



THE VOICE

February 2017 Edition

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Editor's Opening

I'll start this piece with the most pressing matters then move to the more lightweight. Please read on. Yes it may be dull but it is IMPORTANT.

On Page 12, there are two small forms. One is an extra subscription renewal slip for those who still need prompting. Be warned: I am not the tender-hearted Gerry Steacy, always reluctant to remove defaulters for the membership roll and mailing list, I am THE EDITOR and therefore a black-hearted villain. Think of me as Dick Turpin in a suit.

Of more immediate importance is the *Nomination For Office Bearers /Committee 2017-2018* form. Thanks to a freak accident our President was unavailable for months, Allen Riches was ill and absent from the Committee for much of the second half of 2016, and nearly everyone else on the Executive and Committee spent some time in hospital. Could I also point to the death of our patron, Jim Hughes, and former Committeeman Jim Boxhall in 2016 as another indicator that, despite wishful thinking to the contrary, Korea War veterans are mortal like everyone else.

All this is a rambling way of saying we're having trouble filling all listed positions and finding backups and assistants to those who currently hold, and will hold in 2017, the necessary positions to keep the Association going. Our Treasurer, Gerry Steacy, has reached the point where writing and typing are now very difficult for him, and any extensive use of the pen impossible. Tom Parkinson, KVAA Vice-President, was able to fill in for Vic, but who was there to fill Tom's place?

And here's where the trouble begins. Few members still drive regularly (or at all) and most have ongoing medical problems that make an active lifestyle difficult. Fewer still have any computer skills and hardly any an email address, not quite a necessity these days but very desirable to facilitate *quick* communication.

So, here's my pitch – no, not to the veterans, but to the next generation, namely their kids. I say kids, only these kids are now getting very long in the tooth themselves. In short, they are starting to retire and look around for something to keep them occupied. Well, why not steer them the KVAA's way.

If you have children with any legal training (Pensions), book-keeping

(continues on Page 4)

*Santa Claus has the right idea.
Visit people only once a year.
– Victor Borge*

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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

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KVAA lapel badge (undated)	\$10.00	\$	Tie (with KVAA Inc. logo)	\$20.00	\$
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Cheques or money orders should be made out to: KVAA Inc.

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President's Report

Vic is on the mend and expected back on the job soon which, however, means no President's Report this issue. However, if he did have anything to report, it would probably go something like...

If my body were a car this is the time I would be thinking about trading it in for a newer model. I've got bumps, dents and scratches on my finish and my paint job is getting a bit dull. But, that is not the worst of it.

My headlights are out of focus and its specially hard to see things up close. My traction is not as graceful as it once was. I slip and slide and skid and bump into things even in the best of weather.

My whitewalls are stained with varicose veins. It takes me hours to reach my maximum speed. My fuel rate burns inefficiently, but here is the worst of it, almost every time I sneeze, cough or splutter, either my radiator leaks or my exhaust backfires.

Gone To The Dogs

After the US entry into WWII, a certain William A Prestre, proposed using large dogs to kill Japanese soldiers. He persuaded the military to use an entire Mississippi island to develop the project, where the army hoped to train as many as two million dogs.

The plan was to use the dogs as a first wave of attack during island invasions, with landing craft unleashing thousands of dogs on the Japanese defenders. The attack would be followed up by US troops as the Japanese fled in confusion.

But with few Japanese soldiers with which to train the dogs, the animals' lack of response to the training, and their terror when exposed to shellfire, the multi-million dollar programme was cancelled.

Source: *Military History Monthly*, No.23

The First Week

by Richard Cavendish

After a ninety-minute artillery barrage starting at 4 o'clock on Sunday morning, June 25th, North Korean tanks and infantry crossed the Thirty-Eighth Parallel and drove south through gaps in the border hills in intermittent driving rain. Most of the South Korean army units in the area had stood down for the weekend and many of the officers and men were relaxing in Seoul, the South Korean capital.

The invasion was launched with Soviet and Chinese Communist approval in the expectation of a quick walk-over, after Dean Acheson, US Secretary of State, had declared in January that the United States would not guarantee any area of the mainland of Asia against military assault.

The North Koreans soon took the town of Kaesong and crossed the Imjin River. Some South Korean soldiers resisted with suicidal courage, tying explosives to their bodies and throwing themselves onto the enemy tanks as human bombs, but the North Korean superiority in numbers and equipment was overwhelming. The American ambassador in Korea reported to the Secretary General that the invasion "is assuming the character of a full-scale war."

The Security Council met that Sunday afternoon – the Soviet delegate stayed away – and adopted an American resolution condemning the attack and demanding an immediate ceasefire and withdrawal across the border. Next day, the 26th, President Truman announced that the United States government would 'vigorously support' the Security Council.

On Tuesday the 27th, American air and sea forces were ordered to South Korea's assistance and General Douglas MacArthur, the seventy-year-old Supreme Allied Commander in Japan, was put in command of all American units in the operations. The Security Council met that evening, again without the Soviet representative, and adopted an American resolution recommending the members of the United Nations to 'furnish such assistance to the Republic of Korea as may be necessary to repel the armed attack and to restore international peace and security in the area'. The North Koreans were now within a few miles of Seoul and the city fell on the 28th.

General McArthur flew to Korea on the 29th with a retinue of pressmen, to see the situation for himself. His aircraft, a Constellation, was 'bounced' by an enemy warplane, which was driven off by the escorting Mustangs while the general watched, entirely unperturbed, which was more than could be said of the journalists.

