



THE VOICE

June 2017 Edition

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Editor's Opening

ANZAC Day 2017 is now old news – except to this journal which always hits the streets a fortnight before April 25th. For a full report, see Page 8.

Continuing on from last issue, there is one more change in the KVAA structure of which you should be aware and you will find it on Page 2. Avid readers of this section (most of you) will pick it out immediately; others will need prompting.

Correspondence to the KVAA is now being split. Subscription inquiries and/or payments and any thing to do with *The Voice* now go to **PO Box 3, Grantville, Victoria 3984**. All other KVAA matters go to 315 Nicholson Street, Fitzroy. See Page 2.

The reason for this is simple. The previous National Secretary spent much time at Inverloch which meant, literally, driving past my humble abode. Easy to drop off and pick up relevant KVAA material. The new National Secretary does not spend much time in Inverloch...hence the splitting of the correspondence. It makes handling it more efficient.

This also increasingly means that *The Voice* is becoming something of a semi-autonomous entity, able to keep going if and when the KVAA proper reaches the end of its life (providing enough of the remaining money is put aside to provide for printing and postage). Thus *The Voice* will continue until the number of copies being dispatched falls to the point that it isn't worth doing the newsletter anymore. So it could be another decade before *The Voice* joins *The Argus*, *The Herald*, *The Sunday Observer* and other comparable publications in oblivion.

Hannah Kim spent a whirlwind couple of days in Melbourne, charming everyone. Scheduling problems meant her cutting her stay short by a day (no Pascoe Vale RSL lunch); however, she managed to meet with a good sprinkling of veterans, including Bryan Edwards who flew in from Western Australia especially for the day, and members of the Korean community.

The piece *Softies had no will to live* on Page 10 is republished as a historical curiosity. Send your complaints via time machine to Ben Davie in 1960s New York.

Finally, some donations to acknowledge: Clarence (Tony) Oakford, Peter Webb and Noel F. Slaven, \$50 each, (enough to pay for overseas postage for 14 *Voices* for 4 issues).

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Merchandise Available

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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President's Report

Back in April, Ron Kennedy and I attended the Fountain Gate Secondary College's annual Anzac Day Memorial Ceremony. With over 1000 Students from 40 countries, the College is a wonderful place to visit on such an occasion. Their Memorial Garden is small but very well attended and we laid a wreath at the Korea War Plaque.

On Anzac Day, numbers were down somewhat but we did have a large number of Korean nationals join us, which in itself is fantastic. I believe that the day means as much to them as it does to us.

On Saturday 22nd of April, a good number of veterans (and some of our ladies) met up with Hannah Kim who has travelled to all the UN Countries involved in the Korean War meeting up with the veterans and gathering quite a folder of stories from them. A lovely young lady with great dedication to her task.

On May 15th, the Mayor of Gapyeong accompanied by six of his staff met up with ten Korean War veterans at Stella Maris in the CBD. All veterans received a beautiful plaque (heavy) with a photo imprint of the Australian-Gapyeong Memorial on one side and a clear picture of the approach to it on the other. Each veteran also received a beautiful medallion that can be hung around the neck plus an edible box of Korean pine nuts and seaweed. Healthy living.

On April 21st, a number of KVAA veterans attended the Premier's Luncheon at the Hyatt Hotel. At this luncheon I had the privilege of sitting next to the Guest Speaker, Corporal Daniel Keighran VC. Without doubt, he captivated the VIP audience.

On June 25th, the Korean Church of Melbourne will be hosting their annual Memorial Service. This day is a big one in our calendar year (topped in attendance only by our Christmas Luncheon) and I would ask all who wish to attend to contact the Secretary (phone number on page 2 of *The Voice*) **ASAP** as he needs to contact the church for catering purposes.

Winter is here. Take Care – Rug up and God Bless.

Well Played, Fred From

100 not out. Innings continuing.



No, the title of this piece is not an incomplete sentence. Fred From (that's his surname) turned 100 on 30 May 2017, making him probably the oldest living Australian veteran of the Korean War. Of particular interest to me was that he participated in the ANZAC Day march in Brisbane in April at the age of 99 years 11 months, his wheelchair pushed by the son of a late mate from the 7th Division Cavalry Regiment. You know who also marched? Veteran Grahame Tweedale, aged 95! He covered the distance on foot, a walking stick in each

hand. These Queensland veterans are clearly tougher than their Melbourne counterparts.

The T-34 Tank in Korea

The Soviet T-34 tank was one of the most effective, and most famous, armoured fighting vehicles to come out of the Second World War. It also may be the most numerous tank ever produced: between late 1940 and 1968 some 80,000 examples of the T-34 were built. This figure does not include the "specials", such as a flame-thrower equipped tank and self-propelled guns based on the T-34 hull.

The T-34 was initially armed with a 76.2 mm gun. But in response to German developments from early 1944, the T-34 was equipped with a high-velocity 85 mm gun in a new cast turret. This, combined with the type's excellent manoeuvrability, made it a formidable weapon and it was this later variant in use with North Korean forces in 1950.

In the first grim weeks of the Korean War, one of the greatest dangers faced by South Korean and US Army troops was the T-34 tank, and it loomed large in the American military imagination. The North Korean deployment of about 150 T-34 tanks (and another 50 about three months later to make up for losses) was the largest since the Second World War.

