



THE VOICE

June 2019 Edition

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Editor's Opening

It has been a strange two months since the last issue. No ANZAC Day commemorations but a memorial unveiled. But more significantly for me was my surrendering of the KVAA banner and the accompanying flags, the first time they have been out of my possession since the 1990s.

The KVAA banner and flags are now decommissioned and in the willing hands of Fountain Gate Secondary College, long-term supporters of the KVAA. This was done on Wednesday 24 April at the school's ANZAC Day ceremony, which was attended by Ron Kennedy and past National Secretary, Alan Evered. Also present were two former students, Troy Norton and everyone's favorite blonde, Maddie Singleton. (If you need to jog your memory, have a look at the ANZAC Day photos for the past five years – minus this year, of course).

The Korean War memorial unveiling on 2 May started with a bit of rain in the morning. It quickly cleared (mostly), leaving a cool and cloudy day with intermittent weak sunshine. About 18 members of the KVAA attended the unveiling and/or luncheon, and for those who managed both, well done. Ten years ago the numbers would have been considered somewhat disappointing; however, but 2019 standards, this is a decent effort. It was a long day, but I hope a satisfying one.

The unveiling ceremony was performed jointly by the South Korean and Victorian ministers for Veterans Affairs, in front of an assembly of Korean and local officials, representatives of veterans and community groups, and the memorial's organisers – the Melbourne Korean War Memorial Committee. Former Victorian Premier, Ted Baillieu, also attended. KVAA president, Tom Parkinson, and KVAA Chaplain, John Brownbill, both addressed the onlookers. Music came compliments of the Royal Australian Navy Band.

The editor, who has many hats, was wearing his Vice-President of the Bass Valley U3A trilby on the day and thus attended neither event. Fortunately, others with camera did, and you'll find a few photos of the event on Page 13 and the rest on the KVAA website.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The monthly KVAA Committee/General Meeting for **June** will now be on the **Wednesday 19th**. Sorry for the short notice but these things happen.

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American General James Van Fleet, former Eighth Army commander in Korea: "I never met the like or equal of the Australian Digger." The Aussie Digger had "something not in the textbooks."

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Merchandise Available

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Tie (with KVAA Inc. logo)	\$20.00	\$	Christms cards	\$ 2.00	\$
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Outstanding Leadership and Brilliant Victory

Part Three: The Liberation of Seoul, Taejon and the Heroic Defence of Wolmi Island

*The last part dealt with the 1950 invasion of peace-loving North Korea by the imperialistic war-mongering United States and its lap-dog South Korean lackey. Fortunately, the universal genius that is President Kim Il Sung is around to save the day for North Korea. What a guy! As usual, the text – unedited – is taken from the pictorial book, **Outstanding Leadership and Brilliant Victory**, published in 1993 in Pyongyang, DPRK, presenting the North Korean (or at least Kim Il Sung's) view of the war. It does not necessarily reflect reality.*

The combined units of the KPA frustrated the enemy's early attempt at invasion for two days after the start of the operation, dealing telling blows to the enemy and liberating several areas in the southern half of the country. The liberation of Uijongbu, the "gateway to Seoul", provided a favourable condition for a dash to Seoul. Seoul was the stronghold of the enemy where were situated government organs and the military command organs of the US imperialists and puppets.

The US imperialist aggressors brought puppet troops, who were fleeing in the face of the powerful attack by the KPA, into the defence of Seoul. US warplanes bombed the KPA heavily so as to block its advance and US warships conducted bombardments at will along the east and west coasts. But nothing could check the advance of the KPA.

The KPA combined units began a general attack on Seoul at dawn on June 28.

Tank No. 312 closed in upon major enemy positions in combination with a small unit which entered Seoul first. The men from the tank hoisted a flag of the DPRK on top of the puppet "Capitol Building," in defiance of the enemy's stubborn resistance.

Other tanks captured prisons and released more than 8,000 patriots. An infantry combined unit and a small tank unit rushed into Seoul. The enemy was frantic. The street fighting was fierce. The enemy established direct-firing guns everywhere to prevent the KPA tanks from advancing and fired their machine guns from the rooftops and windows of buildings. The fighting grew fiercer.

KPA units and small units formed storming parties. The members of the storming parties dashed into the enemy positions, resolved to die, if necessary, in an attempt to destroy the enemy. Thanks to the unequalled bravery of the soldiers the enemy's fire positions were stormed and KPA units were able to advance. At 11 :30 on June 28 Seoul was liberated.

After the fall of Seoul the enemy proclaimed Taejon to be its "temporary capital." In a desperate attempt to defend Taejon, the enemy built strong defence positions there.

When the defence positions along the River Kum, the "line of no retreat" which the US imperialists had intended to maintain on the "honour" of America, crumbled in two days, the enemy concentrated his forces on the defence of Taejon. At the same time, he

hastily moved the US First Cavalry Division, which had landed at Phohang, to Taejon.

With an insight into the operational plan of the enemy the Supreme Commander President Kim Il Sung mapped out original tactics for the encirclement of Taejon and commanded the battle.

In accordance with his operational plan KPA units hit the enemy in the front and from the flanks, ensuring close cooperation among all units.

Some units went deep to the rear of the enemy, swiftly making a detour southwards of Taejon and blocking the enemy's retreat and reinforcements.

