



THE VOICE

February 2020 Edition

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Editor's Opening

With the Annual General Meeting on Wednesday the 25th March looming, may I draw you attention to Page 14 and the nomination form there. For information on why paying attention to this is important see every February issue of *The Voice* for the last ten years. Also December 2018, page 8.

The following arrived too late for December's *Voice*; however, as it is a continuing service I think it is worth publishing, albeit too late for the Korean War service. For more information about what is being discussed go to <https://www.shrine.org.au/Remembrance/Services>

A Message From Naias Mingo

Director Visitor Experience
Shrine of Remembrance
10 December 2019

We have introduced a new, weekly Last Post Service, where we commemorate a different event, anniversary or battle each week and invite a Veteran to attend to lay a wreath and recite the Ode. The service has been running for five weeks now and we've had excellent attendance with between 150 and 250 visitors at each service. The Last Post Service takes place every Sunday at 4.45pm. The format is a wreath laying at the Eternal Flame followed by the lowering of the flags by the Shrine Guard at 5pm and includes a live piper and bugler. It is a poignant and moving service. I have attached some images for you. We will be commemorating the 62nd anniversary of when the last Australian servicemen left Korea on 8 January 1958 at our Last Post Service on the 12 January 2020. Would one of your Association members be available to take part as the Veteran representative? Their role will be to lay a wreath and recite the Ode. We provide the wreath. I have attached some information for you but if you have any questions please just get in touch.

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A Soldier's Story

Korea Remembered, 60 Years Later (2012)

by Charles S. Douglas

Part One

I was on a new York city subway on a hot summer day in 1950 when I noticed the person next to me reading the headlines in the New York Daily News: "North Korea Invades South Korea." My first reaction was "so what" – and where the hell is Korea?

Little did I realize what a major impact the place called Korea would have on my life. At the time I was home in New York between my junior and senior years at Georgia Tech. At Georgia Tech and many other schools it was mandatory to take ROTC (Reserve Officers Training Corp.) in your Freshman & Sophomore year.

Advanced ROTC for the junior and senior years was optional. This meant you would graduate as a 2nd Lieutenant, and if you were called to active duty you would serve for two years. But, we figured that after WWII the chances of our being involved in a war were nonexistent.

My varsity football friends encouraged me to take Advanced ROTC. The instructors were Colonel White and Major Burdett, both WWII combat veterans who had served in the infantry. They were good guys, and just about everybody got an A. That was good for the grade point average.

Upon graduation in May of 1951, it became evident to me that I would soon be headed off to Korea. By this time the United States and other United Nations troops were heavily involved in defending the small peninsula called South Korea.

I was called to active duty in September of 1951, and sent immediately to The Officer Infantry Training school at Fort Benning, Georgia. The clock was started, two years to go.

After four months of intense training, I fully expected to be shipped out to Korea. That didn't happen, I was transferred to Ft. Dix, New Jersey, as an instructor for the light machine gun. I spent at least seven months at Ft. Dix while the war was intensifying.

With almost a year of active duty under my belt, and one to go, things weren't looking too bad. The closest thing to combat that I had experienced at this point was to escort a KIA (killed in action) soldier to his family in New Jersey.

My orders were to report to the Brooklyn Navy Yard to receive a casket containing the remains of a warrant officer who had been killed in Korea. I went by train to a small town in New Jersey, where a funeral director met me. I presented the flag to the young soldier's widow and parents.

His wife insisted that the coffin be opened to make positive identification, which it was. That

small gesture put her at peace with the knowledge that the body was in fact her husband.

Well, my time came. I received my orders and I was on my way to Korea. At this time my relationship with my girl friend, Glenda, was serious enough so that we both knew that if I made it home we probably would spend a lifetime together. I arrived in Japan sometime in August of 1952 via a flight from New York to Seattle to Anchorage, Alaska and eventually Tokyo.

The United Nations had strong reasons to believe that the Chinese communists who had entered the war were going to resort to CBR (chemical, biological, radiological) warfare. The Army felt that intense training in CBR was necessary for its personnel. Consequently, the next two months were spent in school in Japan in that endeavour. The clock was running; there was a little less than a year to go on my commitment.

Showtime arrived. There were no more schools or training for me. The moment of truth had arrived. I was loaded on board a huge C-125 cargo plane along with 200 other infantry soldiers fully equipped and combat ready with jeeps and support equipment. We were over the Sea of Japan headed for Seoul, Korea.

The C-125 is a four-engine propeller-driven aircraft. Shortly into our flight we lost one engine. We were reassured that even though we were losing torque, we still had three engines, more than enough to reach Korea. I remembered from my college days that torque has to do with rotation, so this didn't sound very good. Within moments we lost engines two and three. It was officially panic time.

Our pilot headed back to Japan, but we were told that we were going down in the ocean. We received the order to put on life jackets. My first thought was, "My God! All that training and I'm going to drown in the ocean before I hear a shot fired in combat." But, the pilot had a change of mind. He headed for the coast, where he spotted an old Japanese small airstrip used in WWII for Zero fighter planes.

His strategy was simple: try a crash landing on the strip. We were coming down fast. The plane made contact with the pavement. Its nose went down and the C-125 tilted into a 45 degree angle, ripping up the concrete as we slid down the strip. Miraculously, there was no fire or explosion, and only minor injuries.

We trucked back to Tokyo and started all over. This time we made it to Korea without incident.

(continued next issue)

The Importance of Sleep

Lack of sleep is linked to high cholesterol, obesity and depression. Now researchers say it can damage your brain. Researchers from RMIT and University of Iceland are examining how sleep disorders could damage the brain. Two leading European researchers in sleep and respiratory disorders have joined RMIT University in a collaborative study to investigate links between Alzheimer's disease and obstructive sleep apnoea (OSA).

Professor Thorarinn Gislason and Professor Bryndís Benediktsdóttir, a husband and wife team from the University of Iceland, have given RMIT access to their samples of brain tissue from people who died from OSA – believed to be the only collection of its kind in the world.

The high-profile duo will be based at the Bundoora campus during February where they are working with Professor Stephen Robinson from the School of Health Sciences on the long-term project.

