



THE VOICE

August 2019 Edition

Contents:

Editor's Opening	1
Life Members	2
Directory	2
Editorial Disclaimer	2
Merchandise Available	2
Waurn Ponds Speech	3
There's Colour In This Tradition	4
A Field of Crosses	4
A Yeller, Not a Hitter	4
Outstanding Leadership and Brilliant Victory	5
A Letter from the Grave	6
An Explosive Situation	7
A Slightly Premature Presumption	7
A Basic Guide To Aussie Life	8
Profound Thoughts	8
The Coral Sea Battles	9
Pace's Points	10
Truscott	11
Tinker, Tailor, Soldier...Mole	11
The Long Years of Peace.	12
Medals on the Left Side	12
Old...	13
HMAS Wot	13
Out & About	14
Farewells	14
The Ode	14

Editor's Opening

First to the good news...Well done KVAA Vice-President Alan McDonald who received an OAM in the Queen's Honors List on 10 June. Of course, a knighthood would have been better – Sir Alan McDonald has a nice ring to it – but OAM is a good consolation prize.

I've covered the travels of the peripatetic Hannah Kim in the past, especially her sojourn in Australia. Just a reminder...

In 2017 Hannah travelled around the world across 6 continents to 27 countries (22 UN nations, Japan, Scotland, China, Russia and North Korea) that participated in the Korean War to interview more than 200 Korean War veterans and collect their stories.

In 2018 she travelled to all 50 states in the US (+ 4 territories) to visit 100+ Korean War Memorials and thank 1000+ Korean War Veterans. Well she's now off to the Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland and Wales (from August 12-22). As Hannah herself wrote in an email...

"Few people know that 32 Welsh died fighting in Korea (as part of the Commonwealth), as well as 159 people of Irish heritage (from both sides of the Border as part of the US/UK military). Among these men killed were 28 who were granted US citizenship posthumously and 7 who are still unaccounted for. In addition 7 Irish Columban priests who could have fled but chose to stay were martyred at the outbreak of the Korean War in 1950. I will visit the Memorials to lay flowers to honor those who never returned to their homeland from the war."

Here's some information from the ACKVA July 2019 newsletter about the 27th July service on the Gold Coast which I am going to pass on without comment...

Last Saturday, July 27 was the Korea Veterans Day marking 66th anniversary of the Korean War Armistice. 35 Korea Veterans, 1 Son of surviving Korea Veteran and 14 Family representative of Deceased Korea Veterans attended the Gold Coast Service and Peace Celebration Lunch. Counting the accompanying families, about 100 Korea veterans and families attended. 80 guests from government, Defence, RSL, ESO and community organisation attended. 200 reserved seats were taken up. With Band and catafalque members, students, Korean community members and 50 volunteers, there were only handful empty chairs from

(continues on Page 4)

Associate Member

International Federation of Korean War Veterans Association

Korea & South East Asia Forces Association of Australia

Sister with Korean War Veterans Association Australian Chapter

Twinned with the South London Branch British Korean Veterans Associations

Twinned with the Korea Veterans Association of Canada

Affiliated Associations

Association of Queensland Korea Veterans Inc.

Australian Korea Veterans Association Inc.

Korea War Veterans Association of NSW

Korean War Veterans Association of Sunshine Coast Inc.

The Sunshine State Chapter of the Korean War Veterans Assoc. Inc. of the USA

Allied Associations

Australian Peacekeepers and Peacemaker Veterans' Association Inc.



Life Members

Colin Berryman OAM
Jim Boxshall†
Rev. Burne Brooker†
John Brownbill
RFD, KCSJ, KtT (Scot)
John Burke†
Bill Campbell†
Victor Dey OAM†
John Duson
Athol Egeberg†
Alan Evered MRAC, MRSV
Mick Everett†
J F Frawley OAM BEM†
Stan Gallop†
Olwyn Green OAM (Hon)
Des Guilfoyle†
Geoffrey Guilfoyle
John Holford
Neville Holl†
Murray Inwood†
David Irving†
Ron J. Kennedy
George Lang OAM†
Dennis Lehmann
Kenneth Mankelow†
Bruce Maxwell
Alan McDonald
Ian McDonald†
Allan Murray†
Ray McKenzie†
Don McLeod†
George Mitchell†
Bill Murphy†
Ormond Petherick
Jack Philpot
Allen Riches
Arthur Roach
Ivan Ryan†
Joe Shields†
Gerry Steacy
Doug Wilkie JPT
†Deceased

Directory

Patron : Major General David McLachlan AO (Retired)

National President : Tom Parkinson

Phone: 03 9350 6608 or c/- Pascoe Vale RSL 03 9354 6364 or president@pascoevalersl.com.au

National Vice-President : Alan McDonald OAM

Phone: 03 5975 4113 / Email: alanmc12@iprimus.com.au

National Secretary : Deborah Rye

Phone: 03 5448 8758 / Mobile: 0419 334 483 / Email: secretary@kva.org.au

Correspondence

The Secretary, 260 Station Street, Epsom, Victoria 3551

The Voice

The Editor, PO Box 3, Grantville, Victoria 3984

National Treasurer : Merrill Lord

Mobile: 0432 836 182 / Email: merrilllord78@gmail.com

Committee

Milton Hoe, John Moller OAM JP, John Munro OAM RFD ED,
Laurie Price, Allen Riches, Arthur Roach

Appointments

Chaplain / Veterans' Affairs: John Brownbill RFD, KCSJ, KtT (Scot) 0418 359 085

Editor & Webmaster: Geoff Guilfoyle Phone: 03 59976240 Email: editor@kva.org.au

Delegates

ACT: Colin Berryman OAM (Phone: 02 6258 2463 / Mobile: 040 896 2415 / Email: jacol57@bigpond.net.au)

Geelong: Arthur Roach (03 5243 6113)

New South Wales: Merv Heath (02 4343 1967)

Queensland: Harry Pooley (Phone: 07 3200 0482)

Queensland (Kilcoy Region): Kelly Frawley (Phone: 0428 186 788 / Email: kel52bes@gmail.com)

Riverina: John Munro OAM RFD ED (Phone: 03 5480 3778)

South Australia: John Jarrett (Phone 0411 420 162 / Email: jarrett8083@gmail.com)

Tasmania: George Hutchinson (Phone: 03 6275 0762)

Western Australia: John Southorn (Phone: 08 9531 2008 / Email: bessboss@westnet.com.au)

Website

www.kva.org.au

Editorial Disclaimer

Articles in *The Voice* are printed on the understanding that, unless stated, they are the original works of the contributors/authors. The editor reserves the right to reject, edit, abbreviate, rewrite or re-arrange, any item submitted for publication. The view of contributing authors are not necessarily those of the KVAA Inc., the editor or publishers of *The Voice*.

