

THE VOICE

August 2013 Edition

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An Aussie Soldier in Korea

In June 2013, three junior NCOs, as part of the CA "I'm an Australian Soldier" Scholarship, journeyed to South Korea to study the Australian campaigns of the Korean War. This coincided with the June revisit for Korea War veterans. One of the soldiers, LBdr Justin Donnelly, stationed at the Lavarack Barrack, Townsville, kept notes on his time in South Korea. The following edited (and truncated) extracts are from that journal:

23rd April 2013: This morning we met up with the Australian veterans we would be traveling with for the next 5 days. We had 18 veterans in our group and a total of 120 veterans from 5 nations on the re-visit tour of South Korea. Some veterans were traveling alone, some with partners, sons, or daughters. We immediately all got along and the banter and camaraderie was so familiar that it was hard to believe some of these men are well over 80 years old, but none the less we all got along like we had been mates for years.

Today we set off to the DMZ. At 11:07 we passed the final identification check point after passing the 3 layers of defence on the way in, one being the anti tank walls, which once activated, blow large pillars of concrete off their supports to block the road. The second is an active minefield which, we were told, now and then animals go wandering through. Clearly they wouldn't make it too far in. The last defence is a double-layer 8 foot fence that runs from coast to coast with the outer layer being electrified.

We then entered Camp Bonifas which is a military post located 400m south of the southern boundary of the Korean demilitarized zone. We then entered into the Freedom Building, built to host unification meetings between families separated by the Korean war. In here we received a presentation on the area and the history and propaganda of what has occurred in the area since 1953.

We then headed out to the conference centres which are built on both half on South and half on North, so at one point of the trip I was classed as being in North Korea. I got out of that side of the room quite fast.

Here the Guards stand watch along the border. It was a very different feeling actually seeing these soldiers in the flesh as opposed to all the pictures I had seen of this place. The way they present themselves and maintain such an aggressive stance the whole time they are at their post is quite a feat.

(continues on Page 12)

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Korea & South East Asia Forces Association of Australia
Sister with Korean War Veterans Association Australian Chapter
Twinned with the South London Branch British Korean Veterans Associations
Twinned with the Korea Veterans Association of Canada

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Korea War Veterans Association of NSW
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Merchandise Available

KVAA Inc. pocket badge	\$10.00	\$	Kapypong battle print	\$ 5.00	\$
KVAA Inc. lapel badge	\$10.00	\$	RAN print: Ships in Korea	\$ 5.00	\$
KVAA Inc. windscreen decal	\$ 5.00	\$	Tie (with KVAA Inc. logo)	\$20.00	\$
Korean War bumper sticker	\$ 2.50	\$	Car number plate surrounds (set)	\$10.00	\$
Korean War map (laminated)	\$ 6.00	\$			

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President's Report



Vic Dey, National President, KVAA Inc.

On Sunday 30 June, the Bairnsdale RSL hosted a Memorial Ceremony which included the dedication of a Missing in Action Plaque. The weather held out for the service and a good attendance by Korea veterans was present to pay homage to fallen mates. Many thanks to the President of the Bairnsdale RSL and his staff for the luncheon provided to their guests. Ms Emily Buurman, a very talented young lady, sung the national anthems of both Australia and Korea.

This was followed on Tuesday 23rd July with a trip to Cobram-Barooga R.S.L. (on the Vic./NSW border) a ceremony, commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the Cease Fire of the Korean War. The night before we were wined and dined by President Rob Brown, Secretary Barry Clarke, and members of the Committee and their wives. First class hospitality.

Rob presided over the actual ceremony the next day. Local school children sang and performed in a manner well beyond and above their young tender years. This Ceremony was very well attended by veterans/wives/widows and families from Melbourne and across northern Victoria and, of course, southern New South Wales.

By the time you read this, the 1st August ceremony at The Shrine followed by the Reception at Government House – both special events for us – will have come and gone. As our Editor needs this report before the events take place, the outcome of these special events will come to you in the October issue of *The Voice*.

MIA Letter

The following is the (slightly edited) response from the office of Warren Snowdon, Minister for Veterans' Affairs, to a MIA inquiry by Merv Heath, our NSW delegate. Although it says nothing new, there is some potentially useful contact information here.

Thank you for your letter of 2 April 2013 to the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, the Hon. Warren Snowdon MP, concerning Australian servicemen who remain missing following the Korean War. This matter falls within the Minister's portfolio responsibilities as Minister for Defence Science and Personnel. He has asked me to respond on his behalf.