“Recent literature indicates that the incidence of sleep apnoea may be up around the 80% mark in patients with Alzheimer's disease, although in many cases, it is undiagnosed and untreated,” Professor Robinson, Deputy Head of School (Research and Innovation), said. “We are looking for evidence that OSA might cause Alzheimer's disease-like changes in the brain.”

Obstructive sleep apnoea is a dangerous – and sometimes fatal – sleep disorder which causes the soft tissue in the back of the throat to collapse throughout the night, blocking airways and cutting air supply. Sufferers can stop breathing for up to 30 seconds while they are sleeping and they often wake gasping for air.

It is believed that one in five people have some degree of the disorder. Yet many are unaware they suffer – blaming poor quality sleep for leaving them tired, irritable and depressed.

“Official estimates put the figure at about five per cent of the population but some researchers are saying that it's grossly underestimated and the incidence is really between 10% and 20%, particularly in midlife,” Professor Robinson said.

Recent research shows that sleep apnoea can cause far more serious problems beyond daily difficulties with focus, attention and grumpiness that comes with lack of sleep.

Professor Robinson said that untreated sleep apnoea was also a big contributor to diabetes, hypertension and cardiovascular disease – significantly increasing risk of heart attack and stroke.

“The indications are that if you have OSA in midlife you have a higher chance of developing Alzheimer's disease in later life and we are trying to understand why that is,” he said.

As part of the collaborative study, the team will build on the samples from 60 patients already available, to closely look at how the sleep disorder can damage the brain and accelerate the degenerative process.

It is hoped the long-term project will grow to include samples from several hundred patients.

While it has long been believed that obesity is the major contributing factor in developing OSA, Professor Robinson said OSA affected people of all ages. People over 50 are more likely to develop the condition but it can occur in children with developmental disorders, with about 80% of children with Down Syndrome being affected. It also affects twice as many men than women.

Research also links OSA to night sweats, insomnia, restless legs syndrome, bruxism (teeth grinding), nocturnal gastro-oesophageal reflux and asthma-like symptoms.

Source: *RMIT 2017*

Props Over Jets

It's something akin to bringing a knife to a gunfight and winning. Fighter pilots are a unique breed, but among them there exists an even smaller and more exclusive sub-group: those who've shot down a jet fighter while flying a propeller-driven plane. The first time that was done was on 5 October 1944, the downed plane being a Messerschmitt 262, which was heroically jumped by five Spitfire IXS prop fighters of 401 Squadron, Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF). All five pilots received credit for the kill. Not to take anything away from their achievement, but aerial victories of props over jets were often achieved by loitering over German airfields and attacking the jets while they were taking off or landing, a tactic known as “rat catching” or as the British called it, a “rat scramble.”

Source: *Strategy & Tactics* magazine No. 268 May-June 2011

Win Gold. Avoid Gun.

The South Korean government enacted the Conscription Law in 1965, ordering all males between the ages of 18 and 35 to serve in the South Korean armed forces. Service length varies for its four branches, with Army and Marine Corps service lasting 21 months, while Navy service is 23 months, and Air Force service is 24 months. However, any South Korean male who wins an Olympic medal or a gold medal in the Asian Games avoids the mandatory two-year military service. In 2012 the entire South Korean soccer team was exempted from service after winning a bronze medal in the Summer Olympics.

The Wake Island Conference

President Truman and General Douglas McArthur meet face to face

by Tom Moore

Wake Island is a “V-shaped” group of three islets, 2,300 miles from Honolulu, and 2,000 miles from Tokyo. Wake proper is the body of the “V” and Wilkes and Peale are the two tips. Wake has a land mass of 2,600 acres of sand and coral, which rises no more than 21 feet above sea level. Its average temperature is 85°. The Island is under the jurisdiction of the Civil Aeronautics Administration (CAA).

Wake Island was originally named San Francisco in 1586 by a Spanish explorer, Alvara de Mendana. It was named Wake Atoll, by Captain Wake, the master of a British trading schooner in 1798. A territorial claim was not made on the barren atoll until December 1840, when Charles Wilkes, of the U.S. Navy, explored and took possession in the name of the United States. Wake was occupied by the Japanese from December 23, 1941 until the end of WWII.

In 1950, there were only a few Quonset huts and utility buildings, which housed the CAA and Pan American World Airlines employees. Most supplies (including water) were shipped in by air. Like Korea, Wake Island is a place that was away, far away...

Today, a plaque marks the location of the Truman-MacArthur meeting on Wake Island, in the old terminal facility, south of the Wake airstrip. Many Americans mistakenly believe that this is the spot where President Truman fired General MacArthur. The firing was done in April 1951.

President Truman visited Wake Island in October 1950, to confer with General Douglas MacArthur, Commander-in-Chief of United Nations Forces in Korea. General MacArthur and the U.N. forces had just secured a stunning victory, landing at Inchon, reclaiming the Republic of Korea (ROK) capital, Seoul, and securing South Korea from Communist hands. Shortly there after, President Truman and his advisors determined that it would be beneficial to meet with General MacArthur, in order to discuss achieving a “political victory” in Korea.

On 9th October 1950, President Truman sent a message to General MacArthur expressing his desire to confer with the General. The President had suggested the meeting be in Honolulu, and the General requested the meeting be at Wake Island, closer to his GHQ in Tokyo. Less than two days later on October 11th, President Truman was on his way to Wake Island, some 7,000 miles from Washington, D.C. Wake Island was selected as the site of the meeting because it was private, yet accessible, and would not require General MacArthur to be too far from the front at a crucial period in the Korean War.

On October 10th, President Truman at a staff meeting informed his secretary, Charles G. Ross, to call the newspaper reporters into his office for the President’s statement on the General MacArthur meeting. Among other things, the statement said:

When I see the General I shall express the appreciation and gratitude of the people and government of the United States, for the great service which he is rendering to world peace. I shall discuss with him the final phase of United Nations action in Korea. In this phase, the United Nations Command will be working closely with the United Nations Commission, which has just been created by the General Assembly and given heavy responsibilities for the establishment of a “unified,” independent, and democratic Korea. Naturally, I shall take advantage of this opportunity, to discuss with General MacArthur other matters within his responsibility.

