



# THE VOICE

August 2018 Edition

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## Editor's Opening

We are in the mid-winter lull here in southern states; too cold for outdoor ceremonies and it is dark by 5pm. One ceremony which is unavoidable is the 27th July Ceasefire commemoration at the Shrine of Remembrance. The event this year was surprisingly well-attended with the new(ish) Consul General Sunghyo Kim the keynote speaker. In all, 48 people including 11 veterans attended, making it the best turn-out since 2011. Well done all, and especially organisers Alan and Nicole Evered.

In mid-June, William (Bill) Speakman, the last surviving VC winner from the Korean War died at the age of 90. He was also a recipient of the *Taeguk*, South Korea's highest class of the Order of Military Merit. After the war, he became President of the newly formed British Korean War Association.

Speaking of awards... Someone who received one in the Queen's Birthday Honour List in June is the KVAA's Riverina delegate, John Munro. Yep, he's joined Col Berryman and Vic Dey on the OAM list and is now John Munro OAM RFD ED. His citation read in part:

*For service to veterans and their families. Service includes: Returned and Services League of Australia (RSL), Victorian State Councillor, 1984-1992 and Victorian State Executive Member, 1991-1993; Kyneton Sub-Branch, RSL, President, 1980-1983, past Vice-President and past Secretary and Committee Member, 1974-1992; Past Secretary, 22nd Battalion Association and Past President, 38th Battalion Association.*

From the sublime to the ridiculous... According to the April 21-22 edition of *The Australian*, Army Chief, Lt. Gen. Angus Campbell, has issued a directive banning displays or adoptions of symbols such as skull-and-crossbones [outlaws and murderers], the Phantom or Punisher [vigilantes], Spartans [militarism] and the Grim Reaper [bringer of death]. Acceptable replacements are, presumably, rainbows, bunny rabbits, peace symbols and smiley faces. Because nothing says 'I care' more than a smiley face attached to your tank when going into battle.

## President's Joke of the Month

A psychic investigator was examining a haunted house when a ghost appeared. The investigator asked if he could take its picture, and the ghost agreed. Unfortunately, however, when the negatives were developed they were blank. It seems the spirit was willing but the flash was weak.

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### Allied Associations

Australian Peacekeepers and Peacemaker Veterans' Association Inc.

Passenger: "How long will the next train be? Will it run on time?"  
Porter: "Same as usual, sir; three carriages and it will run on rails!"

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# **U.S. Armour in Korea**

## **(from bantam and mild to bulked-up and wild)**

by Tom Moore

At the end of WWII U.S. tank production ceased and the tank production lines disassembled. The U.S. Army came under a reduced-strength TO&E and the regimental tanks were eliminated from the infantry regiments.

After the Korean War began, Task Force Smith (two companies of infantry) were sent to Korea, and arrived on 1 July 1950. In position at Osan on 5 July, at 0800, howitzers began firing at eight Russian-built T-34 enemy tanks, that were bearing down on the task force. The enemy tanks were impervious to the artillery fire, and recoiling rifle and 2.36 bazooka fire had no effect. A second wave of enemy tanks cut through Task Force Smith an hour later, and at 1145 hours, three enemy tanks led the 16th and 18th Infantry Regiment of the NKPA 4th Division in an assault on the American infantry positions, routing them. The destruction of Task Force Smith, precipitated a frenetic effort to procure armour for the U.S. Eighth Army.

In the early days of August 1950, as the NKPA closed on the Pusan Perimeter with ten divisions, it's goal was to capture Pusan by August 15 - the fifth anniversary of the liberation of Korea from the Japanese.

Powerful American reinforcements were arriving, or about to arrive, in Pusan. These were the U.S. Army's 2nd Infantry Division, the 5th RCT, the 1st Provisional U.S. Marine Brigade (8 Battalions, about 6,534 men), and the independent U.S. Army Tank Battalions. These forces comprised, in total about five regiments of infantry (fifteen battalions) at full or near full strength, six battalions artillery, an AA battalion, combat engineers, and several tank battalions, numbering in total about 30,000 men. Added to the 24th and 25th Infantry Divisions, the reinforcements would bring the total American ground strength in the south-west Korean sector to about 45,000 men, twice the strength of the NKPA forces attacking toward Pusan.

Bill Rodgers, commander of the Army's 6th Tank Battalion, got some WWII M-26 Pershing tanks from the Armoured School at Fort Knox, Kentucky, that were up on concrete pedestals around Knox and called "Monument Tanks." He also drew Sherman tanks from the Rock Island Arsenal. Many Sherman tanks were found on WWII battlefields in the Pacific, taken to Japan, and repaired somewhat by the Japanese. Tanks had all different makes of engines in them. At first, when the Korean War started, it was a widely held view by the U.S. Army Staff in Washington, D.C., (before Task Force Smith) that Korea was not good tank country, and the U.S. could forget about armour.

And it is true that the rugged terrain and primitive road net prohibited mass employment of armour on a wide front as had been done in Europe in WWII, but it soon came to light that even attacking on a "one-tank" front, armour could be highly useful, and the tank repeatedly exploit the situation, in spite of the terrain. The UN soon saw the enemy had little trouble with the Korean-terrain in their Russian T-34 tanks (Task Force Smith, again).

By the time January 1951 came around, the U.S. Eighth Army had about 670 tanks in it's inventory. About 45 were British (medium Churchills and heavy Centurions). The American tanks were the light Chaffees with a 75mm gun. These thin-skinned tanks (used by McArthur in Japan occupation duty) were useful only for reconnaissance. The heavy Pershing (90mm gun) were to be withdrawn from inventory and replaced by the new heavy Patton (90mm gun).

Most of the remaining half of the American tanks in the Eighth Army inventory were the WWII vintage medium Sherman M4A3E8 (The Easy Eight). Many tankers preferred the Easy Eight tank to the new Pattons, despite the Sherman's older technology and smaller gun. It was reliable, highly manoeuvrable, had moderate fuel consumption, and a "wide track" which gave good flotation in the rice paddies. They viewed the new Patton tanks as too big and clumsy in the Korean country; it used too much fuel and required too much maintenance.

Around half of the Eighth Army's tank inventory was a question mark and unsatisfactory for major and extended armored operations. General Ridgway requested that the four Infantry Divisions which had come to Korea from Japan (1st Cavalry, 7th, 24th and 25th) had not been authorized organic tank companies (250 tanks a division, 1,000 overall).