After landing, he was driven around the rear areas of the battlefield in a jeep and saw huge numbers of refugees flooding south, South Korean soldiers among them. US naval units were meanwhile bombarding Inchon, the port of Seoul, which the North Koreans had captured. President Truman told a press conference that the United States was not at war, but was taking police action against a bunch of bandits'.

That night the North Koreans broke through the South Korean defence line on the Han River, ferrying tanks across under cover of darkness. In Washington next day the President announced that he had authorised the US Air Force to act against targets in North Korea, a naval blockade of the whole Korean coast and the employment of American ground units in Korea. Meanwhile armed support was pledged by the British government and those of the leading Commonwealth countries.

(continues on Page 6)

Editor's Opening (continued from Page 1)

or accountancy skills (Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, KVAA auditor) or general administration experience (Assistant Secretary) or a mixture of these – or even just a willingness to give it a go – then do we have a place for them! Our National Secretary, Alan Evered, will be more than happy to discuss this with you. His contact details are on Page 2.

Without 'new blood' – and especially in a post-Vic Dey and Alan Evered environment – the KVAA will not survive. Why? Our Constitution dictates that all Executive and Committee vacancies be filled, and hopefully by people capable of carrying them out. With help, and a bit of luck (and the participation of those from the younger generation like Chris Banfield), we will at least see the decade out; otherwise, 2017 will be the Association's last year. Though *The Voice* will continue regardless, the KVAA will lose all official recognition and its not-for-profit status. We will become an informal club for Korea War veterans.

On a (semi)related topic. **Please have a look at Page 8.** Yes, the *Notices* section.

OK. Depressing matters over. Let the fluff begin.

As I reported last issue, the KVAA Christmas luncheon has come and gone. As promised last issue, photos this issue – see Page 13, or head to the KVAA website. After nine years, this was our last Batman's Hill on Collins function. Why? Cost. It's that simple. And next Christmas? Stay tuned.

It takes a lot to upstage the sartorial splendour of those old stagers, George Coleman and Arthur Slee, so hats off to Rorie Rutherford. Rorie who? Think flame red shirt under a hand woven woollen vest. That was Rorie.

Despite a good attendance, there were a few notable absences due to illness, accident, or relocation to distant places: Vic Dey, Don Scally, Bernie Schultz, John Duson, Leo Gleeson, Murray Inwood, Dong-Up Kim, Michael O'Burtill and Ted Stewart, come to mind.

As usual, there were a number of guests at the luncheon. Wendy Karam flew down from Sydney. For those who don't know, she is the former Hon. Secretary of the KWVA (NSW) and current Secretary of Korea War Veterans Memorial Reunion Australia. She's the brains behind the yearly Canberra reunion.

Also present: Hyunnah Kang and Claire Kwon, and attendees from the Korean Consulate, namely Youngmin Lee, Ellen Hyein Cho, and Consul-General Hongju Jo. This is the Consul-General's second KVAA Xmas luncheon. Clearly a very brave man! Thank you all for attending. Hopefully you haven't been too scarred by the experience.

Acknowledgements and thanks to the following people who made the luncheon a success: Gerry Steacy, initially, before heading overseas, then Alan Evered, for organising the function; Alan again for acting as MC, Alan and Nicole Evered for the place mats; Jim and Dawn Johnson, raffle ticket spruikers and door wardens, and Elaine Langdon, Alan and Nicole Evered (again!), and various anonymous members (I arrived too late to see exactly who you were, sorry) for the raffle prizes.

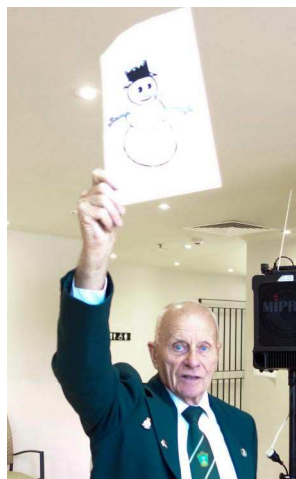
Next...two *mea culpas* and a *thank you* or three. In the *Farewells* section of the last *Voice*, I listed Henry Wills as Henrey. A last minute entry that I didn't take a second look out – and should have.

Secondly, and more importantly, in a major example of brain fade, the renewal slip sent with December's *Voice* had my old post code (3174) instead of my Pioneer Bay (3984) one. Fortunately, the KVAA Secretary, Alan Evered, who always has plenty of free time and nothing better to do, was able to take the pen to each copy and make the necessary amendment. The *thank you* goes to eagle-eyed John Laughton who recognised the mistake and phoned me.

An extra big *thank you* with a dollop of cream on top to Bruce Askew, Colin Berryman, Ellis Smith, Ken & Sandra Dickson, and Eric Watson who have not only paid for 2017 but 2018 as well. Also of note...while donations of any amount are always welcome, let me acknowledge those of John Boyer, Arthur Slee, Harold Menzies, Norman Lewis, Jack Philpot, Walter Perkins, Hedley Green, Joseph You, Harold & Norma Harman, Thomas O'Dea, Noel 'Boots' Riley, Keith Bell, Kenneth Ray, Dianne McCaig, and Shirley Williams: \$135, \$100, \$75, \$75, \$75, \$75, \$75, \$62, \$60 and \$50, \$50, \$50, \$50, \$50 and \$50 respectively. Requiring his name in capitals and bolded is **SYDNEY H. BENNETT**. Sydney...who? He's the man who very generously donated \$250 along with his subscription fee, that's who!

