



THE VOICE

December 2018 Edition

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NOTICE

From January 2019 onwards, the monthly KVAA Committee/General Meeting will take place at the Stella Maris at 1130 hours (11.30am) instead of the usual 1030 hours (10.30am).



Editor's Opening

This edition marks the 10th anniversary of my talking over as editor of *The Voice*. I'll leave it to historians of the future to determine whether this was a good or bad thing. For those of you who have enjoyed the last decade of *The Voice*...you're welcome; and for those of you who haven't...sorry.

We say goodbye to Dr. Birney Dibble with the final part of *Battalion Surgeon* in this issue. From February...I'm planning something a little different. Stay turned.

Andrew Burtch, an historian at the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa, has developed an interactive map that shows precise location of the deaths of Canadians who fell during the Korean War (plus also their place of birth). While not applicable to Australia, it does provide a model of what can be done and is interesting in its own right. For those of you with access to the Internet you'll find it at: <https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1pFkmsNqxXTe0OCfw-2V88-1a37E&ll=38.088749217054904%2C126.887217209558&z=13>

While on matters visual on the Internet... For those able to access it, there is a Korean War documentary on Youtube which may be of interest. *Our Time in Hell: The Korean War* starts with the 25 June 1950 invasion by the North and the subsequent U.N. intervention spearheaded by the United States. It is available on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nPWIOQ0W2CM>. Or just type in youtube and the name of the documentary.

Spilling Inc.

On the matter of staying incorporated or getting rid of the *Inc* in KVAA Inc., we are staying incorporated for 2019. It isn't so much the extra expense this entails as much as the fulfilling of the statutory obligations required that makes this move problematic. Given the age of the remaining membership, the is a brave decision. Too few are now capable of doing much, leaving too few doing too much. Here is a question for everyone: what happens when those too few doing too much stop doing anything?

Future Events...

This year was likely the last hurrah for many functions and ceremonies that were previously carved in stone on the KVAA calendar. We no
(continues on Page 12)

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Korea & South East Asia Forces Association of Australia
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Operation Red Frog

By Tom Moore

In September 1952, 1st Lt. Fred Slawson and 1st Lt. Albert Blakeway were talking about the charges of germ warfare being made by the Communist delegation against the UN at the peace talks. They were near the Han River. Watching a frog jump into the river; an idea was born.

Slawson and Blakeway came up with the idea of painting the frogs red, putting them in cages, and dropping them in North Korea. They made drawings of small bird-like cages that would pop open on impact, and small parachutes attached to the tops of the cages, complete with a nylon cordstatic line, with a snap hook on the end. Then, they went to work getting these items made.

Lt. Slawson sent his houseboy out to buy live frogs. The boy came back with almost 100 very big, healthy frogs. Then, they sprayed the critters with international orange paint. After the paint had dried that night, the frogs were put in the cages and loaded aboard a C-46 aircraft that was going on a drop run. Around midnight, the first cage went out the aircraft door over Chinnamp'o, after which three more cages were dropped. Four more cages were dispatched over P'yongyang as part of "Operation Red Frog."

In late October 1952, at the peace talks at Panmunjom, Gen. Nam II, chief of the communist delegation, claimed that he had irrefutable proof the Americans were conducting a germ warfare campaign. Admiral C. Turner Joy, senior UN delegate, demanded to see proof.

In came three North Korean officers wearing surgical masks. They marched to the conference table and deposited three cages containing bright international orange painted frogs. Reporters' "flash bulbs" popped as Gen. Nam II said the frogs had been dropped by American spy planes to infect the population.

Admiral Joy, barely able to suppress a smile, rejected the allegation as absurd. He said anyone could catch and paint frogs, and it was obviously just another ill-thought-out communist propaganda trick.

Source: *The Graybeards* magazine Vol.26, No.1, Jan.-Feb. 2012

My (Very Small) Role in the History of Atomic Warfare

by Dick Payne

After serving as a Navy Hospital Corpsman in Korea with the 1st Marine Division in 1953, I was assigned to Baker Medical Company, 2nd Medical Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. While I was there, the battalion Chief Petty Officer told me he had a special duty assignment for me.

I was to take a field ambulance with a Marine driver and report to the USN Port Commander at a certain pier in Wilmington, North Carolina. He said he did not know what it was about, but we were not to tell anybody where we were going. We were to stay until we were told to return. I was instructed also to prepare a medical kit with supplies for possible accidents - splints, battle dressings. etc. - including morphine syrettes, which Corpsmen normally did not carry in the US.

I was also told to draw a .45 from the armoury with spare magazines. The Marine ambulance driver was told to take his M1 with bayonet and several bandoliers of ammo. We were ordered to take a week's supply of C-rations and given a cash advance so we had money. We received permission to sleep in the ambulance and to bring back receipts for any money we spent.

As we rode to Wilmington, the ambulance driver and I speculated about what we were getting ourselves into. I knew it was very unusual for a Hospital Corpsman to carry a loaded weapon in the U.S. We found the pier and reported to the Naval officer in charge. He asked what we were doing there, so I relayed what little we had been told. He said they were loading a U.S. Army atomic cannon artillery unit for duty in Europe - the first to be shipped there. And, he related, since Camp Lejeune was the closest military base with a large medical facility, as a courtesy, they had notified the base because there was the potential for accidents - atomic and otherwise - and problems with protesters against the use of atomic weapons.