Merchandise Available

Bannerettes (flags)	\$15.00	\$	Kapypong battle print	\$ 6.00	\$
Tie (with KVAA Inc. logo)	\$20.00	\$	Christms cards	\$ 2.00	\$
Korean War bumper sticker	\$ 2.50	\$			
Windscreen decals	\$ 4.00	\$	TOTAL... \$_____ + \$3 pp = \$_____		

Surname: Given Names:

Address: (Please Print)

State: Post Code:

Cheques/money orders should be made out to: KVAA Inc. and sent to: Merrill Lord, PO Box 107, Frankston 3199, Victoria

World War One 100th Anniversary Commemoration

Waurn Ponds Speech

by Dr. Ted Hefferman

Patron, Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia

Waurn Ponds Memorial Reserve, Victoria, Sunday 7th July 2019

World War I commenced on the 4th August 1914 and lasted until 11th November 1918. More than 15 million men and women died as a direct result of this war.

In Australia there was initial enthusiasm for World War I and the first force for Australia involved was hastily formed on the outbreak of war and an Australian naval and expeditionary force was sent from Australia to seize German possessions in the Pacific in September 1914.

An initial force of 20,000 First AIF was raised at the same time and sent to Egypt after several delays to defend the Suez Canal.

In the early 1915 an amphibious landing was made on Gallipoli to open a second front and try and secure the Dardanelles. The Australians landed on 25th April 1915 and for eight months fought with New Zealanders, British and French and other allied troops in a largely unsuccessful campaign. They were evacuated from Gallipoli in December 1915 and sent on to Egypt.

The Light Horse then remained in the Middle East until the war's end although most Australians went on to the western front where the Australian Flying Corps in the Air Force and Naval Forces also served. The Naval Forces served in the Atlantic, the North Sea, the Adriatic Sea, the Black Sea as well as the Pacific and Indian Oceans.

At the war's outbreak Great Britain was promised 20,000 men but by the end of 1914 there were 52,561 volunteers in Australia. The Defence Act at that time precluded conscripts so this was an entirely volunteer army which had to be raised.

Casualties were high and only 7,000 of the original 32,000 survived.

The Australian Light Horse distinguished themselves at the Battle of Beersheba where they charged across the desert and captured the wells of Beersheba. Later the same force descended from the Golan Heights and captured Damascus being the last horse to have done this.

In 1916 infantry were transferred from Egypt to Europe. These were not the first Australians in Europe as the Australian volunteer hospital and Australian doctors and nurses had gone in 1914 and in 1916 they were absorbed into the British Army.

The Australians were first committed to the first Battle of the Somme within three weeks of it starting. The 5th division was the first to see action in the Battle of Fromelles on 19th July 1916 and it sustained 5,633 casualties in a single day. In a further attack on 4th August, the 2nd division sustained 7,000 casualties.

The Battle of Bullecourt was stated to end as a victory but it cost 7,482 casualties.

At this time no mention of the First World War would be complete without mentioning Sir John Monash, an Australian General who was born in 1865 and lived until 1931 and he was gradually rising to become Australia's and indeed one of the allies most famous World War I leaders. He initially studied in Scotch College, he was born of a Prussian-Jewish family and then went on from Scotch College to study Law, Arts and Engineering at Melbourne University.

There he became interested in the army and joined the militia in 1884. At the outbreak of war in 1914 Monash set himself the task of learning the skills of artillery and engineering. In 1913 he in fact published a manual on 100 hints for company commanders. In 1914 he was CO of the AIF 4th Infantry Brigade in Egypt and served at Gallipoli in 1915 and then in 1916 went to the western front promoted to Major General commanding the 3rd Division.

Over the next two years he led his command through numerous actions including the Battle of Messines, the 3rd Ypres, Polygon Wood and using raiding techniques frowned on by the British high command but impressed by their results. He made his real mark in March 1918 against the German push most notably the Battle of Hamel Hill which was planned and executed by Monash having command of Australian and US Forces. This was the first real use of coordinated infantry artillery, armour and air power. Initial studies had suggested this battle would cost 12,000 casualties, in fact under Monash's command and planning it cost 1,200.

Following this battle Monash was knighted in the field by King George V and as a result of this the Australian troops had developed a great reputation as fighters.

At the Battle of Villiers-Bretonneux the Germans broke through the British line and the inhabitants of the

(continues on Page 4)

Waurn Ponds Speech (continued from Page 3)

village were fleeing and then got the message that the Australian troops were coming to fill the holes so they turned around and went back to the village. So Australia developed a great reputation as fine troops but at a cost.

The population in 1914 was 4.9 million people and of these 2.5 million people were males.

416,809 enlisted, 62,000 were killed and 156,000 were wounded or gassed or taken prisoner. To put this into modern terms, this is equivalent to about 310,000 men killed and 750,000 wounded, gassed or taken prisoner.

After the war the nation felt these men should not be forgotten and various monuments through the land were made and in every small town you can find a First World War monument often with 2 or 3 members of the same family listed as having been killed. So this is the origin of the reserve here where it was initially planted as a avenue of honour and had been well kept as a First World War Memorial and now that's why we are here today to pay tribute to these men and also to the committee what that retained this remembrance of the First World War for over 100 years.

Thank you very much for the opportunity of speaking to you today.

Editor's Opening (continued from Page 1)

350 chairs prepared. And plenty more people standing around the shades or manning the food and drink tables.

Now to the bad news...

Arthur Alsop, a Kiwi veteran in Bendigo and KVAA member may be known by some members personally from various functions. He did the Korea visit earlier this year, accompanied by his grandson Michael Keating, who is also known to a number of veterans. Michael was killed in a tragic accident in June, at the tender age of 18. As you can imagine, this has devastated his parents Glenn and Susan and grandparents Arthur and Kath. On the behalf of the KVAA, I offer our (belated) condolences to the family.

And that's about it for news – both good and bad. It is the depth of winter in Australia (well, the southern states at least) and everyone seems to go into hibernation until October when people start discussing cricket and the Melbourne Cup rather than football.

There's Colour In This Tradition

Colours have always had significance for soldiers. An 18th century military writer recorded the following colours and their military meanings:

Yellow: Honour, which should never be in question.

White: Innocence and truth.

Black: Wisdom and sobriety.

Blue: Faith and constancy.

Red: Justice.

Green: Good hope.

Purple: Fortitude with discretion.

Tawny (Light Brown): Merit.