The enemy never imagined that KPA units would block his retreat by making a forced march of more than 40 kilometres at night.

The order for a general attack was issued at dawn on July 20. Tanks and scouts dashed into the city that was enveloped in mist and seized major enemy positions.

Tanks blew up the oil depots at Taejon Station and destroyed the enemy in the city. With the enemy in confusion, KPA combined units rushed to the city from various directions. The advance guard of the US First Cavalry Division was annihilated on its way to Taejon in an ambush by the KPA.

The US 24th Division, renowned as an "ever-victorious division", which was defending Taejon was totally destroyed. Its Commander Dean was captured while fleeing in the disguise of an ordinary soldier by a young KPA soldier.

The People's Army liberated over 90 percent of the territory and 92 percent of the population of the southern half of the country in a little over a month after the war started.

The great leader President Kim Il Sung put forward tasks and ways for reconstructing the Party organizations and the organs of people's power, enforcing the agrarian and other democratic reforms and stabilizing the people's livelihood without delay in the liberated areas.

He saw to it that many Party and state cadres and political workers were sent to the liberated areas to help the people who were enforcing democratic reforms. As a result, the work of reconstructing the Party organizations, government bodies and the working people's organizations, and of carrying out the agrarian and other democratic reforms was accomplished in a short time. Thanks to the agrarian

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Outstanding Leadership and Brilliant Victory (continued from Page 3)

reform 43.3 percent of the arable land in the liberated areas was confiscated and distributed free to more than 1,267,000 peasant households.

Many popular policies, including the Labour Law and the Law on Sex Equality, were also enforced.

The people in the liberated areas who had come to enjoy a genuine life for the first time under the people's democratic system rose as one in the struggle to create a new life and to win victory in the war.

The US imperialists, having been driven to their final strongholds, the Taegu and Pusan areas, made desperate efforts to retrieve their dignity lost and achieve their initial aim at any cost.

They shipped to the Korean front all their Pacific forces, ground, naval and air, as well as part of the Mediterranean Fleet, ground forces from the US mainland, large armies from their satellite countries, including Britain, France, the Philippines and Turkey, Japanese militarist forces and even their reserve fleet.

While launching a "general offensive" along the line of the River Raktong with reinforced strength, they conducted a large-scale landing operation at Inchon. In the operation, they mobilized several hundred warships, some 1,000 planes, over 50,000 soldiers, including the 1st Naval Division and the 7th Infantry Division of the 10th Corps and the puppet army.

Wolmi Island is situated in the sea off Inchon and the gateway to the city. On this island were one coastal artillery company with four guns and an infantry company of the KPA. From September 10, the US imperialists employed many planes and warships to conduct a devastating artillery and bombing attack in preparation of the landing on Wolmi Island.

On September 13, they started the landing under the cover of more than 1,000 planes. The defenders at Wolmi Island fought self-sacrificingly and resolutely against the enemy. The island of merely one square kilometre was enveloped in flames and powder smoke. But the defenders did not yield.

They fired their last gun until it, too, was destroyed. At about eleven o'clock on September 15, the cheers of the defenders rushing to the last, decisive battle rang out in the air above the country. They sank and damaged 13 warships, including three destroyers, and held up the landing for three days and thus gained for the main units of the People's Army precious time.

(continued next issue)

Necessary Renovation

The B-25 Mitchell medium bomber was chosen for the 1942 Doolittle Raid because of its combination of reliability, range, and payload, but still needed significant modification to fly the mission. Most of its armament was removed (the tail gun replaced by a dummy) to allow the fuel load to be increased. The additional fuel, almost equal to its normal load, was carried in small tanks inside the fuselage, plus a neoprene bladder atop the bomb bay. Getting just under two mile per gallon at a cruising speed of 174 mph, the additional fuel extended its range to almost 2,500 miles.

Devils Over Caen

The 6 June 1944 Allied invasion of Normandy called for the British 2nd Army to land upon the beaches of Normandy north of Caen. As part of the massive assault, the entire British 6th Airborne Division was to land by glider and parachute behind German lines before the invasion forces hit the beaches, forming a lodgement between the Caen Canal and the River Dives to defend the left flank.

Of critical importance were two bridges that crossed the Orne and the canal between Benouville and Ranville. To take these, a special group drawn from the 6th Air-Landing Brigade was organized.

In a coup-de-main, Major John Howard [not the former Australian Prime Minister or the actor] and a reinforced company of the 2nd Oxford & Bucks would come down near the Caen Canal bridge at Benouville, there to seize and hold it until relieved by commandos.

At 0015 hours, the tow planes released the gliders, and the "Red Devils" began the liberation of Western Europe.

Staff Sergeant J. H. Wallwork, the No.1 pilot of the glider detachment, was able to guide the rapidly descending craft close to their landing zones near the bridge. Unloading from the first glider down, the engineers quickly cleared a passage through the wire barricades and then joined in a close assault on the surprised German guards.

As one platoon attacked the far side of the bridge, Major Howard led the rest of the company in overrunning the Germans manning a pillbox and trench guarding the western approaches.

In a few minutes the bridge was in British hands and the engineers had disarmed the demolition charges. During the rest of the night, strays from the British 7th Parachute Battalion made their way to the bridge.

From sunrise to afternoon, the airborne troopers fought off several German counterattacks of increasing severity. Finally, six hours after the sea landings began, the men of No. 1 Commando arrived to reinforce the weary "Red Devils."