He noted that he had not requested any direct assistance, but since we were there we might as well stay until the ship sailed. We stood by and watched the ship being loaded. I wondered what I could do if there was an atomic accident. I would probably be vaporized like everybody in the dock area. As to protesters, the Marine ambulance driver and I seemed to be the only ones with loaded weapons. Were we expected to hold off any angry crowds that might burst through the gates?

I do not remember how long we were there, but no accidents occurred and we saw no protesters, although they may have been kept outside the gates of the pier. As the dock lines were unfastened, and the ship prepared to sail, the Naval officer waved goodbye to us and we returned to Camp Lejeune. Thus ended my small part in the history of atomic warfare.

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

MIA Update

Excerpts from two emails from Colin Berryman, the KVAA's A.C.T. delegate and member of the MIA committee:

Yesterday [17th October] at the MIA meeting convened at Department of Defence's Russell Offices, we received the completed and signed copy of the Memorandum of Understanding which we have been working to achieve in the Committee, which allows the Australian and United States of America appropriate government authorities to work in co-operation to achieve the recovery and identification where possible of Missing-in-Action remains on the Korean Peninsula, and for that matter, anywhere else in the Pacific Area or elsewhere where both our nations have lost personnel in conflicts in which we have been involved. It is pleasing to have it finally complete and amended to specifically include Korea. We have agreed that it is a good and sound document that will allow both of our governments the process and means to work together to recover and identify as many of our missing comrades as possible, including any that may be stored already in Hawaii.

We are very grateful for the important input of working group members during the development of the MOU with DPAA. Although the final format and wording is different to earlier consultation copies, it has been drafted in accordance with the standard terms of an MOU between the Australian Defence and the US Department of Defense. That sets the boundaries of what we can include and exclude with respect of some particular clauses. However, we are confident that the key points of content as consulted are included: a Korean War focus and the formalisation of the already strong working relationship. This strong relationship is evidenced by the multiple references by US authorities to Australian cooperation in recent media around the return of remains. It is also evidenced in the increasing communication between our specialists post-MOU signature. It can also be seen in the joint field work undertaken in PNG last month between UWC-A and DPAA which we will present on at the next working group.

MOU = Memorandum of Understanding, UWC-A = Unrecovered War Casualties-Army, DPAA = Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency.

So what does all this mean in practice? Formal cooperation between the Australian and US Governments in regard to the recovery and identification of remains of likely MIAs. Previously the US authorities provided help/information on a more ad-hoc basis, it depending on where, when and who was in charge at any particular moment and often subject to how loudly and persistently someone like Ian Saunders was shouting or pleading.

While on Ian Saunders, much credit for the MOU is due to his decade's long persistence on the matter. Of course, the joker in the pack comes in the form of the North Korean government. Although a cautious optimism is warranted, it may turn out to be another false dawn. Stay tuned.

Signed:

on behalf of
DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING
AGENCY


Kelly K. McKeague
Director
Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency

Date: 3 August 2018

on behalf of
AUSTRALIAN DEPARTMENT OF
DEFENCE


D. L. Johnston, AO, RAN
Vice Admiral
Vice Chief of the Defence Force

Date: 24 August 2018

The signatures of Kelly McKeague (USA) and D. Johnston (Australia) on the MoU.

Left-handed Riflemen

Q: Was there any provision made for left-handed riflemen in the Second World War?

A: The standard infantry weapon of all the major combatants at the start of the Second World War was the bolt-action rifle. This was designed to be fired from the right shoulder of the user, who would then use his right hand to pull back the bolt to eject the spent cartridge and push it forward again to chamber a new one ready for firing.

It is not impossible to do this with left hand and left shoulder, but it is awkward. Furthermore, the spent cartridge case is usually ejected to the right and you don't want a piece of scalding-hot brass flying into your eye.

The Americans entered the war with the M1 Garand, the world's first mass-produced semi-automatic rifle, using the exhaust gases of each round in an eight-bullet clip to cock the gun and chamber the next round. There was no bolt to work, but it was nonetheless also designed for right-handed shooting.

While there had been periodic talk of making left-handed rifles – for example, when the Short Magazine Lee-Enfield, used by British and empire and Commonwealth forces in both world wars, was first trialled – there was never any great need in practice.

Working a rifle bolt is a comparatively simple set of actions which soldiers were trained to carry out without thinking. It was not like drawing or handwriting; and, of course, many naturally left-handed soldiers had gone to schools where left-handedness was severely discouraged. For most southpaws who had never used a rifle before, learning to shoot right-handed may well have been easy enough.

Source: BBC History magazine July 2010

Battalion Surgeon

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

Part Five

“I don’t care what time it is: be here!”

There were periods when we came under fire when we were up on the line or going up and coming back from it. Nobody moved when there was an actual artillery bombardment going on. As soon as it was over, that’s when we moved. Also, sometimes we got caught in the open because we didn’t know it was coming.

Sometimes we would be in a bunker and all of a sudden realize what time it was. We said, “Hey. It’s about time to get back to H&S.” Maybe it was chow time or we needed to get back to the battalion briefing that was always held at 1800 (6pm).

We knew we had better get back to the briefing or the CO was going to be irritated because he probably had something for us to do the next day. I had two C.O.s while I was a battalion surgeon with 3/5.