The ploy failed. The Department of the Army rejected General Ridgway's request, wise to this "Organic Tank Companies," type of request as General MacArthur had requested organic tank companies to beef-up X Corps' 7th Infantry Division. Even with his refusal, General Ridgway directed his commanders to make more effective use of available armour. He wanted limited operations, designed specifically to support the infantry with tank firepower.

But the upshot was that General Ridgway remained restricted in armour to the six tank battalions, plus the regimental tank companies in the 2d, 3d and 7th Infantry Divisions. Three of the tank battalions (6th/64th/73rd) were equipped with Patton tanks, the other three tank battalions (70th/72nd/89th) were equipped with

*(continues on Page 4)*

*U.S. Armour in Korea (continued from Page 3)*

Sherman tanks, most of which were Easy Eights. Those regimental tank companies equipped with Pershing tanks, mostly traded them for the Easy Eights. After all of these changes had been accomplished, the number of reliable American tanks (including Pattons) available for major armour operations, was about 600.

The six U.S. Army tank battalions operated with many UN units:

The 6th Tank Battalion (“We Say, We Do”) usually operated with the 24th Infantry Division.

The 64th Tank Battalion (“We Pierce”) entered the Korean War in November 1950 with the 3rd Infantry Division, and usually operated with the 3rd.

The 70th Tank Battalion (“Strike Swiftly”) landed at Pusan on 7 August 1950, and usually operated with the 1st Cavalry Dismounted Division.

The 72nd Tank Battalion (“The Crusader”) landed at Pusan on 17 August 1950 with the 2nd Infantry Division, and usually operated with the 2nd. [Sgt. 1st. Class Ernest R. Koumara, RA-7060531, Tank Commander of an M-26 Pershing tank, “A” Company, was awarded The Medal of Honour].

The 73rd. Tank Battalion (“Honour, Fidelity, Courage”) usually operated with the 7th. Infantry Division.

The 89th. Tank Battalion (“Dues Semper”) usually operated with the 25th Infantry Division.

## **Origin of *The Bridges of Toko-ri***

by Tom Moore

During the Korean War, author James A. Michener, was a war correspondent aboard the aircraft carriers *USS Valley Forge* (CV-45), the *USS Essex* (CV-9), and the *USS Lake Champlain* (CVA-39). Some of the material Michener collected was fictionalized to become the widely acclaimed Korean War novel, *The Bridges at Toko-ri*, about a Naval Air Reservist called back to active duty as an F9F Panther jet pilot. The book was subsequently made into a motion picture, starring William Holden, Grace Kelly, Mickey Rooney and Fredric March.

The name of Holden’s character was apparently taken from real life, Lieutenant Donald S. Brubaker, of VF-194, a naval pilot who flew from the *USS Valley Forge* in Korea. The story, however, is a composite adapted from the hair-raising experiences of more than one naval aviator. Rooney’s character, CPO Mike Forney, was taken from real life chopper-pilot, CPO Duane Thorin.

One of Michener’s sources was Commander Paul Gray, C.O. of VF-54, who shared his considerable expertise with the author in a dinner meeting on board the *USS Essex*, along with three other squadron skippers. It was the night before a major attack on some heavily defended railroad bridges in central North Korea. Cdr. Gray described how the target area was bristling with some fifty-six radar-controlled anti-aircraft guns that would make the mission especially hazardous. The next day Cdr. Gray and his squadron dove through the heavy fire to silence the guns and destroy the bridges. James Michener was on hand to watch the squadron return to the carrier from the successful strike.

Another source for Michener was the tale of “Carson’s Canyon,” in which VA-195 pilots from the *USS Princeton* (CV-37), repeatedly attacked a railroad bridge, engaging not only in a running duel with North Korean anti-aircraft gunners, but with repair personnel who put the bridge back in service as fast as its spans could be destroyed.

In the movie, the aircraft carrier *USS Oriskany* (CV-34) was the fictional carrier: the *USS Savo Island*. In the novel, the fictional Lt. Brubaker is shot down in enemy territory, and is joined on the ground by a helicopter pilot and crewman when their chopper is also downed during an unsuccessful rescue attempt. Professor R. F. Kaufman of Cal-State, wrote in the *Naval Aviation News* that this part of the story was fashioned from an actual similar situation that took place in February 1952. Skyraider pilot, Ensign Marvin S. Broomhead, was shot down in enemy-held territory, as was an HO3S rescue helicopter, flown by Navy Lt. Edward Moore and Marine Corps 1st. Lt. Kenneth Henry. All three men were thought to have been killed by the enemy but were actually captured and repatriated after the war. Michener’s Lt. Brubaker and the helicopter crew perished at the hands of the enemy.

It is not clear why Michener put his fictional hero in the cockpit of an F9F Panther jet, instead of a prop-driven AD, Skyraider, but jet aircraft were still relatively new at the time, and perhaps the author thought it would have a more dramatic effect on his readers. Cdr. James L. Holloway III, USN, of squadron VF-52, flew in the movie, in the role of Lt. Brubaker. Holloway was later Chief of Naval Operations from 1974 to 1978.

The book and the movie are still enjoyed around the world.

[James A. Michener (1907 - 1997) was the author of more than 40 novels, selling an estimated 75 million copies world wide. In 1948 he received a Pulitzer Prize for fiction for his “*Tales of the South Pacific*.” He was also awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1977].

# Battalion Surgeon

by J. Birney Dibble M.D., Lt. USNR, MC, ret.

## Part Three

### **Not getting a Purple Heart hurts, but not as much as a wound**

Being a battalion surgeon at H&S was a safer job than being on the front lines. H&S Company was in defilade (out of the line of direct rifle fire), although it was occasionally subject to mortar fire because we were in a tent camp out in the open. Still, H&S Company was a much safer place than on the line. Unfortunately for me, however, I went up into the front line trenches a lot.

No doctors were routinely distributed to the line companies. A few battalion surgeons never went up to the lines, but most did. Kim and I went up routinely and often stayed in the Forward Aid Station bunker for several nights at a time during heavy action.

On one such trip to the lines I was slightly wounded by a Chinese mortar. With Sgt. John Gumpert driving the Jeep ambulance, we had driven up as far as we could, then started to climb on foot the rest of the way up to the ridge line of Hill 812.

There had been no incoming, but all of a sudden there was. We were already too far from the jeep to go back to it.

Gumpert hollered, "Run for it, Doctor" There wasn't any need to duck or dodge because the shells were coming in randomly, not as if they could see us where we were. Later we decided that the Chinese had been trying to hit the bunkers in our front lines, but were inaccurate and the mortars were exploding around us 40 to 50 yards back of the MLR.