Source: *The General* magazine Vol.26, No.5 1990

A large income is the best recipe for happiness I ever heard of – Jane Austen.

Clearing Up the Mess

by Tom Moore

What happened to UN troops who were in the DMZ when the ceasefire was signed and the postwar transition was upon them?

The Korean War Armistice Agreement stipulated that: "A Demilitarized Zone shall be established as a buffer zone to prevent the occurrence of incidents which might lead to a resumption of hostilities."

Also, Article II specified that within (72) hours after the Armistice became effective, all belligerents had to withdraw all of their military forces, supplies, and equipment from the Demilitarized Zone. This included all minefields, wire entanglements, and other hazards to the safe movement of personnel of the Military Armistice Commission or its Joint Observer Teams.

The terms of the agreement required that the Eighth U.S. Army Korea (EUSAK) carry out a number of major tasks following the end of active hostilities. As stipulated by the cease-fire, United Nations troops (UNC) all along the front were to withdraw to a new Main Battle Position (MBP) south of the Main Line of Resistance (MLR). A Military Demarcation Line (MDL) was established between enemy and friendly positions, corresponding to the end of the war battle lines.

Each side pulled back 2,000 yards from this MDL, with the combined 4,000 yard buffer-strip being known as the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ). A continuous double-strand barbed wire fence, known as the No-Pass Fence, or No-Pass Line, was erected 200 yards below the southern boundary of the DMZ by infantry units manning the MLR. Appropriate marking signs, in Chinese, Korean, and English, were placed at regular intervals along the fence, prohibiting unauthorized entry.

Beginning late on 27 July 1953, the U.N. military modified mission became that of withdrawal to, and organization of the post-armistice MBP, establishment of the No-Pass Line, and defence of the new position in readiness for any possible resumption of hostilities by the enemy.

Most UN troops felt at the time the cease-fire was only a temporary peace; there was an attitude of skepticism and watchful waiting. There was little disposition or time for celebration, it was restlessness and expectancy.

Some of the infantry was assigned the mission of defending the forward general outpost line (GOP) across the front. The regiments, battalions, and companies began withdrawing from the DMZ to their new MBP early on the morning of 28 July.

For the first 72 hours after the armistice, troops were engaged in a maximum effort to tear down installations, salvage fortification materials, and

physically move out of the DMZ. Infantry units were responsible for this destruction and salvage work within assigned sectors, with Corps of Engineer assistance and supervision, as available.

The priorities for the first 72 hours were: recovery of bodies, recovery of ordnance and removal to company supply dumps, removal of all combat equipment to supply dumps, and destruction of field fortifications; salvage of all bunker timbers and other building materials from the old MLR sector.

Remember, the agreement stated that within 72 hours after the Armistice came into effect, all military forces, supplies, and equipment must be removed from the DMZ. This also applied to the destruction of all fortifications within the DMZ.

It became evident that it would be impossible to complete the entire job of dismantling and salvaging MLR fortifications within a three-day period. With the maze of post-truce orders, there were sometimes a breakdown in communications to the pick-and-shovel level troops. In some areas bunkers were filled in with earth, and later had to be excavated in order to salvage materials. The Communist were having the same problems, so it was agreed to extend the original 72 hours to an additional 45-day period, or until 13 September 1953.

All salvage materials removed from the DMZ were placed in dumps, where they would be readily available for use in building the new battle positions. The troops worked around the clock.

Dismantling bunkers was a huge problem. More than 500 bunkers were reclaimed from MLR materials and installed in the new positions. As any "bunker dweller" veteran can tell you, most were built of 12x12 timber, buried deep in the ground, and fastened together with 10 to 16-inch spikes. Ordinary organic infantry tools proved inadequate for the task of dismantling these structures, and crowbars, picks, shovels, pinch-bars, and sledgehammers were all in short supply. Engineer equipment and other tools were not stockpiled in sufficient quantity.

In places where the terrain permitted, the use of bulldozers drastically shortened time uncovering bunkers; however, any bunkers emplaced on reverse slopes of steep hills had to be removed by hand. This was generally the prevailing situation. Thus the troops were stuck with using basic tools and their own ingenuity.

After 13 September, the work priority reverted from destruction of MLR positions to construction of new perimeter defence sites, battalion blocking

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Clearing Up the Mess (continued from Page 5)

positions, coordinated fire plans, counter-attack orders, and evacuation routes. They had to be prepared at all times for any act of enemy aggression.

Over 90 percent of the materials salvaged were useable in the new fortifications. But just what was salvageable and thus salvaged? Over 12 tons of T/E (Table of Equipment) material, for a start. Over 2,000 miles of signal-wire, barbed-wire, concertina wire, 3 and 6-foot pickets, sand-bags, timber (from 3x8' to 12x12') totalling over 150,000 linear feet with a total tonnage over 2,000 short tons.

Another huge problem was the removal of ammunition to supply dumps, a laborious task. Other salvageable items found were M-1 rifles, helmets, armored vests, and quantities of blood-serum.

Friendly ammunition was difficult to salvage, because COP (Combat Outpost) stockpiles struck by enemy mortar fire contained both damaged and live, usable ammunition mixed together. The troops unearthed unexploded mortar and artillery rounds, often when filling in old trenches, knocking down bunkers, or recovering wire. Anti-personnel mines were also everywhere.

