



THE VOICE

December 2020 Edition

Contents:

Editor's Opening	1
Life Members	2
Directory	2
Editorial Disclaimer	2
Merchandise Available	2
The "Old Swimming Hole"	3
The Largest Strike	3
From Pusan to Busan	3
Ripped from the Headlines...	4
The Flying CAT	5
Kiwis Not So Lucky At Casino	7
Hit At Hitdorf	7
The War of the Stray Dog	7
Farewells	8
Patrol Action	9
Funnies	10
HMAS Wort	11
The Verdict	11
Vale Alan McDonald	12

Editor's Opening

1 There is a rumour going around that some manner of KVAA
 2 Committee/General meeting was held at the Stella Maris in late
 2 November. I may be wrong in thinking this, but if true this will have
 been the first since February.

2 The major topic that would have been discussed is the passing of
 2 KVAA Vice-President, Alan McDonald, which came as a surprise to
 many, he striking them as being as physically fit as any man his age
 had a right to be. Before being catapulted into the Vice-President
 position he spent much of his KVAA life on the General Committee
 heading, or part of, various inquiries, such as the Veteran Mortality
 Study. Given his many years on the General Committee and contacts
 within the veteran community, he is going to be hard to replace.

See Page 12 for a brief obituary.

7 This brings me to the much postponed AGM. I suspect that it will
 7 likely be merged into the AGM in March, held to decide the office
 bearers for 2021-2022, with appointments for 2020-2021 made
 retrospectively. Regardless of whatever legalities govern these
 matters, doing it this way makes a great deal of sense to me, and
 given the semi-state of emergency we have been living under since
 March, leeway should be given by the government to clubs, groups
 and associations in this regard.

On a more positive note...

11 According to Vince Courtney's online *The Korean War Veteran*
 11 (Nov. 10 edition), on Remembrance Day, South Korea's Prime
 Minister Chung Sye-kyun intended to – and as far as I can ascertain,
 12

did – pray at the graves of three UN soldiers whose loved ones are buried beside them. One of these soldiers is Captain Kenneth Hummerston and wife, Nancy, her ashes taken to Korea in 2010 by none other than the KVAA's Canberra delegate, Col Berryman who was given the task by the then Repatriation Commissioner, Bill Rolfe. According to Col, he and his late wife took turns in carrying the urn on their laps during the flight to Korea and it sat on the spare bed in their hotel room until the service on 14 April 2010.

In Col's own words... "At the ceremony, Steve Beaumont and another Australian member of the tour placed the urn in the grave whilst I did the oration of the ritual. We were originally going to scatter the ashes into the grave but later decided it would be better to bury the whole urn. As I recall, one of the ROK Army bandsman, who also were in the ceremony, played the ROK taps, and their *Reveille* at the appropriate time. I don't think they knew our *Last Post* and the *Rouse* at the time. Our Australian Ambassador and several ROK dignitaries also laid poppies on the grave. It was a rather big ceremony and a lot of the ROK press were also in attendance..."

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The “Old Swimming Hole”

The following incident is excerpted from my historical memoir, “Korea: Our War,” published on the 50th anniversary of the Korean War. I had left my wife, Nancy, with a two-week old baby daughter when I left for Korea on May 1, 1952. I served as a tank platoon leader with the 25th Infantry Division.

We were lucky on this particular day, as well as on many other days, as anyone who reads my book will discover. Here’s the story. Another “close call.”

I never told Nan about was the following incident: It had been very hot and dusty. Some of my men asked if they could go for a swim in the natural rock pool by the stream and since things were quiet, I agreed and decided to join them. The small pool was ringed by boulders on three sides and was protected from any direct fire. Four or five of us were having a ball, sunning and swimming in the deep pool. The water was crystal clear and very refreshing. One man brought an air mattress; one was taking pictures. We were all naked and really enjoying ourselves. War was the last thing on our minds.

The enemy must have been watching men go there each day and guessed that finally we were bunched together and would make a good target. We heard the mortar round coming in. Instinctively, I dove under the water. Luckily it was short; they adjusted and we heard more coming down on us.

In my mind, I figured that if a round went off in the water while I had my head under, I would be killed anyway from the concussion, so with my head just above water and my hands covering my eyes, I awaited the explosions. After the 3 or 4 rounds went off on the rocks all around us, it fell silent.

We all had survived without a scratch, all except the air mattress, which had received fatal wounds and was now useless, collapsing and hissing slowly in the water. The owner cursed and that broke the ice as the rest of us laughed at the sight! Someone told him to take it to the aid station and get a Purple Heart for it. He didn’t think that was funny!

We waited for a few minutes and I told the men we would return to the bunker one at a time, at a run. It was about 75 to 100 yards away. I went first and nothing happened. Several more joined me. We watched as Sgt. Stone, bringing up the rear, started coming towards us. A mortar went off and knocked him down.

He quickly got up and ran, but another round knocked him down. I was halfway out the door to help him when again he got up and ran and soon was safe in the bunker. The stock on his carbine was shattered. He was smiling and insisted he was OK. He had a dozen or more tiny steel splinters in his arms, which he proceeded to remove and there was very little blood. I told him to go to the aid station and they would bandage him up and give him a Purple Heart. He just grinned through his white handlebar moustache and said he couldn’t go because he would be too embarrassed to get it for only a scratch. I should have ordered him to go.