In the old tradition, if a mortally wounded ensign wrapped the Colours around his body and died with them, the Colours were not considered lost. The honour of the Colours was carried with the ensign's soul to heaven "to the possession of the eternal forever" and the enemy was denied the honour of having captured them. It was a soldier's duty to pick up the Colours and, at all costs, save them.

A Field of Crosses

The years have passed in plenty,
Since the time that I was there
Along with countless other's
The burden for to share

Now, I often think of those that stayed
Detained against their will
Death's field of painted Crosses
On the side of a sun-baked hill

What price the golden glory
In the winning of the fight
With you not here to share it
But gone for ever in our sights

But you are not forgotten
And this I remember, too
But for the grace of God above
I'd have shared that field with you.

Written by Dennis Wood,
Royal Artillery Signals.
Sent in by Edgar Green,
ex-Middlesex Regiment, 27 Brigade.

A Yeller Not a Hitter

Despite his propensity to fly into verbal rages, with one exception, Hitler never personally inflicted physical abuse on those against whom he was ranting. That exception came on 30 June 1934, just after the start of the purge of the SA "Brownshirts," the infamous "Night of the Long Knives." On that occasion he ripped the decorations and badges of rank from the uniforms of the top *Sturm Abteilung* leaders as he berated them (just prior to pronouncing their death sentences).

Source: *Strategy & Tactics* magazine, No.279

Outstanding Leadership and Brilliant Victory

Part Four

The section covers the sections **Struggle by Second-Front Units in Areas under Enemy Control** and **Counterattack** from the pictorial book, **Outstanding Leadership and Brilliant Victory**, published in 1993 in Pyongyang, DPRK. As usual, any resemblance between this book and reality is purely coincidental.

When organizing the temporary retreat, President Kim Il Sung, the ever-victorious iron-willed brilliant commander, put forward the policy of forming a second front behind enemy lines with the combined units of the KPA and of waging a struggle there using people's guerrilla units formed of patriotic people.

In accordance with this policy, the combined units of the KPA which were conducting a strategic retreat from the line along the River Raktong, formed a strong second front and conducted vigorous military activities there. Taking advantage of the geographical conditions in the country and of the enemy's tactical shortcomings, they seized the initiative in battle and mowed down the enemy in all directions by employing superb and varied tactics.

The second front units, in combination with the operations of the units at the main front, struck the enemy from the rear to cut off his supply route and swept away his soldiers and combat equipment. As a result, they created favourable conditions for the counterattacks of the main units of the KPA.

In an attempt to wind up their invasion before "Thanksgiving Day" in a blitzkrieg, the US imperialist aggressors made a dash towards the Rivers Amnok and Tuman along the main roads in the two directions of the east and west under the support of thousands of planes, tanks and guns and hundreds of warships.

In the crucial days of the temporary retreat, the great leader President Kim Il Sung, the sublime military strategist, put forward the strategic policy of bringing about a fundamental change in the war, having understood the enemy's plan and its defects and taking into account the topographical features of our country.

His policy was to beat off the enemy's attack decisively and go over to a counteroffensive in order to drive the enemy troops, which had intruded into the northern half of the country, south of the 38th parallel. It was also to make preparations for final victory in the war while annihilating and weakening the enemy forces ceaselessly.

The US imperialists came in great force. But a crack appeared between their units in the eastern and western sectors of the front where mountains rise one above another, and his flanks moving along the main roads were exposed. So no coordinated action between the forces was possible.

At the end of October 1950 President Kim Il Sung called a meeting of the officers and generals assigned to the KPA Supreme Headquarters, at which

he laid down the task of making preparations for a counteroffensive. In accordance with this, the combined units of the People's Army, together with units of the Chinese People's Volunteers, carried out strong counteractions to check the enemy's attack at the end of October and the beginning of November on the line north of the River Chongchon in the western sector of the front and in the areas of Hwangchoryong, Pujonryong and Orangchon in the eastern sector of the front.

Having been foiled in his attempt by the counterstrikes of the KPA, the enemy launched a new "Christmas general offensive", claiming that he would finish the Korean war before "Christmas."

On November 25 the combined units of the KPA, having switched over to a counteroffensive all along the front, cut the enemy forces in two, west and east, and then surrounded and annihilated the enemy. The KPA units wiped out the enemy's units in a large-scale encircling operation in the areas along the River Chongchon and on the shore of Lake Jangjin where enemy forces were concentrated and then continued their advance southwards.

At the same time, the second front units of the KPA active in the vast area of the central part of Korea, reached the 38th parallel and cut off the enemy's retreat, thus foiling his attempts to form an intermediary defence line and bring in reinforcements.

The combined units of the KPA followed the fleeing enemy troops and liberated the whole of the northern half of the country at the end of December.

The US imperialist aggressors, having been driven south of the 38th parallel, made preparations for a new offensive (the "autumn offensive"), while reinforcing their armies behind the screen of the ceasefire talks in order to recover from their repeated crushing defeats.

Having seen through the enemy's design, President Kim Il Sung, the peerless military strategist, ordered the strengthening of the defences along the entire battle line, particularly the defences in the area of Height 1211.

Height 1211 was of great strategic importance. If the KPA were to surrender the height to the enemy, it would lose not only the Kumgang Mountains but also the area of Wonsan and, as a result, the enemy would be able to achieve his aim of landing on the east coast.

Without occupying Height 1211, the enemy would not be able to break through the defence line of the

(continues on Page 6)

KPA. For this reason, he mobilized huge forces and vast amounts of combat equipment to deliver an attack on the height.

With the support of many planes, guns, and tanks, the enemy desperately “attacked in waves” over ten times a day, disregarding of deaths and injuries. Claiming the “greatest ever bombing” and “greatest ever shelling”, he showered on the height 30,000-40,000 bombs and shells a day on average.

The height was covered with flames, and was reduced in height by a metre. Rocks were turned to dust and the earth was scorched. Even squirrels climbed inside the tunics of soldiers to hide.

But the heroic soldiers of the KPA were not to be daunted. By displaying unexcelled gallantry and mass heroism, they did not retreat even a step and dealt a heavy blow to the enemy.

People in the rear, too, carried ammunition boxes and provisions to the height through the rain of bullets. The soldiers and people were united as one to fight the enemy. As a result, they smashed the enemy’s “autumn offensive” and defended Height 1211 successfully.

(continued next issue)

A Letter from the Grave

by Judith Knight

I was going through some of my mom's papers and came across a letter written by her brother, SFC Homer I. May, 59 years ago. The letter is written in pencil and it is so light that it is difficult to read. I cannot copy it, so I will try to decipher it as best I can. Perhaps one of your readers will be one of the men he mentions or will know them. I would be interested in hearing from them.