In 2011, the Australian Army and the Royal Australian Air Force commenced the Korean War Project. The purpose of the project is to ensure that the services are prepared to respond to any opportunities to search and recover Australian servicemen missing in Korea at any time in the future. However, those Australians who are unrecovered in Korea were lost in North Korea and the demilitarised zone between North and South Korea, areas that are inaccessible at the present time.

Case files are maintained for each Australian serviceman who remains unrecovered from the Korean War. An important aim of the project is to establish contact with members of the missing servicemen's families and to maintain up-to-date family contacts to ensure that the details in each case file are accurate and provide a means to share information. Family members may be able to help with DNA reference samples (in case of any discoveries in the future) and other information that might be of assistance.

The project also aims to speak with veterans who may have first hand information about the circumstances that led to the loss of any of the missing Australians. Any first hand information that can be gained will assist in the development of the case files. If you are able to put the Korean War Project team in touch with family members or veterans with first hand information, I encourage you to contact them. You can contact the project team via the Unrecovered War Casualties – Army Hotline on: Telephone: 1800 019 090 or email: army.uwc@defence.gov.au

You can learn more about the Korean War Project and the work of the Unrecovered War Casualties team by visiting: www.army.gov.au/Our-Work/Unrecovered-War-Casualties-Army

Mea Culpa! (Episode 2,418)

Yes, it is the latest instalment of the *Oops, I Goofed Show* starring the Editor. This time, however, there are some co-stars who, to protect the guilty, we will simply call Vic, Tom, Gerry and Alan. They are *The Voice* proof-readers who in a serious lapse of their roles failed to pick up a few errors.

Firstly, in the *Notices* section, the ad for the *Healing the Wounds of War* service should have read **Sunday 25th August**. It is not too late to attend. See amended ad in this edition of *The Voice*.

On page 8 of June's *Voice*, the notice for the MIA Dedication Service put on by the Moreland City Council should have read **Friday 26th July** and not Saturday 27th. Many apologies to those who attended on the wrong day.

Thirdly, in the **KVAA Inc. Calendar of Events**, the October mailout of *The Voice* is on **Thursday 10th of October** and not Wednesday the 9th.

Talks & Events at the Shrine

Bookings are essential for all talks and events. All talks: 5.30pm arrival for a 6pm start.

Informing the Enemy

When: Wednesday 21 August / Presenter: Aaron Pegram

3,848 Australians were captured by the Germans during the First World War. This talk looks at the value of Australian prisoners as intelligence sources for the German Army. Hear about German interrogation methods, AIF counter-intelligence training and the experiences of Australian prisoners.

Australian Heroines of World War One

When: Thursday 12 September / Presenter: Susanna de Vries

Join us for this compelling lecture recounting the lives of eight remarkable nurses whose resilience, courage and skill took them from Australia to Gallipoli, Lemnos and the Western Front. These women, represented in Susanna de Vries' latest publication, *Australian Heroines of World War One*, had the courage and strength for which the Anzacs are renowned and the compassion and tenderness that only a woman can bring.

Anzac Journeys

When: Thursday 26 September / Presenters: Bruce Seates, Keir Reeves and others

Australians have been making pilgrimages to the battlefields and cemeteries of WWII since the 1940s. From the jungles of New Guinea and South-East Asia to the mountains of Greece and the deserts of North Africa, they travel in search of the stories of lost loved ones, to mourn the dead and to come to grips with the past. Join a team of researchers from Monash University to retrace the history of these pilgrimages.

Victoria in the First World War

When: Wednesday 16 October / Presenter: Michael McKernan

Join Michael McKernan to hear of his most recent project which focuses on the history of Victoria in the First World War, commissioned by the State Library of Victoria. Learn about how the State of Victoria adapted to the rapidly changing nature of life, as men and women committed themselves to seeing through the war.

Finding HMAS Sydney

When: Wednesday 6 November / Presenters: Ted Graham and Kim Kirsner

In 2008 the finding of HMAS *Sydney*, sunk by the German Raider HSK *Kormoran* on 19 November 1941, touched the heart of the nation and brought a measure of peace to the families of the 645 *Sydney* men who were killed. This talk tells of the Finding Sydney Foundation (FSF) and the research that predicted the position of the raider *Kormoran* and provided accurate and efficient search boxes for both wrecks.

Sandakan

When: Thursday 21 November / Presenter: Paul Ham

Join Paul Ham and hear about the three year ordeal endured by the Sandakan prisoners of war. Thousands of court documents and interviews with the families of survivors and the deceased, have allowed Paul to piece together what happened to the people who suffered and died in North Borneo.