I remember it as if it were yesterday because it was the first time I'd been under fire. I dove into a deep shell crater just as a round landed quite close by.

I expected Gump to pile in on top of me. When he didn't, I cautiously got to my knees and saw him sitting on the ground, only about ten feet away. He was slumped over with his eyes open so I knew he was just stunned, not badly hit.

I crawled out and dragged him down into the shell hole. We lay in that crater for what seemed a long time, maybe 20-30 minutes, until the incoming stopped.

When the stuff is landing all around you and you're wondering if two shells ever land in the same hole, 20-30 minutes can seem like a really long time. A direct hit by even one mortar would likely have killed us both.

We sat up. Gump took off his helmet and handed it to me. It had a small hole in the right side. The helmet liner was dented, but without a hole in it. Then he turned his face sideways and pointed to his temple. There was a tiny cut and a big lump on his scalp just above the hair line. It seemed pretty obvious that

the indented helmet liner had caused the damage, not the fragment itself, so I pulled a small combat dressing out of the pocket of my field jacket and applied it with steady pressure to the wound, then tied it in place.

I'd gotten five or six small pieces of shrapnel on the back of my right forearm. (The scars are still there.) I figured later that I had probably raised my right arm to balance myself as I jumped into the shell crater and the same mortar round that got Gump had broken into small fragments and hit my arm.

We didn't report our wounds, because Gump had already been wounded three times, the last one at the Punchbowl, and he would then have been transferred immediately to a rear area and he was dead set against that. I concurred and therefore lost my chance for a Purple Heart!

If communication lines had been strung to the MLR, and usually they had been if the lines had been stable for a while, the line company used a EE-8 voice-powered telephone to call for the battalion surgeon to go up to the lines.

Otherwise they called for help via radio. The request would go something like this: "We need a doctor up here. We've got a man we're afraid to move till he's seen by a doctor. He might need a copter evac."

Rear Aid was in a 16x16 pyramidal tent with a dirt floor. The Corpsmen could take it down in about ten minutes and put it up in about half an hour. Whenever we moved they just struck it. If the lines weren't moving, we left it for the battalion replacing us.

Our basic equipment included olive-drab-colored combat bandages With tails on them. They came in all different sizes: little ones, big ones, and great big ones that could cover the entire abdomen.

We had a supply of plasma in little bottles that held 100cc. They were small so we could carry them on us when we were up on the lines.

In winter we taped one of them on each calf to keep them warm so they wouldn't freeze. We also had first aid equipment of all kinds: scalpels and hemostats, syringes and morphine, tourniquets and all the other basic stuff.

We weren't a holding unit in the battalion aid stations. Our job was to triage the people and get them out of there. We had to decide if we could take care of this guy right there and send him back to duty on the lines right now, or if he needed evacuation but could walk back. If he could, he put his backpack on an A-frame and went back.

*(continues on Page 6)*

*Battalion Surgeon (continued from Page 6)*

We also had to determine how he should be evacuated if he couldn't walk back by himself. If there were a lot of wounded who weren't serious, we piled as many as we could in the back of a 6-by-6 truck and sent them back as many as 18 or 20 at a time.

Often, a WIA needed to be evacuated by jeep ambulance or cracker box ambulance. If so, he would be among the more seriously wounded ones, but still didn't need helicopter evacuation. The worst ones, those with belly wounds, fractures of the femur, and major wounds like that, almost always were evacuated by helicopter.

Our presence as doctors could make a difference to those with chest and neck wounds, but we really couldn't do much with abdominal wounds. We could give them morphine and get a helicopter in and send them out, but that's all that we could do.

For the chest wounds, if a lung was collapsed, we would put a chest tube in and drain out the air and/or blood. Then we called in a bigger Sikorsky helicopter, in which a corpsman could get in the cabin with the wounded man to keep drawing out the air and/or blood to keep the lung expanded. That didn't happen all that often.

Twice I did a tracheostomy where shrapnel had gone into the neck causing so much swelling that it was closing off the upper trachea. I did the tracheostomy down below the voice box. There were some Corpsmen who were trained to do that, but most were not. In those two cases in particular, my presence made a difference because these guys were dying.

Several times I actually went forward of the MLR, down into No Man's Land. Each time it was to evaluate a badly injured Marine who they couldn't transport – or were afraid to. Each time the Corpsmen thought the Marine was dying, but they sent for me anyway. I got down there real quick and was able to stabilize them so they could be transported out of there.

I remember one arm artery where the Marine would have bled to death if somebody hadn't been there. Most corpsmen would have known how to take care of him, but this one didn't know what to do. I had him transferred far to the rear, where his incompetence wouldn't be so critical.

There were many, many other cases where the helicopters saved lives. As a doctor I could call a helicopter, whereas a Corpman could not. When they got to know me, some of the Corpsmen would joke that that's the only thing that I could do that a corpman couldn't.

It wasn't too far from the truth, to be frank. There were times when I felt over-whelmed because there were so many casualties to deal with. For instance, there was one time on the back of a hill where we

were surrounded by Chinese. We were working on the ground and it was dark.

Most of the time we could do our work with just the light of the moon and/or stars. But sometimes we had to use flash-lights, usually to stop major hemorrhage, which pinpointed where we were. The Chinese just kept coming and coming and coming. All we could do was just work as fast as we could.

We used specially designed sleeping bags that had zippers in about eight or ten places so we could keep the bodies of our casualties warm. We would open up a place and work on an arm or a belly or a leg, while the rest of the body stayed warm. The cold weather hurt our efforts to take care of the wounded.

It was much better when it was too hot rather than too cold, because a lot of the guys were in shock already and one of the things that we did for a patient in shock was try to get their body temperature back up to normal. Many had lost blood, so this was difficult. Some of them lay out there for hours before they could be dragged or carried back to a safer area where they could be transfused.

(continued next issue)

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## WWII Chemical Warfare

During WWII, chemical weapons were developed but not used on a major scale, though the Allies were certainly prepared to employ them if necessary. Chemical warfare had been used in the First World War, but its first use was banned by the 1925 Geneva Convention.

In 1940 the British were prepared to use gas if a German invasion had been successful in getting troops onshore. However, by the autumn they decided against initiating its use because they believed that the Germans held larger stocks.

In 1943 the British and the Americans agreed that if the Germans used gas against the Soviet Union, they would retaliate, and a public warning was issued. In the summer of 1944, after the first V-1 attacks on London, Churchill wanted "a cold-blooded calculation" made on whether it would be advantageous to use poison gas.