Although the infantry had been doing it, it had been a very bad mistake on my part to allow that many men to “bunch up” like that. We were very lucky that no one was hurt and I told the men that, from then on, if they wanted to go to the swimming hole, they would have to go alone and take turns. The enemy rarely expended artillery or mortar rounds at an individual soldier, officers being the exception.

Source: *The Graybeards* magazine Vol.31, No.3, May-June 2017

The Largest Strike

by Tom Moore

A major fuel supply centre for the Communists during the Korean War was the large oil refinery located at Aoji, North Korea. Eight miles from the Soviet frontier, and four miles from the North Korean/Manchurian border, the site was beyond the range of UN land-based attack aircraft.

The UN Command in Japan therefore passed the destroy-mission to U.S. Navy Task Force 77’s large aircraft carriers: the *USS Essex* (CVA-9), the *USS Boxer* (CVA-21), and the *USS Princeton* (CVA-37), who were on the line, off of the east coast of Korea, in the Sea of Japan.

On 1 September 1952, 144 aircraft from the three carriers undertook the air-attack, the largest aircraft carrier strike of the Korean War. Air attacks on industrial targets at Munsan, and electric plants at Chongjin, were also made on that same day. The missions were all very successful, and all of the naval aircraft returned to their aircraft carriers.

The raids caught the enemy air force (MIGs), and their flack defence gunners, completely by surprise. The enemy believed UN air-power could not reach them at that time, and that the UN Command would not take such a risk to bomb so close to Russia and Manchuria (China).

From Pusan to Busan

by Skip Hannon

Some of us have questioned the name change of Pusan to Busan. We all remember the Pusan perimeter and I shipped home out of the port at Pusan. This matter was brought up at the recent [2014] Department of State Convention. Information was given that the original name for this city was Busan, but during the Japanese occupation of Korea they changed it to Pusan. Going to the Internet I learned that the name was changed in 2000 to the original Busan. Additional information disclosed that Pusan was from a Latin derivative.

Source: *The Graybeards* Vol.28, No.4, 2014

Ripped from the Headlines...

Wins Tallied By Air Force

AN AIR BASE IN JAPAN

(UP)—Rocket-firing jets have destroyed at least six North Korean tanks in operations to date, according to an Air Force spokesman.

A communique listing the activities of the Far East Air Force since it began its mission two days ago, said that First Lt. William Hudson, Selam, Ala. shot down the first Communist fighter plane while flying a protective cover Tuesday.

Hudson said he and his radar observer, First Lt. Karl S. Fraser, of Tampa, Fla. shot down the two-seater after two Communist planes attacked.

Source: *Stars and Stripes (Pacific Ed.)*, June 29, 1950

Truman Wants Peace

WASHINGTON (INS)

President Truman declared Wednesday that U.S. air and sea forces in Korea are “fighting in the cause of peace” and that Americans must “counteract the Communist weapon of fear” wherever it exists.

The chief executive, in two separate addresses, made it plain that the U.S. will not back down to Communist aggression anywhere on earth, and if the world is embroiled in another catastrophic war the responsibility will be Russia’s.

Truman emotionally told the Reserve Officers Association of the United States that “we face a serious situation.” He then added, spacing his words for emphasis:

“We hope we have acted in the cause of peace.

“There is no other reason for the action we have taken, on the advice of all the brains I could muster.

“We hope – we always hope – that we shall finally arrive at peace in the world through the United Nations, that is the only reason for our actions.”

Source: *Stars and Stripes (Pacific Ed.)*, June 29, 1950

B-29s Bomb Kimpo

Headquarters Far East Air Forces announced Boeing B-29 superforts of the 20th Air Force bombed Kimpo airfield northwest of Seoul Thursday morning and all reported hitting their primary targets with good results. Visibility was good when the B-29s were on their bombing run. All of the bombers returned.

Source: *Stars and Stripes (Pacific Ed.)*, June 29, 1950

British Fleet Joins U.S.

LONDON (INS)—Britain Wednesday ordered her carrier-led Far Eastern fleet into the fight to save South Korea, at the side of the U.S. forces now battling to drive out the Communist invaders.

Prime Minister Attlee told a cheering House of Commons that his government has placed the 13,500-ton carrier *HMS Triumph*, with its 40 planes, plus three cruisers and other units at the “disposal of the senior American naval commander” in the area.

Attlee said the action was taken as Britain’s obligation to the United Nations, which called on UN members to use armed force in repelling the North Korean invasion.

His announcement was greeted with a pledge of full support from Conservative leader Winston Churchill, Britain’s wartime Prime Minister.

The British supporting move in the troubled Korea area roughly doubled the Western naval strength there.

In addition to the carrier and cruiser, the British fleet in Japanese waters includes seven destroyers and eight frigates, with a total complement of roughly 6,000 men.

Sir Patrick Brind is the British naval commander-in-chief in the Far East. He has under his direction naval land-based air units, but their strength was not disclosed.