Lancaster Men

When: Thursday 28 November / Presenter: Peter Rees

More than 10,000 young Australians served in Bomber Command during the Second World War, flying raid after raid over Europe knowing the odds were against them. More than a third died in the air. In his new book, *Lancaster Men: The Aussie Heroes of Bomber Command*, Peter Rees describes the bravery shown, which he claims has never truly been recognised.

Bomber Command (Panel Discussion)

When: Tuesday 3 December / Chaired by: Air Vice-Marshal Chris Spence AO (Retired)

Join us for a special panel discussion on the experiences of Bomber Command members during the Second World War. Chaired by Chris Spence, the discussion will explore the experiences of a number of veterans, including Shrine Life Governor, Wing Commander Peter Isaacson AM, DFC, AFC, DFM and provide insight into the service of the more than 10,000 Australians who served with RAF Bomber Command.

The Lost Diggers

When: Wednesday 11 December / Presenter: Ross Coulthart

Ross Coulthart was part of a team that discovered a collection of thousands of WWI glass plate photographic negatives which had lain hidden in a French farmhouse attic for nearly 100 years. The stories behind some of these pictures formed the basis of Ross' best-selling book, *The Lost Diggers*. Join Ross for a glimpse into the lives of these men whose stories have been brought to life in the light of this remarkable discovery.

They Were Seven Days Adrift

Part One

No author credited

At noon on December 1, 1942, the Timor Sea lay sullen under a brassy tropical sun. Across its waters at a steady twelve knots steamed the Australian minesweeper *Armidale*. Bound for Batano on Timor's southern coast, she carried, besides her crew, 5 white soldiers and 61 native troops. Trained in guerilla warfare, they were reinforcements to the roving bands of fighters already harassing the Japanese invaders of Portugal's ancient possession.

Armidale's passage was known to the Japanese. Three times the previous day she had survived unscathed high bombing attacks and reached Betano safely, only to be forced to withdraw with the guerillas still on board, when the looked for recognition signals (two fires, fifty yards apart) failed to materialise. Now she was about to make a second attempt to put the troops ashore.

Seventy miles away, over the horizon's western rim, lay the enemy territory. Shortly after noon she was attacked by five dive bombers but again emerged unharmed from the spray of several near misses. For the next hour and a half all was quiet, but about 3 pm. *Armidale's* watching gunners sighted nine ominous black specks in the sky. The rapidly moving dots soon took shape as bombers, while high above them, like shepherds with their flock, three Zeros spanned the flight. An eye witness standing on the bridge watched fascinated as the enemy began to circle their intended prey.

"They kept on circling," he recorded later. "I forget how many times they went around, gradually spreading out, until, at a quarter past three down they came. It is impossible to describe the hell let loose in the next three minutes. They did not attack singly or in pairs, but came in from every conceivable angle. I had no idea they carried torpedoes until I saw a long black object drop from a bomber racing in off our starboard quarter not more than 30 feet above the water."

In less than three minutes it was all over and *Armidale* was gone, taking with her two of her tormentors, shot down in these last few desperate minutes. When the chatter of machine guns at last ceased and the whine of the departing aircraft began to fade, peace returned to the Timor Sea. Over its waters a mass of wreckage and the bobbing heads of its survivors marked *Armidale's* passing.

Two-thirds of the Dutch native troops were gone, killed in the forward mess deck by the blast of the first torpedo, and when the survivors finally gathered themselves around the badly holed ship's motor boat and heads were counted, 13 of the corvette's crew failed to answer the call. The motor boat, though riddled from end to end, was the only thing left floating in which it was possible to remain dry, and so all the wounded were placed there.

Besides the motor boat, the only other life-saving equipment left to the survivors was one Carley float, and two Denton rafts which are square blocks of balsa wood roped around the edges. Someone, however, had fortunately cut loose two of the long cylindrical French floats used in mine-sweeping, and these provided ample buoyancy to firm a flimsy raft by lashing across it some of the many pieces of timber strewn across a wide expanse of sea.

As the job was completed, the sun vanished below the horizon and darkness fell like a dropping curtain bringing a chill breeze that made the seamen shiver. About 8 o'clock, the moon rose over the slowly drifting cavalcade. No sound but the gentle lapping of the water and muffled tones of voices broke the utter stillness. Talk, passed about from raft to raft, dwelt on the narrow escapes and of those who died such as Ordinary Seaman Sheehan who, though severely wounded, stuck to his gun to the last.