In retaliation for the bombardment he wanted to "drench" the Ruhr and many other cities in Germany. The Chiefs of Staff opposed such a move, fearing that the British people would react badly in the face of German retaliation with their own gas attacks. By early 1945 the United States was drawing up plans for attacks on Japanese crops using defoliants. The end of the war put an end to this idea. However it was resurrected in a later conflict, the Vietnam War, in the form of *Agent Orange*.

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

# On 27th July 1953...

From *The Graybeards, Korean War 60th Anniversary Special Edition III, Vol.27 No.5, 2013*

## We Waited...

by August W. Zurth

I served in HQ Btry, 145th FA Bn (155mm Long Toms) as the Commo Chief. We were positioned with Able and Charlie Batteries in the valley behind Heartbreak Ridge, along with a 155mm Howitzer Bn and a 8 inch Howitzer Bn. Our Baker Battery was detached and located on the east side of the Punch Bowl. Service Battery was about a mile to our rear. We were an 8th Army Artillery Unit assigned to X Corps.

During the morning of July 27th we received a coded message by radio from X Corps, which was an announcement that the armistice was to take effect at 2200 hrs on that day. I can't recall any other details of the message.

The day was uneventful and quiet, as we all anxiously awaited the end of hostilities. In the evening I was in my Commo Bunker, which had our switchboard and radios, with the switchboard operator, radio operator and radio repairman. That was where I usually spent my time when I was not out in the field.

At 2100 hours we started receiving incoming rounds, which continued until 2150 hrs. Our guns did not respond. We waited, wondering whether the truce was really going to be in effect. Around midnight, as there was no further activity, I went to my living bunker and hit the sack.

The next day was quiet, but we were all a little on edge wondering if things were going to start up again. Thankfully, all remained quiet. On the ensuing days, we no longer had to carry our weapons or wear our steel pots. As the weeks and months went on, we started to move above ground. A Quonset hut was erected for our mess hall, and squad tents started to go up. We also went into a training cycle, which was ongoing until I rotated out in April of 1954.

## The Day The Truce Was Signed

by Richard Sissel

I have written notes for my children and grandchildren regarding my two-year Army time, Jan. 1952 to Jan. 1954. I was in Korea, in reserve I think, with the 27th Infantry Regiment.

The truce was signed with no celebration, and the fighting ended July 27, 1953. The General who signed it noted he was the first to sign an American War ending document without victory. It must have been about that time I changed from truck driver to Motor Officer jeep driver.

I am sure there was some change after the truce was signed. There were no medevac helicopters, no fireworks displays, and there had to be a slow relaxing of tensions with adjustments in all operations. Most of the changes happened slowly. Unlike the retreat from Vietnam, there was a stable readjustment in Korea.

I did not experience any big deal in the pattern of my service, but it might have been a lot different if the truce wasn't signed, for I think we returned to the front lines very soon.

## Let Them Eat White Rice

by Clifford L. Wheeler

At the end of the war in Korea, I was with the prison of war command and was asked to be the train commander on Operation Little Switch, which was the exchange of the first prisoners of war.

I do not remember the exact date, but it was soon after the signing of the treaty. The only problem we had was when we stopped to feed the prisoners. They refused to eat white rice, which was all we had. So, I told them they eat that or nothing. They chose nothing, so we dumped the rice and returned to the train to continue the trip.

The prisoners were fat and sassy, but at the exchange we got very thin prisoners who had to be put on stretchers for the return trip with nurses and doctors. We had anticipated this, so we were ready for them. We had rigged the cars to be litter bearers, so we had enough space for all of them to lie down.

## It's Hard To Believe The War Is Over

by Alvin Noitzke

I was a Medical Aidman with the 3rd Inf. Division attached to the 58th Field Artillery Co. C. We were in the Chorwon Valley, aka the Iron Triangle, in direct support of Outpost Harry.

The Chinese made a big push, and our division was ordered to pull out and stop their advance. We did.

I was a few miles from Outpost Harry when the armistice was signed. We had half-track trucks with 50 calibre machine guns and some with 40mm cannons. We fired ammo all day and night on July 27th, until we learned that the armistice was signed. I had a hard time believing that had actually happened.

Not surprisingly, I was glad the fighting was over. We were tired – and we welcomed the rest.

*(continues on Page 8)*

## I May Have Been There

by Arthur L. Snyder

My first tour was flying B-26s from K-9, Pusan, with the 17th Bomb Wing, 95th Bomb SQ. In 1952, before my 50th mission, I was transferred to a new wing being formed at Clark AFB, Philippines, the 581st Air Resupply and Communication Wing. That was an on-purpose misnomer, because it was a psychological warfare CIA Wing, which I believe is in violation of the Geneva convention.

We had many types of planes. I was assigned to the B-29s. After extensive training, four crews were sent to Yokota, Japan to start flying psychological warfare missions. We flew one plane a night that was painted black, had no USAF markings, and no guns – and we flew to some strange places.

The first mission was flown on 1/13/53. Col Arnold, our wing commander, and other top officers, a total of thirteen people, were on board. The plane was shot down. It appears there was a security leak, and we know the enemy hated our CIA wing.

I flew very nervously on the third night. My tour ended in May, 1953 and went back to Clark. Our wing had to find someplace else to fight, so we started training to go to French Indo-China when the armistice was signed. We think we went to Dien Bien Phu in November 1953.

The United States said we were not there. The French said we were. In any case, a legendary pilot friend from Basking Ridge, NJ, flying a C-119, was shot down on 5/6/54. His DNA was found several years ago.

That's a long-winded way of saying that I was busy at Clark when the armistice was signed – or was I?

## Twenty Years Old and Retired

by Warren Gardner MacDonald

On July 27, 1953, I was awaiting my final day in the U.S. Army at a Medical Holding Company in Murphy Army Hospital, Waltham, Massachusetts. For about a month I had duty as CQ nights at the emergency room, answering telephones, receiving telex messages and passing them on to a Captain for distribution, and clearing arrivals (Army and civilian personnel) for entry to the hospital. The main reception entry was shut down after 6 p.m. and the only way in was through the Emergency Room.

A medical review board had made a decision to give me an Honourable Discharge, Retired with permanent disability. Here I was only 20 years old and retired! But, I had earned it. I was the recipient of two Purple Hearts and had been wounded seriously while serving with the Tank Company, 32nd RCT, 7th Infantry Division in the Punch Bowl on 19 February, 1952. After a year and a half in Army hospitals I was very ready to take my discharge and go home.