The first was Lt. Col. McLane, followed by Lt. Col. McLaughlin. I had McLaughlin for most of the time that I was with 3/5. They held briefings in what we called the 5/6 tent. “S” was the battalion designation, so the S-6 was the commanding officer of the battalion. The S-5 was the executive officer. The S-4 was the supply officer, S-3 was operations and training, S-2 was intelligence, and S-1 was personnel. Division designation was “G,” so G-6, G-5, etc.

Briefings were about the activity in the battalion. I reported the number of casualties that had come through the aid station in the previous 24 hours. When they were planning a special type of patrol and needed more Corpsmen than were on line for, say, a prisoner-taking patrol at night, I had to assign Corpsmen from Rear Aid for the mission. If we were going to move, I had to report where I thought our Forward Aid Station should be.

There were always reports from each of the officers about the activity of their section, e.g., what had been going on during that day and what was planned for the next day, like the success (or lack of it) of a mission, change in key personnel, equipment or ammunition needs, and many other things. Nothing was too big or too small to require daily attention in a combat situation.

Corpsmen did not go to medical school

One of my functions was just to be there as a doctor. Although the line Corpsmen evacuated most of the wounded without my say, there were times when I went to the front line and crawled into a forward aid bunker where a Corpsman was taking care of a Marine who was badly hurt. Although the Corpsman was doing a good job, he was a Corpsman

with far less training than a doctor had.

Many times when I crawled into the bunker a Marine would recognize me, and I could see the flood of relief come over his face. I could see him thinking, “Hey, the doctor’s here.” Meaning that if anything could be done for him, it would be done.

I think the Corpsmen often felt that way, too, because they may sometimes felt that they were way out of their depth on a particular case. I think they might have had a feeling of inadequacy, but it was not a feeling of guilt that they could not do more.

They did as well as they could, but they weren’t trained as doctors. They were trained in first aid.

Each Corpsman on line had his Unit One with basic first aid materiel. So they were equipped to take care of these people, but they knew that to have the doctor there meant that if anything could be done I could do it. Many of these Corpsmen went into the medical field after returning to the states from Korea. When I was in medical school, we had students who had been Corpsmen in the Second World War.

Caring for the Chinese

The terms of the Geneva Convention didn’t matter to the Chinese, and they had no sense of courtesy to us because we were medical personnel. Nevertheless, I not only took care of Marines, but I took care of Chinese prisoners. (I never took care of any North Koreans.)

One time I was treating a Chinese prisoner for a head wound. He was on the ground on a stretcher when a Marine officer came by, stopped long enough to kick the prisoner’s head hard enough to raise another “goose egg” on the side of his head, and walked on.

This was not typical, but it was memorable. I considered it an atrocity. It was inexcusable, but understandable. The major had seen buddies killed by men like this one. I remember his name, but choose not to disclose it.

The Marines went out on patrol and they took prisoners. Often times these prisoners were wounded when they brought them in.

The attitude of the Marines was to just let them die. I had a little bit of a run-in with the executive officer once when they brought in a Chinese soldier and he said, “Just let him die.” I had to tell him that for me, at that moment, this was not a Chinese soldier. This was a human being. Whether he accepted it or not I don’t know, because he just turned and walked away.

(continues on Page 6)

Battalion Surgeon (continued from Page 5)

That was usually not a problem because generally we were given free rein. The exception was that they would not send a helicopter up at night for a Chinese casualty, whereas they would for a Marine.

Their language was like Chinese to me

The pilots had to fly without lights through the mountains, so it was a hazardous mission for them, considered an acceptable risk for a Marine but not for the enemy. I've tried to find out whether or not there was ever a night-time helicopter crash. I never saw one crash and I never heard of one crashing, but I would have to assume that there were some.

I was in a Sikorsky once that went down. We had a patient and we were on the way out to the *Jutlandia*, a Danish hospital ship. [For more on the *Jutlandia*, see below].

The chopper lost power en route. The rotor reversed and had some kind of a braking effect. We went down pretty fast, but we didn't crash. We hit hard, but no one was hurt. We were way back of the lines and landed in a rice paddy. The crew got it fixed and we took off.

As to the wounded enemy that we treated, there was neither gratefulness nor antagonism on their part that I could detect. None spoke English. Many were badly wounded.

No detailed history was ever required from them because the wounds were self-explanatory. I relied on interpreters for post-op questions and instructions. There was always one who spoke English and Chinese.

The prisoners were never around long, being transferred to a more secure medical facility, usually to a Marine/Navy forward hospital, but occasionally to the Army's 121st Evacuation Hospital in Yong Dong Po (near Seoul) or a hospital ship where they could be kept in a private room with a guard, neither of which could we furnish on the front lines.

There are many more stories that I could tell about my six months as a battalion surgeon with the First Marine Division in Korea, but this should give the reader a bit of a look into what it was like.

First published in *The Graybeards* magazine Vol.31, No.6, 2017.

Republished with the kind permission of Dr. Dibble.

The Jutlandia Story

At the onset of the Korean War, the Danish government furnished a fully-equipped and staffed hospital ship as its contribution to the UN effort. The government provided the 8,500-ton ship *Jutlandia* in July 1950 to fulfill its requirement and began to assemble a staff.