Attlee and British military chiefs refused to divulge details of British naval operations in the Korean area.

Source: *Stars and Stripes (Pacific Ed.)*, June 29, 1950

The British warships *HMS Repulse* and *HMS Prince of Wales* were sunk by Japanese aircraft on 10 December 1941 off the coast of Malaya. Of the 88 attacking aircraft, three were shot down, a fourth crashed on landing, two were badly damaged, and 26 were lightly damaged. The hit rate of 36 percent can be attributed to the fact the planes were operating at the limit of their range and could not take the time to coordinate their attacks. In contrast, more than 200 US planes attacked and sank the Japanese battleship *Yamato* off Okinawa on 7 April 1945. With plenty of time to coordinate, total US losses came to only ten planes.

The Flying CAT

by Tom Moore

In May of 1949, the Chinese Civil War was going badly for the Chinese Nationalists of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek. Mao's Communist Army had taken Manchuria and crossed the Yangtze River. The entire Chinese mainland stood in imminent danger of collapse, an event that would cause a chain reaction throughout the Far East. When Mao's troops entered Nanking in April 1949, Chiang Kai-shek ordered the Nationalist government treasury – gold and silver valued at US \$335 million dollars – and selected air and naval units moved to Formosa (Taiwan.)

American capability for covert activities had ended with the disbandment of the OSS at the end of WWII. By the fall of 1947, however, mounting problems with the Soviet Union, had made the need for a clandestine option very clear.

The responsibility for covert warfare was initially assigned to the State Department, but Secretary George Marshall objected. So on 14 December 1947, the National Security Council (NSC), established by the National Security Act of July 1947 to coordinate intelligence activities, was transferred to the CIA. Thus by default, the CIA acquired a limited covert capability.

To increase covert operations against the Soviet Union, the National Security Council in 1948, under directive 10/2 assigned responsibility for the conduct of these operations to Frank Wisner, head of the newly created Office of Policy Coordination (OPC), – an intentionally vague designation that masked the function of the organisation.

In the fall of 1949, the Mutual Defense Assistance Act of 1949 was signed into law. President Truman now had funds to implement security programs in Asia, beyond public – and Congressional – scrutiny. This included covert assistance to anti-communist elements in China.

Major General Claire L. Chennault, USAAF, Ret. now President of Civil Air Transport (CAT) travelled from Shanghai to Washington, D.C., with a plan to halt communism in the Far East which he took to Secretary of the State, Dean Acheson. Acheson, however, turned out to be an “Atlanticist.” He considered Europe to be the most vital to American interests. When he looked across the Pacific he saw corruption in the Chinese Nationalist government, and it filled him with disgust. He had no will to try to affect the course of the Chinese Civil War. The U.S. would just have to make the best of the new situation. Secretary Acheson shut the door on the Chennault Plan, and the plan died. Almost.

Rear Admiral Roscoe Hillenkoetter, the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) was more

sympathetic toward Chennault's ideas. One of his senior officers, Paul L. E. Helliwell, former Chief of the WWII Office of Strategic Services (OSS) Intelligence Division in Kunming, China, had worked closely with General Chennault during WWII. Helliwell recommended to Wisner that he contact General Chennault in regard to possible use of his airline for clandestine operations in China.

This set in motion a train of events that would have far-reaching consequences for CAT.

Wisner met with Chennault at the Hotel Washington, and an agreement was reached in which the OPC would provide a minimum of \$1 million dollars a year to CAT to hold the airline together in return for certain services. CAT began to fly for OPC on 10 October 1949. A formal contract came on the first of November. The CIA pledged up to \$500,000 to finance a CAT base and underwrite deficits that might occur in hazardous flying on agency missions. In return, CAT would give priority to agency cargo and personnel for one year, at rates to be negotiated. An advance of \$200,000 confirmed the engagement between the CIA and CAT. The fat-bellied C-46s, C-47s and Cessna 195s were ready to fly with the CIA.

Alfred T. Cox, an OSS veteran of World War II, was sent to China to head the OPC's projects there, only to be swept up in CAT's evacuation from mainland China to the British controlled colony of Hong Kong, where it set up shop in the Gloucester Hotel.

Details of OPC/CAT operations on the mainland of China are still classified and thus not available for scrutiny. However, the course of the Chinese Civil War would have severely disrupted CAT activities. The Chinese Communist Army took Canton, Liuchow, Pakoi, Chungking, Amoy, and Swatow, all at one time or the other CAT airstrips, and at the end of 1949, the Chinese Nationalists faced final defeat on the Chinese mainland. CAT moved their operations to Sanya on Hainan Island.

On 16 April 1950, 170 motorized junks landed on Hainan's north coast, filled with Chinese Communist infantry, and CAT evacuated Sanya on 24 April. With nowhere else to go, CAT joined Chiang Kai-shek in exile on Taiwan. Taipei, the island's capital and major city, became the centre for flight operations.

After a few months on Taiwan CAT faced bankruptcy. Flying hours had plummeted from three thousand a month to less than five hundred. CAT desperately needed business. With mainland China routes gone, they were like a railroad with no tracks on which to run.