Australians encountered a T-34 tank for the first time on 19 October 1950 in a small village south-west of Pyongyang. Fortunately, 3RAR had US Army Sherman tanks in support. A T-34, concealed by straw camouflaging material and the rain, opened fire on D Company, 3RAR.

A brief tank battle ensued, with the gunfire of the Shermans being controlled by the Australians. The T-34 was destroyed. Another T-34 and a SU-76 self-propelled gun were discovered abandoned nearby. Both were out of fuel.

Source: AWM, *Wartime* magazine, Issue 11, Summer 2000

Notices

Navy Week Victorian 2017

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

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

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

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

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

Navy Ball

Date and Time: Saturday 21 October 2017 at 1900 hours

Dress: Black tie & miniatures

Cost \$155 per person

Venue: Melbourne Town Hall

Guest of honour will be Chief of Navy VADM Tim Barrett AO CSC RAN. All service, ex-service men and women, plus families and friends are encouraged to attend. Arrange a table, or go solo – book now!

Email Sandra: navy.week.victoria@gmail.com or post to 7 Clarence Place, Cranbourne East, 3977. Please include a telephone number. For more info go to navyvic.net

Canberra Reunion

Dates are now set for the 2017 Korea War Veterans Annual Commemorative Reunion held in Canberra from Friday 27th October to end Sunday 29th October 2017.

Cost will be \$470 which includes 3 x full breakfasts, 3 x Dinners, 3 nights' accommodation on a twin share basis, bus transport to the Service and on Sunday.

A deposit of \$50 is to be paid by the 5th August with the balance of the payment being paid by 21st September. Shorter or longer stays available. This is a national event open to veterans, their families, friends and carers.

Enquiries to Wendy Karam: 0408 913 695 or email: wendy.karam@bigpond.com. Application forms are also available from the Editor.

Looking For...

Brian Driscoll, Vice-President of the Camperdown RSL (country Victoria) is seeking information on Edmond "Ernie" George Tompson, 23974, Corporal, 1RAR & 2RAR who served in Korea from April 1952 to December 1953. If you can help, please ring Brian on (03) 0408 523 666.

An Odd Op-Shop Opportunity

Catchy headline. What does it mean? Opportunity shops are common throughout Australia, so what makes this one special? This is one for those living in the S-E suburbs of Melbourne...

The *Aussie Veterans Opportunity Shop* was originally established in 2001 by the RAASC Vietnam War veterans as a fund-raiser.

Today it is run by APPVA (Victorian Branch) but with the same purpose. In the last five years the shop has raised over \$300,000 to provide assistance to needy veterans and their families on a range of welfare matters ranging from short term accommodation to food vouchers.

It is located in the Boronia Shopping Mall at 5 Erica Avenue, Boronia. The website is: aussieveteransopshop.com.au

(Lifted from *Australian Peacekeeper*, Autumn 2017)

AVCAT Scholarships 2017

The Australian Veterans' Children Assistance Trust (AVCAT) is a not-for-profit organisations which administers bursaries and scholarships to help the children and grandchildren of Australian veterans with the costs of full-time education. The most deserving candidates are provided with financial assistance to facilitate their tertiary studies. Applications open 18 August. For more information about sponsored scholarships administered by AVCAT phone 02 9213 7999 or email avcat@dva.gov.au or visit the website at www.avcat.org.au

Looking For Information On...

Reginald Desmond Hampton served in the Army during 1942 to 1952 (10 years) seeing service in New Guinea/Bougainville, Korea and Japan. Reginald was a young Aboriginal man from the small mining town of Hatches Creek in the Northern Territory. Recruited in the early 1940s, he never returned to his family in the Northern Territory and they are still trying to find out what happened to him (if he is still alive or has any descendants).

During World War II he served in the 26th AIF (SX39248) and was with 3RAR in Korea from 17 October 1950 to 26 March 1952. His Serial Number was 1400086.

If you know the fate of Reg or any details of his life after returning from Korea, contact Michael Bell, Indigenous Liaison Officer, Military History Section, Australian War Memorial on (02) 6243 4406 or Michael.Bell@awm.gov.au

Korean War Memoirs

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

Part Seven

Breakfast, the usual bowl of goliang, was brought to us at about ten o'clock, but on being untied I found I was quite unable to eat it with the spoon they provided. In fact I could do nothing with my hands, both my wrists had dropped and I could only just move my fingers. Food I must have, I thought, that was my first consideration. I grovelled on my knees and attacked it like a dog.

'Hey, what's up?' called Eddie. 'I can't hold a spoon' I replied. 'Let's have a look at your arms', he said.

He put down his bowl of goliang and rolled up the sleeves of my flannel shirt. The sight sickened both of us, the wrists were deeply lacerated and all the way up both the swollen arms was a mass of blisters, all about the size of an old penny. He rolled the sleeves down again not saying a word.

'Here eat this' he said, with difficulty loading a spoonful into my mouth. In this way the meal continued, each of us having alternate mouthfuls.