President Truman’s trip to Wake Island, was from October 11-18, 1950. The President’s aircraft, “The Independence” flight records shows the plane and accompanying aircraft left Washington, D.C. , stopped at St. Louis, Missouri, Fairfield Suisun AFB, Hickam AFB, and then Wake Island. The total miles flown was 14,503, the total flying time was 54 hours.

In the President’s Party, were: The President; Secretary of the U.S. Army, Frank Pace Jr.; Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, General of the Army, Omar N. Bradley; Assistant Secretary of State for Far Eastern Affairs, Dean Rusk; Commander in Chief, Pacific, Admiral Arthur W. Radford, USN; Special Assistant, William A. Harriman; a myriad of other high-level civilian and military officials; a Secret Service detail of 26, and a press party of 38.

The U.S. Navy Pacific Fleet set up an ocean-wide search and rescue organization, from San Francisco to Hawaii. There were seven ships, the USN ships *Carpenter*, *Perkins*, *Rogers*, *Cabazon*, and the Coast Guard cutters, *Iroquois*, *Escanaba* and *Wachusett*. The USAF escorted the flight with B-17 and B-29 aircraft.

As the aircraft crossed the 180th meridian (the International Date Line) it was Sunday, October 15th, 1950, East Meridian time, the aircraft were flying at an average altitude of 18,000 feet. The press plane landed at Wake Island at 4:30am (Wake Island Time). The press correspondents and photographers, along with a number

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The Wake Island Conference (continued from Page 5)

of Secret Service agents, were escorted to the Pan American World Airways building, where a portion of the building had been set aside as press headquarters. There was also a mess hall set up there.

The Independence put down at the Civil Aeronautics Administration Air Terminal on Wake Island at 6:30am. As President Truman alighted from the plane, he was met by General MacArthur, his staff, and John J. Muccio, American Ambassador to the Republic of Korea.

General MacArthur strode to the foot of the landing ramp and, with hand out stretched, greeted President Truman. The President shook hands and remarked, "How are you, General? I'm glad you are here." There were no military honours or ceremony. General MacArthur and the officers of his staff were all tie-less in open-throated khaki shirts.

General MacArthur and his retinue had departed Haneda AFB, Tokyo, on Saturday, October 14th, 1950, at 7:06 AM (Tokyo Time) and arrived at Wake Island at 6:10 PM (Wake Island Time), the same date. Upon disembarking, General MacArthur and his party were billeted in the Quonset living quarters of Mr. Raymond Jeffcott, Wake Island Maintenance Manager for the CAA.

Following the exchange of greetings, President Truman and General MacArthur entered a black 1947 Chevrolet two-door sedan (owned by the CAA, and the only passenger-car on the island) and proceeded to the Jeffcott Quonset, where they conferred in private for approximately one hour.

In the meantime, the members of the President's Party and the General's Staff left the airfield and proceeded by bus to the conference building, where they awaited the arrival of the President and the General. The building used for the conference was a one-story flat type structure, located at the tip of the island, off the main runway and painted a pinkish coral colour. For the conference, a long oblong-shaped table was made by pushing five small folding tables together.

The President and the General motored about a mile to the conference building, and the conference began at 7:45am. Along with the President and General MacArthur were Secretary of the Army, Frank Pace; General Omar Bradley; Dean Rusk; Ambassador Phillip C. Jessup; Secretary to the President, Charles G. Ross; Special Counsel to the President, Charles S. Murphy; Ambassador Muccio; General Whitney and Special Assistant Harriman.

Eleven men at the oblong-shaped table. No press; no recordings.

The conference concluded shortly after 9:00am. Staff members were to continue until 12:00 o'clock.

General MacArthur told the president he was anxious to get back to Tokyo as soon as possible, that he would like to leave before luncheon.

At 9:15am, the President left the conference building for the Quonset living quarters, resting for about 90 minutes in the hut of Mr. E. E. Swafford, Pan American World Airlines Manager on Wake Island. At 10:45 AM, General MacArthur and his staff joined the president at the Swafford Quonset. The President and the General examined a meeting communique, approved it, and it was passed on for distribution to the press.

It stated they talked about problems in Korea, the steps necessary to bring peace and the problems of peaceful reconstruction of Korea. The President said the General told him the rail line from Incheon to Sunwon was open to rail traffic, in less than ten days after the Incheon landing; that the power and water supply in Seoul were re-established within a week after the re-entry into the capital and that bridge and highway reconstruction in Korea is progressing rapidly. General MacArthur also explained his views on the future of Japan. On all of these matters, the President explained, he found our talks most helpful, and I am very glad to have had this chance to discuss them with one of America's great soldier-statesmen, who is also serving in the unique position of the first Commander-in-Chief of United Nations Peace Forces.

Very shortly, after the release of the communique, President Truman and General MacArthur left the Swafford Quonset and motored to the air terminal. While at the air terminal, President Truman awarded General MacArthur a fourth oak leaf cluster, for his Distinguished Service Medal. Then the President awarded Ambassador Muccio the Medal for Merit. The President then bade General MacArthur and his party good-bye and boarded the Independence for the return flight to Hawaii which left at 11:40am.

Members of the press party remained behind until their stories had been filed. Their aircraft departed Wake at 2:00 PM for Hawaii.

General MacArthur and his party left right after the president's plane departed. The General landed at Haneda AFB at 3:59 PM (Tokyo Time).

On October 30, 1950, General MacArthur wrote to President Truman: "I left the Wake Island Conference with a distinct sense of satisfaction, that the country's interests had been well served, through the better mutual understanding and exchange of views which it afforded. I hope it will result in building a strong

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One Day at a Time

by Vincent J. Speranza

I was a happy kid. I grew up in a closeknit family in the Bronx. My father was an engineer; he worked on the gyroscopes that were put into ships and planes. He always spoke to me in a way that I understood and never denied me anything. Even during World War II we always had meat on the table and gas in the car.

Because I was interested in flying, I started to build my own airplane. I built it out of spare wood in our basement. It wasn't a small plane; it was thirty-two feet long and I was planning to get an engine for it.

My plans for the future all changed at Christmas time in 1950 when I was ordered to White Hall Street in New York City for a pre-induction physical. Two weeks later, on January 1, 1951, I was officially a soldier in the United States Army.

The transition was not easy. The Korean War had started and everyone, including myself, suspected that we were headed for combat. It was difficult for me to adjust to the Army lifestyle, but I sucked it up and did what I was told.