Thanks to 'Boots' Riley for the card. I'll even forgive you the absence of any money in it. (Probably fell out when putting the card in the envelope). To Hedley Green in Pemberton... I've buried Hedley in *Wrong Name of Shame* section in the backyard, so hopefully you'll never see him again. He's next to John, who was nothing to do with Denis Keith Johnson but somehow got lumbered with him.

Membership cards. Some of you already have them; others will get them in the next week, and the rest will need to wait until we can get more. To save postage, I'll likely put them in with April's *Voice*.



National Secretary, Alan Evered, auctioning off one of his pieces of artwork, entitled: *Snowman in a Snowstorm*. There were no bidders.

Korean War Memoirs

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

Part Five

From the Bean Camp, the Chinese took a group of about twenty of us over what was called the 'Glass Mountain' in PoW parlance. We went up a long steep hill then down the other side to what was known as the 'Mining Camp', because there were plenty of signs of mine shafts, wheels and so on. There we were put in yet another school – the Chinese obviously liked to commandeer schools.

At the time of arrival at the Mining Camp, I had been a prisoner for around two to three weeks. In the camp were both British and American prisoners. It was during this time that Henry and I came to the conclusion that trying to go due south was a mistake, as in Korea, the mountains tend to go East to West. This means that if one goes from the North to the South, one has to go up and down one mountain range after another, an exhausting business, particularly if one was doing it at night. However, if one went to the East or West one could go via the valleys or along the ridges, altogether less difficult to do. So, we decided that our next escape would be to go West to the Yellow Sea coast, procure a fishing boat, and sail off to freedom. The details would be worked out when we got there.

We also decided that this plan would best be accomplished by six people in order to be able to push off any boat we might find. Eddie, Henry and I, Private Weller of the Glosters, Sgt. Bob Wilkins an American rear gunner of the USAF and Sgt Kenny Connacher, also American were the team. It was terribly easy to get out of the camp. This was no problem at all. There was no wire fence, so when the sentry looked one way, we went the other. Unusually, when we chose to escape, it was a very dark night, and Bob Wilkins, who was in the lead at the time, suddenly stopped. Half a pace more and he would have gone over a precipice and fallen about sixty feet. Then it came on to rain, and it rained and rained and rained, the rest of the night and all the following day.

It just pelted down. There was an advantage in that we couldn't be seen from afar, so we kept walking all that day and the following night. The third day Eddie Leach and Bob Wilkins started to get very bad dysentery and Henry and I thought they were also getting pneumonia. We decided to hole up in the nearest Korean house that we could find. A difficult job, but we found what we were looking for. On entering we found two women and a small boy. They were terribly frightened as to what was going to happen to them, but we indicated that all we wanted was to warm ourselves round their fire. The little boy however, must have been told by the women to go out and get help.

What happened was that we were getting nicely warm, when after about four hours shots were fired through the mud walls of the house and we realised that the game was up, yet again.

Our captors were Korean and they took us back to the Bean Camp where we had been before. This time at the Bean Camp, because it was clear that we were escapees, we were put on 'permanent' burial detail This entailed digging very shallow graves and then piling stones on top of the body – we normally said a few words – usually The Lord's Prayer. Though a humorist once said "In the name of the Father, of the Son and into the hole he goes"!! Our customers were all white American soldiers, mostly as a result of 'give-up it is'.

One thing we had noticed was that some of the white Americans were all for blaming Truman for getting them into this mess. We had earlier been joined in the 'stockade', as they called it, by three Americans, all black, and these three black soldiers would not have a word said against Truman, the United States, the United Nations or anybody else. In fact they were really good, sound people. Luckily, the burial detail did not last long before we were again taken over the Glass Mountain, to the Mining Camp.

On our return we were confronted by the Camp Commandant, 'Grey Haired Lee' as he was known. Clearly he had lost much face by our escape; now it seemed he was to have his revenge. Curtly, he informed us we would be shot. I fully believed him. We were marched up a valley with our hands tied behind our backs. The stage seemed set for the last act.

Henry turned to me. 'Are you afraid?' he asked. 'Not particularly' I replied, I was too numbed. 'Funny thing that, nor am I.' he said. Again this insistent feeling of 'It can't happen to me.'

Needless to say, we were not shot, but instead we were herded into a filthy twenty-four foot by twelve foot mud walled and floored hovel, with a thatched roof. While standing, our wrists were tied up with rope to a stout wooden beam.

The building was divided in two equal sized square rooms with a floor to roof mud wall, the pitched roof being supported by the beam running in the long dimension. Each room had its own entrance door but no window. Henry, Eddie and I were put into the left hand room and the three Other Ranks in the other. We did not know how the others were faring, but it was obvious from the groans we could hear, that what they were

(continues on Page 6)

The First Week (continued from Page 3)

The war had begun in earnest and after the first week over half the South Korean army had disappeared. The USA would send well over 5 million men to the Korean theatre of war before the conflict ended three years later, but the war would involve servicemen from an extraordinary miscellany of other nations – the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, South Africa, India, France, The Netherlands, Belgium and Luxemburg, Colombia, Greece, Ethiopia, the Philippines, Thailand and Turkey – and would cost United Nations and South Korean forces more than 200,000 casualties before the independence of South Korea was restored.

Source: *History Today* magazine, Vol.50, No.6 June 2000

Korean War Memoirs (continued from Page 5)

experiencing was not pleasant.