We think of scenes from movies of our troops coming home from war – especially WWII – with bands playing and cheering crowds. Not so much with the Korean War.

In Australia and the United States, and no doubt other U.N. countries who sent ground forces to Korea, there was little reporting of the activities of the post-Armistice troops that remained in the country; nothing about this heavy, dreary manual labour all done in tropical weather – high temperatures and even higher humidity – with torrential rains turning everything into a muddy quagmire.

Where were the crowds and bands when these soldiers returned home?

Foiled

by John Burke Junior

There was an article in the January 9, 1953 issue of *The Cleveland Press* titled, "Clevelander Saves Life With Aluminum Foil." That "Clevelander" was U.S. Army combat medic John Burke, of 45th Inf. Div., 179th RCT, who saved his buddy near Luke the Gook's Castle.

As Burke recalled, his buddy was test firing his carbine when a bullet struck a hand grenade buried in the snow. The grenade exploded, and a fragment entered the soldier's chest.

Burke reacted immediately by giving the wounded man a shot of morphine. Unfortunately, Burke thought the soldier was dazed due to a concussion. That was not the case. When the wounded soldier slipped into unconsciousness, Burke loaded him into a jeep, which he drove down an ice-covered road until he spied an ambulance. The medic and the soldiers transferred to the ambulance, where the wounded man regained consciousness.

He asked Burke, "Do you hear that sucking noise?"

Burke realized that he was listening to a sucking chest wound. Immediately, he covered the soldier's wound with gauze and covered it with a piece of aluminum foil that had been used to wrap first-aid kits. Then, he pressed the wound with one hand while he administered blood plasma with the other. That saved the wounded soldier's life, according to a doctor at the aid station.

Ironically, Burke had worked for one summer at the Aluminum Company of America after he graduated from high school. He may not have gotten all wrapped up in his job, but he did prove the value of aluminum foil as a versatile product. One lucky soldier can attest to that. Does anybody know who that wounded soldier was?

Source: *The Graybeards*, Vol.26, No.5, 2012

Aiming Ammo at the Announcers

by Carmen Electro, Stuart, Florida

I am a WWII and Korean War Veteran. I was Platoon Sgt. (SFC) with the 1st Leaflet and Loudspeaker Co. We were on the main line of resistance, coinciding with leaflet drops. We broadcast propaganda from scripts and music of nostalgic nature to the enemy in an effort to get them to surrender. Of course, we received heavy mortar and artillery fire in return. One day, after we made our broadcast, the Chinese attacked us and overran our position. I was in a bunker with two other GIs when we heard screaming and yelling from American and Chinese troops. We thought for sure that the Chinese would find our bunker, but someone must have been watching over us. We sat tight with our carbines aimed at the flap that covered our bunker. Suddenly the flap flipped open and there stood an American lieutenant with a sub-machine gun. He was as surprised as we were. A truly happy ending.

Source: *The Graybeards* magazine Vol.27, No.4, July-Aug. 2013

In 18 November, 1952, a formation of Russian MiG-15s from Vladivostok was intercepted by F9F-2 Panthers from the US carrier *Oriskany*. One of the MiGs was destroyed without loss by the Americans, and the other Russians withdrew. But no mention of this incident was made to the US (or Australian) public at the time.

The Last American Out of Seoul

by Tom Moore

In 1948, under the provisions of Section 562 of the Foreign Service Act of 1946, the U.S. Department of State and the Secretary of the Navy signed a Memorandum of Agreement on the use of U.S. Marines as security guards (MSG) at overseas foreign posts. That cleared the way for 83 U.S. Marines to begin training at the Foreign Service Institute.

In 1949, six MSGs were sent to Bangkok and nine to Tangier. By late 1949, 300 MSGs were at posts throughout the world.

On 25 June 1950, the U.S. Embassy phone in Seoul began ringing at 0530. Callers asked the Marine Watchstanders, "What's going on?" They had no idea.

Then, at 0830, a UPI correspondent came into the U.S. Embassy saying that the North Koreans had crossed over the 38th parallel in force, with tanks going south.

U.S. Ambassador John J. Muccio asked Sergeant Paul Dupras to recall all twenty embassy MSGs who were quartered in the Capitol Apartments. Sergeants Gus Sieken and George Lampman left for the apartments from the U.S. Embassy in Seoul's Bando Peninsula Hotel in the MSG's jeep, painted bright Orange to distinguish it from U.S. Army vehicles. The orange jeep caught the attention of two enemy Yak aircraft, which made strafing passes on it but caused no damage.

By midnight on 25 June 1950, Deputy U.S. Ambassador Everett F. Drumright reported that the North Korean advance to Seoul was unstoppable. That began a busy time for the MSGs.

When the decision was made to evacuate American dependents, MSGs were dispatched to alert embassy families. MSG personnel destroyed the embassy vehicles to prevent their use by the enemy. They also burned the embassy's enormous amount of classified material, which entailed a long, painstaking process.

The MSGs used furnaces in the embassy basement to finish the job. It took eight MSGs working around the clock until Tuesday, 27 June 1950, to burn it all and destroy the code machines. The MSGs also ensured that a group of 682 women and children were safely taken to the port of Inchon and placed on board a Norwegian fertilizer hauler ship, the *Reinholt*.