When dawn came the shivering sailors sighted the ship's waterlogged whaler floating sluggishly along beneath the surface. It was added to the train with some oil drums and a few odd scraps of timber. The coming of daylight 'brought a stocktaking' and *Armidale's* commander (Lt. Cdr. D. H. Richards) found there was one barricoe of water, a case of bully beef, a case of condensed milk and two tins of fruit.

Breakfast was doled out, each man receiving a minute piece of meat and a drink of water. The wounded were tended and made as comfortable as possible to face the long hot tropical day. Everyone was cheerful and already scanning the sea for signs of the soon expected rescue vessel.

"For a while," wrote one survivor, "we tried tying the Carley float, the motor boat, and our home-made raft together, then six



(continues on Page 6)

They Were Seven Days Adrift (continued from Page 5)

at a time sitting on the Carley raft and paddling with our hands and a couple of small paddles. It was not much use. We made no progress at all, so we gave up and just drifted.”

Slowly the morning wore on with nothing except an occasional shark circling the rafts to break the monotony. The sun blazed down from a cloudless sky. Hours were spent in futile efforts to strike sodden matches to light the longed for cigarette.

At midday Richards addressed his crew. “We are,” he said, “about 350 miles from home. Aid might be many days away. I suggest taking the motor boat with some of the strongest to row, and the wounded. We will steer for Bathurst Island and bring, if we make it, help to you all.”

It was agreed and after six of the fittest men had transferred from the rafts and the food and water were divided, the motor boat set out carrying twenty men in all, including 12 wounded. Those on the rafts watched her go, cheering the oarsmen who widened the gap with every stroke, until at last she disappeared from sight. For those who were left to drift slowly over the Timor Sea, it seemed, as one survivor recorded, “the sun would never set. But, at last, it dropped like a great red ball into the western sea, and in one swift final flare, vanished. One and all, tortured by the burning rays of the afternoon, were glad to see it go. So began our second sleepless night. Every now and then the raft would break up and we would be forced to swim around in the dark hunting up the bits and pieces fearful of lurking sharks. It was a heartbreaking task, and I was just as thankful when dawn broke as I had been a few hours before to see the burning sun go down.”

(Conclusion next issue)

Source: *Navy News*, Vol.2 No.73 April 1959

Murmansk

During WWII, the port of Murmansk in the frigid wastes of the northern U.S.S.R. on the Barents Sea, played an important part in shoring up Soviet resistance to the Nazi invasion. It was the disembarkation point for the Arctic convoys from Britain and the U.S.A. carrying vast quantities of vital war materiel.

In June 1941 a determined German effort (Operation Silver Fox) was made to seize Murmansk with mixed German and Finnish forces. However, the offensive quickly ran out of steam and by the time the winter arrived the Germans were heavily outnumbered and had been successfully countered by superior Soviet forces.

On 22 September 1941, after repeated attempts to advance past the Litsa river, the German offensive was broken off and no further attempt to seize Murmansk made. The main German effort now focused on attempting to destroy the convoys by aerial attack on the harbour itself.

They ultimately failed in both aims, defeated by vast distances; the tyrannies of the Arctic weather, which severely limited the flying windows for bomber aircraft; the massive overstretch experienced by the Wehrmacht and Luftwaffe in its operations in the USSR; and a tenacious defence by Soviet forces.

Source: *BBC History* magazine, August 2011

New U.S. “Currency” 1942

In the months following the attack on Pearl Harbor, the invasion and occupation of the Hawaiian Islands was considered a real possibility. The fear was that an occupation of the islands would put more than \$200 million in currency in the hands of the invading Japanese, and that the same cash might then be used against us in various ways...

In response to that perceived threat, new currency was released in Hawaii shortly after the Pearl Harbor attack, quickly and effectively replacing the territory’s entire cash supply. Banknotes called *Hawaii Overprint Notes* were substituted, with each one prominently featuring the word Hawaii in large letters across their reverse sides. *Hawaii* was printed vertically in smaller letters on the front of each note. To further distinguish the replacement currency, the seals to the right of the president’s face were printed in brown instead of the usual dark green. Thus, had Hawaii been invaded and overrun, the Federal government would simply have declared that currency worthless and no longer legal tender anywhere in the world.

Residents of Hawaii were given a few months to exchange all their old currency for the specially printed banknotes. Originally the plan was to return all the turned-in currency to the continental US, but the logistics involved with that proved impractical; so it was all simply burned. At first a Honolulu crematorium was used, but when that facility proved unable to keep to schedule, furnaces at a nearby sugar mill were added.