I received much of my early training at Fort Devens, Massachusetts. I was assigned to heavy weapons and for the next five months I lived with mortars, machine guns, and artillery. There was constant excruciating noise. After some days of intense firing, I felt like I'd experienced several concussions.

I received orders to the Far Eastern Command. After a few days in Yokohama, Japan, I was assigned to a special school for medics and given extensive training on caring for men wounded in combat. Our mission was to keep seriously wounded men alive until they could be evacuated to field hospitals. In addition to caring for the seriously wounded, medics were responsible for keeping their men healthy and fit for combat even in the worst possible conditions.

In October of 1951, I was assigned to the MASH unit of the 35th regiment, 25th Division. I was farmed out to whatever units were headed for trouble; I knew there would be many casualties. In addition to caring for the wounded, the combat situation was so precarious that everyone had to lend a hand. There were many days when I had to trade in my medical supplies for a flame thrower, a Thompson, or whatever weapon the nearest sergeant handed me with the order, "Here, Doc; start shooting."

I thought that outgoing was loud, but for some reason incoming is much louder. It seemed like the explosions went on non-stop for days at a time. The fighting wasn't just at the front line; the North Koreans and Chinese were excellent at infiltrating, so it seems that no matter where you went in Korea, there was someone shooting at you.

We lived one day at a time on the line, so a bunker was just about the best cover we could get. We got one that was built out of trees that had been cut down and almost looked like a log cabin. It was about 15 X 20 feet with an entryway that was covered with a shelter half to keep the cold wind out. Inside was a homemade grill that we kept going most of the day and into the night.

The temperature would run 20-30 degrees below zero. We burned wood to keep warm. There was an old man who chopped wood for us with a wedge-shaped chisel. I gave him my bathing trunks; we also gave him K-rations to eat.

The floor was hard frozen ground. After placing the shelter half on the floor you would place your down sleeping bags with emergency snap zippers for a quick escape if needed.

Mornings came quite fast. We'd get up at the first sign of daybreak. Outside you'd make a fire under your helmet to melt snow for hot water. We'd use the hot water to shave and clean up, and then we'd chow down with K-rations or Assault-rations, whatever we had.

Around the bunker was some sort of homemade trench with high elevation for protection. Beyond that was another fortified trench for lookout and to observe the enemy. That's where we'd test our equipment – B.A.R.s, bazookas, flamethrowers. Beyond that point, approximately 50 to 100 yards, we'd set up trip-flares for the enemy. If any of those flares went off, you knew there was someone out there and we'd spray the area with lead so you'd know that anyone out there would be dead.

A few times I and the others had to go and check that area out. We'd find dead Chinese. You knew they were Chinese because they wore black, quilted outfits. I would make a body count and then report.

It was a joy to see the sun come up on the eastern horizon. I would just stare at that yellow dot to the east, knowing that the daylight would soon get warmer and warmer. After that, we would take our weapons, our B.A.R.s, carbines, M-1s, and fire them, maybe a half dozen rounds or so, to make sure they hadn't frozen overnight.

As a medic, I had to check my men and made the rounds to a couple of squads. Since I was a medic, I didn't have to stand guard. Medics were privileged. Guys were always calling, "Hey, doc, you were like Jesus on the line."

One day we were assigned two point men who led the way to an area we had to set up for a night ambush. It was a low-cut area, sort of a passageway

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One Day at a Time (continued from Page 7)

used both by us and the Chinese. We were assigned to set up trip flares. After about two or three hours we took a break and had some K-rations, just lying back and relaxing for a while. All of a sudden, about fifteen or twenty Chinese appeared and blocked our escape.

The sergeant told us to hold fast. They took our weapons and whatever they wanted. There were twelve of us, including a radio operator; they took his equipment and ordered us to walk. We walked for approximately one or two hours. We were separated and I was put in a rusty metal shack. The floor was frozen dirt. I think there were four or five men below me in a downstairs room. They gave me water and some black bread.

I'd been locked up for several days. At one point, I had to go relieve myself but the guard didn't understand me. Finally, he did and then pointed his rifle toward a box outside. I sat there for a long time, waiting. I looked around and after a while I saw no one around. So I started to walk away, and I still saw no one near me. I saw artillery flashing a mile or two away, and I decided to run toward that.

I ran for two or three hours until I felt like I was going to die. It was now dark and sometimes I thought they were following me. As I came over a hill I saw a large white star on the side of a tank.

I knew it was a U.S. tank. Yelling with all I had, I ran toward it. The Chinese had taken my uniform but the soldiers still recognized me. A half hour later a regimental jeep came and took me back to a holding area. I was taken to the mess hall; I was hungry and they fed me well.

A week later I was back on the line. When I told the men in the squad what had happened, they didn't believe me.

Three days later, during an enemy artillery barrage, I got hit in the right leg with shell fragments. The next day, with my broken leg in a cast, I was ordered to attend a parade to honour the 35th Regiment; everyone marched except me. I rode in a jeep with my cast sticking out the door at full attention.

I was evacuated to a Pusan hospital, where I was operated on. After a week, I was shipped to another hospital in Omiya, Japan. Following a period of recovery, I was sent back to the United States and discharged.

While some guys got their Purple Hearts soon after being wounded, I didn't get mine until much later. Because it had happened so many years ago, it reminded me that fate had given me several reprieves and I'd lived a life that had been denied to so many of my friends.

As a result of my training and time in heavy combat, my hearing was severely damaged by the time I came home. Over the years, I've been troubled by uncontrollable rage, depression, sleeplessness, terrible dreams, and flashbacks. It is impossible, for instance, to be out at night without the streetlights transporting my mind back to Korea where so much of the fighting was at night.

I've tried to put the past behind me, but the fact is that what happened in Korea changed my life permanently. The Vince Speranza who went to Korea never really came home.

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

The Wake Island Conference (continued from Page 6)

defence against future efforts of those who seek for one reason or another (none of them worthy) to breach the understanding between us."

Despite the understanding achieved between President Truman and General MacArthur on Wake Island, their agreement would be short lived. They would quickly regress into disagreement with each other, over policy in the Korean War, as we know, ultimately resulting in Truman's dismissal of MacArthur.