Basically we were still in fairly good physical shape. However, we were hungry, tired and wet. For the last four days we had been in the Korean civilian gaol for political/Christian prisoners. We had thought the gaol was bad enough but our present accommodation was infinitely worse, in an attempt to boost each others moral we started to talk about better times. At once there was a yell from the other side of the paper covered frame door, and two guards burst in, swinging their rifle butts viciously, hitting Henry and Eddie about the legs. For some unknown reason, I only received a glancing blow.

Around midnight, as the guards had not disturbed us for some time, I cautiously began to work on the cords that bound my wrists. By standing on tiptoe it was possible to create some slack into the knot holding my wrists tightly together. Although I had little feeling left in my fingers, I was surprised that I could make progress. However, the strain of standing on my toes proved too much, causing me to stumble and fall forward. The agony of the suddenly tightening rope was only exceeded by the knowledge that all my work till then had been wasted.

I realized that if I did not succeed in untying the knot soon, I would lose all feeling in my fingers. This thought made me redouble my efforts and I was rewarded, for after about twenty minutes struggle, the rope fell away. Relief was instantaneous, but the numbness remained.

Henry and Eddie had also been trying to untie their ropes, but so far without success. As Henry, was the closest, I untied him first and then Eddie. We then readjusted the ropes so that if and when a guard appeared we could quickly slip the ropes back on and hope that this wouldn't be noticed.

Escape at this juncture was virtually out of the question. We had had but little food in the last week and were weakening fast, and even if we had evaded the sentries, it was doubtful if we would have got very far. The thought of recapture and the ensuing punishment was so unappealing that we decided, rightly or wrongly, to remain and stick it out.

The sentries did not come until morning. We were prepared for them and had retied ourselves. It was much harder than untying. In spite of being untied for about five hours it was still a long night but not to be compared to what was in store. (Continued next issue).

The Voice Odd Spot

British vegans want the Bank of England to dump 329 million new plastic £5 notes, in circulation for the past three months. They have started a petition to replace the notes because they contain minute traces of animal fat – tallow – and are refusing to use them.

Source: *The Melbourne Age*, 9 December 2016

Editor's comment: You know what else contains animal fat? Vegans. Maybe they should dump themselves along with the bank notes, or better yet, give these 'contaminated' bank notes to me.

On This Day...

Date: Feb. 20 1951 (Tuesday). Day 241.

War situation:

- A Reconnaissance Unit of the UN Forces crosses the river (Han) from the point 8km from the south of Seoul and battles with 30 Communist soldiers.
- Communist forces begin their retreat from Seoul.

At Home:

- Prime Minister Jang Myeon makes an announcement to abolish the chief clerk (called 'Gyeongjang' in Korean) system to ensure more effective and simplified administration procedures.
- Kim Yoon-geun, Commander of 'The National Defense Corps,' has a press interview on the public accusations regarding the Corps.
- Direct wireless cable opened between Busan and Tokyo.

Source: Joong K. Lee (Ed.), *Korean War*, Woojung Books, 2015

“Sunk” Three Times

by Vic Jeffrey

HMAS Westralia made headlines when she first arrived in Melbourne on her 30 day delivery voyage on 18 September 1929 in what was claimed as a record trip from Glasgow to Australia. Built by Harland & Wolff of Belfast for Huddart Parker Limited of Melbourne, the 8100 tonne passenger liner was employed on the Australian coast operating between Sydney and Fremantle.

The resplendent looking ship with a black hull, white upperworks and yellow funnel continued in this role even after World War II broke out. She was not expected to be taken over for naval service, but when another passenger ship, *MV Duntroon*, was discounted by the Navy as unsuitable due to mechanical faults, *Westralia* was requisitioned for naval service on November 2, 1939.

Fitted out at Sydney as an armed merchant cruiser, *HMAS Westralia* was commissioned on 17 January 1940 under the command of Commander A.S. Rosenthal, RAN. Sporting seven six-inch (152mm) and two three-inch (76mm) guns, *Westralia* carried out patrols in Eastern Australian waters until March 25, 1940, when she sailed from Sydney to relieve *HMAS Manoora* on the China Station.

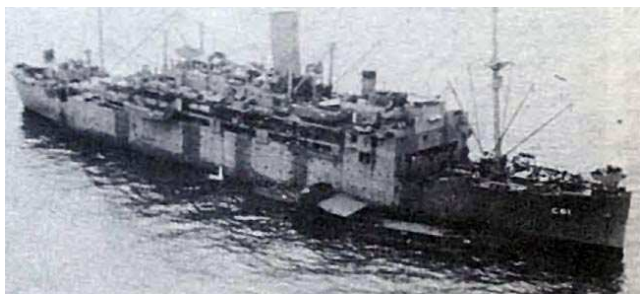
On her passage north she intercepted and detained the Norwegian vessel, *Fernlane*, which was sent to Singapore with a prize crew aboard. Returning to Australia in May 1940, *HMAS Westralia* operated in the Indian and Pacific oceans in a variety of roles, including patrol duties, raider hunts, convoy escort duties, as a troopship, and, with the growing danger of war, in the evacuation of Nauru. With the outbreak of war with Japan, this workhorse was involved in arduous convoy duties escorting and transporting US troops in the New Caledonian-New Hebrides-Fiji area.