On 15 August 1942 it became illegal for residents of Hawaii to have currency without the word *Hawaii* printed on it. At the same time, banknotes marked *Hawaii* couldn’t legally be used in the continental US. Those restrictions were lifted at the end of 1944, when all threat of a Japanese invasion of Hawaii was officially recognized as having passed.

Source *World at War* magazine #25 Aug.-Sept. 2012

D-Day 1943?

Q: Could the Allies have landed in France in 1943 with all the resources they used in the Mediterranean and ended the war sooner?

A: The answer to the first part of the question is 'yes.' The answer to the second part is 'probably not.' Throughout 1943 the western Allies launched a number of operations in the Mediterranean that tied up a large number of men, landing craft, bombers, naval support ships and so forth. These resources could have been used for an invasion of France in the summer of 1943.

The Americans pushed hard for this to happen in 1943. They even went so far as to pressure the British into drawing up a joint plan for such an offensive, code named Operation Roundup, with the main landing taking place west of Boulogne. In the event, Roundup was cancelled due to a lack of shipping available in Britain and fears of the strength of German forces in France.

The delay to 1944 allowed Italy to be knocked out of the war, the Russians to smash the main German armoured force at Kursk, and RAF Bomber Command to improve its tactics. These all degraded the German ability to defend France. What in 1943 would have been a risky and probably doomed invasion was, by June 1944, a risky but ultimately successful offensive.

Source: *BBC History* magazine, Vol.13, No.13, 2012

Airforce Firsts

The first use of *piloted heavier-than-air aircraft in war* occurred during the Italian conquest of Libya in 1911-12. More specifically, though, over the course of 712 sorties, the "firsts" recorded in that war were as follows (in no particular order):

1. the first flight of military aircraft over enemy territory
2. the first wartime air-to-ground and ground-to-air radio communications.
3. the first aerial bombing.
4. the first wartime aerial photography.
5. the first night-time military flight over enemy territory.
6. the first night-time bombing mission.
7. the first planes to receive anti-aircraft fire from the ground.
8. the first downed pilot captured by the enemy.
9. the first pilot killed on a wartime aerial mission

Source: *Strategy & Tactics* magazine, No.278

WWII Factoids

Approximately 85 million people were killed in WWII. About 55 million of the dead were Russian, and 35 million of these were Russian civilians.

Given the massive superiority of Allied production over that of the three Axis countries, it seems remarkable that it took the Western powers so long to win the war. The Allies had seven times as many tanks as Germany, Italy, and Japan combined, five times as much heavy artillery, three times as many combat aircraft, five times as many trucks, and seven times as many machine guns.

At the start of the German attack in 1941, the Soviet Union faced 98 percent of the combat strength (134 divisions) of the German army.

In 1941 the British air force was losing more airmen than the number of German civilians it was killing, and only one of five aircraft was actually bombing within five miles of its target.

Of the roughly 13.5 million German casualties during WWII, 10 million occurred on the eastern front, and fewer than 600,000 in western Europe.

WWII was the first war in which the bombing of civilians was adopted as a deliberate policy. Overall the Germans dropped 74,000 tons of bombs on Great Britain, killing 51,000 people. The Allies dropped nearly 2 million tons of bombs, killing 600,000 German civilians, 62,000 Italians, and more than 900,000 Japanese.



"Admiral, me foot - he's the ship's S.P. Bookie!"

Notices

Healing the Wounds of War

On Sunday 25th August, the St. Georges Uniting Church in East St. Kilda will be holding their "Healing the Wounds of War" Service. This Service started in 1917 to honour their Minister, the Rev. Andrew Gillison, who died at Gallipoli on August 22nd 1915. This years service commemorates the end of the Korean War 60 years ago. A Reading and Candle Lighting will be undertaken by a Korea War Veteran.

St. George's East St. Kilda Uniting Church
4 Chapel Street, East St. Kilda
Sunday 25 August 2012, 10:30am
Annual Memorial Service

The 2013 Seafarers Commemorative Service

Due to a number of reasons it has been decided to combine this year's Annual Seafarers Church Service (St Paul's Cathedral) and Navy Wreath Laying Service (Shrine of Remembrance) into one Seafarers Commemorative Service. This significant service will be conducted at the Cenotaph, Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne. This combined service will take place at **10.30am on Sunday 20th October 2013**. The RAN Band will participate and we also expect a Colour Guard and Navy Cadets to parade the Australian White Ensign, National Flags and House Flags. The Mission to Seafarers, Royal Australian Navy, Company of Master Mariners and ex-service organisations will be represented, along with several Consuls General.