Henry had fared fairly well. His left wrist was dropped and useless but his right seemed sound. He was to have his fair share of trouble though. He was let out after the 'meal' to perform his natural functions, but came back with the news that he had got dysentery. From that moment till the day he died in October, he never got rid of the problem. It was generally reckoned that if a person got dysentery and didn't get rid of it within a month, his days were numbered. Henry was a fighter and survived five months of it.

We were let out to the latrine, a small reed hut just behind the hovel, one by one. When I got there I realized I couldn't undo the necessary buttons. I made signs to the guard who laughed, drew his bayonet and cut off the buttons, something that he could not have accomplished with a blunt sided British bayonet. The job completed, I staggered back again to the hut, dreading the thought of being tied up again.

Two soldiers were standing there ready with the ropes. Eddie made signs to them that they shouldn't tie me up as I was powerless as it was. For a moment I thought they were not going to, then, with a hideous smile one of the soldiers stepped towards me and started to rub his hands all the way up both arms. The agony was indescribable as the blisters burst and the skin tore away. To complete it they tied me up again, the ropes biting easily into the gashes as before.

Five minutes latter, Henry wanted to go to the latrine again, so he shouted to the guard 'Shobyen' (which needs no translation), but the guard only laughed and turned away. Again Henry implored him but to no avail. Our latrine now became 'en suite.'

To start with the flies had been bad, now they increased a hundred fold. That evening we were to have a slight change from the monotony. Grey Haired Lee, the Camp Commandant, came up and ordered us all outside. Kenny, Bob and Weller were led outside from the other room – it was the first time we had seen them since being separated. Their faces were haggard and the strain was obviously telling. We started talking but were shut up forcibly.

Lee harangued us, in English adequate to the task, for half an hour or so on the seriousness of our crime, and at the end decided that we, the officers, were the leaders and the others merely our dupes. He ordered them to be untied and taken back to the main camp. Henry, Eddie and I were to remain tied, but this time Eddie was to be put alone in the room that the others had been in, and Henry and I were left together in our old room.

I was sorry that Eddie had left us but glad that I at least had Henry for company.

The night passed with it's usual endless agony.

On waking I realised that the smell in the room was even stronger than usual. It was my arms rotting. When we were untied, Henry rolled back my sleeve. The shapeless limbs were a greenish yellow mass of suppurating broken skin.

I asked Henry to leave the sleeves up so that the air might get at the arms and dry them up. Our meal was the usual goliang. Henry was feeding me taking alternate mouthfuls himself. Then something happened that was more than unusual. One of the Chinese guards, a boy with pleasant open features entered the room and insisted on feeding me himself. It seemed to me then that he couldn't have employed more loving care than if I had been a child and he was my mother. Each mouthful was watched with smiles of approval. At that time his behaviour didn't really strike me as strange - we were prepared for anything to happen.

The meal finished, we were tied up again.

That evening the mental torture began. Eddie was taken down to the village and interrogated for four hours. They wanted him to confess that in reality he was a spy, but this he refused to do.

Days became blurred into each other, I couldn't rightly say when it was that I realised that gangrene had set into my arms, but it was probably the time when I saw a Korean walking past, cross to the other side of the

(continues on Page 6)

road and hold his nose. When a Korean did that it had to be a pretty powerful smell.

The thought that I might lose my arms didn't really disturb me. In fact when a guard made signs of amputation I merely nodded agreement.

There was however one factor which I had not taken into account, and that was the flies. One particularly hot afternoon they had been consistently buzzing round my arms, and when we were untied for the evening meal I realised that they had left their eggs on my arms. By morning these were hatched out and both arms had a wriggling mass of squirming maggots from wrist to armpit.

'You're lucky' said Henry. 'Lucky? I said, 'how'? 'Well, they'll eat the gangrene out and keep it clean.'

From then on I had constant company; I even passed hours watching these creatures crawl up and down my arms, fascinated in spite of myself. By now the Chinese had agreed that I was powerless to do anything and had not tied me up, Henry and Eddie they left tied. What was galling was that I was quite unable to help them. Now however they didn't seem to be in much pain. It almost appeared that they had got used to being tied up and seemed to know no other life.

One day whilst absorbed in watching my maggots I realised that some of them were going red in colour. To me this could only mean they were eating good flesh. Clearly they must be thinned out. At dusk I used to scrape them off against a convenient nail in the door frame. Henry dug out some of them with a straw and it was then that I realized I had two large holes in my wrists through which when cleared of maggots, I could see right to the bone and see all the tendons working when I moved my fingers.

I was not the only one. By this time Eddie and Henry had also been untied. They did not have holes in the wrists but both had what appeared to be yawning chasms in their upper arms. In point of fact they were about two inches across and an inch deep.

Two or three days passed by in idleness. We were now allowed to talk freely to each other. Henry had managed to keep with him a small pocket New Testament. He had picked it up off the battlefield after being taken prisoner and had managed to keep it ever since. From this we derived much comfort. Without worldly possessions one occasionally felt very close to the Almighty.

On several occasions we were subject to interrogations, these were mostly quite mild, and of the "Who started the war and why did you?" variety. Almost simultaneously I remember Henry and I discovered that scabs were beginning to form on our arms. Joy upon joys we were healing! This was good news and on the strength of it we decided to dismiss our remaining maggots. Some were reluctant to go and found themselves odd corners where they hid for days before finally being winkled out. (Continued next issue).