Fortunately, OPC still needed a secure deniable source of transportation to move personnel, airdrop

(continues on Page 6)

supplies to guerrillas on the mainland and engage in various clandestine activities, and CAT was ideal for the purpose. So in late March 1950, CAT signed an option agreement with a Washington banker acting as agent for undisclosed principals [In intelligence parlance, the banker was a “cutout,” that is, a friendly outsider used to disguise the CIA’s role in the transaction].

The “bankers” advanced \$350,000 to clear up CAT’s arrears in payroll, gasoline, and other debts. An additional \$400,000 was available to fund operating deficits until mid-June 1950. The “Bankers” then had the option to purchase the business for \$1 million dollars.

About the time of the outbreak of the Korean War, Frank Wisner stated: “OPC’s operations in East Asia required continued association with CAT. The CIA intended to acquire the airline in order to implement authorized covert projects. The State and Defense Departments and the Joint Chiefs also required continued association with CAT.”

CIA Director Hillenkoetter formally approved the project on 28 June 1950. CIA General Counsel, Lawrence R. Houston, began the legal and corporate details of sale. He formed two companies in the state of Delaware: Airdale Corporation, the holding company, and CAT Incorporated, the operating company. The company’s directors were all employees of the CIA’s Office of Finance. Hong Kong was the airline’s financial and managerial headquarters.

In July 1950, three CAT aircraft operated between Tachikawa, Japan and Korea. Called Operation A-D, the aircraft were on 24/7 call. They transported “sensitive” personnel and performed other urgent missions. Wider use of CAT in support of covert projects followed.

On 25 August 1950, General MacArthur’s headquarters approved a major airlift contract for CAT with the US Air Force’s Far East Air Material Command (FEAM-COM) to carry cargo and personnel as ordered, at a rate of \$307 per hour (with authority to spend up to \$1.5 million dollars) with no contract time limit.

CAT was ordered to send six aircraft and ground personnel to Major General William H. Tunner at Combat Cargo Command at Ashiya. From there these aircraft averaged fifteen round trips a day from Japan to Korea.

On 28, November 1950, the Chinese and the Siberian winter weather struck Korea. CAT Combat Cargo Command assisted the withdrawal, ferrying out Fifth Air Force personnel and equipment, along with Eighth Army wounded. The last aircraft in the evacuation of Pyongyang, departing the North Korean capital on 4 December, was a CAT. A total of 4,689 wounded Marines and soldiers were airlifted out

of Hagaru to Yonpo. CAT did not take part in the Hagaru-Yonpo shuttle, but they flew the wounded from Yonpo to Japan.

CAT’s role in direct support of combat units slowed as the war front stabilized around the thirty-eighth parallel. The US Air Force then sent CAT on scheduled flights within Japan and to Okinawa, Iwo Jima, Guam, and elsewhere throughout the Far East. CAT’s airlift contribution to FEAF was important, but did not compare to its crucial support of OPC operations in Japan and in Korea.

Hans V. Tofte, head of covert activities in 1950-51, considered the airline absolutely invaluable during the Korean War. Tofte, an OSS veteran, established an escape-and-evasion network of agents in North Korea to assist UN fliers downed behind enemy lines, and he initiated preparations for guerrilla warfare. OPC-trained personnel manned coastal islands on both sides of the Korean peninsula near the thirty-eighth parallel. Pilots in trouble were to head for these sanctuaries. If downed inland, the fliers should try to contact friendly Koreans, who were strung out in a belt across the peninsula. Lookout posts every ten miles along both coasts would radio for assistance when the air crews reached the shoreline.

Tofte wanted a supply of one-ounce gold bars, bearing the widely recognized mark of the old Bank of China, for air crews to carry and use to pay Koreans for assistance if they were forced down. He flew to Taiwan, purchased \$700,000 worth of these bars, and had them issued to flying commands.

OPC became the largest American paramilitary force since WWII’s OSS. The OPC had a large training base on Yong-do Island in the Bay of Pusan, South Korea. There was also a \$28 million dollar CIA Training Complex on Saipan (Navy Technical Training Unit.)

Between April and December 1951, Tofte and OPC sent forty four guerrilla teams and attached intelligence units into North Korea. Tofte knew the area well. He had worked there in the 1930s and game-hunted through Manchuria and eastern Siberia. CAT made numerous overflights of North Korea and China in support of these and other guerrillas.

CAT flew more than fifteen thousand missions during the Korean War, carrying twenty seven thousand tons of supplies and mail, and thousands of wounded UN troops, plus airlifts for a variety of covert projects, allowing OPC to ignore SCAP’s cumbersome restrictions and shuttle hundreds of guerrillas and agents between CIA training and staging camps throughout the Far East. In 1949, OPC had 302 personnel and a \$4.7 million dollar budget; by 1952, it had 2,812 employees and a budget of \$82 million.

Kiwis Not So Lucky At Cassino

Following a series of relatively unsuccessful and extremely bloody assaults during the period 15-18 February, 1944, heralded by the destruction of the famous Monte Cassino monastery above the town, a month-long lull set in as both sides regrouped. After a disastrous American attempt to crack the Gustav Line, General Sir Bernard Freyberg, commander of the New Zealanders, was ordered to clear Cassino – long since evacuated of civilians – of the stubborn German paratroopers.