April 28, 1951

Dear Folks,

Greetings from a misty, cloudy Korea. I wrote you a quickie this morning but it looks like we are going to have a few minutes time so I'll drop a line to my constituents. Everything is going fine. In order to have something to talk about I'll tell you something about our squad.

Our squad leader is Cpl. Harold Wilson from Mike Horse Montana. He's a swell guy and I think he is the best squad leader in the company. He's a leader rather than a driver like our former squad leader. He's been over here about 7 months and is due to go home soon. B.A.R. man is Lawrence Watkins from Raleigh, NC. He is another swell guy. Butt of many jokes because he got a "Dear John."

Asst. B.A.R. man is PFC George Kundra, a D.P. from Czechoslovakia. He is a draftee. There are 2 draftees out of the 8 men in our squad.

The riflemen include the following. Pvt. Beard from a suburban city near Philly. His dad runs the W. Auto store there and Beard works for him. He is another swell guy.

Pvt. Robert Drake is a St. Paul boy. He got a teeny scratch in our last skirmish and was awarded the Purple Heart. We really tease him about that.

Pvt. Tony Martinez of St. Louis, Missouri, is our latest addition. A young Mexican kid, he has a brother over here. Then there is Al Fornier, my fox hole buddy. He B.S's a lot and drives me nuts singing the only two songs he knows but we get along pretty good. He's about the youngest in our squad at 19.

To round out the squad there is Pfc. Homer I. May. That's right, Pfc. I made it yesterday. Just happened to be looking sharp one day when the Sgt. saw me so he recommended the promotion. It means about \$10 more a month. I should be able to make Cpl. before I go back to the U.S. on rotation about 6 months from now.

We had fried eggs, 2, bacon and 2 pancakes, oatmeal and coffee for our breakfast this morning. I don't know if I told you but our cooks make the best hot cakes in the world. I am looking forward receiving that candy and watch you spoke of. A watch really is a necessity here and I was dumb to come without mine.

Well Folks, my heart goes out the 5,000 miles that separates us today,

Love to all,

Homer.

Homer was wounded less than a month later, on May 25, 1951 and was listed as Missing-in-Action while defending his position on Hill 851, (Heartbreak Ridge), North Korea, against superior Chinese forces on September 2, 1951. He was presumed dead on December 31, 1953. For his leadership and Valour, Sergeant First Class May was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross (the highest award earned in the battle on September 1), the Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Korean Service Medal, and the United Nations Service Medal.

Source: *The Graybeards* magazine Vol.27, No.2, March-April 2013

An Explosive Situation

by Tom Moore

Wonju is a city to the south east of Seoul. It straddles both banks of the river that gives the city its name. On 6 January 1951, the 3rd Platoon of C Company of the 2nd Engineer Combat Battalion found themselves at Wonju with destruction on their to-do list. They were there with the 38th Regiment (commanded by British-born Colonel George B. Peploe) of the 2nd U.S. Infantry Division.

It being necessary to withdraw in the face of enemy pressure, the 38th, spread north and east of the river, had to withdraw across the railroad and highway bridges then see to their demolition. The 3rd Platoon was allocated the task. In addition to the two bridges, 16 freight cars loaded with 80 tons of ammunition, and two tons of Korean Army rifles and ammunition, located in a church building, west of Wonju, also had to go.

At 0500 on the 7th of January, with snow on the ground, in minus 20 degrees weather, the 3rd platoon prepared to go to the bridge sites. They loaded a jeep and a 3/4 ton truck with explosives and demolition material. The men walked with the infantry through Wonju, with the vehicles following at a distance. At the bridges, under the security of a 38th Infantry machine-gun crew, the engineers hand-carried their demolition charges to the highway bridge.

The highway bridge was a reinforced concrete structure. The 3rd platoon had 450 pounds of composition C3, a pliable explosive with massive shattering power and able to fit into places which cannot be reached by TNT. Around 200 pounds of C3 was placed on the deck of the bridge to break it in the middle as the piers collapsed.

After some fire fights with enemy soldiers, the job was completed. The engineers then moved to the railroad bridge. This bridge had about ten piers. The second and third were made of log cribbing, and the others were of concrete. This bridge was stronger than the highway bridge, so extra C3 was used. Around 600 pounds in total: 200 pounds on the first log-cribbed pier, 300 on the first concrete pier, with 100 on the top to breach the span. A five gallon can of gasoline was hidden in the log cribbing of the third pier for emergency use.

Some of the men went to the railroad station and located the sixteen boxcars scattered on three sidings and loaded with ammunition of all types. They wired the boxcars with primacord, so the boxcars would explode, set all the explosive caps, while other men placed demolition charges in the boxcars. Then a case of C3 was placed in each boxcar, on top of all the other explosives, then they set a detonator cap in a block of TNT, on top of the C3. A complete circuit of prima cord was placed around all of the boxcars, with a connection run from each side of the primacord net through the boxcar into the case of C3. At the end of the net, four long pieces of primacord, with fifty feet of time fuse (about 25 minutes, normal burning time) was extended to the vicinity of the railroad station. Finally, some of the men went to the church building and prepared the munitions there for demolition.

The charges were ordered to be set off at 1800. But as the hour approached, the 38th Infantry had not cleared the bridges or town. At 1900, when the area was cleared, some of the engineers went to the railroad bridge, to the third pier, found their gas can, and poured gas on the two log-cribbed piers, then fired the bridge and withdrew.

The 3rd platoon then went to the highway bridge, and pulled the time fuse. On the way to the railroad station, they heard the charges explode on the highway bridge. At the railroad station, they lit their boxcar fuses. They then worked their way through the streets of Wonju to the church building, and lit their fuses there before withdrawing.

As the 3rd platoon was south on the Noto-ri road, at about 2100, about six miles south of Wonju, the sky lit up. It was bright enough to read a newspaper.

When the Americans returned later to Wonju, they were able to view first hand the destruction wrought by the engineers: the wreck of the rail bridge, burnt cribbing, demolished box-cars and the church, with other buildings either gone or gutted. The highway bridge had to be rebuilt.

A Slightly Premature Presumption

According to then German Press Secretary, Otto Dietrich, on 9 October 1941, Hitler was fully convinced World War II had effectively been ended – in a German win – with the culmination of the encirclement battles of Vyasma and Bryansk. Those two engagements had kicked off Operation Typhoon, the final push to capture Moscow. Somewhat more cautious than the ebullient dictator, though, when putting out the resultant press release, Dietrich held back the part where Hitler claimed total victory in the war. A few days later, the autumn mud slowed German operations in the east to a near halt, one from which it never fully recovered.