An Unwanted Distinction

Eddie Slovik, a Polish-American from Detroit serving in Europe in the US 28th Infantry Division, became the only American soldier in the Second World War to be executed for desertion. Deciding that, in his own words, he was "not cut out for combat", Slovik deserted almost as soon as he arrived in France. He made no attempt to flee but simply walked away from the front line to units in the rear, and then refused to return. Slovik's assumption was that he would only serve time in jail. However, the army decided to make an example of him and, unlike those of 48 other soldiers condemned by court martial during the war, Slovik's death sentence was not commuted. He faced a firing squad in January 1945, a month before his 25th birthday.

Source: *BBC History* magazine October 2014

'Stunt Double' Tanks

After WWII production of German Panther and Tiger tanks ceased and most of those still extant junked. This has caused a major problem for movie makers. Making a WWII Europe-theatre movie? Need lots of late-WWII German tanks? Can't find any? Well, use a stand in. The go-to 'stunt double' for the Panther and Tiger tank is the Russian T-54/55 dressed up in Wehrmacht colours. The Soviet Union produced tens of thousands of these tanks from the 1950s to the 1980s and there are still thousands of the 1950s models in service in Third World armed forces today, the governments of which are quite happy to hire out their equipment.

Source: *Strategy & Tactics* No. 279 March-April 2013

Korean War Ceasefire Ceremony

The annual Korean War Memorial Ceremony will be held on **Thursday 27 July at 1pm in the Inner Sanctuary at the Shrine of Remembrance** here in Melbourne. Just a reminder that the Inner Sanctuary is undercover and thus out of the reach of the rain and the biting Melbourne wind. Those interstate should check with their local organisations as to what is happening in their area.

More World War One Factoids

Steam Power vs. Horse Power

The Great War is often thought of as the first in which technology played a pivotal role – everything from radio, telephones, planes, and above all, trains. This is especially evident in the mobilisation efforts of the French and Germans in August 1914, which were masterpieces of staff-work and organisation.

The German General Staff timetabled the movements of 21,000 trains and transported more than two million men. A 54-wagon train crossed the Hohenzollern Bridge over the Rhine once every ten minutes during the period 2-18 August.

The French were no less efficient. They had studied the practicalities and come up with a standardised 40 box-car train capable of carrying a thousand men: a battalion of infantry. Using 14 railway lines, each carrying an average of 56 trains a day, they completed their concentration on 18 August, having deployed to the frontier five armies totalling 1.2 million men, six or seven times the number of 1870.

Even so, there was much about the armies of 1914 that was still of the 19th century. Once disgorged at the railheads, there was no motor transport to carry the infantry further: they marched. Armies remained highly dependent on the horse – for mounting cavalry, pulling guns, and transporting supplies.

The Germans, with the most modern army, mobilised more than 700,000 horses, and required more than 6,000 wagons per army corps – that is, one horse for every three men, one wagon for every six. Boots and the physical stamina of men, horse-shoes and the muscle-power of animals, the basics of war for thousands of years, still shaped the movements of armies beyond the railheads.

Source: *Military History Monthly* magazine, Dec. 2012

The noise and vibration of early tanks made the use of radios impractical. To ensue World War One tank crews had the ability to communicate, each crew was issued with two pigeons to carry messages back to their headquarters. However, tanks could only receive new orders only via messenger sent by the HQ. Neither an easy nor safe task if in the middle of a battle.

During all of World War I, the single largest category of cargo unloaded at French ports for use by the British Army ashore there was horse fodder, which isn't surprising when you consider that one horse was mobilised into the army forces of each combatant nation for every three men.

Source: *Strategy & Tactics* magazine No. 281

The US military began to spend money to acquire and maintain aircraft starting in 1908. Between then and 1913, the last full year of peace prior to the outbreak of World War One, it spent a total of US\$453,000 on such efforts. During the same period, the German military spent the equivalent of 28 million dollars.

Q: Which country first introduced Daylight Saving?

A: Germany. On 30 April 1916 so that people could go to bed earlier and use less coal. The UK followed three weeks later.

In Berlin during WWI, anyone buying German War Bonds was given the privilege of hammering a nail into a large wooden statue of Field Marshal Hindenburg

A Wolf On Australia's Doorstep

Shortly before midnight on 6 July 1917, a large explosion ripped through the cargo hold of the Australian merchant steamer *SS Cumberland*, just over 15 kilometres from Gabo Island off the Victorian coastline in south-east Australia. The steamer had struck a sea mine, detonating a 200lb charge of TNT against its port-side hull. Water poured in among mailbags, Red Cross comfort packages, and stores of frozen meat, as *Cumberland* limped towards shallow waters. Its crew reached the safety of the shore but *Cumberland* sank during its salvage the following day.