At Freyberg's insistence, an effort to obliterate the extensive German static defences was to precede the ground assault. On the morning of 15 March 1944, for three-and-a-half hours, 500 heavy bombers dropped more than 1000 tons of explosives into an area less than half a mile square.

When the bombing stopped, over six hundred Allied artillery pieces opened fire, churning the ruins for yet another hour. The net result was to turn the town into a mini-Stalingrad, full of rubble, craters and shellholes.

The New Zealand troops advancing on Castle Hill and the town jail reached the outskirts with little difficulty and without meeting the enemy. But as the Kiwis turned toward their next objectives, the Nunnery and the Hotel des Roses, German opposition appeared.

Although the paratroopers had taken some casualties during the rain of destruction, a surprising number survived in good order in fortified buildings, dugouts, bunkers and tunnels. As they emerged, the German officers and non-coms reconfirmed the lesson that had been taught at Stalingrad two years earlier – extensive rubble of a town aids the defenders, not the attackers.

The battle became confused and extremely frustrating for the Kiwis, pressing forward under increasingly difficult conditions. They had to scramble over the rubble that filled the streets, through mud and deep craters half-filled with water – all the while exposed to incessant rifle and machinegun fire.

The utter destruction created even worse obstacles for the New Zealanders' Shermans: to make any progress at all, it was necessary to seek a passable route by foot; on several occasions their crews had to clear a path with pick and shovel. Several tanks fell victim to hidden German guns before the futile effort at armour support was suspended and the tankers recalled.

By early afternoon, all communication between the forward companies and the battalion HQs had been broken, and the Kiwi companies had lost touch with each other in the jumble of ruins. The battle had become one of house-to-house fighting.

Although by nightfall Freyberg could claim to have captured most of the shattered town, the Germans remained emplaced upon the heights surrounding it. Two months would pass before another major offensive, this time by the Polish Corps, would bring victory at Cassino.

Source: *The General* magazine No.29, No.6 1995

Hit At Hitdorf

As the Third Reich collapsed, many American leaders became bold to the point of recklessness. Often, a daring stroke by a small group of GIs yielded a vast gaggle of demoralized German prisoners.

But sometimes the Americans pushed their luck too far and the Germans, like a wounded animal, would lash back with stinging effect. At early dawn on 6 April 1945, Company A of the 1st Battalion, 504th Parachute Regiment crossed the Rhine and advanced toward the town of Hitdorf.

Unfortunately, elements of the 62nd Volksgrenadier Division had just linked up with lingering remnants of the 11th Panzer Division, and these Germans were not yet willing to lay down their arms. The landings went easy enough, but as the paratroopers entered the town, they were met by an enemy company that had been rushed to the sector.

The Germans quickly brought down a heavy mortar barrage. Reeling back, the paratroopers blundered into a minefield and were taking the worst of it until requested artillery and reinforcements arrived. A 105mm battery, despite initial confusion, succeeded in quieting the German fire until the arrival of German armour provoked a major withdrawal.

The paratroopers fell back to the river, piled into their boats, and staged a "mini-Dunkirk." The Americans had suffered heavy casualties but were now far wiser when approaching the Germans at bay.

Source: *The General* magazine No. 25, No.2, 1989

The War of the Stray Dog

In 1925, Greece and Bulgaria were not friends. They had fought each other during the First World War and those wounds had not yet healed. Tensions were perpetually high along the border, especially along an area called Petrich. Those tensions reached a boiling point on October 22, 1925, when a Greek soldier chased his dog across the Bulgarian border and was shot dead by a Bulgarian sentry. Greece vowed retaliation and, true to its word, it invaded Petrich the very next day. They quickly cleared Bulgarian forces from the area but were halted by the League of Nations, who sanctioned Greece and ordered them to leave Petrich and pay Bulgaria for damages. Greece withdrew its forces ten days later and paid Bulgaria 45,000 pounds. Casualties: about 53 dead on both sides.

Farewells

ON BEHALF OF THE PRESIDENT, COMMITTEE AND MEMBERS OF THE KVAA
WE WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS OUR SINCERE CONDOLENCES TO YOUR FAMILY



Edward "Ted"
BOSWORTH MM
140095
3RAR

Kenneth Ralph
GEISLER
32591
3RAR

John Malcolm
HUTCHESON MC
2502
3RAR

Lionel Stanley
JACKSON
26046
1RAR

Alan Martin
McDONALD OAM
335022
3RAR & HQ, 1st British
Commonwealth Division

William Albert "Dusty"
RYAN
21142
3RAR
on 7-03-2020

Theodore
WHITING
3400897
3RAR



Peter
ELLIOT
6148
No.77 (Fighter) Squadron

John Norris
PARKER
33838
No.77 (Fighter) Squadron



Kenneth John
HARTWELL
45589
HMAS Condamine

Robert Ernest
SCALES
35692
HMAS Bataan

LEST WE FORGET

Q. One day Kerry celebrated her birthday. Two days later her older twin brother, Terry, celebrated his birthday. How?

A. The celebrations in question take place in a leap year. At birth they were travelling by boat. The older twin, Terry, was born first early on March 1st. The boat then crossed the date line and Kerry, the younger twin, was born on February the 28th. Therefore, in leap years the younger twin celebrates her birthday two days before her older brother.