Source: *Strategy & Tactics* magazine No. 281 July-August 2013

A Basic Guide To Aussie Life

- The bigger the hat, the smaller the farm.
- The shorter the nickname, the more they like you.
- Whether it's the opening of Parliament, or the launch of a new art gallery, there is no Australian event that cannot be improved by a sausage sizzle.
- If the guy next to you is swearing like a wharfie he's probably a media billionaire. Or on the other hand, he may be a wharfie.
- There is no food that cannot be improved by the application of tomato sauce.
- On the beach all Australians hide their keys and wallets by placing them inside their sandshoes. No thief has ever worked this out.
- Industrial design knows of no article more useful than the plastic milk crate.
- All our best heroes are losers.
- The alpha male in any group is he who takes the barbecue tongs from the hands of the host and blithely begins turning the snags.
- It's not summer until the steering wheel is too hot to hold.
- A thong is not a piece of scanty swimwear, as in America, but a fine example of Australian footwear. A group of sheilas wearing black rubber thongs may not be as exciting as you had hoped.
- Historians believe the widespread use of the word "mate" can be traced to the harsh conditions on the Australian frontier in the 1890s, and the development of a code of mutual aid, or "mateship." Alternatively, Australians may just be really hopeless with names.
- If it can't be fixed with pantyhose and fencing wire, it's not worth fixing.
- The most popular and widely praised family in any street is the one that has the swimming pool.
- The phrase "we've got a great lifestyle" means everyone in the family drinks too much.
- If invited to a party, you should take cheap red wine and then spend all night drinking the host's beer. (Don't worry, he'll have catered for it).
- If there's any sort of free event or party within a hundred kilometres, you'd be a mug not to go.
- The phrase "a simple picnic" is not known. You should take everything you own. If you don't need to make three trips back to the car, you're not trying.
- On picnics, the Esky is always too small, creating a food versus grog battle that can only ever be resolved by leaving the salad at home.
- When on a country holiday, the neon sign advertising the motel's pool will always be slightly larger than the pool itself.
- The men are tough, but the women are tougher.
- The chief test of manhood is one's ability to install a beach umbrella in high winds.
- There comes a time in every Australian's life when he/she realises that the Aerogard is a darn sight worse than the flies.
- And, finally, don't let the tourist books fool you. No-one EVER says "cobber" to anyone. EVER.

Profound Thoughts

Why are they called buildings, when they're already finished? Shouldn't they be called builts?

If the universe is everything, and scientists say that the universe is expanding, what is it expanding into?

If you got into a taxi and the driver started driving backward, would the taxi driver end up owing you money?

What would a chair look like if your knees bent the other way?

When two airplanes almost collide why do they call it a near miss? It sounds like a near hit to me!

If vegetarians eat vegetables, what do humanitarians eat?

When I rub out a word with a pencil, where does it go?

How much deeper would the ocean be if sponges didn't grow in it?

Sooner or later, doesn't EVERYONE stop smoking?

War doesn't determine who's right, just who's left.

People who keep dogs are just cowards who don't have the guts to bite people themselves.

Everyone has a right to be stupid. Some just abuse the privilege.

Why are there 5 syllables in the word "monosyllabic"?

Birthdays are good for you – the more you have the longer you live.

If Noah had been truly wise, he would have swotted one of those two flies!

Suburbia: where they tear out the trees and then name streets after them.

When you're finally holding all the cards, why does everyone else decide to play chess?

If God wanted me to touch my toes, he would have put them on my knees.

Living on Earth is expensive, but it does include a free trip around the sun.

The Coral Sea Battles

by Alan R. Moon

Many people believe that Midway was the first carrier battle in the Pacific, when that honour actually went to the Coral Sea. The action in May 1942 was to be the first of a number of intense struggles between, for the most part, fairly equal forces, in the area. However, the first battle of the Coral Sea, though not a decisive victory for either side, was a sign of things to come for the Japanese.

Midway was to seal this doom!

By May 1942, the Japanese had advanced across the Pacific, capturing key bases as far south as Lae on New Guinea. May 3rd saw them land at Tulagito establish a seaplane base, with which to patrol the eastern part of the Coral Sea.

The major plan though, was to land a large invasion force at Port Moresby. From there, Japanese planes could control New Guinea completely and Australia would be within striking distance. Troops and transports assembled at Rabaul.

The light carrier *Shoho* and the seaplane tender *Kamikawa* were sent to support the invasion, while the carriers *Shokaku* and *Zuikaku* patrolled the east, in case American carriers appeared. A carrier strike had raided Australia in February and met little resistance, leaving the Japanese confident of success.

What the Japanese didn't know was that the Americans had been intercepting and decoding Japanese messages, and were totally aware of their plans. Carriers *Lexington* and *Yorktown* were sent to meet the invasion.

The morning of May 4th opened with a mini-Pearl Harbor at Tulagi as the *Yorktown*'s planes surprised the base. The attack did tremendous damage to the transports and equipment there, but also alerted the Japanese that American carriers were in the area.

The Japanese carriers streaked toward the scene while the transports, having left Rabaul waited at sea for the results, but May 5th and 6th passed with no sightings by either side. On May 7th, both sides found each other and planes were launched. American planes, looking for the big carriers, found the *Shoho* instead. Under tremendous punishment, she sunk in less than a half an hour.

The Japanese strike, meanwhile, could not find the American carriers, and sunk only two minor vessels. Other strikes were launched by both sides but none found the other's carriers. May 8th brought sightings by both sides once again, and more strikes.

The American planes concentrated on the *Shokaku* and inflicted severe damage, but she refused to go down. The Japanese planes finally found their targets and the *Lexington* joined the *Shoho* at the bottom of the Coral Sea.

Both sides withdrew, battered but each claiming victory. The transports turned back to Rabaul, the invasion had been stopped, but the Americans had lost one of their handful of carriers while only sinking a light carrier in return. The first battle had ended in a tactical Japanese victory, but the Coral Sea would claim many more ships and men in the coming years.

A month after the battle of the Coral Sea, the Americans avenged the loss of the *Lexington*, as four Japanese carriers were sunk at Midway. The Japanese advance across the Pacific was slowed.

In the South Pacific though, they were still on the move. In July, construction began on an airfield at Guadalcanal, and on New Guinea Japanese troops captured Buna, southeast of Lae. The Americans reacted quickly, marines invading Guadalcanal and seizing the unfinished airfield. It was named Henderson Field after a Midway hero.

Japanese reaction was likewise as swift, as wave after wave of planes from Rabaul attacked the field, and the Allied support ships. Japanese aerial losses were high and seemingly in vain. Each night, engineers repaired the damage done during the day. The Japanese turned their focus again to New Guinea, and Guadalcanal became a secondary objective.