The conversion of the vessel, which was built in 1934, was completed within three months. After the process was done, the Danes had a modern hospital ship containing 300 beds, 3 operating theaters, a dental clinic, and X-ray facilities. The ship was staffed by a competent medical staff whose average age was forty.

Competition for jobs aboard the ship was fierce. Between 3,000 and 4,000 nurses applied for the 42 positions available. About 200 were selected for interviews. Doctors and/or nurses were allocated four to a cabin.

Jutlandia sailed from Copenhagen in January 1951 and began its service at Pusan in March 1951. (Some reports suggest that it left Denmark in September 1950 and arrived at Pusan the next month.) At the beginning, it served primarily as an evacuation hospital. After a while *Jutlandia* returned to Denmark, where a helicopter deck was installed after its second tour. Then, the ship returned to Korea for its third and final tour.

That time it anchored close to the front. As a result, wounded troops could be evacuated to *Jutlandia* directly from battalion and regimental aid stations. After the treaty ending the fighting was signed in July 1953, *Jutlandia* returned to Denmark on October 16, 1953. It was decommissioned twelve years later.

Source: *The Graybeards* magazine Vol.26, No.6, Nov.-Dec. 2012

The End

by Alec Bates

The armistice which ended the Korean War was signed in a grim ceremony at 10 o'clock in the morning of 27 July 1953. At 10 o'clock that night the battlefield fell silent as the ceasefire came into effect. In the following short account, Alec Bates recalls that night:

Two others and myself were on an outpost in front of our wire. At 10 o'clock we unloaded our weapons. At the same time, flares were fired from various hills along the front line and then – silence. We had become so used to the noise of war twenty-four hours a day, every day, that the silence was almost frightening.

No one spoke for a little while until one of the boys said, "To hell with this, at least we can have a smoke now!" So we lit up, and then we saw matches flaring from what was obviously a forward patrol of Chinese. We decided to test their reactions by waving our cigarettes at them, and it was not long before they waved back at us.

That small gesture relieved the tensions we had felt and convinced us that the war was really over!

Tales of Bravado Hid Indelible Mental Scars

By Doug Reckord

Picture this scene. Four boys gathered around a stash of their father's war memorabilia, which was secreted in a hidey-hole above the linen press. The item of greatest interest was a bayonet. It would be cautiously withdrawn from its scabbard and my older brothers would point at the brown stains on the blade, which I took to be rust, and whisper knowingly: "Bloodstains!"

When my father was asked what he did in the "war" he told us of a Japanese submarine (wrong war) causing havoc with the navy (wrong service) in Tokyo harbour (wrong place). The commanding officer was desperate to stop the sub and asked his men for suggestions.

My father didn't hesitate. Grabbing a tin of black paint and a brush he swam into the harbour and waited. Soon enough a periscope went by and, grabbing hold of it, he slapped a layer of black paint over the scope. The sub ground to a halt and rapid-fire Japanese commands were shouted as the blinded submariners started the surfacing procedure.

When the conning tower hatch opened my dad pounced, hurling in a grenade (which he must have had in his back pocket) and slamming the hatch shut. The explosion sent the sub to the bottom and dad casually swam ashore.

It was a great yarn, and one I believed – I was six or seven years old. I proudly recounted the story at school and ended up in a war of my own with another lad who said my dad was telling fibs.

The truth is that Ian Reckord served in Korea with the 3rd Royal Australian Regiment and took part in bloody fighting against a numerically superior Chinese force at the Battle of Kapyong (April 23-24, 1951). For years Kapyong was neglected, but it is now recognised as one of the most memorable actions in Australian military history.

My dad's platoon, led by Lieutenant Len Montgomerie, conducted a bayonet charge on an enemy position that left 81 Chinese soldiers dead for the loss of three Australian lives.

The eyewitness account of Captain Darcy Laughlin, in Bob Breen's book *The Battle of Kapyong*, portrays a savage and ferocious encounter. "Those who observed Montgomerie's attack described it as one of the finest and most aggressive actions they had seen at platoon level," Breen says.

Montgomerie was awarded the Military Cross and collectively the 3RAR was awarded a US Presidential Citation for "extraordinary heroism and outstanding performance" in stopping the Chinese offensive.

Further accounts from Breen's book of how D Company was hit by "friendly fire", in the form of a misdirected US napalm bomb, highlight the horrific, senseless nature of war and the strength of character and humanity that can come to the fore under terrible circumstances.

Private 'Nugget' Dunque, D Company's medical orderly, recalled: "After the napalm hit I began to go around in my capacity as the medical orderly and pull people out and tend to their injuries... Earlier in the morning I had been wounded in the fore part of my head. I must have looked a sight. I was sitting there, stunned and no doubt feeling a bit sick and sorry for myself.

"I then saw the most appalling apparition. A man with no flesh – his hands were dripping flesh – completely naked. As he walked I saw these huge bloated feet. The sticks and stones came up through his feet. He sat down next to me. I didn't know who he was. He looked at me and said: 'Jesus, Nugget, you're having a bad day.'"

It is hardly surprising that my father, like many former servicemen and women, rarely talked about his memories. Recently the ABC's 7.30 featured a segment called "War Wounds", highlighting the impact of post traumatic stress disorder on soldiers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

I'm pretty sure dad had PTSD before it had a name and before there was counselling or other support mechanisms. Life with a PTSD sufferer can be difficult. The families of the affected will understand the volatile, angry and irritable moods it can produce.

