assumed that we were indestructible. We corresponded on an irregular basis, which now makes me feel guilty somewhat! I will have a Mass said in our Cathedral in remembrance, if there is no objections.*

Joy-Kim Winstone (Secretary of MKWMC)... *I'm lost for words as I read your news of Vic's passing. When I spoke to him on Wednesday afternoon, he sounded very lively and even made a joke. On behalf of the Korean War Memorial Committee, our condolences go to Edna, the family and KVAA. He was a great man who will be missed!*

Joan Sewell (Quilts of Valour Australia)... *He was a wonderful, wonderful, wonderful man.*

Aaron Morham (Vic's great grandson) at the funeral... *My Pop, as I knew him, was selfless, inspiring, funny, loving, caring, considerate, thinking of words to justify the man we all loved and knew is virtually nothing short of impossible. He had an atmosphere about him, one that would immediately light up a room when he entered, a presence that would not only excel in making those around him feel better, but further provide reassurance and happiness. I never knew him to feel angry or spiteful; I never witnessed him feel any animosity towards others. I knew a man who fought for things he believed in; loved family unconditionally, and never failed to keep those around him feel euphoric and complete. Pop, I will be forever thankful for the opportunity you have bestowed on me, my gratitude cannot be merely expressed by this letter, but I want you to know that you will always hold a place in my heart, not only as a role model, or family member, but as my hero. I love you Pop; Rest in Peace.*