A large force was sent south over the Stanley Mountains in another attempt to take Port Moresby. Transports were sent to Gili-Gili in an effort to capture a newly built Australian base there, and a large carrier force, including the newly repaired *Shokaku* and *Zuikaku*, was dispatched to meet the expected American reaction. Other transports were also sent to reinforce and supply the remnants of the force on Guadalcanal.

August 24th opened with both carrier forces sighting each other early in the day. The Japanese plan was to use the *CVL Ryujo* and its escorts to draw off the main American attack, while planes from the *Shokaku* and *Zuikaku* attacked the American CVs. The plan seemed to be working as American planes did attack the *Ryujo*, never sighting the main fleet.

The *Ryujo* was slaughtered. Japanese planes, however, were met by tremendous CAP and AA fire and only managed to inflict minor damage on the *Enterprise*, while losing an incredible number of aircraft and pilots. Other strikes failed to make contact, and both sides withdrew late in the day. A small group of planes did find the Japanese tender *Chitose* and it joined the *Ryujo* at the bottom of the sea.

At about the same time, Australian troops had ended the New Guinea expansion by pushing Japanese troops

(continues on Page 10)

The Coral Sea Battles (continued from Page 9)

across the Stanley Mountains, while Australian planes repulsed the landings at Milne Bay. The troops landed on Guadalcanal met heavy resistance and though the fighting continued, the Americans held onto Henderson Field. Round Two in the Coral Sea had gone to the Allies.

From August to October 1942, a heavyweight bout was fought between the Japanese Tokyo Express and the American Cactus Air Force on and around Guadalcanal. By night, the Japanese ran supplies down The Slot to their troops. By day, the Americans covered the unloading of Allied supplies. The situation seemed stalemated, though the intense fighting continued.

At sea, Japanese submarines sunk the *Wasp* and damaged the *Saratoga*, severely reducing American air-power. American ships did manage a victory at Cape Esperance but the victory was bittersweet. The Japanese committed battleships to the conflict for the first time.

On October 15th, *BBS Kongo* and *Haruno* shelled Henderson Field and set the pattern for the weeks to come. The Japanese, feeling the advantage had shifted to their side, set October 23rd as Y-Day, an all out attempt to take Guadalcanal.

The battleships lobbed in over 1000 rounds night after night in preparation for the invasion, but the Americans would not be shaken. Y-Day was put back day after day.

To the north, the Japanese carrier fleet sat waiting patiently to move in, after the capture of the field, confident that American CV strength was minimal. Meanwhile, a more than minimal American force including the *Hornet* and a repaired *Enterprise* made a bold move, flanking Guadalcanal to the east, in an attempt to surprise the Japanese force.

The surprise failed as Japanese scouts found the *Enterprise* early on the morning of October 25th. Fortunately, American scouts had also spotted their quarry. In fact, two Dauntless dive bombers attacked the *Zuiho* and put her out of action.

A strong Japanese strike bit into the *Hornet*, inflicting great damage but losing many planes. The American strike did little damage while sustaining light losses. Strike two hit the *Hornet* again but she refused to go down. The *Enterprise* was also hit, but again Japanese aircraft losses were very high. The *Hornet* had to be scuttled, though it was still afloat when the Japanese returned to finish the job. The Americans retired.

The Japanese had won round three, but lost the war. The tremendous cost exacted in planes and pilots would lead to the eventual defeat of the Imperial Japanese Navy. Few of the pilots who had flown at Pearl Harbor were still alive. On Guadalcanal, the fighting continued but the Americans and the Cactus Air Force were in control.

Source: *The General* magazine Vol. 15, No.5, 1979

Pace's Points

by Tom Moore

Secretary of the Army Frank Pace's (April 1950–January 1953) main challenges during the Korean War centred on U.S. manpower problems, caused by remobilization, inequities in the selective service system, and the need to keep forces in reserve, in case of a crisis outside of the Korean War. In 1951, Mr. Pace instituted the point-based troop rotation system that allowed U.S. Army troops to rotate from Korea, back to the United States.

The system tried to take into account the nature of individual service when determining eligibility for rotation from Korea to the United States. According to this system, a soldier earned 4 points for every month he served in close combat, 2 points per month for rear-echelon duty in Korea, and 1 point for duty elsewhere in the Far East. Later, an additional category, divisional reserve status, was established at a rate of three points per month.

The Army initially stated that enlisted men needed to earn 43 points to be eligible for rotation back to the states, while officers required 55 points. In June 1952, the Army reduced the requirements to 36 points for enlisted men and 37 points for officers. Earning the required number of points did not guarantee instant rotation (we all know the military). It only meant that the soldier in question was eligible to go home.

Captain John F. Fitzpatrick, an infantry officer and WWII Veteran, was checking out at the 7th Division Rotation Centre, when an astounded clerk who was checking him out noted that the captain's card listed 99 points. The captain actually had more points than that. The IBM machine was preset for only two digits. Captain Fitzpatrick, age 29, was heading home with what was believed the highest total of rotation points – 129 – ever amassed by a U.S. soldier in Korea.

The point system helped the soldiers' spirits. It gave him a definite goal in an otherwise indefinite, seemingly goalless, war. The system also boosted the spirits of family back home. It rotated approximately 20,000 to 30,000 soldiers back home a month.

The point system put a strain on the Army's personnel and training systems, and many in the military believed it caused a loss in combat proficiency, by reducing combat experience. In our free nation, there was a point system. In the communist armies, victory or death, were the only ways home.

Source: *The Graybeards*, Vol.27, No.6, Nov.-Dec. 2012

Truscott

Following the initial reverses in the months which followed the Japanese attack On Pearl Harbour in December 1941, the tide slowly turned against the enemy. By early 1943 the Allies had forced the Japanese onto the defensive in the South West Pacific, with the islands to the east of the Dutch East Indies (now Indonesia) in our hands.

The air offensive against Japanese installations in the islands of Timor, Java, Sumatra, Borneo and the Celebes was conducted from bases sited well back from the northern coastline of Australia. The airfields at Corunna Downs (12 miles south east of Port Hedland) and Exmouth were 600 to 800 nautical miles from the northern coast, thus reducing the effective range of the missions. A forward staging airfield at Drysdale had been used but it was unsuitable for the operation of heavy bombers such as the B-24 Liberators of the united States Army Air Force and the RAAF.

By the middle of 1943 a site had been surveyed for an alternative location, and by the end of the year approval had been given to construct an airstrip on the Anjo Peninsula (in the far north Kimberley Region of W.A., approx. 500km west-southwest of Darwin and 600km northeast of Broome) with a length of 2100km, together with dispersal areas for 18 heavy bomber aircraft and minimum facilities for a base unit of about 300 personnel. The site was chosen because it is the point on the Australian mainland closest to Java, where Japanese forces were concentrated.