Once we went on a much-anticipated camping trip near Bathurst. It was a frosty night and there was the occasional crack of rifle fire in the surrounding hills. In the morning dad didn't look real flash and announced that we were moving camp. We ended up driving home. Poor old dad, I don't think he slept much; the combination of cold and the sound of gunfire were probably enough to take him back to those nights in Korea when you didn't know if you would be alive to greet the morning.

I didn't understand that then, but I think I do now. My dad died 13 years ago and I wish I had discussed these matters with him; to acknowledge the intense pain his wartime experiences had caused him, to forgive him for his indiscretions and to thank him for all the good things he did for us.

Today I'll be thinking about him and the tragedy of war. We should all think hard about the cost of war for those who return home with physical and mental injuries that can make life hell for them and those around them. We need to make sure the casualty list does not get longer after the combat is over.

First published in *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 25 April 2012. Republished with permission of the author.

Attention: Veterans Wanted

We have received a request from Professor Jongwoo Han from the Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs in Korea who will be in Australia in late January to meet with and interview veterans of the Korean War. This Korean Ministry is the one responsible for every revisit undertaken by veterans and as a mark of thanks it would be nice if we had a big veteran turnout. Also, this is likely the last opportunity for you to get YOUR story into the public consciousness. Finally, and to make it easier for you, this will take place on the same day as the monthly Committee/General meeting. So you can also have your say (should you want to) as to the direction of the KVAA. Oh, and as a final incentive, a light lunch will be provided.

**Professor Han will conduct interviews with veterans
1130-1530 hours, Wednesday 30 January 2019**

Nominations for KVAA Office Bearers 2019-2020

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

Current Office Bearers 2018-2019: President - Tom Parkinson / Vice President - Alan McDonald / Secretary - Alan Evered / Treasurer - Merril Lord / Committee - George Daniel, Milton Hoe, Ron J. Kennedy, John Mollar OAM J.P. John Munro OAM RFD ED, Allen Riches and Arthur Roach.

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

1. Any financial member of the Association may submit his/her nomination for a position as an ordinary member of the Committee but must comply as follows: The nomination form must be signed by two (2) financial members of the Association and be accompanied by the written consent of the Candidate.
2. Nominations must be returned to: The Secretary, KVAA Inc., Salford Park, Unit 125, 100 Harold Street, Wantirna, Vic, 3152.

Please cut here -----

NOMINATION FOR OFFICE BEARERS / COMMITTEE 2019-2020

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

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

Yes, the AGM isn't until march 2019, and yes, this is going in a little earlier than usual. This, however, a good reason for this. Our National Secretary, Alan Evered – the guy who does all of the very important and extensive administrative work the depth of which few appreciate – is, at this stage, not renominating for the position. This is a critical and underappreciated job that requires the right person to do it. Even if you can't do the task, maybe you know someone who might be capable. The son/daughter/nephew/niece of one of our veterans (alive or deceased), perhaps. The job can be split into a senior and junior category if necessary with a division of labour to suit the needs and/or abilities of the applicant/s. Give it a thought between now and the AGM.



The USAF Takes to the Skies Sea

by Tom Moore

On 7 July 1950, the 6160th Air Base Group activated its boat section at Itazuke Air Base (AB), Japan, consisting of one officer and four airmen. In a short time it became the 16160th ABG.

Detachment 1 commander, 1st Lieutenant Phil Dickey, soon obtained some boats and 85 airmen and was off to the Korean War. The 63-foot boats were to operate below the 38th parallel and the 85-foot boats above the parallel. Some boats worked near Wonsan Harbor on Korea's eastern coast, and four 85-foot boats – the 654, 664, 667, and 676 – operated near Cho-do Island off the western Korean coast, where they found themselves between hundreds of small seemingly deserted islands and the coastline itself.

They were part of the secret spook war between Combined Command, Reconnaissance Activities-Korea (CCRAK) and the communist forces on the peninsula. As the USAF boat crews soon learned, the seemingly deserted islands were anything but empty. Thousands of US-supported partisans were stationed on these islands to conduct unconventional warfare in the communist rear areas, directly accessible from the islands.

The USAF boats in the Yellow Sea (Korean Waters), were soon the Fifth Air Force's Detachment 2, 6004th, Air Intelligence Services Squadron, the first covert collection agency of a tactical nature in the history of the USAF. They soon learned their missions were night-time forays into enemy-held territory, transporting and protecting spies, saboteurs, and CCRAK guerrillas, and going within rifle range of very vigilant and jittery communist coastal security forces.

The USAF gray 85-foot boats carried around an 18 man crew: the Master (a NCO), the Mate, 1 medic, 1 armorer, 1 cook, 5 engineers and 8 deckhands. Browning heavy quad-fifty machine guns were mounted on the boats, with steel support plating on the deck to absorb the massive recoil. Then they mounted single .50s in gun tubs on each side of the boats, and a .50 was mounted on the aft deck.

Minus 30-degree Fahrenheit temperatures, ice, enemy artillery and gun fire, with the Yellow Sea's notorious 30-foot tidal flow, all added to a lethal environment for the USAF sailors. The USAF boats took Republic of Korea (ROK) Marine Raiding parties ashore on their missions and transported bundles of forged North Korean currency for delivery to CCRAK agents for further distribution inland. Some of their missions were into China. There were "mother" boats that resupplied the USAF boats at sea, in order to extend the boats time on station, behind enemy lines.