The two competing visions of Truman and MacArthur, as to how to respond to the threat of Communism and wage war in the nuclear age, is still reverberating, decades after the end of the Korean War.

Total war seemed no longer possible in a world in which other countries, including the Soviet Union, had the atomic bomb. Because of this, President Truman thought a war could not be totally won, without an all-out nuclear war with the Soviet Union, so Truman favoured a "limited war."

General MacArthur thought, that if we go to war, we go to war for a total win. He believed that World War III had begun, and the U.S. had to wage it. WWII, however, was the last war that Americans have been able to fight all out. Truman's notion of a limited war may have been a reality of the nuclear age, but it was not as satisfying as the previous policy of unconditional victory. Used to unconditional victory, win then come home [US-Mexican War, Spanish-American War, WWI and WWII] limited war was very unsatisfying for many Americans. It was a world that took some big adjustments.

It was hard for many Americans to adjust to the nuclear age. It is the reason that the dangers of escalation outweigh the benefits of victory, that the world feels today.

It wasn't until 1927 that the lance was officially declared obsolete by the British Army General Staff.

The Critical Factor

On the eve of the German invasion of Russia in June 1941, the Germans had assembled the most thoroughly trained army that had ever fought in Europe. By 1941, most of the men in the army had been in uniform for at least a year. They had fought one or more successful campaigns and were, to put it mildly, rather self-confident. There was only one major deficiency which prevented the German army from being unstoppable (aside from control of the seas), and that was complete motorization. This was a critical factor in the campaigns of the German army in Russia. It was probably THE critical factor.

In 1939 the German army of 92 divisions was only 14 percent motorized (that is, 14 percent of its divisions were fully motorized). In 1940, the army had increased to 138 divisions and motorization was only 10 percent. It increased to 18 percent in 1941, 18.5 percent in 1942, 18 percent in 1943 and 22 percent in 1945.

There were two reasons for the Germans not motorizing their entire army. First, was their inability to produce sufficient vehicles. The second problem, a shortage of fuel, could have been solved if the first problem had been. A successful campaign in Russia would have captured the Russian oil fields in the Caucasus. Would it have been possible for the Germans to completely motorize their army? Possibly. Going into Russia in June 1941, the Germans had 322,000 motor vehicles. 44 percent of these were vehicles in the infantry divisions.

Even though the infantry divisions were not fully motorized, they still used a large number of motor vehicles, mainly for hauling supplies. Trucks were far superior to horse-drawn vehicles since twenty trucks could carry 120 tons of supplies two hundred miles a day, while forty horse-drawn vehicles (with 100 horses) could only carry 30 tons at twenty miles a day. In addition, the horses consumed more fuel (by weight) in the form of fodder than the trucks consumed gasoline. Put simply, trucks were cheaper, faster and more efficient, if you had them. For this reason, only 18 percent of the German divisions (the motorized ones) had 30 percent of the army's motor vehicles. It was more efficient to distribute the remaining vehicles among the "non-motorized" units. On top of that 22 percent of the army's trucks were not even in divisions, but in non-divisional supply, combat, and administrative units.

What would it have taken to fully motorize the army in 1941? About 170,000 vehicles. Where could these vehicles have come from? In 1941, the Germans confiscated 290,000 vehicles from the occupied countries of Europe. This was done in response to the disastrous 1941-42 winter campaign in Russia, where it became obvious that the Russians were not going to be defeated in less than six months. Up until that point, the Germans had not even gone into all-out mass production of war materials. In 1941, only 67,000 vehicles were built for the army, in 1942 only 96,000. This wasn't much when you consider the 50,000-odd vehicles lost during 1941-42.

Of course, to undertake a large scale program of vehicle confiscation in early 1941 might have given the Russians a rather sharp hint as to what was in store for them. It is probable, however, that Stalin would not have been stirred even by this. This digression on the motorized army problem is given as an example of how the Germans made mistakes. What they did, they did very competently. What they didn't do lost them the war, an outcome that benefited everyone, the Germans included.

A fully motorized German army plunging into Russia in 1941 would have most probably completely destroyed the Russians – before the mud and snow of the Russian winter could have slowed the Germans down short of their objectives (as it originally did). The Germans would still have had problems with the poor Russian roads and their own over-extended supply lines. But with 190 motorized divisions against them instead of 35, the Russians could hardly be expected to have held onto Leningrad and Moscow. All that would have been left in 1942 was for the Germans to mop up.

Source: *War in the East: The Russo-German Conflict, 1941-45* by the staff of *S&T Magazine*, Simulations Publications Inc. 1977

Don't Buy the Chinese Version

During the Cold War, the USSR produced thousands of T-54/55s, their main battle tank. Other Eastern Block countries took these models and built their own versions. The Romanians manufactured 2,000 of them from 1977 until 1990 and they remain in use with the Romanian Army today. From 1956 to 1979, the Poles made around 10,000 of their variant, the T-54/55 AM with Czechoslovakia pushing out a whopping 11,000 of their own variant.

The only non-Warsaw Pact country to try their hand at making their own copy was China. Their Type-59 tank proved about as reliable as a 1960s USSR car with instances of armour falling off or apart due to bad welds and it was easily penetrated by handheld weapons. Additionally, crew survivability was low because the ammunition was stored in the turret and liable to explode if hit.

Despite this, over 10,000 were manufactured and it is still in use around the world today, mainly because of its low selling price and the Chinese willingness to sell it to anyone with cash.

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

Korean War Finance

by Tom Moore

The Republic of Korea (ROK), after drastic reduction of non-military expenditures and forceful collection of taxes during the Korean War, still had serious problems with runaway inflation. This brought on the Suspense Account (an account in the books of an organization in which items are entered temporarily before allocation) controversy.

This dispute was the result of problems arising from the advance of *won* (the ROK currency) to the United Nations Command (UNC) to finance its military operations during the Korean War. On 28 July 1950, at Taegu, U.S. and ROK representatives signed the U.S.-ROK Expenditures Agreement to “govern the relationship with respect to provision and use of currency and credits between the ROK and the UNC.”