Shrine of Remembrance Annual Dinner

The Shrine of Remembrance Annual Dinner will take place on the evening of Wednesday 13 November 2013 at the Melbourne Town Hall. Time: 6.30pm for 7.00pm start. The theme of the Dinner will commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the end of the Korean War (1950-53) where Australia suffered more than 1,500 casualties, including 340 who were killed. Tickets are now on sale: \$200 per ticket or \$180 for *Friends of the Shrine* (Note: This applies to KVAA Inc. members). All proceeds from the Dinner support the Shrine's education programs. Further information: 03 9661 8100 or reception@shrine.org.au

Improved Military Compensation Arrangements

The veteran and defence communities and their families are set to benefit from new military compensation arrangements passed through Parliament recently. The changes include increased compensation, expanded eligibility criteria and improvements to existing military compensation arrangements under the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act (2004) from 1 July 2013. This follows recommendations accepted by the Government as part of the recent Review of Military Compensation Arrangements. The Government allocated \$17.4 million over four years to implement 96 of the 108 recommendations accepted in the Review. For further information click on the 'MRCA Review' tab on the DVA website at www.dva.gov.au

New Book: *Lost* by Allen Lyne

This book is about all forty-five ships and boats lost by the RAN in the period 1914-1974. Mercifully, in the forty year period since the sinking of the patrol boat *HMAS Arrow*, the RAN has suffered no loss. *Lost* traces the history of each ship from launch until loss.

It includes a detailed analysis of the strategic picture at the time of each ship's loss, a description of the actions in which ships were lost and an afterword. The book also examines Australia's states of military preparedness at the commencement of each World War.

Cost: \$ 32 + \$3 postage for the paperback (305 pages and 17 photographs) or \$12 for the E-Book (all formats). Call (08) 8 327 4142 or e-mail: beartwo@bigpond.com or Website: www.bearly.net

IFKWVA Change

At the meeting of the International Federation Of Korean War Veterans which was held in Seoul in the last week of June, Mr George Gadd, chairman of the IFKWVA, did not re-nominate for the position and a new chairman was voted in. The new Chairman is John Bishop who is also the current National chairman of the Korean Veterans Association Canada. Following the election of the new chairman you are advised the International Federation of Korean War Veterans will NOT be closing as was intimated by the outgoing chairman.

Steven Tae Kim Award

Steven Tae Kim, Past President of KVAA Chapter (NSW) was awarded the Order of Australia Medal (OAM) for service to the welfare of Korean War Veterans. Steven was President of the Korea Veterans' Association of Australia, for 8 years and also served as Vice President. He is also Coordinator with Revisit Korea, the joint venture of the South Korean Ministry of Patriots' and Veterans' Affairs and the Korea Veterans' Association of Australia.

A balanced diet is chocolate in both hands.

Operation Gomorrah

Operation Gomorrah, the Allied bombing of Hamburg, took place in late July 1943. On the two nights of raids the aiming point for Bomber Command was not the U-boat and naval yards on the south bank of the Elbe but the residential districts to the north, but the effect of “creep-back,” the tendency of crews to drop their bombs short of the aiming point, ensured that the full weight of the bombing was felt in the densely populated areas of the city.

The first raid killed about 1,500 people, but the second, when the incendiary load was increased by about a third, was devastating. The bombing was unusually concentrated and the fires coalesced into a single firestorm that expanded to cover an area of over four square miles. Temperatures at the centre reached about 1,472° Fahrenheit, with hurricane-force winds as oxygen was sucked in by the firestorm.

About 16,000 blocks of apartments caught fire, and although most of the residents were in basement shelters, they died because the oxygen was sucked out. Only a few survived in the open air by jumping into canals or water-filled craters. The firestorm lasted for five hours and about 40,000 people were killed (almost as many as died in Britain in the whole of the war).

A mass exodus from the city followed – over 1 million people left. However, although about a quarter of a million homes were destroyed and 900,000 people needed rehousing, the war production lost was small (less than two months in total) and within five months the city was back to 80 percent of its normal output. In February 1945 a similar attack on Dresden, which was crowded with refugees from the east, probably killed about 70,000 to 80,000 people in a single night..

Source: Ponting, Clive, *Armageddon*, Sinclair Stevenson, 1995

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Annual RAAF Service

In memory of the thirty-five RAAF and six RAF airmen who died on active service with 77 squadron RAAF during the Korean War.

Point Cook Museum Tour and Plaque Commemoration

Wednesday 2nd October 2013

Museum tour: 10:00 (RAAF Base Williams museum)

Commemoration Service: 12.15 Memorial Parade Square (Holy Trinity Chapel if inclement weather)

(Note: with medals at Service).