On 31 May 1942, in company with the cruiser, *USS Chicago*, a lookout spotted a Japanese submarine while approaching Sydney harbour. *Westralia* was unable to engage the submarine due to *Chicago* obstructing her view. The *Chicago* itself fired a few rounds but the submarine dived, unscathed.

That evening midget submarines from this and other Japanese submarines made their attack in Sydney Harbour. *Westralia* was not attacked but a torpedo meant for the *USS Chicago* ran under the heavy cruiser exploding against a sea wall to which the accommodation ship *HMAS Kuttabul* was secured, killing 21 RAN ratings. After further trooping duties, *Westralia* served as an accommodation ship at the Amphibious Operations Training Establishment at Port Stephens on the NSW coast.

In early 1943, she berthed at the Garden Island Naval Dockyard in Sydney for conversion to a Landing Ship Infantry (LSI) with a 1250 troop capacity. Recommissioned on May 3, 1943, she carried out a period of intensive training for her new role before carrying Australian troops to New Guinea.

On December 15, 1943 *Westralia* participated in the first assault operations to be undertaken by an Australian LSI when she landed US troops at Arawe, on the S.E. coast of New Britain. Amphibious landings at Hollandia and Leyte Gulf in 1944 saw her in the thick of things. *Westralia* survived a Japanese bomber attack in January 1944 when she was near-missed by a 250lb bomb which caused splinter damage. Whilst on convoy duty on 9 January 1945, carrying troops for the Lingayen Gulf landings, she was again unsuccessfully attacked by Japanese bombers.



At 1700 that evening two kamikaze aircraft approached the convoy, one diving into the US escort carrier, *Kitkun Bay*, and the other singling out *Westralia*. With all guns blazing, the *Westralia* scored a hit at the last moment. The aircraft veer off and crashed just astern of the ship, its bomb detonating on impact, showering the *Westralia* with fragments and a wing which landed on the stern. The concussion knocked a pin out of the steering mechanism and *Westralia* veered to port until

the fault was rectified after which she resumed her station.

Her last wartime landings were in Borneo in mid-1945 when she landed Australian troops at Tarakan, Brunei Bay and, finally, Balikpapan. *Westralia*'s final near-disaster came when a fire broke out in her No.4 hold over the ammunition locker while anchored in the peaceful Brisbane River in 1945.

After the war *Westralia* operated as a troopship to bring home troops scattered across the Pacific. She was finally paid off on 19 September 1946 to be re-converted to her peacetime role. During her wartime service, *Westralia* steamed 120,978 nautical miles and the Japanese claimed to have sunk her on three separate occasions.

Note: this is an edited version of the original article.

Source: *Navy News* Vol.32, No.14, 14 July 1989

ANZAC Day Marchers* Wanted

*Walkers, strollers, amblers and those in wheelchairs just as welcome

Each 25 April fewer and fewer Korea War veterans line up behind the banner. The reasons are, of course, obvious. In the 1970s, WWI veterans lamented their falling numbers and, twenty years from now, the Vietnam War veterans will face the same problem. Many of our members capable of doing so (navy guys such as John Boyer and Ron Christie come to mind) also belong to other associations and choose – perfectly legitimately – to march with them rather than the KVAA.

ANZAC Day 2016, fine and sunny, saw just **six** veterans behind the KVAA banner with three others near the rear, not sure that they could cover the distance and not wanting to embarrass the Association if they needed to fall out of line. In 2015, in cold, wet and windy weather, **13** stood behind the banner with none lingering at the rear. In comparison, five years ago, in wet and windy weather, over 20 veterans marched.

See the problem? Of those who participated last year, a couple probably won't be doing so this year due to ongoing illness, and a fourth is problematic. Fortunately, we have a few of our Korean Korea War veterans marching, so there's no need to put away the banner this year. However, the question arises, who else is going to do so?

Think you can do it? Then give National Secretary, Alan Evered a call (contact details on Page 2). You don't need to march alone. A family member, friend or carer to keep you 'propped up' (so to speak) is welcome, as are any wheelchair-bound veterans (plus pusher). In short, anyone capable of covering the distance with or without help.

ANZAC Day is still sometime off, and we will check closer to the day that you are still available; however it is a sign of the times that we have to put out the call in advance. Of course, if you can't march then you can't march, but you and your family are still welcome to join us at the Stella Maris Seafarers' Association after the event.

Other Notices

2RAR National Reunion

Brisbane 17-21 May 2017

This reunion is for everyone who served in 2RAR and 2/4RAR. There is no requirement to be an Association member to attend. Spouses/partners/families are welcome; however, it is essential that all attendees are registered. For more information, contact:

Leo Van De Kamp,

President 2RAR Association.

Phone: (07) 5444 0889

Email: vandekam@powerup.com.au

Canberra Reunion

Dates are now set for the 2017 Korea War Veterans Annual Commemorative Reunion held in Canberra from Friday 27th Oct. to end Sunday 29th Oct. 2017. Cost will be \$470 which includes 3x full breakfasts, 3x 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: 0408 913 695 or email: wendy.karam@bigpond.com. Application forms are also available from the Editor.

What Do You Want From the DVA?

In the last couple of years, the Department of Veterans' Affairs has totally revamped its website and ways of contacting and accessing DVA data to take advantage of 'smart' phones and other mobile means of communications. Perfect for veterans of the 1990s Gulf War and more recent conflicts involving Australians who are, mostly, technologically savvy.

You know who isn't technologically savvy? WWII and Korea War veterans. They still use these things called...land line telephones and write letters. Oh well, they'll soon be as dead as the this obsolete technology, so problem solved.