MSGs escorted bus loads of embassy employees to Kimpo Aerodrome, to be evacuated in several C-54 transport planes. The last C-54 in the group was attacked by enemy Yak fighter aircraft. About 1,500 Americans were evacuated to Japan – but the Marines themselves still had to get out of Seoul.

The commander in charge of the MSG detachment, M/Sgt. John F. Runck had been a Japanese POW in WWII. He vowed that none of his MSGs were going to be captured by the enemy. At the end, the MSGs were put on the last aircraft out of Kimpo, before the fall of Seoul.

Source: *The Graybeards* magazine Vol.26, No.3, May-June 2012

The Baby Blitz

by John McLeod

After the failure of the air offensive against Great Britain in late 1940 and the spring of 1941 during World War II, the German Luftwaffe went permanently on the defensive in the West. Although German bombers continued night raids on England, averaging four or five raids a month in 1943, it was not until January 1944 that the Luftwaffe was able to attack London on a consistent basis. On 21 January, the "Baby Blitz" was inaugurated: nearly every operational German plane in the West – some 447 planes – attacked London. This was the strongest air attack since May 1941 when 507 German planes attacked London.

Eight days later there was another German air raid at about half that size. The results were appalling: the Germans lost nearly 8% of their attacking force, while less than 25% of their bombs hit London. The British defences, notably the fast Mosquito night-fighters, the improved radar, and the anti-aircraft guns, were far more advanced than those of the 1940-1941 Blitz; the German force, however, consisted largely of outmoded Junkers 88 and Dornier 217 aircraft, which had spearheaded the first Blitz. Only about one-fifth of the German force comprised modern aircraft: Heinkel 177s, Junkers 188s, and Messerschmitt 410s.

Nine more raids on London were held in February and March 1944, with a declining number of sorties on each occasion due to heavy losses and maintenance difficulties. The last major raid on London, on 18 April, consisted of only 125 bombers – a far cry from the raids of the first Blitz, the largest of which included 712 aircraft on 19 April 1941.

The "Baby Blitz" highlighted the great decline of the Luftwaffe and its qualitative and quantitative inferiority to the Allied air forces, which were capable of attacking Germany with hundreds of aircraft on a regular basis. Only with V-1 and V-2 weapons was Germany able to seriously attack London again.

Source: *Strategy & Tactics*, No. 97 July-August 1984

The largest single aerially delivered bomb to ever strike a US warship was a German "Fritz-X" guided missile. One of those aircraft launched missiles struck the cruiser *Savannah* at 9:44 a.m. on 11 Sept. 1943, just off the Italian coast at Salerno. The ship survived, but required almost a year of repairs at Malta, while 206 of her crew perished.

Rickenbacker's War

by Rex A. Martin

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty in action against the enemy near Billy, France, September 25, 1918. While on a voluntary patrol over the lines, the then Lieutenant Rickenbacker attacked seven enemy planes (five type Fokker protecting two type Halberstadt). Disregarding the odds against him, he dived on them and shot down one of the Fokkers out of control. He then attacked one of the Halberstadts and sent it down also.

With these words, on 6 November 1930, President Herbert Hoover presented the Congressional Medal of Honour to Captain Edward Rickenbacker at Bolling Field, Washington D.C. Thus was America's finest fighting ace finally rewarded for his contribution to the Allied victory in World War I. During a brief seven months at the front in 1918, Rickenbacker was credited with twenty-six confirmed "kills"; of this seven months, two were spent in a French hospital following a mastoid operation. As one British historian pointed out, Rickenbacker's score is a remarkable record for the limited time he spent in action—one never equalled by any other aviator in either the First or Second World Wars. By the time Rickenbacker came to the air war, the days of the "lone wolf" were numbered.

Rickenbacker, in command of the famed 94th "Hat-in-the-Ring" Pursuit Squadron, proved himself as able an administrator as aviator. And, with Billy Mitchell, was a proponent of the strategic uses of aircraft. Not given to solo flights, Rickenbacker was a thoughtful and observant leader of the massed flights that finally defeated the Imperial Air Service flights over the trenches. His formation was credited with the greatest number of victories scored by any American squadron – 69. It was the first American unit to carry the air war over the enemy lines, and totaled more hours of flying time over enemy territory than any other in the United States Air Service.

A recognized hero in the fledgling sport of motor racing, Rickenbacker came to aviation by way of Pershing's motor pool. In January 1918, he was commissioned upon graduation from Issoudun, the first U.S. pilot training centre set up in France. Early in March 1918, the slim man from Columbus Ohio was posted to the nucleus of the 94th Pursuit Squadron—then based at Villeneuve. When Rickenbacker joined the newly-formed squadron, it had lots of pilots – but no airplanes.

In fact, another month would pass before a few secondhand French Nieuports could be obtained. But once sufficient aircraft were on hand, the American command felt justified in moving the "Hat-in-the-Ring" Squadron into the Toul sector. There the Americans, and Rickenbacker, threw themselves into the grim and exhilarating business of war among the clouds.

Rickenbacker shot down his first enemy plane on 25 April 1918. It was about as exciting as a public execution – and as professional. By 1 June, he was a recognized ace. He flew a plain grey Nieuport (later a Spad) bearing only the 94th's symbol; there were no bright colours or personal insignia in his squadron. There was no flamboyance to the man. Many said there was little personality. He was not a popular commander, but he forged the concept of fighting as a unit. As a result, the 94th was the best of America's fighter squadrons.