In July 1952, USAF Headquarters reorganized, activating the 22d Crash Boat Rescue Squadron (CBRS) at Itazuke AB, Japan. The boat section had grown from the initial cadre of 85 USAF sailors to over 400 officers and airmen. All crash rescue boats in the theatre were folded into the new squadron. When the gray boats required heavier fire support, they would call in *HMNS Eversten*, a Dutch destroyer, who cruised in the immediate vicinity, to respond to the 85-foot boat's call for help.

The men lived in close quarters, nearly froze, went hungry, worked around the clock keeping the boat in repair, had "bed check charlies" and MiG aircraft after them, were hospitalized for exposure and yellow jaundice, the result of poor diets, plus being shot at. Their 30 day combat tours were often 60 or 90 day tours. Despite all this, they did a good job for the U.N. behind enemy lines.

On the USAF Air Rescue Squadron (ARS) side of the Korean War, the ARS airlifted 9,680 personnel to safety, 9,219 of them by helicopter; 996 were rescued behind enemy lines, with 846 of these picked up by H-5 or H-19 helicopters.

President's Joke of the Month

There was this little guy sitting inside a bar, just looking at his drink. He didn't move for a half-an-hour. Then, this big trouble-making truck driver stepped up right next to him, took the drink from the guy, and just drank it all down.

The poor man started crying.

The truckie turned and said: "Aww, come on man, I was just joking. Here, I'll buy you another drink. I just can't stand to see a man crying."

"No, no, it's not that. Today is the worst day of my life. First, I overslept and was late for an important meeting. My boss became outraged and then fired me. When I left the building to my car, I found out that it was stolen. The police said they could do nothing. So I had to get a cab home, except after I paid the cab driver and the cab had gone, I found that I left my wallet in the cab. Then I got inside only to find my wife in bed with the gardener. I left home depressed and came to this bar. And NOW...just when I was finally getting the courage to put an end to it all, YOU had to show up and drink the poison."

Are You ex-2RAR?

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, you can also contact me (the curator) on 0419749198 or email 2RAR.Museum@gmail.com. I 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

Canberra Reunion Speech

Delivered by Col Berryman OAM

We welcome our esteemed guests, His Excellency, Mr LEE Baeksoon, the Ambassador, of the Republic of Korea, and the Defence Attaché of the Republic of Korea, Colonel, Choi Sungman, and all other members of their Staff. All of them have been so kind and supportive of us over the years at these reunions. This one may probably be our last, as now there are so few of us left.

Again this service is dedicated to you few veterans who have been able to make it here to this beautiful Memorial, and those who could not make it, through sickness and incapacity. We will remember all those 358 comrades who made the supreme sacrifice in Korea, both before and after the Armistice, and all of those that have passed away since, especially perhaps, our past Chairman and MC, at so many of these reunions, Mr. Vic Dey, OAM, whom we sadly lost last year. There are now less than 1,500 of us left out of the 17,850 shown on the Nominal roll of Australian Veterans of the Korean War.

We should also make special mention to our wives, carers, and the widows of our comrades who have also been able to make it here today, and also those who could not make it through sickness and disability. They also have grown old and frail.

I would also like to thank our main organiser of this, and the many other reunions she has participated in the past, Ms Wendy Karam, who sadly this year could not be with us because of illness. We have missed Wendy so much this year, but any way, somehow we are struggling through the tasks, but still with her guidance and advice. We must pray for her recovery.

I would also like us to again remember our 42 comrades who are still missing-in-action. There is now some optimism that some of them may be found because of the recent relaxation of the relations between the Republic of Korea, the United States Government, and the North Korean Government.

Perhaps if this relationship further improves we may be able to carry out searches for them, and the many others of all nations involved, within the DMZ, and perhaps even North Korea if relationships further improve. Until recently, this was not considered possible in our lifetime. In anticipation, we have recently completed a Memorandum of Understanding with the US Government to work in cooperation to enable recovery on the Korean Peninsula and in Hawaii, where the US unknowns already recovered have also been stored.

We are also currently, working in the Australian Missing-in-action committee, on a similar Memorandum of Understanding with the Republic of Korea Government. I have been fortunate to be the KVAA representative on that Committee.

I would again like to conclude this address with feelings of fondness and respect to the wonderful people of the Republic of Korea, who have through their courage and tenacity, made such a miraculous recovery, after the terrible suffering they endured during the dreadful Korean war. It has been an honour to serve beside them during their terrible ordeal.

Funnies

Business Signs

At the Electric Company: "We would be delighted if you send in your bill. However, if you don't, you will be."

In a Non-smoking area: "If we see you smoking we will assume you are on fire and take appropriate action."

At an Optometrist's Office: "If you don't see what you're looking for, you've come to the right place."

On a desk in a Reception Room: "We shoot every 3rd salesman, and the 2nd one just left."

In a Restaurant window: "Don't stand there and be hungry, come in and get fed up."

At a Car Dealership: "The best way to get back on your feet - miss a car payment."

One Liners

Outside a Muffler Shop: "No appointment necessary. We'll hear you coming." Cats...the other white meat.