Replacing an earlier arrangement of 6 July, it stated that the ROK would provide *won* in amounts and types, and at times and places, that the Commander-in-Chief, United Nations Command (CINCUNC) requested the finance expenditures arising out of UNC operations and activities in Korea. The date when the *won* was spent would determine the exchange rate. Although the CINCUNC could transfer currency and credits to forces from other nations fighting in Korea, he would inform the ROK. Subsequently, the UNC built a sizeable suspense account at the Bank of Korea that eventually would require settlement. During 1951, the U.S. proposed that the relief goods it gave for the war refugees would cancel out the suspense account, but ROK Finance Minister, Paik Tu Chin, persuaded the U.S. to reimburse the *won* advance.

Controversy over the suspense account became serious in January 1952 when the ROK intimated that it would no longer be able to provide currency to the United Nations Command. This was a response to uncontrollable inflation in the ROK. During the eight months after 1 July 1951, the amount of currency in circulation rose from 122 billion to 812 billion *won*. While the U.S. blamed inflation on the deficit spending and loose credit practices of ROK President Syngman Rhee’s government, the ROK pointed to the *won* advances as the primary culprit.

In addition, the ROK charged that the UNC was refusing to settle in U.S. dollars for the *won* issued thus far at a fair exchange rate. In response, CINCUNC General, Matthew B. Ridgway, stated that he did not object to making monthly settlements in dollars, for *won* advances, as long as the UNC retained some control over the ROK’s foreign exchange. To counter inflationary pressures, he proposed that the UNC secure Korean currency by selling imported commodities to the Korean people, and purchasing *won* at the best rate available. Also, General Ridgway suggested “book settlement” for UNC services, to restrict the amount of currency put into circulation.

In February 1952, negotiations to resolve the suspense account controversy reached an impasse. The ROK refused to permit the UNC to maintain control of its foreign exchange and wanted immediate and full settlement of *won* advances (some \$70 million) so as to pay for imports that could be sold to Koreans, and the proceeds then withdrawn from circulation, thereby curbing inflation. General Ridgway, while taking steps to limit expenditures of *won*, urged the Truman administration to send a high-level mission, to reach an understanding on the entire field of ROK-U.S. relations.

This resulted in Washington’s dispatch of the Meyer Mission to the ROK. In March 1952, Clarence E. Meyer (1891-1965) arrived in the ROK. Washington officials considered it unwise to remit to the ROK the \$70 million during the war because of the budgetary uncertainties of future aid to Korea. They also agreed that the current *won* to dollar rate of 6,000 to 1, was unrealistic, and should at least be 10,000 to 1. Prices in the ROK in early 1952, rose to approximately forty times the 1947 level. On 24 May 1952, an agreement was concluded, and a Combined Economic Board consisting of an ROK and UNC representative was set up.

While the agreement and the board it created had responsibilities for economic coordination and reconstruction, in practice, the board concentrated its efforts primarily on the financial relations between the UNC and the ROK. In the *won*’s history, the *won* devaluated from 15 to 1 U.S. dollar in 1945, to 6,000 to 1 in 1953. In February 1953, the ROK replaced the old *won*, with the new *hwan*, at the rate of 100 to 1 U.S. dollar, to bring inflation under control. In June, 1962, the second *won* was reintroduced, at a rate of 125 to 1 U.S. dollar.

“Action figure,” a term common in today’s toy market, was coined by staffers at the Hasbro Corporation in 1964. They were trying to come up with a descriptor to use in place of “doll,” in order to smooth the way for their soon-to-be released “G.I. Joe” product line. They believed no red-blooded American boy would want to play with a doll.

Notices

Apologies for the short notice regarding the below. The *Voice's* publication schedule and the timing of these events is unfortunately very close.

Korea Revisit 2020 Program

Eligibility: Any veteran who served in the Korean War and immediate post-armistice period by sea, land, or air during the period from June 25, 1950 through October 25, 1954.

The application is due on the **Tuesday 25th February 2020**, and successful applicants will be drawn on the Friday 28th February 2020.

You can email the scanned application to Lucilla Kong at krda.au@mofa.go.kr or alternatively mail the printed and completed application form to:

Lucilla Kong
DA Office
Korean Embassy
113 Empire CCT
YARRALUMLA ACT 2600

Any questions, contact Lucilla at (02) 6270 4117.

Note: The application form and information is available from the Editor. See Page 2 for contact details. You will need to act quickly.

Selected Program Notes:

Number of Participants: 650 UN Korean War veterans and family members (equivalent to last year).

Provided Support: partial reimbursement of round-trip flight tickets (50% for veterans and 30% for caregivers) and free-of charge accommodation, meals, in-land transportation and other expenses in Korea.

No. of Visits: 5 times in 2020, 5 nights and 6 days each.

A veteran should be accompanied by a caregiver who is either the veteran's family, relative or close friend who will take care of the veteran in Korea and handle an emergency should it arise during the program.

All participants must be in good health and capable of making a long-distance trip by air; the participants should consult with a doctor to confirm their health status.

Naval Commemoration Committee of Vic.

Who: The St Kilda Army & Navy Club RSL Inc.

When: Saturday February 22nd.

Where: 88 Acland Street, St. Kilda.

Cost: \$125 per person. RSL Service Members will be given a discount.

Dress: Black tie - Red Sea Rig.

Details: The St Kilda RSL will be holding a gala evening to celebrate its 100th Anniversary with proceeds going to Operation Veteran Assist, an RSL Initiative to provide volunteers to help veterans impacted by the recent bushfires.

The evening will start at 1830 with a Champagne Reception followed by a 3 course dinner with wine, beer and soft drinks.

Entertainment will be provided by Mark Waugh, Debra Byrne and the Cairo Club Orchestra.

For further information please contact myself on 0450642835 or email president@skanc.com.au or the General Manager at david@skanc.com.au

Turning Point: The Battle for Milne Bay

Who: Military History and Heritage Victoria Inc.

When: Tuesday, 18 February 2020.

Time: Doors open 6:30 pm. Speaker 7:00 pm –8:00 pm. Refreshments to 8.30 pm.

Where: The Royal Historical Society, 239 A'Beckett Street, Melbourne.

Cost: MHHV Members \$5, General Public \$10.