A young 94th pilot named Meissner once flew home with his top wing gone. Just as a Fokker had shot his Spad's wing wires away, Rickenbacker drove him off. More noteworthy, Rickenbacker did not go after the damaged German to increase his personal score, but instead escorted his man to friendly lines. He insisted his men do the same. He admired the German use of the parachute and disdained the scoring rivalries of the earlier aces.

Rickenbacker's boys were not colourful, but they were the first modern fighter pilots. From the moment "Captain Eddie" took it over, the "Hat-in-the-Ring" Squadron was run as a business. For that was what the "art" Roland Garros had started three long years before had now become. Not a blood sport for young gentlemen – but a hard, tough profession for hard, tough professionals. The days of the Richthofens were over; the days of Rickenbackers had dawned.

Source: *The General* magazine No. 19, No.3 Sept.-Oct. 1982

Origin of the "Molotov Cocktail"

During the 1939-40 Russo-Finnish War, the latter country's army began the fighting with no anti-tank weapons in their inventory. The Finnish State Alcoholic Beverages Commission therefore quickly began manufacturing "Molotov Cocktails," using a proprietary mix of tar, gasoline and fuel oil ignited by a sulphuric acid fuse. Over the course of that war's 108 days of combat, some 70,000 of those devices were used by the Finns, for an average of about 650 per day. The result was the Soviets lost about half of the 1,000 or so tanks they committed to the fighting. That was approximately one tank destroyed for every 140 cocktails thrown.

Source: *Strategy & Tactics* magazine No. 269 July-August 2011

Why “Forgotten?”

by Gunnar Osterberg

I have been concerned for a long time as to why the Korean War is referred to as the “Forgotten War.” I have a hard time accepting this monicker for so costly a war.

A few years ago I asked some of my 45th Division veteran buddies and others why the Korean War is labelled as “Forgotten.” I have read various writings on the subject, and followed up with some research of my own. The current label is hard to digest in light of the large numbers of KIA and maimed young men that were the result of this war. It was interesting to learn what answers I came up with in my search.

While reading Donald Knox’s book, *The Korean War*, I found his explanation for the label. He wrote: *To most Americans, Korea is a forgotten war. To many, it was unreal. Ordinary lives were unruffled by the distant echoes of battle. The home front made no sacrifices. If neither one’s friends nor ones family were directly involved, the war could have been fought on Mars.*

David Halberstam explained in his book, *The Coldest Winter*, that: *So many of them had for so long kept it inside themselves. No one wanted to hear about the war when they had first come home, so they never talked about it, not to their families or to their oldest friends. Or when they did, no one understood – or worse, wanted to understand. Their children would most often grow up knowing only that their fathers served in the war, but almost nothing else. They would complain to their fathers, that they were never willing to talk about the war. They mourned those who had not come back, but they shared it with only one another.*

Halberstam added: *Unlike Vietnam, the Korean War took place before television news came into its own. Given the state of technology, the footage from Korea, usually making it into the network news-rooms back in New York days late, rarely moved the nation.*

He also noted the disparity of books written on the Vietnam and Korean Wars: there were 88 on Vietnam and only 4 books about the Korean War.

Wikipedia haughtily describes the Forgotten War this way: *The Forgotten War is occasionally applied by historians to other wars and conflicts. Historically speaking, the term typically implies that public recognition of said war is considered to be disproportionately low in relation to the perceived relationship historical significance of a conflict in the eyes of the historians in question. There is thus no definitive definition of the criteria that a war or conflict must have in order to be classified as ‘forgotten,’ and thus it is a subjective historical term.*

One of my Korean War Veteran pals was the late Dick Rode, who gave this answer to my question: *Most likely, the reasons for the Forgotten War title were that there was never a clear-cut victory. The war only affected a small portion of our country, and there was no enemy threat to our shores. People were enjoying prosperity and good times. And the biggest reason is, we tried to forget and we succeeded. Maybe we should have been more in the face about our accomplishments.*

These are all good answers to my question. Maybe they are not the final answers, but I will take what has been offered. I will leave it there because I now feel that I have a much better understanding of my often-asked question: “Why?”

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

Mule Train

by Roger Robertson

Here is a little-known unit that operated in Korea...

During and post-Korean War, the Air Force operated the 5th Mule Train, a trucking unit that normally travelled in convoy, delivering ammunition and other supplies throughout Korea. As the fighting shifted, they would often pull supplies out of an operating base.

Their main operating base was at Yong Dong Po, just outside Seoul, and they had people at Wonju and Kunsan. I have located former members who were assigned to the unit from 1950 to 1959. I don’t have the history of the 2nd Mule Train, but it was used during the 1960s and 1970s out of Osan. I was 2nd Mule.

We also transported supplies throughout Korea. Around 1965/66, the Air Force established half a dozen radar sites on the top of mountains. We transported everything needed to supply the sites, from beds to electronics. Once a year we transported supplies to Py Do, an island just off North Korea. Also, once a year, we would load trucks on an LSU landing craft and go to Chegedo Island, where a large LST would bring hundreds of barrels of diesel and fuel oil in from Japan. We would spend several days unloading the ship.

The guys from the 1950s called themselves “Mules.” We called ourselves “Mule Skinners.” Both units were very proud of their mission and we thoroughly enjoy getting together and swapping stories...and a few lies.