Followed by Lunch at the Werribee R.S.L. in Kelly Park, Synott Street, Werribee (Pay own way)

Melways 198 J,4 (tour & service) / Melways 205 K,8 (Werribee R.S.L.)

Bus transportation: Fee:\$5 (Note: the bus has room for only 22).

(The bus leaves from the Stella Maris Seafarers Centre, 600 Lt. Collins St., at **9 am**).

Cars: those driving to the event are required to list their car registration no. plus the names of all passengers

Members wishing to attend please fill out and return the form by Monday 23rd September 2013 to:

Ron Christie, 15 Bianca Court, Rowville, Victoria 3178.

Phone: 03 9764 5542. Email: seafury1@bigpond.net.au

Car Registration No.: _____ OR Bus required YES / NO (please circle).

Names of those attending: _____

Payment enclosed \$ _____ for _____ person / people attending.

(Make cheque or money order payable to: Korea Veterans Association of Australia Inc.)

Humour

Jenny

A man is sitting reading his newspaper when his wife hits him around the head with a frying pan.

“What was that for?” the man asks.

The wife replies: “That was for the piece of paper with the name Jenny on it that I found in your pants pocket.”

Dazed, the man says: “I was at the races last week and Jenny was the name of the horse I bet on.”

The wife apologises and goes on with the housework.

Three days later, the man is watching television when his wife comes in and bashes him on the head with an even bigger frying pan, knocking him unconscious. When he finally comes around, the husband inquires as to why he’d been hit again with a frying pan.

“Your horse phoned,” his wife tells him.

Why You Should Drink Beer

A herd of buffalo can only move as fast as the slowest buffalo. And when the herd is hunted, it is the slowest and weakest ones at the back that are killed first. This natural selection is good for the herd as a whole, because the general speed and health of the whole group keeps improving by the regular killing of the weakest members.

In much the same way, the human brain can only operate as fast as the slowest brain cells. Now as we know, excessive intake of alcohol kills brain cells. But naturally, it attacks the slowest and weakest brain cells first. In this way, regular consumption of beer eliminates the weaker brain cells, making the brain a faster and more efficient machine.

And that is why you always feel smarter after a few beers.

A Tourist in Rural Ireland

A European tourist is lost and stops in an Irish village to ask for directions. He sees two old men sitting outside the pub enjoying their Guinness. “Parlez-vous Francais, he asks. The old men look at each other and shake their heads. “Sprechen sie Deutsch?” Again, the old men shake their heads. Beginning to get a bit irritated, the tourist asks “Habla Espanol?” The men once again shake their heads. Totally exasperated by now, the tourist asks “Parla l’italiano?” The men once again look at each other and then shake their heads in puzzlement. The tourist is so disgusted that he drives off.

One old man says to the other, “You know, Sean, perhaps we should learn another language.”

“Ah get on with yeh,” replies Sean. “Look at him, he knows four and it didn’t do him a bit of good.”

Mental Health Hotline

Thank you for calling the Mental Health Hotline. . .

- If you are obsessive-compulsive, press 1 repeatedly.
- If you are co-dependent, please ask someone to press 2 for you.
- If you have multiple personalities, press 3, 4, and 5.
- If you are paranoid, you need not press any buttons... we know who and where you are, and what you want.
- If you are delusional, press 7 and your call will be transferred to the mother ship.
- If you are schizophrenic, listen carefully and a small voice will tell you which number to press.
- If you are a manic-depressive, you can press any button, but no one will answer.
- If you are dyslexic, press 9696969696969.
- If you have amnesia, press 8 and state your name, address, phone number, date of birth, social security number, and your mother’s maiden name.
- If you have post-traumatic stress disorder, slowly and carefully press 000.
- If you have bipolar disorder, please leave a message after the beep or before the beep. Or after the beep. Please wait for the beep.
- If you have short-term memory loss, press 9. If you have short-term memory loss, press 9. If you have short-term memory loss, press 9.
- If you have low self-esteem, please hold...all of our operators are too busy to talk to you.

No Pleasing Ma

A young man excitedly tells his mother he’s fallen in love and is going to get married. He says, “Just for fun, Ma, I’m going to bring over three women and you try and guess which one I’m going to marry.”

The mother agrees. The next day, he brings three beautiful women into the house and sits them down on the couch and they chat for a while. He then says, “Okay, Ma. Guess which one I’m going to marry.”

She immediately replies, “The redhead in the middle.”

“That’s amazing, Ma. You’re right. How did you know?”

“I don’t like her.”