The culprit responsible for the steamer's demise was the German raider *SMS Wolf*, a heavily armed auxiliary cruiser cleverly disguised as a merchant freight-carrier. The most notorious German raider of the First World War, *Wolf* conducted a remarkable 15-month mine-laying and raiding operation throughout the Indian and Pacific oceans, and was the first enemy vessel to enter Australian and New Zealand waters. When *Wolf* returned to Germany in February 1918, she had travelled 64,000 nautical miles, sunk 135,000 tons of allied shipping, captured 460 allied prisoners (about 70 of which were Australians), and not once pulled into port for resupply or repair. All members of her crew were awarded the Iron Cross, and her captain, Karl August Nerger, was awarded the highest decorations of each of the five German kingdoms, including the Prussian *Pour le Mérite*.

Source: *Wartime* magazine Issue 48, December 2009

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.)

1868-1890

- The suburbs of Melbourne are now nearly as important as the city itself – H. Laurie, author, 1868.
- Charity begins at home, and seems nowadays to end there – Marcus Clarke, author, 1869.
- We are fearfully miseducated people; and the case is worse with our girls than our boys – Horace Greeley, journalist, 1870.
- We are, day by day, sinking deeper and deeper into debt – editorial, *Town and Country Journal*, 1871.
- Government officers swear by it [red tape] whilst the outside public...swear at it – *Sydney Mail* editorial, 1871.
- The Australian government of the future is likely to approximate closely to the American model – *Illustrated Sydney News* editorial, 1876.
- If cricket is to be kept up as a useful institution it must be preserved from mob rule – *Sydney Morning Herald* editorial, 1879.
- The bicycle seems destined to be a favourite vehicle not only for health...as as a safe and rapid means of locomotion – D. E. McConnell, writer, 1884.
- The increase in drunkenness in Australia...may be partly due to climatic influence – *Bulletin* editorial, 1887.
- Thirty-seven is the age at which an attractive woman is in the zenith of her attractiveness – Ada Cambridge, writer, 1889.
- The time is coming when people will be ashamed to be rich – Ada Cambridge, writer, 1890.
- Whatever government may be in office, the public debt of New South Wales increases – *Sydney Mail* editorial, 1890.
- Soon it will be football which is called noble, while cricket descends to a mere plebeian diversion – Oscar Comettast, writer, 1890.

ANZAC DAY 2017 Report

The pleading for 'marchers' to line up behind the KVAA banner for ANZAC Day 2017 didn't entirely go unheeded. Eight actual Korea War veterans marched. Hopefully we can get a couple of them back again next year.

The number of veterans, not unexpectedly, is decreasing, and this was very much in evidence this year. ANZAC Day stalwarts such as George Sykes and James Hughes left us in 2016 and many others were either on the sick-list this year or have relocated to areas well away from Melbourne, familiar names such as Arthur Slee, George Coleman, Gerry Steacy, Keith Langdon, Leo Gleeson, Geoff McCloud, Bernie Schultz, Peter Schultz, Murray Inward, Ted Stewart, and so on. As usual, many chose to attend their own service reunions, particularly the navy guys such as John Boyer, and Tom Parkinson represented the KVAA at commemorations in Seoul.

Chris Banfield, who is also Secretary to a couple of naval associations as well as the KVAA, tried valiantly to juggle his busy schedule to attend all reunions but couldn't quite make it to the Stella Maris. Outgoing Secretary, Alan Evered, with a bit of help from Vic Dey, filled in as MC.

Not all who marched attended the reunion, which always strikes me as odd; however, not all of those veterans who attended the reunion marched, which makes sense given their level of physical capability (or, rather, lack of it). Fortunately, our usual contingent of Bryants, Lehmanns, Moseleys, as well as individuals such as Alison Welsby, attended on behalf of, or in the company of, their fathers, grandfathers or uncles.

Throw in a gaggle of cadets, and Troy Norton, Jordan Parr, and the ever effervescent Maddie Singleton from the Fountain Gate Secondary College (Troy also representing the Australian Air Cadets), and you have the makings of a small crowd on par with last year.

While I think of it, apologies to both Troy and Jordan who have attended past KVAA events, only to have their presence barely acknowledged. This is almost certainly because they arrive with Maddie Singleton who is blonde, pretty and female – and they're not. Sorry guys.

Did I say a small crowd on par with last year? Well, not quite...

Shepherded by the Reverend Joseph Youn (Ivanhoe Korean Catholic Church) and Joy Winstone of K School Melbourne (Korean Language & Cultural Institute), Melbourne's Korean community joined the veterans and their families at the Stella Maris in considerable numbers, with six of the ladies in Korean national dress and eight adorable children / grand children also in national dress, the youngest of whom was two!

Thanks to Anne Marie and the rest of the staff at the Stella Maris who made us very welcome. Jim and Dawn Johnson did the meet-and-greet at the door, supported by Nicole Evered who took the role of bouncer and handled any riff-raff demanding entrance. Ron Kucera (Stella Maris) and Noel 'Boots' Riley provided the wine for raffle presents (2 and 6 bottles respectively) and the Evereds the Dalton Chinaware.

All the photos of the day are available from the KVAA website.

Editor's introduction: the following is a memo sent by General Douglas MacArthur from Tokyo to the Joint Chiefs of Staff in Washington D.C. It was dispatched on 4 November 1950 and discussed the possibility of Chinese intervention – not that MacArthur thought that likely. He wanted more accurate information. Well, he got it ten days later when the U.S. 1st Corps encountered – and not in a good way – 90,000 Chinese troops.