Source: *The Graybeards*, Vol.28, No.2, 2014

During the Korean War, the US Army surveyed infantrymen who had combat experience to find what qualities they looked for in a “good fighter.” The top five qualities identified in that survey, in order of importance from most to least, were as follows: leadership, masculinity, intelligence, sense of humor and emotional stability.

Funnies

How To Survive...

(working for the government / corporations)

If you can't get your work done in the first 24 hours, work nights.

A pat on the back is only a few centimetres from a kick in the butt.

You can go anywhere you want if you look serious and carry a clipboard.

Don't be irreplaceable, if you can't be replaced, you can't be promoted.

It doesn't matter what you do, it only matters what you say you've done and what you're going to do.

After any salary raise, you will have less money at the end of the month than you did before.

The more nonsense you put up with, the more nonsense you are going to get.

When the bosses talk about improving productivity, they are never talking about themselves.

Keep your boss's boss off your boss's back.

Everything can be filed under "miscellaneous."

To err is human, to forgive is not our policy.

Anyone can do any amount of work provided it isn't the work he/she is supposed to be doing.

Important letters that contain no errors will develop errors in the mail.

If you are good, you will be assigned all the work. If you are really good, you will get out of it.

You are always doing something marginal when the boss drops by your desk.

People who go to conferences are the ones who shouldn't.

If it wasn't for the last minute, nothing would get done.

At work, the authority of a person is inversely proportional to the number of pens that person is carrying.

When you don't know what to do, walk fast and look worried.

Following the rules will not get the job done.

Getting the job done is no excuse for not following the rules.

When confronted by a difficult problem you can solve it more easily by reducing it to the question, "How would the Lone Ranger handle this?"

No matter how much you do, you never do enough.

The last person that quit or was fired will be held responsible for everything that goes wrong.

Professions

(What they do – or don't do)

A banker is a fellow who lends you his umbrella when the sun is shining and wants it back the minute it begins to rain.

An economist is an expert who will know tomorrow why the things he predicted yesterday didn't happen today.

A statistician is someone who is good with numbers but lacks the personality to be an accountant.

An actuary is someone who brings a fake bomb on a plane, because that decreases the chances that there will be another bomb on the plane.

A programmer is someone who solves a problem you didn't know you had in a way you don't understand.

A mathematician is a blind man in a dark room looking for a black cat which isn't there.

A topologist is a man who doesn't know the difference between a coffee cup and a doughnut.

A lawyer is a person who writes a 10,000 word document and calls it a "brief."

A psychologist is a man who watches everyone else when a beautiful girl enters the room.

A schoolteacher is a disillusioned woman who used to think she liked children.

A consultant is someone who takes the watch off your wrist and tells you the time.

A diplomat is someone who can tell you to go to hell in such a way that you will look forward to the trip.

Ten Public Servants

Ten public servants standing in a line, one of them was downsized – then there were nine.

Nine public servants who must negotiate, one joined the union – then there were eight.

Eight public servants thought they were in heaven, 'til one of them was redeployed – then there were seven.

Seven public servants, their jobs as safe as bricks, but one was re-classified – then there were six.

Six public servants trying to survive, one of them was privatised – then there were five.

Five public servants ready to give more, but one golden handshake reduced them to four.

Four public servants full of loyalty, their jobs were all advertised – then there were three.

Three public servants under review, one left on secondment – then there were two.

Two public servants coping on the run, one went on stress leave – then there was one.

The last public servant agreed to relocate, replaced by 10 consultants at twice the hourly rate.

ANZAC Day Speech

On April 24, past National Secretary Alan Evered, attended the Fountain Gate Secondary College's ANZAC Day ceremony, at which he made the following speech:

THANK YOU

Two simple words that can mean so much.

Australian Defence Forces have been involved in many World conflicts, all with high casualties of civilians, airmen, nurses, sailors and soldiers alike. Few nations say THANK YOU to their saviours.

The Republic of Korea is one mighty exception. WHY ?

The Korean peninsula has been relentlessly attacked by both China and Japan for hundreds of years. Prior to 1895, Korea was controlled by China but in

- 1895 Japan won a war with China.
- 1905 Japan defeated Russia in the Battle of Tsushima and officially annexed the whole Korean Peninsula.
- 1919 Following the end of WWI, the Koreans pleaded unsuccessfully for independence at the Versailles Peace Conference.

It was only after the defeat of Japan in WWII that independence was achieved with UK, USA, China and Russia signing the Potsdam Declaration on 27th July 1945.

In December 1945 the UK, USA and the Russia agreed to a Provisional Korean Democratic Government for ALL Korea – the Moscow Agreement. In 1947 the General Assembly of the United Nations proposed an Election. However, the Soviet Union denied access to UN observers to establish a provisional Korean Government. So the election to establish a free Government went ahead only in South Korea.

North Korea disappeared behind the “Iron Curtain”, only to emerge with downright aggression on the morning of 27th July 1950 with 200,000 infantry, 240 Soviet tanks and 170 combat planes and artillery at their disposal. They thrust across the dividing line between North and South – the 38th Parallel, now known as the Demilitarised Zone (DMZ).

South Korea had no tanks or fighter planes. That same day the United Nations Security Council ordered the North Koreans to withdraw.

They refused.

Two days later the UN Security Council recommended that the United Nations members should help to restore international peace and security.