Presenter: Michael Veitch

September 1942 marked the high-point of Axis conquest in World War II. In the Pacific, Japan's soldiers had seemed unstoppable. However, the tide was about to turn. On Sunday, 6 September 1942, Japanese land forces suffered their first conclusive defeat at the hands of the Allies. At Milne Bay in Papua New Guinea, a predominantly Australian force fought for two weeks to successfully defend a vital airstrip against a determined Japanese invasion. While it received worldwide publicity at the time, it has since been largely forgotten.

About the presenter: Michael Veitch is an actor, presenter, and author. His books include the critically acclaimed account of Australian pilots in World War II, *44 Days, Heroes of the Skies*.

Due to limited street parking you may wish to arrive via train or tram. The RHSV venue is a short 3 minute walk from Flagstaff station. Closest available parking centres are Wilson's Parking, 191 A'Beckett St., Kim Lim Parking, 162 A'Beckett St., Queen Victoria Market Parking, 182 Franklin St.

Website: <https://www.mhhv.org.au>

Men vs. Women

(Part 557 of a neverending series)

Men like to barbecue. Men will cook if danger is involved.

Marrying a divorced man is ecologically responsible. In a world where there are more women than men, it pays to recycle.

All men look nerdy in black socks and sandals.

The way a man looks at himself in a mirror will tell you if he can ever care about anyone else.

Men who are going bald usually start wearing baseball caps.

A good place to meet a man is at the Dry Cleaners. These men usually have jobs and bathe.

All men hate to hear, “We need to talk about our relationship...” These seven words would strike fear into the heart of even General Patton.

Men are sensitive in strange ways. If a man has built a fire and the last log does not burn, he will take it personally.

Men have an easier time buying bathing suits. Women have two types: depressing and more depressing. Men have two types: nerdy and not nerdy.

Women take clothing much more seriously than men. I mean – have you ever seen a man walk into a party and say: “Oh my God, I’m so embarrassed! Get me out of here. There’s another man wearing a black tuxedo...”

Most men hate to shop. That’s why the men’s department is usually on the first floor of a department store, two inches from the door.

No man is charming all of the time. Even Cary Grant is on record saying he wished he could be Cary Grant.

Not one man in a beer commercial has a beer belly.

Most women are introspective: “Am I in love? Am I emotionally and creatively fulfilled?”

Most men are outrospective: “Did my team win? How’s my car?”

Men who can eat anything they want and not gain weight should do it out of sight of women.

When a woman tries on clothing from her closet that feels tight, she will assume she has gained weight. When a man tries something from his closet that feels tight, he will assume the clothing has shrunk.

Men would like monogamy better if it sounded less like monotony.

Memo

To All Staff From The Safety Officer

Dear Staff,

It has been brought to the attention of the management of this organisation that many staff members have been dying while on duty for no apparent reason.

Furthermore, it also appears that some staff members are refusing to fall over after they have died. This, in some cases, has resulted in unearned overtime payments which are not provided for under our employee benefit program.

Effective immediately, this practice must be **discontinued**.

On and after today, any staff member found sitting upright after he/she has died will be dropped from the payroll at once, without further investigation. This action is covered by Company Regulation #20 (non-productive labour).

When it can be proven that the employee is being held up by a desk, computer, drawing board, telephone, or any other means of support which is the property of the organisation, a one (1) day period of grace will, however, be granted.

In the event of apparent death, the following procedures will be strictly adhered to:

1. If, after several hours, it is noted that any staff member has not moved or opened at least one eye, the department head will investigate. Because of the highly sensitive nature and/or origin of some staff members and because of the close resemblance between death and their normal working attitude, the investigation will be made quietly so as to avoid waking the staff member if he/she is in fact merely asleep (which is, of course, permitted under present union arrangements).

2. If some doubt still exists as to the true condition of the staff member, a pay slip will be used as the final test. If the staff member fails to lunge for the slip, it is reasonable to assume that death has occurred. However, note that in some cases the instinct is so strongly developed that a spastic clutching may occur even after death – do not be misled by this manifestation.

3. In the event that a staff member fails to abandon whatever he/she is doing at the Tea Break, no investigation is necessary – this is conclusive proof that *rigour mortis* has already set in.

Regards,

The Management

A cute girl was giving a manicure to a man in barber shop when the man said, “How about a date later?”

She replied, “I’m married.”

“So call up your husband and tell him you’re going to visit a girlfriend.”

She responded, “You tell him yourself – he’s shaving you.”

Profound Thoughts

Good health is merely the slowest possible rate at which one can die.

The only difference between being in a rut and a grave is the depth.

It's not the pace of life that concerns me, it's the sudden stop at the end.

The mind is like a parachute; it works much better when it's open.

If at first you don't succeed, destroy all evidence that you tried.

Friends may come and go, but enemies tend to accumulate.

Everyone has a photographic memory. Some don't have film.

I used to have an open mind but my brains kept falling out.

Sometimes I wake up grumpy; other times I let him sleep.

Some people are alive only because it's illegal to kill them.

I couldn't repair your brakes, so I made your horn louder.

A bartender is just a pharmacist with a limited inventory.

Good news is just life's way of keeping you off balance.

Stupidity got us into this mess. Why can't it get us out?

The problem with the gene pool is that there is no life-guard.

If marriage were outlawed, only outlaws would have inlaws.