The trouble is, they are not dead and sometimes they need help from the DVA. Many don't feel they are getting it. For example...don't phone the DVA during the Xmas/New Year period as one Korea War veteran in a dire situation found out.

So what do Korea War veterans want from the DVA and is it matching what they are getting? This is where you – the actual veterans and their families – come into it. Have you had, or are having, problems with the DVA? If yes, our South Australian delegate, John Jarrett, would like to hear from you either via email at jarrett1432@bigpond.com or by phone on 0411 420 162. Want to use that old technology called a letter. Then send it to the KVAA mailbox (see Page 2) and we'll pass it on.

I didn't know my dad was a construction site thief,
but when I got home all the signs were there.

Duelling With Sabres

The war in the air over Korea was not quite as one-sided as that on the sea though it seemed that way until ten minutes to two on the afternoon of 1 November 1950 at Antung airfield in Manchuria, just north of the Yalu River. Major Stroykov of the 72nd Guards Fighter Aviation Regiment was about to lead the Soviet Union into the Korean War.

Shortly afterwards, on the Korean side of the Yalu, a flight of US T-6 spotter aircraft and F-51 Mustangs encountered six swept-wing jet interceptors with Chinese markings. These were Mikoyan-Gurevich MiG-15s, the very latest in Soviet technology.

The American aircraft scattered and as the MiGs turned back towards the Yalu, Lieutenant Chizh reported to Stroykov that his shots had downed a Mustang. Chizh's was the first Soviet victory claim of the Korean War.

The American response to the MiG-15 threat was to send their own fast jet interceptor, the F-86 Sabre, to Korea. Based for most of the war at Kimpo airfield near Seoul, the 4th Fighter-Interceptor Wing (joined in February 1952 by the 51st Fighter-Interceptor Wing) of Sabres fought a war seemingly remote from the rest of Korea, engaging the MiGs in single combat at 50,000 feet over the Yalu. This area quickly became known as "MiG Alley."

In fact, the Sabres were performing the vital service of maintaining air superiority. Without these jets, the MiG-15s could have raided South Korea at low altitude against the UN bombers, fighter-bombers, and transport aircraft that provided essential support for the ground troops.

The mostly Chinese and North Korean MiG-15 pilots, trained by Soviet advisors, were no match for the vastly more experienced Americans. In the course of the war the Sabres claimed 757 confirmed kills compared to 103 of their own aircraft lost, while 39 pilots made 'Ace' by shooting down five enemy aircraft or more. The first man to make 'Jet Ace' was Captain James Jabara on 20 May 1951, and the highest scorer for the war was Captain Joseph McConnell with 16 kills.

The chief frustration suffered by Sabre pilots was that the enemy, if hit, could retire north of the Yalu, where the Americans were forbidden to fly in recognition of the fiction that China was not actually at war. Protected by the Sabres, the UN air forces wrecked virtually every major city in North Korea in three years, just as had been predicted. In addition to British Fleet Air Arm aircraft, the Australians and South Africans each contributed one fighter squadron, but the overwhelming might of airpower in Korea was American – a total of 4000 aircraft in use by the end of the war. On 23 June 1952 the Americans for the first time used B-29s to bomb the Yalu dams which supplied North Korea with most of its electricity, and followed this up in summer by reducing Pyongyang to rubble.

The long-term implications of the Soviet intervention in the Korean air war were even more important. USAF Strategic Air Command began looking nervously at its fleet of brand new, but now frighteningly vulnerable B36 nuclear bombers and hastened the development of intercontinental ballistic missiles. A new arms race began.

Source 1: Badsey, Stephen. *Korean War*, Bison Books, 1990

Source 2: *Wartime*, Issue 16, Summer 2001, AWM

A Nazi Titanic

A little known story of WWII is that Nazi propaganda minister, Joseph Goebbels, decided to make a film based on the sinking of the *Titanic*. The film was so large in scale that the Nazis were forced to divert men, materials, and ships from their war effort in order to complete it. In a final twist, the German liner, *Arcona*, used as a stand-in for the *Titanic* was sunk by the Allies just days before the war ended.

Flattops

Aircraft carriers of the Pacific War

Aircraft carriers were the heart of the battle fleets during the Pacific War. Neither side had planned it that way. It happened because the battleship was shown to be extremely vulnerable to carrier (and land based) aircraft.

The carriers were faster than the battleships, and their aircraft had a range (and reconnaissance ability) the battleships lacked. Naturally, if a battleship couldn't get through to the carriers, neither could cruisers or destroyers.

The carriers were, basically, cruisers with flat tops and, as they were often not much smaller than battleships, they had ample room to carry aircraft, munitions, fuel and propulsion machinery. One lack which proved serious was protection. The carriers were as lightly armored as cruisers. Their guns were almost entirely anti-aircraft weapons.

There were few important differences between Japanese and American carriers. There were two, however, that proved decisive. Firstly, American anti-aircraft weapons were considerably more potent than Japanese equipment.

The second difference was in the damage control status of both fleet's carriers and here the Japanese were at a severe disadvantage. In particular, their aviation fuel systems on their carriers were extremely vulnerable and this accounted for many of their carriers being more easily destroyed than was the case with US carriers. Neither the Japanese nor the Americans had the benefit of a British carrier innovation, the armored flight deck.

Source: *Strategy & Tactics* No. 29

Humour

No Foresight

Instead of coming home from work one Friday afternoon a man blew his weekly pay cheque by staying out with his friends all weekend and partying. When he finally went home on the Sunday night, his wife was understandably furious.