Patrol Action

A Company 3RAR 15 Jan 53

Note: punctuation and spelling as per the 1953 official report.

1. On 23 Jan Maj J.W. NORRIE, OC A Coy 3RAR was briefed by his Commanding officer to plan a patrol whose aim was to capture an enemy prisoner from a standing patrol well inside the enemy territory.
2. After detailed consideration of all factors it was decided that the best method of carrying out this operation would be by stealth, but on the other hand in view of the deep penetration into enemy territory two hard hitting protective groups would be required. On this basis the period before the night of 24 Jan 53 was spent in detailed planning rehearsal.
3. At 1900 hrs on the 24 Jan 53 the complete patrol commanded by Lt Geoff SMITH left A Coy area. The patrol itself was organised in three groups, firstly the main group whose task it was to snatch the prisoner, commanded by Sgt John MORRISON, secondly the first protective party of 12 men commanded by Lt SMITH and the second protective party of 12 men commanded by Cpl Frank MacKAY.
4. The patrol moved out as a whole for the first 1000 yards when Lt SMITH's party was put down at a predetermined point. The remainder continued a further 1000 yards where Cpl MacKAY's party took up position. Sgt MORRISON and his snatch party of 4 proceeded a further 600 yards to the objective.
5. On arrival at the objective Sgt MORRISON put his party to ground along an embankment running immediately beside the enemy trench line. He then immediately jumped into the trench and was challenged twice by two enemy picquets. These two who appeared to be the only enemy in the immediate vicinity opened fire, so the Sgt killed them. Immediately following this automatic weapon fire opened up from very close at hand. Having returned the fire the Sgt's group withdrew quickly along their withdrawal route for a distance of 30 yards and called down arty fire on the enemy positions.
6. At this juncture a fierce fire fight started on the feature occupied by Lt SMITH's group and large numbers of enemy were seen moving in the area.
7. According to a pre-arranged plan the snatch group rejoined the protective group not involved in the fire fight in order that they may go to the assistance of the group involved. Sgt MORRISON taking charge moved the two parties towards the fire fight. Having gone 200 yards a further party of 20 enemy were seen approaching the area of the fight. Sgt MORRISON appreciated that this party would have to pass very close to his party. Realising in the confusion of battle that the enemy would either not see him, or mistake his group for friendly forces he quickly adopted suitable fire positions. He then allowed the enemy to approach right up to his position before opening fire. The enemy was taken by surprise and were all killed without opening fire. The enemy when hit fell in a number of cases on the tropps actually firing.
8. At this stage the fire fight in Lt SMITH's area was dying down and in the moon light enemy troops could be seen moving over the feature. Sgt MORRISON saw that the enemy were now diverting their attention to his own group and he could see a large number of enemy approaching his area.
9. He then decided to withdraw to the high ground which led to his Coy locality. Reaching this high ground he heard another party of enemy approaching and found six enemy in possession of the ridge line. Realising that his line of withdrawal was cut and that he was virtually surrounded he saw that his only chance of success lay in immediate aggressive action. Singling out the enemy group on the ridge line, he and Cpl Frank MacKAY made a frontal attack killing the six enemy in hand to hand fighting.
10. Having done this he quickly organised his group and started to continue his withdrawal just below the crest of the ridge line. He proceeded for some 50 yards being continually harrassed.
11. During the complete withdrawal Sgt MORRISON's group was attacked by platoon sized groups of enemy on two separate occasions from the right flank and one from the rear. These attacks were quickly broken up by immediate counter attacks with OWEN gunners personally led by Sgt MORRISON in the first two instances, and by Pte (Bomber) TERRY in the case of the attack from the rear.
12. During these attacks the group that originally consisted of 18 suffered three missing in action, three stretcher cases, five walking wounded. Despite this high percentage of casualties it is considered that the aggressive on the part of Sgt MORRISON and his group was entirely responsible for the successful evacuation of all wounded. This action so disorganised the enemy, who were numerically superior that they disengaged and withdrew whilst the patrol group was still 500 yards from their Coy localities. This allowed the last part of the withdrawal to be

(continues on Page 12)

Funnies

You Know It's a Bad Day When...

You wake up to discover that your water bed broke, and then you realise that you don't have a water bed.
Your horn goes off accidentally and remains stuck as you follow a group of Hell's Angels on the freeway.
Your ex-lover calls and tells you he/she has 6 days to live, and that you'd better get the Test!
Your lover tells you, "I'm sub-letting another apartment and the movers are here to move me."
The woman/man you've been seeing on the side begins to look like your wife/husband.
You want to put on the clothes you wore home from the party, and there aren't any.
You turn on the TV news and they're displaying emergency routes out of your city.
You need your chocoholic fix and the government just banned chocolate!
Your doctor tells you, "Well, I have bad news and good news..."
You have an appointment in 10 minutes, and you just woke up.
Your birthday cake collapses from the weight of the candles.
You wake up at work naked in front of your co-workers.
You put both contact lenses in the same eye.
The blind date turns out to be your ex-wife.
You jump out of bed and miss the floor.
Your income tax refund cheque bounces.
Suicide Prevention puts you on hold.
Your twin forgets your birthday

Be careful about reading health books. You may die of a misprint. – Mark Twain

What NOT To Say...