The Chinese Communist and North Korean forces were jockeying for favourable endgame-positions that summer of 1953, and there had been many new patients placed in the hospital from these actions. Also, with Operation Little Switch, the POWs who had homes in New England and had medical issues were hospitalized as well. We were pretty much running out of beds.

We heard from the newly arrived that the Korean War was about to end. (Credit President Eisenhower for dropping a hint of "Atomic Bomb use" to the India folks, who passed this on to the Chinese and North Koreans).

Late in the day of 27 July we heard of the cease fire and cheered this wonderful news. Four days later I put on my dress Class A Uniform, said goodbye to many patients, doctors and friends, went out the main entrance at 5 p.m., saluted the flag as it came down, shouldered my duffel bag and went home.

No parades, no cheers...and, I would do it all over again. God Bless all who fought in Korea, especially the troopers who did not come home.

## We Were Ready To Swim Home

by Richard C. Aldrich

I embarked from San Diego, CA on August 15, 1952 with the U.S. Marine Corps' 24th Replacement Draft aboard the *USNS General A. W. Brewster* and arrived at Inchon, Korea on September 2, 1952. I served with Able Co., 1st Tank Bn., 1st Marine Division for 11 ½ months of uninterrupted combat, at a time when the front was anything but quiet.

Around July 24, 1953 – only three days before the armistice was signed – I was relieved of duty and sent back to the company CP area to prepare to return home. My time in Korea was up – or so I thought. No sooner did I get to the CP area than I was ordered to go back up on the front line and rejoin the tank platoon. I did, and got right back into the gunner's seat. We were in the Bunker Hill area when all hell broke loose all along the front on the night of July 26th, and it lasted all day on the 27th. Finally, on the 27th the fighting ended, and I was sent back to Inchon harbor, where I boarded the *USS General Walker*.

Operation Big Switch was underway, so American, North Korean, and Chinese prisoners were being exchanged. Our ship sat in the harbour for a few days, where we took on 200-300 U.S. Army and 5 U.S. Marine former POWs who had been taken early in the war. The rest of us were ready to start swimming home. Finally, we got underway. After thirteen days, we finally docked in San Francisco.



## The Other June 1944

Mention June 1944 to those in the Western English-speaking world and most will think of D-Day and the breaching of Hitler's Fortress Europa. Dozens of movies, books and wargames since 1944 have reinforced this prominence. And yet, in the East, a far more militarily significant operation was in preparation, one that is largely ignored in the West.

In late June 1944, the Soviets began what eventually would be known as the "Destruction of Army Group Centre", and the gutting of much of the German strength on the Eastern Front. The key to this offensive was the city of Minsk. Should it be captured, numerous German formations would be hopelessly cut off.

One of the vital routes for the German retreat was via the Stolbtsky Highway which ran behind a series of low ridges and then crossed the Berezina River south of Minsk. On July 1st, the much overworked and understrength German 170th Infantry Division (in reality a large battalion) was overwhelmed by elements of Rotmistrov's Fifth Guards Army.

The survivors took to their heels and attempted to patch together a defence along the last line of ridges overlooking the escape route to Minsk. The Russians, in probing for a weakness in the German line, had managed to overrun the German-held village of Letornovski and were boiling towards the ridges. Hurriedly gathered German reinforcements were converging in an attempt to patch up the line and hold Hill 621, key to the defence.

The German defence briefly crystallized and held the Russian onslaught. Field Marshal Model formed a regimental Kampfgruppe from remnants of the 4th, 5th and 12th Panzer Divisions to close the Russian breakthroughs; but there were too many breakthroughs and not enough Germans.

Desperate, he sent in whatever armour remained for the last ditch fighting along the ridges that flanked the Stolbtsky highway. Gradually, one ridge after another was cleared by the Russians. The remaining German mobile forces darted here and there in futile efforts to stem the tide. By July 2nd, both the ridges and the highway were Russian-held; and on July 3rd, the Soviets entered Minsk, former headquarters of Army Group Centre.

Source: *The General* magazine Vol.23, No.2

## Mel Brooks: All American Hero

Future comic writer and scene legend, Mel Brooks, was drafted in 1944 and assigned to the headquarters unit of the 1104th Combat Engineers ten days after the conclusion of the Battle of the Bulge when the Germans were in full retreat and throwing away equipment as they headed east.

One day Brooks and a few fellow engineers were driving around in a jeep when they spotted a case of Mauser sniper rifles lying by the side of the road. They stopped and began taking potshots with the German weapons. They soon found that the glass insulators on telephone poles made excellent targets, shattering dramatically when hit.

After a while, Brooks and the others threw the rifles away and leisurely made their way back to headquarters. The place was in an uproar. Orders were being shouted. Papers were flying. Everyone was running around.

"What's going on?" Brooks asked,

"The Germans have broken through and cut all the telephone wires!"

Thinking quickly, Brooks stepped forward. "Sir, I volunteer to go out and fix those lines!" he shouted.

So Mel Brooks casually drove back to the same spot where he and his buddies spent the afternoon, fixed the lines that they had shot out and thus saved his entire company from the surprise German "counterattack."

Source: *Military Heritage* magazine, October 2000

## Torpedoes? What Torpedoes?

On 21 June 1941, the Soviets had 211 submarines in commission: 76 in the Baltic, 45 in the Arctic, 68 in the Black Sea and 22 in the Far East. It was the biggest submarine fleet in the world, but the men that manned the boats were simply not of a class with the other major combatants. The U.S.S.R. had begun World War II with the largest submarine fleet in the world. For the loss of 110 submarines, 128 enemy ships were sunk (292,000 tons).

During the war itself, only 65 new boats were completed to replace losses. The Soviet Union was the only major combatant to emerge from WWII with less submarines commissioned than it had begun the war with.

Here's an example of just how ineffective the Soviet Union's submarine force was during World War Two...

On 5 July 1942, the German Battleship, *Tirpitz*, departed Altenfjord in Norway, making course in the direction of the infamous Convoy PQ17 which, unknown to the Kriegsmarine, had scattered the day before. Her course crossed the patrol of the Soviet submarine K21, which was laying in wait for just such a chance. *Tirpitz* was fired on by the Soviet sub; however, all torpedoes launched not only missed, but missed by such a distance that none of the *Tirpitz's* crew apparently noticed the attack. After 12 hours, the ship returned undamaged to her anchorage.