She berated him for over an hour before screaming, "How would you like it if you didn't see me for two whole days?"

"As a matter of fact that would suit me just fine!" he replied defiantly.

So he didn't see his wife on Monday or Tuesday, but by Wednesday the swelling had gone enough so that he could just see her out of the corner of his left eye.



"Careful, Mavis, he's just a wolf in ship's clothing."



Only in Australia...

Only in Australia...can a pizza get to your house faster than an ambulance.

Only in Australia...do chemist shops make sick people walk all the way to the back of the shop to get their prescriptions while supermarkets sell healthy people cigarettes right up the front of the store.

Only in Australia...do people order double cheeseburgers, large fries and a DIET coke.

Only in Australia...do banks leave both doors open and chain the pens to the counters.

Only in Australia...do we leave cars worth thousands of dollars in the driveway and lock our junk and cheap lawn mower in the garage.

And...

Only in Australia...do we drive in a German car to an Irish pub for a Belgian beer, then on the way home, grabbing an Indian curry or a Turkish kebab, to sit on Swedish furniture and watch American shows on a Japanese TV.

Words of Wisdom

- If at first you don't succeed, try going into management.
- Never do today what you can put off until tomorrow and never put off until tomorrow what you can avoid altogether.
- Never underestimate the power of very stupid people in large groups.
- Waste time (so that others can't).
- Indecision is the key to flexibility.
- Aim low, reach your goals and avoid disappointment.
- If you can stay calm while all around you is panic...then you probably haven't understood the seriousness of the situation.
- Doing a job right the first time gets the job done.
- Doing a job wrong fourteen times gives you job security.
- A person who smiles when there is a problem probably has somebody to blame.
- Plagiarism saves time.
- Teamwork...means never having to take all the blame yourself.
- Artificial Intelligence is no match for Natural Stupidity.



Punnies

When William joined the army he disliked the phrase 'fire at will'. Why did the pig stop sunbathing? He was bacon in the heat.

The one who invented the door knocker got a No-bell prize.

I'm addicted to brake fluid, but I can stop whenever I want.

I really wanted a camouflage shirt, but I couldn't find one.

A new type of broom is on the market. It is sweeping the nation.

"I stand corrected," said the man in the orthopedic shoes.

A bicycle can't stand on its own because it is two-tired.

Need an ark to save two of every animal? I noah guy.

Exaggerations went up by a million percent last year.

I went on a once-in-a-lifetime holiday. Never again.

If you don't pay your exorcist you get repossessed.

When a clock is hungry it goes back four seconds.

Where are average things made? In the satisfactory.

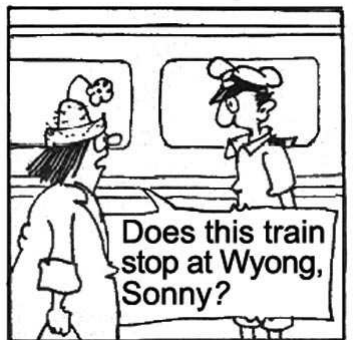
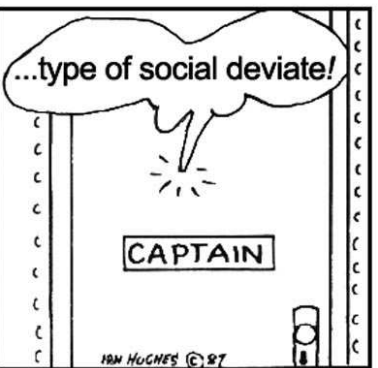
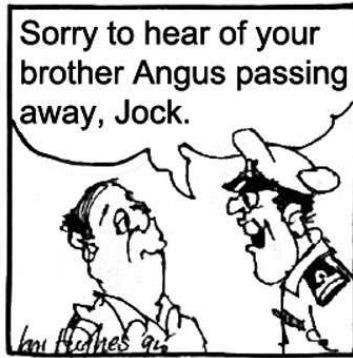
What's orange and sounds like a parrot? A carrot.

Time flies like an arrow, fruit flies like a banana.

The dead batteries were given out free of charge.

HMAS Wort by Ian Hughes

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



A New Patron For The KVAA

Though old news (it was finalized in early December 2016), the KVAA welcomes Major General David McLachlan AO (Retd) as its new Patron. Born in 1937, he graduated from the Officer Cadet School, Portsea, in December 1959, served in Malaysia during Confrontation with Indonesia then in South Vietnam. Attached to British and United States Army units in Germany in the early '70s, he was promoted to Lt. Colonel in 1976 and commanded a Logistic Battalion in W.A. Further postings and promotions during the 1980s led to his appointment in January 1991 as General Officer Commanding Logistic Command. He retired as a Major General three years later.

Like James Hughes, he keep busy post-retirement with appointments to a number of organisations such as the ANZAC Day Commemoration Council (ADCC), the Shrine of Remembrance, oh, and most notably, he is State President of the RSL (Victorian branch) and has his own column in their magazine, *Mufti*. He is also Patron of a number of not-for-profit groups, the KVAA hopefully not being the least of them. He was made a Member in the Order of Australia (AM) in 1989, an Officer in the Order of Australia (AO) in 1993 and received a National Certificate of Appreciation in the same year.