- 16 Nations positively answered the call with Combat troops,
- 5 Nations with Medical support and
- 39 Nations with Supplies and Financial support.

The Response was immense. Over the next 3 years, 2 million troops were deployed and were eventually rewarded with the Cease Fire Agreement signed on 27th July 1953.

All wars create human misery. It is difficult to restore what in WWI was called “cowardice” or “shell shock”. In WW2 it was called “shell shock” and “mental breakdown”. In the Korean War and subsequent operations, it is termed PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder).

To me it is the result of what I term “dehumanising”. Seeing the horrors of war at first hand that are, to us, totally unacceptable and unimaginable.

Every year since 1975, the Republic of Korea Government have subsidised a Revisit Korea Program, inviting a World Veteran total of over 30,000 Veterans for 6 day visits with wonderful programs. The visits include free accommodation, meals and transportation to many important places.

I have seen Australian PTSD Veterans before revisiting Korea and seen them return...different people. Morose and difficult when they left...bright and full of life upon their return.

WHY?

They see that their Korean War participation and experiences were NOT IN VAIN. From a basically peasant agricultural population to a NOW modern vibrant industrial Nation, ranked 10th largest trading country in the world.

The most significant cry returning Veterans say is
“There are trees”!

In 1953 – there were NO trees. Before the Korean War, Japan harvested timber from Korea. Then the heavy shelling and fighting denuded the countryside.

Can you imagine the State of Victoria with no trees?

The Republic of Korea also offers Visits to Korea for:

(continues on Page 14)

Dikko by Bob Dikkenburg

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



Event Notice

69th Anniversary Invasion of South Korea Commemorative Service

When: Tuesday 25th June 2019, 11:00am

Where: Moama RSL
(out front near the tanks).

Contact: John Munro 03 5480 3778

All welcome

Event Notice

Waurm Ponds Commemorative Service

When: Sunday 7th July 2019, 1045 for 1100 hours.
Where: Corner of Waurm Ponds Drive and Cochranes Road, Waurm Ponds. Melways 464 C 8.

Contact: Arthur Roach, 03 5243 6113

One of KVAA Inc. Memorial sites of the Korean War is located at Waurm Ponds. This year we celebrate the 100 year Anniversary of the Defence Forces who returned to Australia in 1919. All welcome

Memorial Unveiling Photos

Korean War Memorial Unveiling Ceremony, Quarry Park, Footscray, 2nd May 2019.





- Disabled Veterans
- Bereaved Families of Veterans
- Youth Camps for Peace (for Grandchildren of Veterans)
- And their Universities frequently offer placements also to grandchildren of Veterans, to study in Korea, provided undergraduates learn Korean whilst there.

Koreans say “thank you” as “gamsa hamnida.”

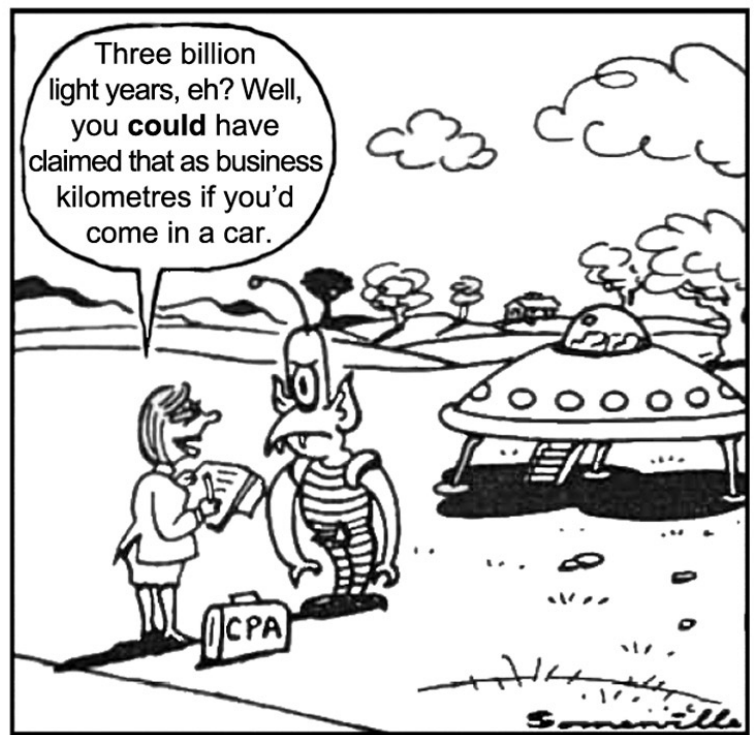
It has a deep, generous and sincere meaning.

On 2nd May this year the Melbourne Korean War Memorial will be unveiled as a tribute to those involved in the Korean Conflict. The Memorial is sited at Quarry Park, Footscray. The Service commences at 10.00am.

My commission, as Past National Secretary of KVAA Inc., with your Principal’s approval, is to present you with our Flag of the United Nations – to preserve Korean War Veterans’ contribution to the 1950-1953 Conflict. It is the forerunner offering of flags from the 21 Countries involved together with the flags of the RAN, RAAF, State of Victoria and our KVAA Banner.

Thank you.

Gamsa Hamnida.



Farewells

No death of any Australian Korea War veteran has been reported to me in the last 2 months. The Grim Reaper is in the corner crying. Good work, veterans. Keep it up.

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