On a Front Door: "Everyone on the premises is a vegetarian except the dog." So many recipes, so few cats.

Inside a Bowling Alley: "Please be quiet. We need to hear a pin drop." Honk if you love peace and quiet.

In a Veterinarian's waiting room: "Be back in 5 minutes. Sit! Stay!" He who laughs last thinks slowest.

Outside a Radiator Repair Shop: "Best place in town to take a leak." Plan to be spontaneous - tomorrow.

In the front yard of a Funeral Home: "Drive carefully, we'll wait." A day without sunshine is like - night.

At a Used Car Lot: "Second Hand cars in first crash condition." Where there's a will, there's a relative.

Outside a Hotel: "Help! We need inn-experienced people." Why is "abbreviation" such a long word?

On a fence: "Salesmen welcome. Dog food is expensive." Always try to be modest - and be proud of it.

On the door of a Computer Store: "Out for a quick byte." On the other hand...you have different fingers.

On a Taxidermist's window: "We really know our stuff." Never test the depth of the water with both feet.

On an Electrician's truck: "Let us remove your shorts." Don't worry about old age - it doesn't last long.

On the door of a Music Library: "Bach in a minuet." These days it is not a sin to be rich - it is a miracle.

On a Butcher's window: "Let me meat your needs." Never forget that you are unique, like everyone else.

In a Podiatrist's window: "Time wounds all heels." I'm not bossy - I just know what you should be doing.

On a Butcher's window: "Pleased to meat you." I love defenceless animals, especially in a good gravy.

In a Dry Cleaner's: "Drop your pants here." Why do they put braille on drive-thru bank machines?

On a Music Teacher's door: "Out Chopin." Don't resent growing old - many are denied the privilege.

On a Scientist's door: "Gone Fission" If at first you don't succeed...do it the way your wife told you!

In a Beauty Shop: "Dye now!" I almost had a psychic girlfriend but she left me before we met.

Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it.

Why do shops that stay open 24 hours a day have locks on the door?

It may be that your sole purpose in life is to serve as a warning to others.

I didn't fight my way to the top of the food chain to become a vegetarian.

It's not the minutes spent at the table that makes one fat...it's the seconds.

Why do men chase women they have no intention of marrying? For the same reason dogs chase cars they have no intention of driving.

Signs That You Are Too Drunk:

You lose arguments with inanimate objects.

You have to hold onto the lawn to keep from falling off the earth.

Your job is interfering with your drinking.

The back of your head keeps getting hit by the toilet seat.

The parking lot seems to have moved while you were in the bar.

You fall off the floor...

Your twin sons are named Barley and Hops.

Your idea of cutting back is less salt.

The whole bar says "Hi!" when you come in...

That damned pink elephant followed me home again.

The psychology instructor had just finished a lecture on mental health and was giving an oral test.

Speaking specifically about manic depression, she asked, "How would you diagnose a patient who walks back and forth screaming at the top of his lungs one minute, then sits in a chair weeping uncontrollably the next?"

A young man in the rear raised his hand and answered, "A football coach?"

Editor's Opening (continued from Page 1)

longer have the active membership to make organizing them worthwhile (or, sometimes, even possible). On ANZAC Day 2018, the number of actual veterans present at the march and at the Stella Maris afterward was outnumbered by the cadets who carried the flags and banner. Sixty attended the Xmas function, which is actually a fair turnout for December 2018 but, of course, only half the number attending even five years ago.

Functions that will continue... The 27th July ceasefire service at The Shrine, and the monthly Committee meeting at the Stella Maris (and the March AGM plus BBQ).

Functions: status yet to be determined... The KVAA Xmas lunch

Functions that will not proceed... Everything else (and, yes, that includes ANZAC Day).

Exception: the dedication of the Korean War Memorial (date to be advised). The popular Korean Church Service is not a KVAA function and is a product of the local Korean community. That said, it is likely to continue. The Canberra Reunion is also not a KVAA function. Its status is unknown.

In summary, the sheer numbers of the WWII veterans means that even today they still have an able and active community and the relative youth of the Vietnam War veterans is their main benefit. We have neither of these benefits. The KVAA is in its twilight phase.

The KVAA Christmas Lunch

As the KVAA Christmas lunch was held a week earlier this year I've managed to include a selection of photos of the day. Normally you need to wait until February. All the photos will appear on the website in due course.

As expected, the numbers were down on previous years; however, 22 veterans did manage to make it and go the distance – and in John and Ethel Munro's case, it was quite some distance, coming down from Moama on the border between Victoria and N.S.W. The Littletons didn't come from quite that distance, and to make up for it they came in numbers – six in total! (Ivan Singleton, Suzanne and Michael O'Brien, Stephen and Marianne Littleton, and Michael himself). The Lehmanns, in contrast, could only manage three this year.

Of course, those who weren't there were noted by their absence. No Vic Dey, Jim Hughes, Don Scally, Leo Gleeson, Gerry Steacy, John Duson, the Langdons, Murray Inwood, Jim Weston, and so on. Jack Thomas was represented by his grandson, Dan, with Merrill and myself, as usual, standing in for our respective fathers.