Nominations for KVAA Office Bearers 2017-2018

Positions required: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Committee members

Current Office Bearers 2016-2017: President - Vic Dey / Vice President - Tom Parkinson / Secretary - Alan Evered / Assistant Secretary - Chris Banfield / Treasurer - Gerry Steacy / Committee - Ron Christie, Ron J. Kennedy, Allen Riches, Arthur Roach and John Moller.

KVAA Constitution - Rule 14: Election of Officers & Ordinary Committee Members

1. Any financial member of the Association may submit his/her nomination for a position as an ordinary member of the Committee but must comply as follows: The nomination form must be signed by two (2) financial members of the Association and be accompanied by the written consent of the Candidate.

2. Nominations must be returned to: The Secretary, KVAA Inc., PO Box 2123, Rangeview, Victoria 3132.

Please cut here -----

NOMINATION FOR OFFICE BEARERS / COMMITTEE 2017-2018

We the undersigned, being financial members of the KVAA Inc, do hereby nominate:

Name:	For the position of:
Proposer:	Signature:
Seconder:	Signature:
I,	
Do hereby and hereon accept nomination for the position of:	
Signature:	Date:

* * * * *

Renewal Reminder

1st January 2016 to 31st December 2016 **Members – \$25 Associate Members – \$15**

Please submit your renewal direct to: The Editor, KVAA Inc., 1134 Bass Highway, Pioneer Bay, 3984, Vic.

Renewal Details (Please Print)

Name:	Address:
Telephone:
E-mail:
Signature:	State: Post Code:

Christmas Luncheon Photos

Batmans on Collins, Melbourne. Wednesday 7 December 2016.



Ellen Hyein Cho and Consul-General Hongju Jo



Cassie Hebbard (grand-daughter) and Jim Hebbard



Fashion icon Rorie Rutherford and Dawn Johnson



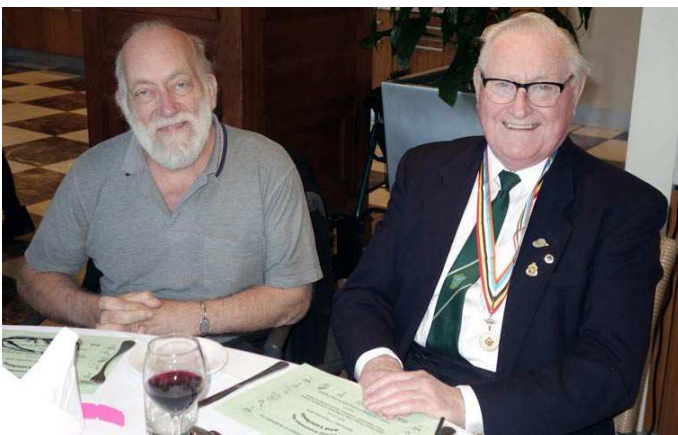
Sue and Chris Banfield



Hyunnah Kang, Claire Kwon and Dan Slatterly



John Brownbill and Ellen Hyein Cho



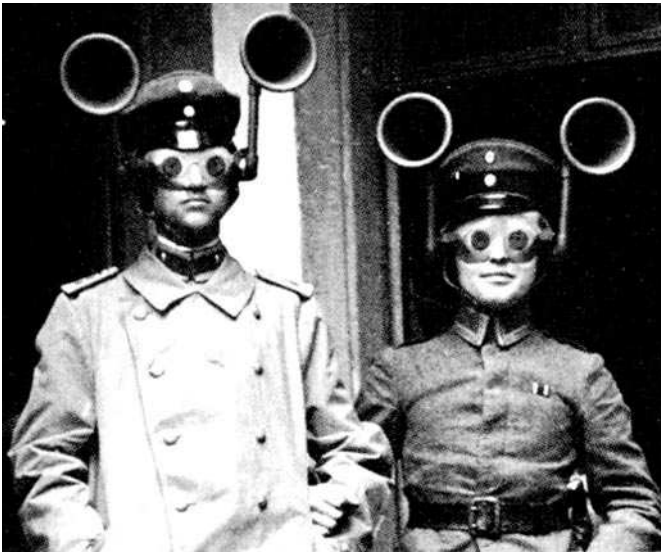
KVAA webmaster Rob Huntley and Bernie Shrubsole



Michael Robson, Brian and Christine Gibson

Geelong Xmas Photos

The Gateway Hotel, Geelong. Wednesday 14 December 2016.



This WWI-era photo shows... (Choose one to suit)
 1. The original members of the Mickey Mouse Club.
 2. Aliens requesting to be taken to our leaders.
 3. Pioneers of the barely detectable hearing aid.
 4. German officers wearing aircraft detection devices.

The Tokyo Symphony orchestra in the early 1930s had a particularly prominent brass section.



Farewells

Frederick Callander, 33691, 1 RAR & 3RAR on 3 Feb. 2016

Frederick Crawford, 4986, 3RAR & 1RAR on 3 Nov. 2016

Donald W. Donkin, 21398, 3RAR on 30 July 2016

Graham Selwyn Hill, 22373, 3RAR on 3 April 2016

Thomas (Tom) L. Muggleton MBE, 1314, 3RAR on 15 Jan. 2017

Douglas George Nix, 4384, 1RAR on 26 September 2016

Arthur L. Somerfield, 36348, *HMAS Sydney* on 8 Feb. 2016

The Ode

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;
 Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
 At the going down of the sun, and in the morning
 We will remember them.

LEST WE FORGET

"...is hereby awarded the Navy Commendation medal for his suggestion that stale bread be painted brown and served as toast..."