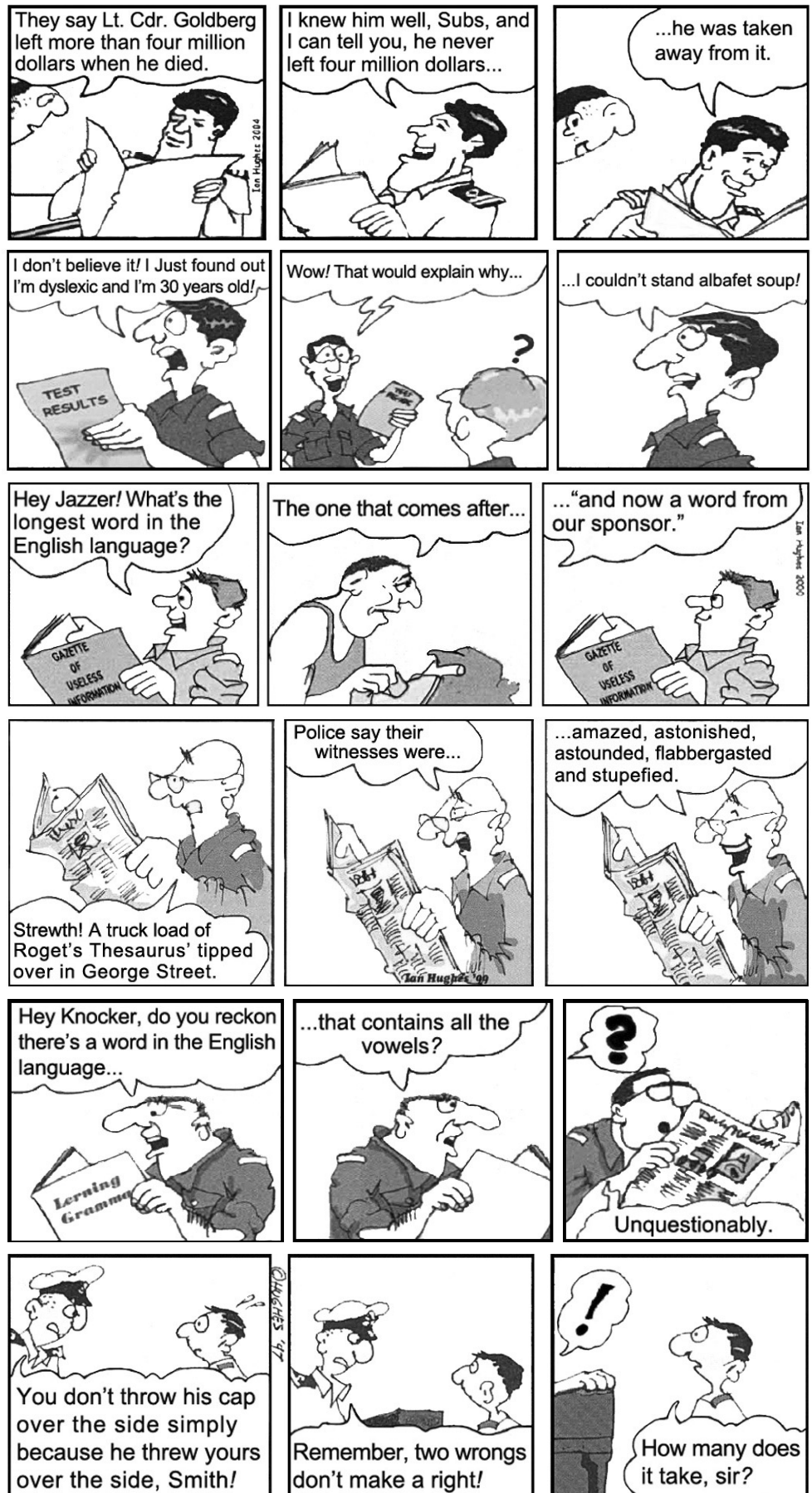
It's hard to make a comeback when you haven't been anywhere.

I don't suffer from insanity – I enjoy every minute of it.

Why do people with closed minds always open their mouths?

HMAS Wort by Ian Hughes

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



When a great many people are unable to find work, unemployment results – Herbert Hoover (attributed)

Unusual RAN Ship Names

Some of the more unusual RAN ship names over the last century have arisen because ships were taken up from trade in time of conflict and retained their rather 'non-naval' names in their service career.

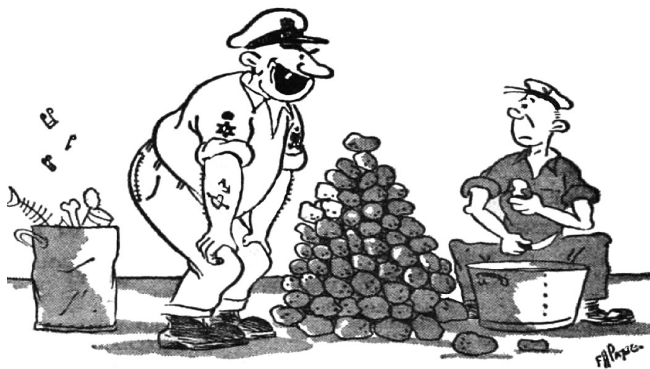
- *Blowfly* – a survey launch in 1944.
- *Bluenose* – a part-time Naval Auxiliary patrol vessel.
- *Bogan* – a frigate ordered in WWII but which was never built.
- *Cockroach* – a motor launch in 1944.
- The 'snake' series of 66 armed trawlers in WWII (*Coral Snake*, *Grass Snake*, and so on).
- *Mate-O-Mine* – a requisitioned cabin cruiser which served in WWII.
- *Vagrant* – a name given to two patrol vessels during WWII.

and finally (and, yes, these were Australian ships).

- *Wyatt Earp* – two Antarctic patrol vessels, the first entering service in 1947 and the second in 1993.

However, perhaps the most unusual names of RAN vessels were those of the Chinese ships of WWII. These were all ex-Chinese river steamers or ocean-going vessels on the Japan-China-Australia run. During WWII they were requisitioned and manned by RAN members, serving from December 1941 to 1946. They were *HMAS Ping Wo*, *Poyang*, *Yunnan* and, unforgettably, *Whang Pu*.

Source: *From Acheron to ANZAC* by Lieut. Tom Lewis, *Navy News*, 29 October 2001



"Spud peeling machines? Yes, you're the latest model."

Farewells

No veteran death has been reported to me in the last two months.

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

Nomination for KVAA Office Bearers 2020-2021

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

Current Office Bearers 2019-2020: President - Tom Parkinson / Vice President - Alan McDonald OAM / Secretary - Deborah Rye / Treasurer - Merril Lord / Committee – Milton Hoe, John Moller OAM J.P., John Munro OAM RFD ED, Laurie Price, Allen Riches and Arthur Roach.

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

1. Any member of the Association may submit his/her nomination for a position as an ordinary member of the Committee but must comply as follows: The nomination form must be signed by two (2) members of the Association and be accompanied by the written consent of the Candidate.
2. Nominations must be returned to: The Secretary, 260 Station Street, Epsom VIC 3551.

Please cut here -----

NOMINATION FOR OFFICE BEARERS / COMMITTEE 2020-2021

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

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