The airfield was constructed by the RAAF Airfield Construction Unit as a Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) base and became operational in mid-1944. The airfield, named Truscott after Australian air ace, Keith "Bluey" Truscott, who had been killed in a training accident in 1943.

From then until the end of the war it provided staging facilities for heavy and medium bombers (mostly B-24 Liberators and B-25 Mitchells), as well as minelaying sorties and SAR missions using Catalina flying boats. Spitfire aircraft were the most common fighter rotated through the base for local air defence, and proved their worth when on 20 July 1944 a Japanese Mitsubishi Ki-46-II "Dinah" aircraft, piloted by Lt. Kiyoshi Izuka with his observer Lt. Hisao Itoh was shot down, killing both crew members.

Accidents rather than Japanese counter-attacks took the lives of a number of base personnel during its active service. On 16 November 1944, two Spitfires from No. 549 Squadron RAF collided while changing formation in preparation for landing at the base. Warrant Officer Bushell, pilot of Spitfire A58-364, managed to parachute to safety; but W/O Posse, pilot of A58-300 died in the crash. Remnants of both aircraft still exist near the present airstrip.

On 23 March 1945, Liberator A72-80, under the command of Squadron Leader N. H. Straus, crashed shortly after takeoff. Straus found that the plane was unable to climb above about 400ft (120m), and turned around at Parry Harbour. He was unable to see the runway, and the aircraft crashed into the sea about one kilometre short of Truscott, killing all on board (11 crew, and one passenger).

Finally, On 20 May 1945, Liberator A72-160, on a mission to Balikpapan and piloted by Flight Lieutenant F. L. Sismey, crashed soon after take off, near the north west end of the runway. The aircraft was destroyed by its depth charges exploding. All 11 crew members were killed.

When peace was declared it became a staging post for supply missions into the Dutch East Indies and the repatriation of civilian internees and prisoners of war. After this, the base, which had cost about \$800,000 at 1944 prices was virtually abandoned.

But not forever.

The Kimberley Region is rich in natural resources and, although exploitation of the region started slowly, it did eventually start. Today, Mungalalu Truscott is the largest all weather airbase in the region. The runway is 1,800m × 30m with turning nodes, ramps and taxiways. There are two hangars, two additional covered storage hangars, a well equipped medical facility, camp accommodation with individual rooms, and facilities include a shared mess, swimming pool and gymnasium. The airbase has multiple roles, but primarily that of a staging base for workers on the offshore oil and gas fields in the Timor Sea.

However, its WWII heritage has not been neglected. Truscott Base has been classified and entered into the Council of the National Trust of Australia (WA) list of Heritage Places due to its significance during World War II and the remaining artefacts.

Sources: *Navy News* 11 September 1995 and *Wikipedia*

Tinker, Tailor, Soldier...Mole

The word 'mole' for a long-term agent who burrows into a rival intelligence agency was devised by British thriller writer and former MI6 officer John Le Carré (real name David Cornwell). He coined the term in 1974 in his spy novel *Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy* – and the word was later adopted by real spies.

Source: *Book of Facts*, Reader's Digest (Aust.) Pty. Ltd., 1994

The Long Years of Peace

The Royal Australian Navy After the end of the Vietnam War and into the 2000s.

With the end of the war in Vietnam, the RAN entered the longest single period of peace in its history. Throughout the 1970s and 1980s the Navy maintained a cycle of regular international exercises and deployments. Though not engaged in combat operations, the Navy became committed to a number of international operations. These included peace-keeping in the Middle East, disaster relief in the South Pacific and aiding in the rescue of Indo-Chinese boat people.

In Australia, the RAN played a significant role in the relief of Darwin after Cyclone Tracy devastated the city in 1974. A naval task force of 13 ships was deployed to the city. The fleet carried hundreds of tons of urgently needed relief supplies and equipment. Just as important as the supplies were the more than 1000 sailors. These personnel provided a significant-trained workforce that was independent of the city's devastated support structure.

After almost 20 years, the Navy was once again preparing for war. Following the August 2 1990 invasion of Kuwait by Iraq, the United Nations' Security Council imposed sanctions and passed resolutions calling for the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait.

In support of United Nations sanctions. Australia deployed a self-contained task force to the region. HMA Ships *Adelaide*, *Darwin* and *Success* departed Australia in mid-August. The frigates conducted operations as part of the international maritime interdiction force intercepting and examining merchant ships in the region. In early December, *Brisbane* and *Sydney* replaced the frigates. On January 16, 1991, the deadline for the withdrawal of Iraqi forces passed and Operation Desert Storm started. The Australian ships, with their surface-to-air missile systems and close-in weapons systems, formed an important part of the force screening the aircraft carriers in the Persian Gulf.

The underway replenishment ship, *Success*, helped sustain the force by conducting replenishment operations with coalition ships. *Westralia* relieved *Success* on January 26, 1991. As well as the ships, the RAN committed a clearance diving team and contributed to a joint services medical team. After the Gulf War, naval personnel served as part of the United Nations weapons inspection teams and RAN ships continued to be deployed to the region in support of United Nations sanctions for many years and in 2001, another frigate was on station in the Gulf.

Throughout the 1990s, the RAN was extensively involved in peace-keeping operations. *HMAS Tobruk* and *HMAS Jervis Bay* deployed to Somalia to support Australian troops. *Tobruk* and *Success* were involved in the peace talks in an attempt to resolve the civil dispute on Bougainville.

A peace agreement was eventually signed onboard *Tobruk* in 1998. After the initial agreement, RAN ships and personnel were also deployed to Bougainville to support and enhance the peace agreement.

During the 1990s, Navy personnel were also deployed in support of peace-keeping and humanitarian operations to Cambodia, Rwanda, New Guinea and the Solomon Islands.

The largest and most complex peacetime operation undertaken by the Navy occurred in September 1999 when a naval task force arrived off Dili prior to the deployment of the Australian led International Force East Timor (INTERFET). As the soldiers arrived in East Timor, a wall of friendly grey warships greeted them. These ships not only ensured the security of the initial deployment but also provided for the logistic support of the force.

In anticipation of the requirement to provide rapid seaborne lift, the RAN leased a high-speed catamaran and commissioned her as *HMAS Jervis Bay*. This vessel and her crew played a significant role, not only in support of INTERFET, but also United Nations forces and in humanitarian work with refugees. The Navy's contribution was not just limited to warships and sealift, with personnel serving in medical teams, conducting hydrographic work and in ordnance disposal.