Ripped From the Headlines...

From: CINCFE TOKYO JAPAN
To: DEPTAR WASH DC FOR CSUSA FOR JCS
NR: C 68285 4 NOV 50 U msg WAR 95790.

It is impossible at this time to authoritatively appraise the actualities of Chinese Communist intervention in North Korea. Various possibilities exist based upon the battle intelligence coming in from the front:

First, that the Chinese Communist Government proposes to intervene with its full potential military forces, openly proclaiming such [a] course at what it might determine as an appropriate time; second, that it will covertly render military assistance, but will, so far as possible, conceal the fact for diplomatic reasons; third, that it is permitting and abetting a flow of more or less voluntary personnel across the border to strengthen and assist the North Korean remnants in their struggle to retain a nominal foothold in Korea; fourth, that such intervention, as exists, has been in the belief that no UN Force would be committed in the extreme northern reaches of Korea except those of South Korea. A realization that such forces were insufficient for the purpose may well have furnished the concept of salvaging something from the wreckage.

The first contingency would represent a momentous decision of the gravest international importance. While it is a distinct possibility, and many foreign experts predict such action, there are many fundamental logical reasons against it and sufficient evidence has not yet come to hand to warrant its immediate acceptance.

The last three contingencies or combination thereof, seem to be [the] most likely condition at the present moment.

I recommend against hasty conclusions which might be premature and believe that a final appraisal should await a more complete accumulation of military facts.

You Have To Start Somewhere

Most will know the names Frank Hassett, Ian Hutchison and Bruce Ferguson as, at one time or another, commanders of a battalion of the Royal Australian Regiment in Korea. Less well known is that as Captains Hassett and Hutchison and Lieutenant Ferguson, they all received their first combat experience with the 6th Division on 3 January 1941 at the assault on the Italian-held fortress town of Bardia in Libya. Two days later the town fell, netting the Allied force 40,000 prisoners at the cost of 130 Australians killed and 320 wounded.

Source: *Wartime* magazine, Issue 37, March 2007

From Sky To Sea

Edward Rickenbacher, America's top-scoring fighter pilot in World War I (26 confirmed kills) was never shot down during that war. He was forced down during World War II in the South Pacific, though, when a B17 on which he was a passenger – while on his way to see General Douglas MacArthur to deliver a message from the president – became lost, ran out of fuel and had to ditch in the ocean.

Rescued after having been adrift on a raft for 24 days, the incident profoundly affected his outlook. He thereafter spent much of his time working to perfect lifesaving technologies such as radio-equipped rafts, emergency rations that held up in long-term storage, and portable water desalination equipment.

(It's also noteworthy that, after a visit to the Soviet Union in 1943, Rickenbacher predicted that country would one day revert to capitalism.)

Source: *Strategy & Tactics* No. 273

'Loopy' Lopez

Francisco Solano Lopez, President of Paraguay, was a huge admirer of Napoleon Bonaparte. He fancied himself a skilled tactician and excellent commander, but lacked one thing, a war. So to solve this problem, in 1864 he declared war on Paraguay's three surrounding neighbours, Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay. The outcome of the war? Paraguay was very nearly annihilated.

It is estimated that 90% of its male population died during the six years war, of disease, starvation and battles with enemy armies. Rather than being a Latin American Napoleon, Lopez proved more akin to Douglas Haig. This was perhaps one of the most needless wars in history since Lopez had almost no reason to declare war on his more powerful neighbours. Casualties: about 400,000 on both sides.

THE WAR THE YANKS LOST...

American soldiers surrendered easily in the Korean War because they were too soft.

Many actually died on the march to prison camps from a paralysis of the will to live.

Thirty-eight per cent (or 2,730) died in the camps out of 7,190 captured.

Not one American escaped after capture.

A doctor imprisoned with them gave these reasons for their collapse:—

- The mental shock of capture.
- Inability to face primitive conditions – lack of the old Yankee ingenuity.
- No training in childhood or youth to prepare them for harsh living.

By contrast, every one of the 229 captured Turks emerged from the camps stronger in discipline than on entering them.

They endured the same treatment, yet helped one another in illness, shared their food and clothing equally, and never resorted to the dog-eat-dog attitude of some Americans when living became difficult.

They heckled, insulted and laughed at Chinese agents who sought to win them for Communism, flouted the authority of the guards, broke camp rules and refused to obey even reasonable requests. Their captors gave them up in disgust and eventually they were left alone.

In conditions which U.S. doctors have since described as “bad but bearable” one out of three captured Americans agreed to collaborate with the enemy and 75 consented to become spies on their return home.

Privates assaulted their officers, the biggest and strongest grabbed more than their share of the inadequate food, and men weakened by dysentery were pushed by their fellows out of their huts to die in the snow.

Trying to find out why this should have been so, American author, Eugene Kinkead, has studied the official case-histories of 4,000 such men gathered over five years and put the result in a book called *In Every War But One*.

The title derives from the fact that the Korean War was the only one of the eight major conflicts in which the U.S. had engaged in which the problem of prisoners' behaviour had ever arisen.