12 things not to say when a cop pulls you over

- I can't reach my license unless you hold my beer.
- Sorry officer, I didn't realise my radar detector wasn't plugged in.
- Hey, you must have been doing 140 to keep up with me. Well done.
- I thought you had to be in relatively good physical shape to be a police officer.
- Shouldn't you be back at the station eating donuts and chugging beer?
- I was going to be a cop, but I decided to finish high school instead.
- You're not going to check the boot, are you?
- Is it true that people become cops because they are too dumb to work at McDonalds.
- So uh, you on the take or what?
- I was trying to keep up with traffic. Yes, I know there is no other cars around. That's how far they are ahead of me.
- Hey, can you give me another one of those full cavity searches?
- Hey, is that pistol a 9mm? Well...that's nothing compared to this 44 magnum.
- Well, when I reached down to pick up my bag of heroin, my gun fell off of my lap and got lodged between the brake and the gas pedal, forcing me to speed out of control.

Profound Thoughts

Death is hereditary.

If it ain't broke, fix it 'til it is.

There's no future in time travel.

Indecision is the key to flexibility.

Beauty is in the eye of the beer holder.

It's lonely at the top, but you eat better.

The gene pool could use a little chlorine.

If you can't convince them, confuse them.

If something goes without saying, LET IT!

Why is a carrot more orange than an orange?

In just two days, tomorrow will be yesterday.

I drive way too fast to worry about cholesterol.

My inferiority complex is not as good as yours.

99 percent of lawyers give the rest a bad name.

God must love stupid people, he made so many.

I'm not afraid of heights – I'm afraid of widths.

My Resignation as an Adult

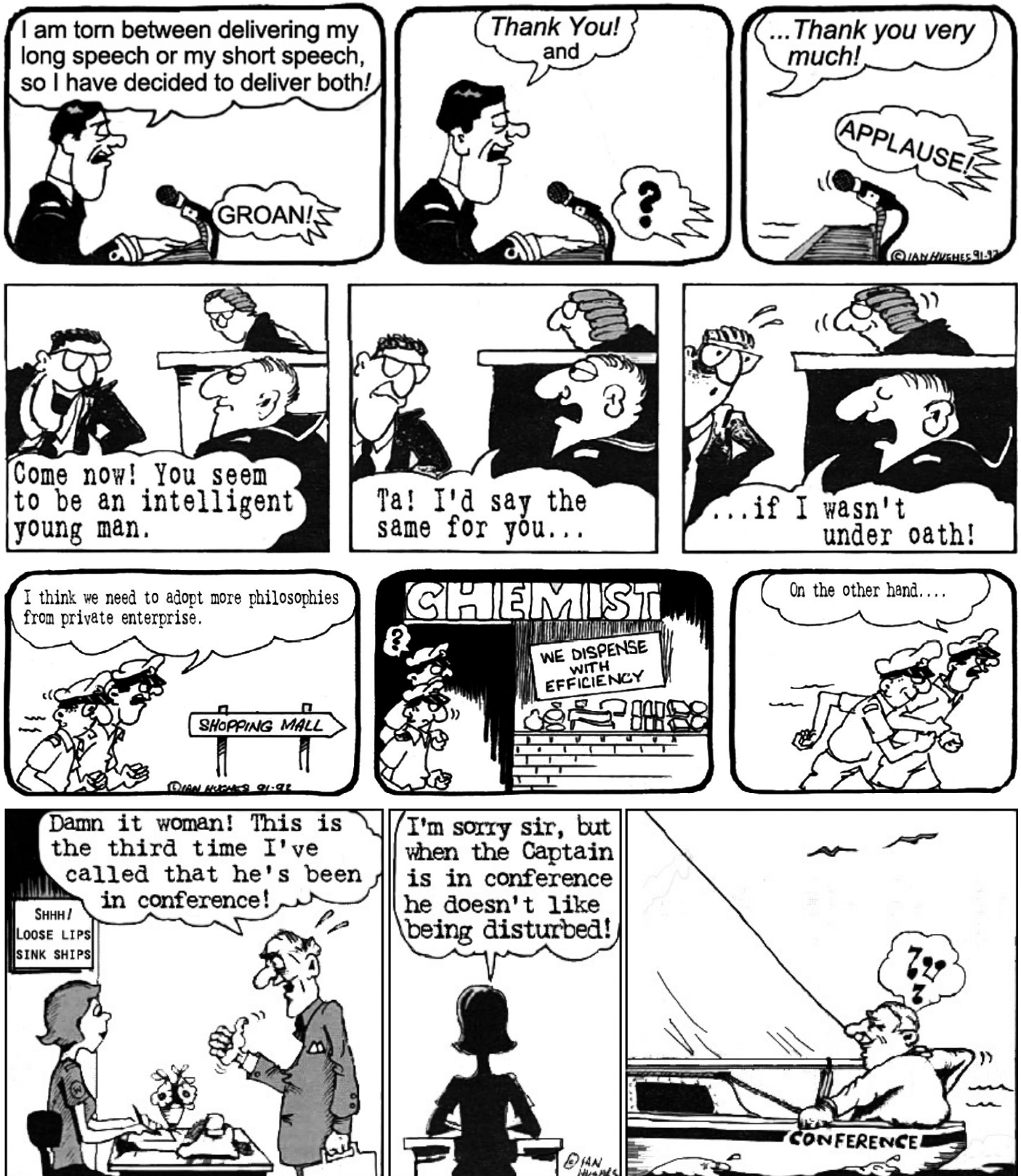
To Whom It May Concern:

I am hereby officially tendering my resignation as an adult. I have decided I would like to accept the responsibilities of a six-year-old again. I want to go to McDonald's and think that it's a four-star restaurant. I want to sail sticks across a fresh mud puddle and make ripples with rocks. I want to think that M&Ms are better than money, because you can eat them. I want to play kickball during recess and paint with water-colours in art. I want to lie under a big oak tree and run a lemonade stand with my friends on a hot summer day. I want to return to a time when life was simple. When all you knew were colours, addition tables and simple nursery rhymes, but that didn't bother you, because you didn't know what you didn't know and you didn't care. When all you knew was to be happy because you didn't know all the things that should make you worried and upset. I want to think that the world is fair. I want to believe that anything is possible.

HMAS Wort

by Ian Hughes

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



The Verdict

A mobster was on trial, facing a possible life sentence, but his lawyer bribed a juror to hold out for a lesser charge. After hours of deliberation, the jury returned a verdict carrying a maximum of ten years in prison.

Afterward, the lawyer goes to the juror. "You had me so worried! When the jury was out so long, I was afraid you couldn't pull it off."

"I was worried too!" answered the juror. "The others all wanted to acquit him!"

completed without interference.

13. Three members of Lt SMITH's group previously reported missing made their way back to their Coy locality at approximately 1330 hrs 25 Jan 53. Debriefing of these three men, which was the sole source of first hand information of Lt SMITH's party disclosed that the initial fire fight as heard by Sgt MORRISON's group was occasioned by a platoon sized attack against this group. This attack was repulsed but was immediately followed by a further attack thought to have been of company strength launched from three directions. It was after this attack that Lt SMITH ordered the withdrawal of his group. However himself and four others



Group portrait of 11 members of A Company, 3rd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment (3RAR), survivors of patrol group led by Sergeant Edward John (Jack) Morrison (front right). AWM photo. P04528.002

were the only one's seen to move. As the party withdrew Lt SMITH was seen to be hit by a concussion grenade. The three men lay up well in enemy territory all night and began their journey back in the early morning. The fourth man was apparently killed or captured by the enemy.

14. In this patrol action it is estimated that there were 80 enemy killed by small arms fire apart from heave casualties that must be expected from the intense artillery and mortar fire which was falling on the enemy likely forming up positions and which continued after Sgt MORRISON's group returned.

Casualty List

MIA

3/400795	Pte	POOLE	A.
4/400156	"	BRADY	F.
3/400376	"	TERRY	L.T.
4/400163	"	BROWN	G.
1/400481	"	DAVIS	J.F.
1/400524	"	McCULLOCK	J.
3/400808	"	O'BRIEN	V.E.
3/400868	"	SAUNDERS	J.P.
5/400033	"	MacKAY	J.H.
2/401292	"	DAVOREN	B.T.
5/400181	"	HODGKISSON	J.W.
5/2103	"	SCURRY	A.J.
2/35020	Lt	SMITH	F.C.

WIA

5/400270	Pte	BROMLEY	T.H.
2/401171	"	WHITE	R.A.
3/400788	"	ELLIS	F.
2/400753	"	SMITH	L.E.
3/3841	L/Cpl	MacKAY	F.L.
1/400347	Pte	MELLOR	P.
2/401197	"	MATTHEWS	L.J.
3/400897	"	WHITING	T.J.
2/400995	"	MURRAY	D.M.
2/401066	"	GRIFFITHS	G.T.

KIA on Standing Patrol During action (Mortar)

1/400545	Pte	WATERS
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Vale Alan McDonald

Colonel (retired) Alan Martin McDonald OAM
(20 Sept. 1930–17 Oct. 2020).

Alan served 38 years with the Australian Army graduating from Duntroon in 1951 then serving with 3RAR and the Commonwealth Division HQ in the Korean War. He went on to be Commanding Officer of 7 Signals Regiment and Commandant Army Apprentice School Balcombe, Director of Defence Communication Systems Division and Director of Training Army Headquarters.

He was a Life Member of the Mornington RSL where he served as Appeals and Welfare Officer, as Vice-



Alan McDonald in December 2013.

President, and as President and was a Shire Councillor.

A Life Member of the KVAA, he also served for a decade on the General Committee, took part in numerous projects and from November 2017 was Vice-President.