Source: *Navy News* 15 October 2001

Medals on the Left Side

With few exceptions, medals are worn on the left breast. Today, this regulation aims, first, at uniformity and trimness. Obviously the fact that this military tradition is observed by the armies of every nation, points to a common origin. This can be traced to the days of the Crusaders. They treasured the emblem of the Order in whose name they fought and, therefore, wore it nearest the heart. Practical considerations also influenced the choice of position. The left arm carried the fighter's shield which thus guarded the heart and left the right arm free to wield a weapon. To protect the badge of honour, this was placed behind the shield – on the left side of the soldier.

Source: *How Did It Begin?* by Rudolph Brasch, Angus & Robertson 1993

Old...

Old photographers never die, they just stop developing.

Old pilots never die, they just go to a higher plane.

Old plumbers never die, they just go down the drain.

Old policemen never die, they just cop out.

Old quilters never die, they just go under cover.

Old salesmen never die, they just go out of commission.

Old sculptors never die, they just lose their marbles.

Old sewage workers never die, they just waste away.

Old shoes makers never die, they just lose their sole.

Old soldiers never die, young ones do.

Old swimmers never die, they just have a stroke.

Old tanners never die, they just go into hiding.

Old teachers never die, they just lose their class.

Old trombonists never die, they just slide away.

Old violinists never die, they just become unstrung.

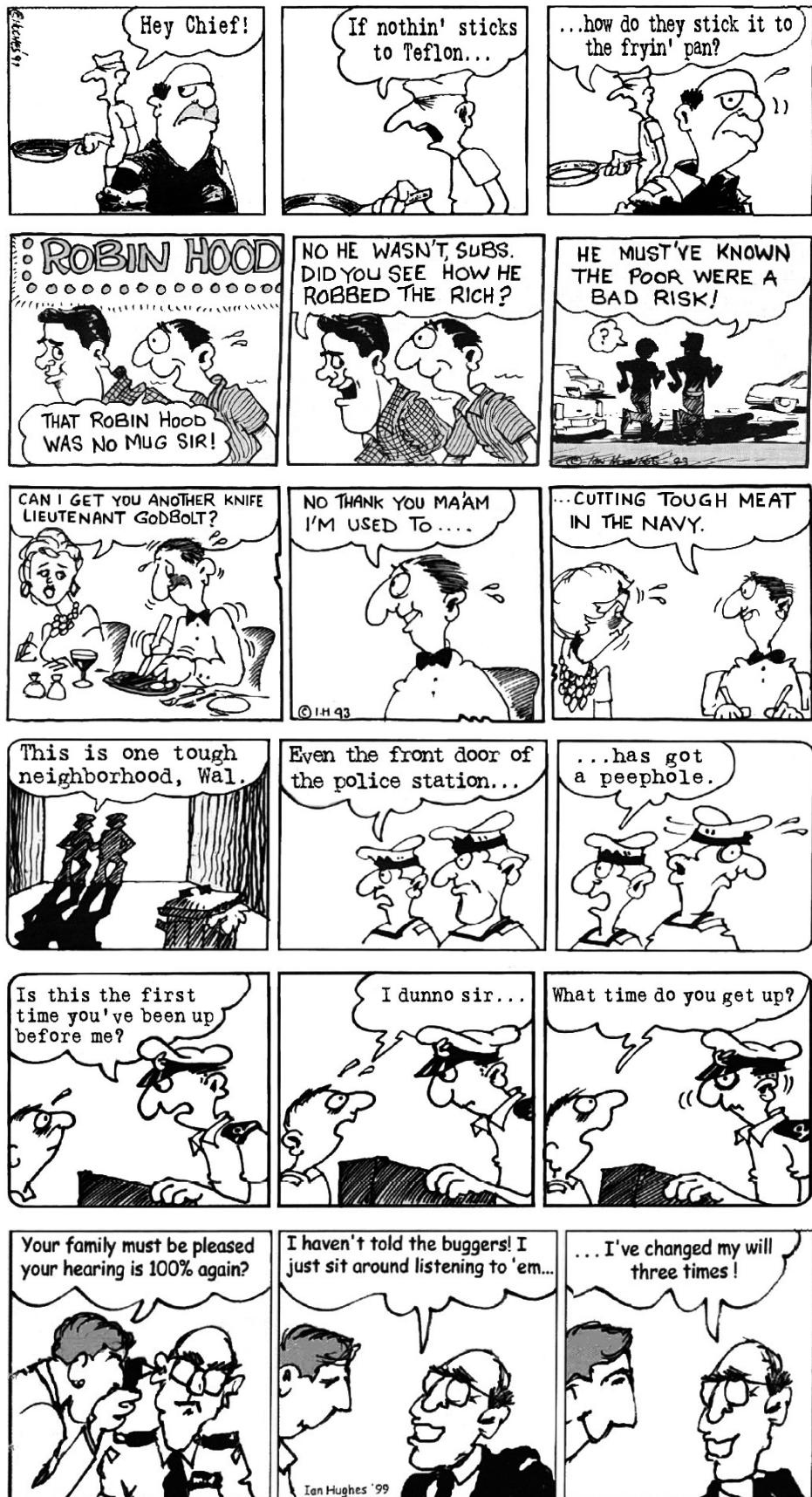
Old watchmakers never die, they just unwind.

Old wrestlers never die, they just lose their grip.

Old yachtsmen never die, they just keel over.

HMAS Wort by Ian Hughes

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



Sometimes when I reflect back on all the beer I drink I feel ashamed. Then I look into the glass and think about the workers in the brewery and all of their hopes and dreams. If I didn't drink this beer, they might be out of work and their dreams would be shattered. Then I think to myself: It is better that I drink this beer and let their dreams come true, than be selfish and worry about my liver.

Two friends were having lunch one afternoon and one said to the other, "I just don't understand, as soon as anybody finds out I'm a lawyer, they take an instant dislike to me." Her friend replies, "Maybe they figure it just saves time."

Out & About

Waurn Ponds Centenary Memorial Service

Waurn Ponds Memorial Reserve, Sunday 7 July 2019



Memorial Church Service

Korean Church of Melbourne
Malvern Sunday 23 June 2019



Korean War Ceasefire Service

Korean War Memorial, London, England, Friday 26th July 2019



Brooke Morris, aged 8, from Deal, Kent, at the Cease Fire Service at the Korean War Memorial on Friday 26th July, there to lay a wreath in memory of her great-grandfather who was a prisoner of war in the Far East during WW2 and then served with the Gloucester Regiment in Korea.

Farewells

Harold H. Harman, 32370, 3RAR on 3 Nov. 2018

Ivan Ryan, 33424, Royal Australian Ordnance Corps
& the British Commonwealth Salvage
and Disposal Unit, on 10 June 2019

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