Part of the blame is officially laid to enemy indoctrination and part to brain-washing.

The U.S. Army differentiates

Softies had no will to live

Surrenders to Communism shocked U.S.

between these two practices.

It defines indoctrination as an effort to change a man's viewpoint by regulating his thoughts and actions.

It defines brainwashing as a process producing an obvious alteration of character, whether by hypnosis, drugs, physical torture or extreme psychological pressure.

According to the accounts of returned prisoners, the severe measures required to cause a personality change were never employed with Army prisoners in Korea.

Using methods borrowed from Russia, the Chinese attempted to undermine the faith of the prisoner in his country, and, if possible, to convert him to Communism.

Soon after capture the prisoner received a series of questionnaires, seeking detailed information about his background, education, family, income, friends and political views.

These were to determine his susceptibility to Communist influence. Some men wrote as many as 500 pages.

Then English-speaking political instructors and interrogators took over with endless lectures, discussions and probing questions.

Some men were interrogated up to 50 times by Chinese who apparently knew almost as much about American life as they did.

Torture was often threatened, but never used. Sweet reasonableness was the more normal course.

The Communists wanted converts whom they could use.

They worked over the weaknesses of prisoners like professional masseurs, using threats or flattery according to the individual involved.

“They told me I was a young Lenin,” a smiling young soldier later confided.

“You are for peace, aren't you? Of course you are! Then why not sign this peace message?” was the approach.

Many a soldier signed in the belief that in so small an affair his agreement would not matter and he would then be left alone.

But soldiers who refused to answer any questions beyond name, rank, number and date of birth were finally discarded as a waste of time.

Types of collaboration required ranged from broadcasting simple Christmas messages implying that all was well in the camps, to writing pro-Communist articles, informing on fellow-captives, and helping the Chinese in the handling of prisoners.

**From Ben Davie
in New York**

The broadcasts and articles were a valuable part of China's propaganda campaign in Asia.

“The enemy's success depended absolutely on our men's compliance,” says an Army officer.

Four days after his capture, one American officer was heard broadcasting over the enemy radio: “We did not know the cause of the war and the real state of affairs and were compelled to fight against the people of Korea.”

The U.S. Marine Corps feels it had a better record than the Army. Only 1 in 570 of its men were captured compared with 1 in 150 from the Army.

Thirty-one marines (13 per cent) died in prison compared with 38 per cent of the Army.

Finally, the Marine Corps says its men offered sturdier resistance to indoctrination.

The Air Force reported numerous beatings and gross physical brutality.

Deprived of food, sleep and medical care, many Air officers were exposed to extreme physical and psychological pressure hour after hour, day after day, to confess to the use of bacteriological warfare.

Of 59 men so treated, 38 made some kind of confession.

Twenty-three of these confessions were used for enemy propaganda.

What has the Army learned from its greater loss of men to the enemy and wider moral breakdown which afflicted them?

- That soldiers can be taught how to survive in the field without pills, flush toilets and turkey dinners.

- That men can learn to live like animals if it means the difference between life and death.

- That group loyalty is stronger when men are sent to posts at home and abroad as units and not as individuals.

To drive home the message of solidarity, President Eisenhower drew up a code of conduct for the forces which requires ever Serviceman to give these pledges:

- I will never surrender of my own free will.

- If I become a prisoner I will give no information or take part in any action which might be harmful to my comrades.

- I will make no oral or written statement disloyal to my country and its allies or harmful to their cause.

Source: *The Sun*, page 23, 14 April 1960.

A Stamp For Little Alf

One day in 1918, according to legend, a man in England received a letter from his son, an inmate in a German prisoner-of-war camp. The boy wrote cheerfully of his life in captivity but added a mystifying reference. The stamp on the envelope was rare, he said, and would make a nice addition to Little Alf's collection. As no one knew who Little Alf could be, the puzzled family duly steamed the stamp off the envelope. To their horror, written where the stamp had been was: "They have torn off my tongue." This shocking anecdote, which spread rapidly across Great Britain, was not the barbarity it seemed, however. It was merely the latest appearance of a wartime perennial: the Little Alf atrocity story.

At about the same time, a few hundred miles to the east, a Munich woman was said to have received a letter from her son, a prisoner of the Russians. He also called attention to his letter's unusual stamp, which his mother steamed off to find the chilling confidence: "They have cut off both my feet so that I cannot escape."

These were neither the first nor the last Little Alf stories. In 1866, a captured Confederate soldier's letter home reportedly carried this message under its stamp: "My God, they've cut out my tongue." Not quite a century later, during the Second World War, an American mother was said to have received a letter from her son, who was in a Japanese prison camp, saying he was doing well and that she should not worry. The rare stamp on the envelope, he added, should go to a friend for his collection. But when she removed the interesting collectible she, like so many mythical mothers before her, found written: "They have cut out my tongue."

Credible only in time of war – but evidently always credible then – the deathless saga of Little Alf's stamp enjoys a life of its own. No one ever seems to note that mail from prisoners of war is franked, not stamped, and always has been. After all, someone might use stamps to conceal a secret message.