There are some special guests that need mentioning. First and foremost is the Consul-General, Mr Sugnyho Kim; Vice-Consul, Mr Kwangsuk Baek, and the Political and Economic Officer, Ms Kate Gahye Kim, all from the Korean Consulate. Claire Kwon, the daughter of General Kwon and a business woman in her own right (Oriental Merchant Pty. Ltd.), also made a welcome return. Speaking of returns, so did Rorie Rutherford, a fashion icon that the world is yet to discover (and, no, he wasn't the sixth Dr. Who, but he could have been).

Speaking of doctors... Dr Jay Song, attended as a guest of Mark Ahn. Dr Song is Senior Lecturer in Korean Studies at The University of Melbourne. She is writing a book on Korean migration to Australia since 1950. The Korean War was a major impetus for immigration, and many of those who could, did. She mentioned via email one case of which I was unaware: Youngkil Choi was a mascot for RAF who was later adopted/ sponsored by RAF to migrate to Australia in 1968. Of course, a few servicemen married Korean women who accompanied their husbands to Australia. The KVAA might be of some help to Dr. Song. I suspect I'll have more on this in future issues.

Finally, mention needs to be made of Kim Callep from the Korean Church, the mid-year service of which is one of the highlights on the KVAA calendar. He came bearing gifts, a package for each 'family' (loosely defined) to claim on their way out. It was a pack of Orion Choco-pies. Think of a Weston's *Wagon Wheel*, only much thicker and with a layer of sponge cake surrounding the marshmallow. And just a delicious! Perfect for consumption with coffee or tea (or in the case of one greedy editor, eating one after another on the long drive home from the lunch. I think I ended up the day much fatter than I started it.)

The future of the Christmas lunch? That very much depends on the state of the KVAA (with or without the *Inc.*) in 2019. As with so much else concerning the KVAA... Stay tuned.

The Geelong KVAA Christmas lunch was held on the date the main function normally is. Despite the heroic efforts of Mark Ahn, the photos came in just a little too late for this issue of *The Voice*. By all accounts there was a good turnout.

When the Argentine Navy flagship, the light-cruiser *General Belgrano*, was sunk by British submarine *HMS Conqueror* on 2 May 1982, a total of 323 of the *Belgrano's* crew died as she went down. Some 700 others were then rescued from the freezing water. Those deaths represented over half the total KIA suffered by the Argentinians in the entire 74-day Falkland War.

Out & About

Consul General's Reception, 4 October 2018



Former Premier of Victoria, Ted Ballieu; Consul-General, Sunghyo Kim; KVAA President, Tom Parkinson; Andrew Crisp, Victorian State Emergency Management Commissioner, and acting Lord Mayor, Aaron Wood.



The Consul-General, Nicole Evered, Mrs. Sunghyo Kim, KVAA National Secretary, Alan Evered and Kate Hahye Kim.

Canberra Reunion

27 October 2018



Korean War Memorial

Quarry Park, Maribyrnong, in the presence of the Consul-General, Sunghyo Kim, 1 November 2018



Consul-General's Reception

25 November 2018



Gladys Pretty, the KVAA's sole surviving female member, with Peter Schultz



Alan Evered, Kate Kim from the Consulate, and Gladys Pretty



"He was about five ten, wearing a camo shirt and one of those funny Elmer Fudd type hats. He pointed the gun right at me!"

Xmas Lunch Photos

William Angliss, Little Lonsdale Street, Melbourne, 27 November 2018



KVAA Patron, Maj. Gen. David McLachlin



Consul-General Sugnyho Kim and KVAA President Tom Parkinson



“And another thing – get a haircut and get a real job!” Milton Griffin laying down the law to the younger generation.



Fashion icon, Rorie Rutherford.



Kate Gahye Kim, Kwangsuk Baek and Consul-General Sugnyho Kim



Dong-up Kim and John Boyer



Laurie Price and Dr. Song

Farewells

Noel Henry **Byquar**, 13590, 1RAR on 17 August 2018

Richard Ernest **Allchin** OAM, 37843, *HMAS Sydney* on 29 June 2018

John Douglas **Bryer**, 46307, *HMAS Tobruk* on 8 October 2018

Milton James **Cottee**, 22222, No.77 (Fighter) Squadron on 1 May 2018

James **Geedrick**, 1892, 3RAR on 22 July 2018

Bert M. **Goodall**, 21172, Aust. Ancillary Unit Korea on 14 April 2018

Patrick J. **Greenaway**, Durham Light Infantry, British Army on 27 Jan.2018

Derek M. **Owen**, 35733, No.77 (Fighter) Squadron on 29 August 2018

John Irwin **Perring**, 26795, 2RAR on 13 May 2016

Gregory William **Poor**, 12314, 2RAR on 19 April 2018

Neville Reginald **Roberts**, 13306, 3RAR on 26 August 2016

Jeffrey James **Shelton**, DSO, MC, 3395, 3RAR on 13 May 2018

John William **Taylor**, 47793, *HMAS Sydney* on 18 August

John Arthur **Williams**, 41049, *HMAS Bataan* on 22 August 2018

John Frederick **Williams**, Prince of Wales Light Infantry on 25 Nov. 2018

+

George Alfred **Lang** OAM, 32239, 3RAR

and Headquarters, 1st British Commonwealth Division

Founding member of the Australian Queensland Korean Veterans

KVAA Queensland delegate (1990s) and KVAA Life Member

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

Three out of every four German military personnel who went to their deaths during WWII did so in action against the Soviets.