Source: *The General* magazine Vol.19, No.6 1983

# Notices

## A Message From Jason Harrison

I am emailing to try and link up with Korean veterans from 2RAR or any persons who have served in 2RAR and the 66th Battalion prior or Malaya after. Below is the explanation. Hope to hear from some.

### The Second Battalion

Have you served yourself or had a relative serve (father, brother, son, etc.) in the 66th BN 2nd AIF, 2AR, 2RAR or 2/4 RAR? Do you have images, gear, medals, maps, photographs, books, movies and so on from your or your relative's service in these units?

Are these items sitting in boxes or a trunk not seeing the light of day, with the possibility they could be thrown out by your family if you died? We are not just interested in operational service; we are very much interested in the Battalion's daily life: sport, special Activities, parades, balls etc. during its time.

The 2RAR Historical Collection would like you to consider donating these items for display and to be preserved as part of the collection. We would like the original slides or, if you don't want to part with the originals, copies of any digital images or scanned copies (1200dpi). Remember your negatives and photos are slowly degrading. (We can archive them to them stop this in temperature controlled rooms).

These items will be available to view and be appreciated by all who visit historical collection. Ex-members, their relatives, and current and future members will be able to appreciate and view these items knowing they are at their home at 2RAR. The museum is funded by donations, sponsors and grants.

If you are an individual or business that would like to be a "friend of the 2RAR Historical Collection" please contact the curator. The museum is looking to completely upgrade and refurbish the Historical Collection display in the near future.

If you would like to visit, or donate to the collection, please also contact the curator/me on 0419749198 or email 2RAR.Museum@gmail.com. He will come to the front Gate of Lavarack barracks and escort you in.

I am very keen to get in touch with any original 66BN members!

Jason 'Harry' Harrison  
2 RAR Museum Curator,  
Lavarack Barracks, QLD 4813  
Email : jason.a.harrison@gmail.com  
Work Email : Jason.Harrison1@defence.gov.au  
Museum's Email : 2RAR.Museum@gmail.com

## Seafarers' Memorial Service

Commemorating the end of World War One.

The 111th Service will be held at St Paul's Cathedral Sunday **21st October** 2018 commencing at **10.30 am**

## Mortlake and District Veterans

Bart Robertson and Darren Stendt are currently trying to establish contact with, or identify any veterans from the Mortlake District of Victoria who served in the Korean War. The purpose of this is because of a proposal to include ALL veterans in the soon-to-be rejuvenated Avenue of Honour and/or inclusion in the local War Memorial.

If any readers of *The Voice* know of any Korea War veteran – living or dead – who were born in lived in the Mortlake District of Victoria (geographic areas roughly inclusive of Mortlake, Darlington, Dundonnell, Woorndoo, Chatsworth, Pura Pura Hexham, Ellerslie, Sisters, Kolora ) Bart and Darren would appreciate you getting into contact with them ASAP. Any names or possible leads would be greatly appreciated. For those able to, the email address is mortlakeyoungvets@gmail.com or contact the Editor and I'll pass you details on.

So far they have identified the following Korean War veterans based on a search of trove newspaper archives and the DVA Korean War nominal roll, but results of the later are limited because veterans only show up if they were born in a particular place, not enlisted from that area or were residents prior to enlisting. The local War memorial does not list Korean veterans individually. We are looking to address this with inclusion in the rejuvenated Avenue of Honour.

Current identified veterans:

BEARDSLEY, Geoffrey Alan, 36749, Navy, Mortlake  
BERRY, Kevin Charles, Army, 32553, Mortlake  
GOODALL, George Douglas, Navy, 31013, Mortlake  
HAVERFIELD, Ian Marcus, Army, 1400100 Mortlake  
MacKENZIE, Gordon Douglas, Army, 31947, Mortlake  
PRENTICE, William Henry, Navy, 36169, Mortlake  
BROWN, William Robert, Army, 34040, Pura Pura  
BEAMENT, Claude Clifford, Army, 32561, Redcliffs  
JUBB, Thomas John, Army, 3400353, Horsham



## Richtohofen of the Orient

Hirohito lived out his service as a pilot in the Japanese Army Air Force in the Manchurian Theater in 1939. He shot down 10 Soviet aircraft during his first sortie, which is a record to this day. He then went on to destroy a total of 58 Soviet aircraft in the subsequent three months, getting 11 in one day on one occasion, both of which also remain timeframe records. He did all that while flying a then already obsolescent Ki-27 "Nate." His aggressive tactics eventually led to him being shot down while single-handedly tangling with half-a-dozen Soviet fighters. He destroyed three of them, but was killed when the fourth moved in on his tail. That brief though stellar career earned Shinohara the press nickname, "Richtohofen of the Orient." The ultimate irony of that moniker comes from the fact the original Red Baron's primary tactical principle was never to fight outnumbered.

Source: *Strategy & Tactics* magazine No. 273 March-April 2012

## Soviet Spanish Civil War Aces

Mention the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939) and those with a passing knowledge of the subject will bring up the International Brigade and the support given Franco by Hitler and Mussolini. Rarely mentioned is Stalin's intervention on the side of the Republicans, particular the airpower he provided. In fact, two Russian pilots became aces while serving in Spain, namely Sergei Gritsevetz and Pavel Rychagov.

Gritsevetz added to his 30 kills in Spain another 12 during the clashes with the Japanese along the Manchurian border in 1938 becoming the first Soviet airman to twice receive the order of Hero of the Soviet Union. He died in September 1939 during the Soviet invasion of Poland (the one done in alliance with Hitler that was written out of history at the Nuremberg Trials in 1945).

Rychagov survived a little longer, being arrested and shot in October 1941, scapegoated for the catastrophic aircraft losses during the first months of Operation Barbarossa.

Source: *World At War* magazine No. 24, June-July 2012

## Delayed Decisiveness

The usual interpretation of the Battle of Midway was that it was a blow to Japanese naval air-power and, of course, the loss of four carriers and their pilots was important. Yet the Japanese would continue offensive operations elsewhere in the Pacific, notably the Solomons, for the remainder of 1942. One thing allowing for that came from the fact, by the late autumn of 1942, the USN was down to one fully operational carrier in the Pacific theatre of operations: *CV-3 Saratoga*.

That was in part due to the attrition of the Coral Sea and Midway operations, and in part due to losses owing to Japanese submarine operations. Overall in 1942, the USN would have three aircraft carriers sunk by enemy carrier air attacks (*Lexington*, *Yorktown*, *Hornet*), and one to land-based airpower (the old *Langley*). A Japanese submarine sank *Wasp*, while another damaged *Saratoga*. That could've been decisive, since in 1942 the USN had only eight operational carriers globally (*Ranger* was in the Atlantic); so those losses represented the majority of the American carrier force in the first year of the war.