Source: *Library of Curious and Unusual Facts*, Time-Life Books 1994

Dikko by Bob Dikkenburg

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



Little Marty 1

Little Marty attended a horse auction with his father. He watched as his father moved from horse to horse, running his hands up and down the horse's legs and rump and chest. After a few minutes, Marty asked, "Dad, why are you doing that?" His father replied, "Because when I'm buying horses, I have to make sure that they are healthy and in good shape before I buy." Marty, looking worried, said, "Dad, I think the milkman wants to buy Mom."

HMAS Wort by Ian Hughes

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

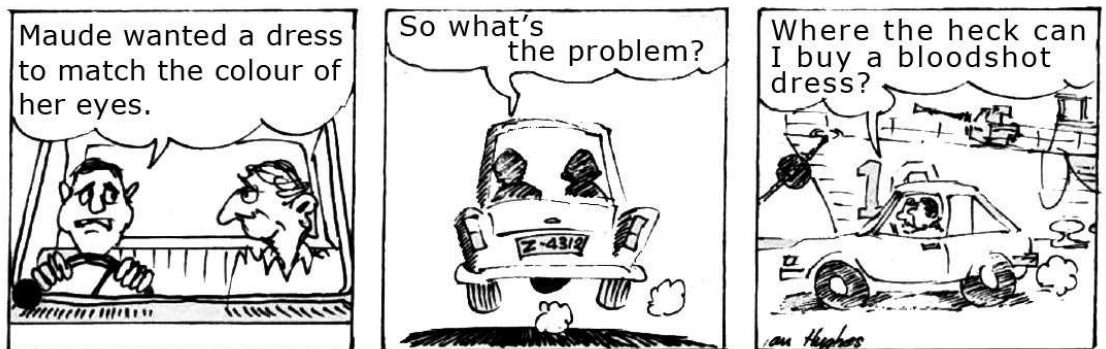


Little Marty 2

Marty's kindergarten class was on a field trip to their local police station where they saw pictures tacked to a bulletin board of the 10 most wanted criminals. One of the youngsters points to a picture and asks if it really was the photo of a wanted person. "Yes," said the policeman. "The detectives want very badly to capture him." Marty asks, "Why didn't you keep him when you took his picture?"



A Pommy bloke calls at Australia House in London to get a visa to visit family in Australia. The bloke behind the counter asks, "Do you have a criminal record?" The Pommy bloke sighs and inquires, "Is that STILL a requirement...?"



ANZAC Day 2017 Photos

Swanston Street, Melbourne and Stella Maris Seafarers Centre



Hannah Kim Visit Photos

Stella Maris Seafarers Centre, Little Collins Street, 22 April 2017.



Fountain Gate ANZAC Day Service Photos

Fountain Gate Secondary College, Monday 24 April 2017.



Vic Dey, Ron Kennedy, Alan Evered and Nicole Evered (all front, left)



KVAA President, Vic Dey

Quilted Ernie

Quilts of Valour Australia [www.quiltsofvalour.com.au], a charity that awards quilts to those who have served our nation and been touched by war, were invited to explain to members of St. Mary's RSL Sub-Branch NSW what they are and how they work. After the talk Stan and Sue Allen, NSW Coordinators for *Quilts of Valour* added a little twist when Stan announced that they would not be packing the quilt away but leaving it at the meeting wrapped around the shoulders of one of those present.

Stan then went on to say that he wasn't real good at names but has a bunch of numbers that meant absolutely nothing to him but may to somebody in the room. As he read the numbers 2401 Stan stopped and rambled on about the quilt and could see a buzz around the room but more so at one particular table. Letting all off the hook, Stan announced the final numbers to see a big smile over Ernie Holden's face. Asking Ernie to join him up front Stan and his wife Sue then wrapped Ernie in the *Quilt of Valour* and thanked him for his "service, sacrifice and valour". Ernie served in Korea in 1953 with the 2RAR.



(L-R) Tony Fryer, Stan Allen, Ernie Holden all wrapped up, Ron Blakely, Unknown.

Farewells

Reginald A. **Bandy**, 5288, 3RAR in early May 2017

William **Carswell**, A21404, No. 77 (Fighter) Squadron, RAAF on 8 September 2016, aged 92.

Rex **Evans**, 24418, 3RAR on 18 May 2017

Clifton **Grant**, 41302, 2RAR in December 2016

Norman **Isdale**, 37155, *HMAS Bataan* on 14 September 2016

Stuart Raymond **Johnston**, 33724, 2RAR on 13 December 2016

William F. **Murphy**, O21661, No. 77 (Fighter) Squadron, RAAF on 8 May 2016. KVAA Life Member.

Thomas Derek **Nicol**, 29060, 2RAR on 20 July 2016

David Llewellyn **Owen**, 25644, 2RAR on 28 November 2016

Paul **Shimmen**, A34229, No. 77 (Fighter) Squadron on 23 Oct. 2016
KVAA Inc. Albury-Wodonga Delegate December 2012 - July 2015

Kerry Albert **Smith**, 33614, 2RAR on 17 February 2017

Norman E. **Thornton**, 3400696, 3RAR on 16 May 2017

Arthur R. **Traynor**, A35702, *HMAS Sydney* on 8 March 2017

James **Williams**, 25357, *HMAS Warramunga* on 25 Dec. 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