The next year would see American industry begin to produce the fleet of carriers that would sweep the Pacific, but that was still in the future, and Admiral Nimitz and the USN had to fight with what they had in 1942.

Source: *World At War* magazine, No.16 Feb.-March 2011

## Four Will Be Enough

General Tomoyuki Yamashita, commander of the Japanese *Twenty Fifth Army* tasked with the December 1941 invasion of Malaya, famously refused the offer of an extra infantry division, saying: "No, four will be enough. And I shall only call on the fourth if I really need it." The reason usually cited for this is his contempt for the fighting abilities of the Anglo-Indian forces opposing him.

However, personal rivalry also played a role in Yamashita's refusal of the offered reinforcements. His direct superior, Field Marshal Count Hisaichi Terauchi, commander of the *Southern Expeditionary Army*, was a member of a different political faction in Tokyo. Yamashita therefore had little confidence in his superior's headquarters, and he doubted it would provide adequate logistical support for a larger force.

Source: *World At War* magazine, No.31 Aug.-Sept. 2013

## Sympathetic Starvation

The German Sixth Army became isolated in Stalingrad as a result of the 19 November 1942 Soviet counteroffensive around its flanks. In reaction, Gen. Kurt Zeitzler, then serving as chief of staff at Army High Command Headquarters, put himself on the same rations as were being flown into the surrounded army.

He did so in order to be able to gauge the combat power of the soldiers inside the pocket, and thereby know their capacity to take part in their own rescue or breakout operation. Within two weeks of starting the diet he lost 24 lbs. By then his thinning appearance so annoyed Hitler that the dictator ordered him to resume normal eating.

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

# Punnies

Sean Connery likes his gin and tonic but prefers the limelight.

The British may not have a Blood Bank, but they do have a Liverpool.

The guillotine is a French chopping centre.

Even a convict has the courage of his convictions.

Of course I'm crotchety; I'm wearing very tight trousers.

Alcoholic ravens are caused by a crowbar.

The stonemason who misspells a word on a tombstone is engrave trouble.

A fad is something that goes in one era and out of the other.

Engraving gives one the satisfaction of scratching the etch.

Back in the horse-and-buggy days, they really had a stable economy.

A bigamist is one who has loved not wisely but two well.

Being castrated is a eunuch experience.

Climbing a mountain gives most of us an eyrie feeling.

Trick photography is a load of focus-pocus.

Gross ignorance is 144 times worse than ordinary ignorance.

Spy novels are so exciting you want to read them covert to covert!

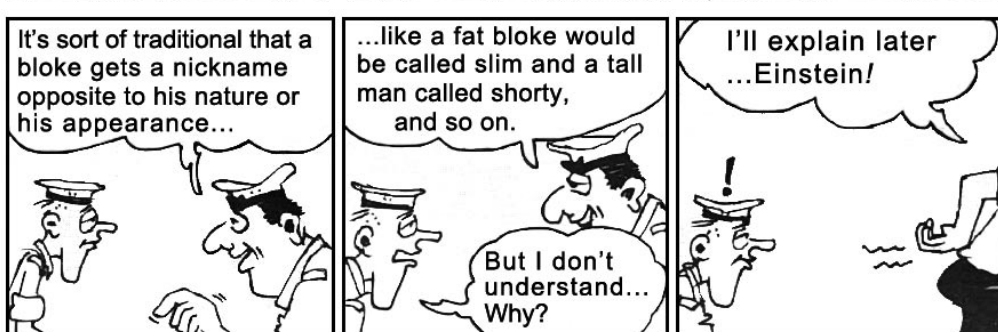
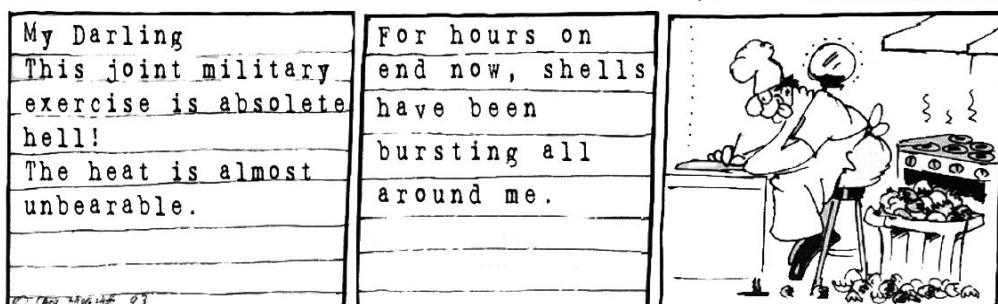
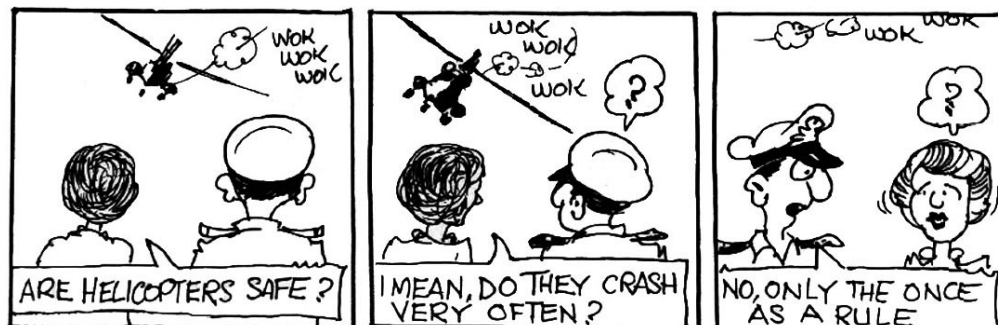
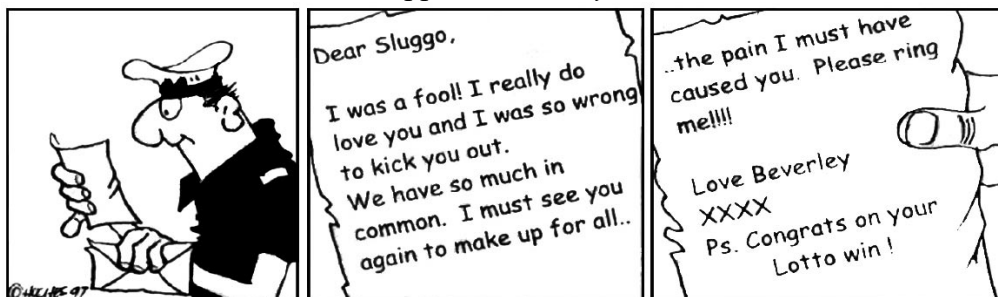
The bore who constantly repeats the same joke has a one-crack mind.

Britains never will be slaves; only Europe peons.

It is better to have loved a short girl than never to have loved a tall.

# HMAS Wort by Ian Hughes

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



# Funnies

## 20 Things One Would Prefer Not To Hear During Surgery

Could you stop that thing from beating? It's ruining my concentration!  
OK, now take a picture from this angle. This is truly a freak of nature.  
Oops! Hey, has anyone ever survived 500ml of this stuff before?  
Sterile, shcmeril. The floor's supposed to be clean, isn't it?  
Wait a minute...if this is his spleen, then what's THAT??  
Argh, don't worry about that – I think it's sharp enough.  
Someone call the janitor – we're going to need a mop.  
Nurse, did this patient sign the organ donation card?  
Hand me that...uh...that uh...sharp, pointy thingie.  
Well, folks, this will be an experiment for all of us.  
That's cool! Can you make his leg twitch too?  
Better save that – we'll need it for the autopsy.  
Everybody stand back! I lost my contact lens!  
She's gonna blow! Everyone take cover!  
Rats! Page 47 of the manual is missing!  
Anyone see where I left that scalpel?  
I wish I hadn't forgotten my glasses.  
Damn – there go the lights again...  
FIRE! FIRE! Everyone get out!  
What's this doing here?

## Latest Stock News

Coca Cola fizzled.  
Paper was stationary.  
Sun peaked at midday.  
Knives were up sharply.  
Light switches were off.  
Pencils lost a few points.  
Diapers remain unchanged.  
Balloon prices were inflated.  
Hiking equipment was trailing.  
Cow steered into a bull market.  
Caterpillar stock inched up a bit.  
Weights were up in heavy trading.  
Mining equipment hit rock bottom.  
Tiolet paper touched a new bottom.  
Helium was up, feathers were down.  
Shipping lines stayed at an even keel.  
The market for swimming pools dried up.  
Fluorescent tubing was dimmed in light trading.  
Batteries exploded in an attempt to recharge the market.  
Elevators rose, while escalators continued their slow decline.

If you are the first to know about something bad, you are going to be held responsible for acting on it, regardless of your formal duties.

## Pub Troubleshooting Chart

Symptom: Beer unusually pale and tasteless  
Fault: Glass empty  
Action: Get someone to buy you another beer

Symptom: Beer tasteless, front of your shirt is wet  
Fault: Mouth not open, or glass applied to wrong part of face  
Action: Retire to gent's room, practise in mirror

Symptom: Feet cold and wet  
Fault: Glass being held at incorrect angle  
Action: Rotate glass so that open end points towards ceiling

Symptom: Feet warm and wet  
Fault: Improper bladder control  
Action: Stand next to nearest dog, complain about its house training. Demand beer

Symptom: Floor blurred  
Fault: You are looking through bottom of empty glass  
Action: Get someone to but you another beer

Symptom: Floor moving  
Fault: You are being carried out  
Action: Find out if you are being taken to another bar

Symptom: Opposite wall covered with fluorescent lights  
Fault: You have fallen over backwards  
Action: Have yourself lashed to the bar

Symptom: Room seems unusually dark  
Fault: Bar has closed  
Action: Confirm home address with bartender

## A Real Aussie Man!

A plane passed through a severe storm. The turbulence was awful, and things went from bad to worse when one wing was struck by lightning.

One woman lost it completely. She stood up in the front of the plane and screamed, "I'm too young to die," she cried. Then she yelled, "If I'm going to die, I want my last minutes on earth to be memorable! Is there anyone on this plane who can make me feel like a WOMAN?"

For a moment, there was silence. Everyone stared at the desperate woman in the front of the plane. Then the man from Australia stood up in the rear of the plane. He was handsome, tall, well built, with dark brown hair and hazel eyes. Slowly, he started to walk up the aisle, unbuttoning his shirt as he went, one button at a time.

No one moved. He removed his shirt. Muscles rippled across his chest. She gasped...

Then, he spoke... "Iron this – and then get me a beer."

## Out & About



Our ACT Delegate, Col Berryman OAM, in Korea in May, was honoured with the task of laying the wreath and burning the Incense at the ROK National Cemetery and Memorial on behalf of the Australian Contingent. KVAA Committeeman, George Daniels, is seated in the background.



As usual it is...

### All America's Fault

Here is a hilariously ludicrous and typically (for *The Age* and *Sydney Morning Herald*) anti-American piece by Michael Faulkner of Toora from the *Letters* section of *The Age* on 13 June 2018:

“Korea north of the 38th Parallel, now conveniently dubbed a “rogue state”, suffered massively from the relentless US bombing blitz in the early 1950s. The campaign razed towns and cities, and destroyed villages, industry and agriculture. An estimated 3 million civilians were killed.

The frenzied militarism of North Korea in recent decades needs to be understood as a consequence of that unrestrained American onslaught, which included the use of napalm. In the light of American military adventurism around the world since the 1950s, Donald Trump, quite aside from the issues as to his personal suitability for diplomacy, began his discussions with the North Koreans with an enormous trust deficit.”

### Farewells

William R. **Bennett**, 31709, 3RAR on 28 November 2017

Gordon T. **Bidgood**, 32413, No.77 (Fighter) Squadron on 5th April 2018

Frank **Connelly**, 3400441, 3RAR on 30 May 2018  
KVAA President 1988-1991, Committeeman 1991-1995  
Stanley Francis **Connelly**, 32197, 3RAR on 13 July 2018  
KVAA Committeeman late 1980s - March 1996

Stanley J. **Maizey**, 235023, 2RAR & 1RAR on 18 June 2018

Ronald C. **Ridley**, 35014, 3RAR & 1RAR in June 2018

Donald A. **Tyler**, 5400165, 3RAR on 14 April 2018

Stephen Lawrence **Simmons**, 1RAR on 27 June 2018

### 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



Allen Riches, Alan Evered, Arthur Roach at the Friends of the Shrine lunch on 4th June 2018



Better late than never... ANZAC Day 2018. KVAA member, Kenneth Moore, now the only Wangaratta RSL member who was in Korea (with the Royal Artillery), placing a wreath on the memorial there.