Losing the Plot

A man bought his wife a burial plot for her birthday. The following year, when he bought her nothing, she complained. He said “What are you complaining about? You didn’t use the present I bought you last year!”

Out & About

MIA Plaque Dedication
Bairnsdale RSL, 10am, 30 June 2013



(l-r) Stuart McCann, Trevor McRae (seated), John Brooks, Vic Dey, Alan Evered, Steve Johnson, Peter Cerda-Pavia, Ron Kennedy, Ivan Ryan

Dikko

by Bob Dikkenburg



"Of course I'm a Captain - but A.B. is my more permanent rank."



"Naughty, Naughty, you're not relaxing."



"I don't care if you call a sub-Lieutenant a Subby, a Lieutenant a Looy, a Lieutenant-Commander a two-and-a-Halfer, but you don't call the Commodore a commo!"

In the conference room we were able to get photos with the guards, but the rule of one arm space distance was not always adhered to by the veterans and a couple got a bit of a scare when the guard shoots out his arm in a punching motion to warn you are too close to his post.

After the DMZ we headed to OP Typhoon. It is the closest OP the South Koreans have to the border with it being only 800m away from the cease-fire line. This OP is one of the highest, and from here it really showed how treacherous and hard to navigate these jagged and steep ridge lines would be. It really gave you a sense of how hard the soldiers back then would have been pushing themselves to achieve their missions.

Tonight we were treated to a beautiful buffet dinner hosted by the Australian ambassador, Bill Patterson. He said a few words giving thanks to the veterans and all they had done. We were quick to take advantage of the complimentary beer and wine. After all, we are Australian soldiers.

24th April 2013: Today we had an early start and a long drive to Kapyong, where they held the Commonwealth Commemoration service. The monument here was very large, well built and well maintained. It was a great feeling seeing all the flags flying together, and seeing the veterans mingling and walking around proudly with their medals shining on their chests.

At the start of the service some of the veterans were marched on by a screaming Canadian Sergeant. I'm sure this took them back to the days of being a digger. It was clear that not a lot of them have done any marching or drill movements in the last 50 years.

Canon Thomas Robert Jennings held the service and is a Korean veteran himself. At the start of the service he told us that the polished brass cross he carries around once was a brass cartridge case, once a weapon of war and destruction and now a symbol of peace and unity.

After the service we headed to the ANZAC memorial which is located where the battle of Kapyong took place. Being here put everything we had been reading and studying into perspective. We could actually see the ground that Alpha, Bravo, Charlie and Delta company were defending against the Chinese...

We all stood for the national anthem. There I was, saluting as the anthem played, across from all the veterans as they stood with their hands on their hearts, heads held high and singing along with the anthem...

After the service, the Aussies were the only ones who brought beer, and we three scholarship winners were put to work cracking open the stubbies so the veterans could quench their thirst. The Ambassador got involved and knocked back a stubbie. Those from other nations, envious of our esky full of VB, were coming over trying to get their hands on one. Being the good blokes we are we handed a few over and everyone was happy, but it was clear by the looks on some of the faces that not everyone was taken by the taste of VB.

25th April 2013: This morning was another early start as expected with any ANZAC day dawn service. It was held at the South Korean war memorial which is absolutely enormous... Today was going to be the 3rd time we had heard the Last Post play and any Aussie soldier can tell you how much they love saluting while it is being played...

...We had a few hours to explore the war memorial and take in some history and culture. These guys [the Koreans] were well ahead of their time with weaponry back in the dynasty days as they utilized 'rocket' power for everything from arrows to artillery...

We then all met up back in the function room for lunch. By this point we were used to the huge buffets they were putting on every meal, but the combinations of food they served was often a strange mix (to put it nicely). We also again made the most of the free beer on hand and enjoyed many drinks with the veterans whilst listening to their stories.

After lunch we moved to the national cemetery which covers over 343 acres and is immaculately maintained. Here they held an ash ceremony and this was the first time all the veterans from all nations were formed up and marched in. The Thai Army Band played music while we paid our respect in a minute's silence.

After this we moved to the front of the entrance and all the veterans formed up for a photo. LCPL Mayo and myself ran in front of the gathering media and photographers to get a great photo of the veterans. As we were kneeling in front of everyone, I asked if we should yell out and give a big AUSSIE, AUSSIE, AUSSIE. We had a quick discussion and thought it would be appropriate so she [Mayo] let out a huge blast shouting, "AUSSIE, AUSSIE, AUSSIE" and without delay we were blasted back with an overwhelming "OI, OI, OI."

We were very happy with the result and there was even a round of applause, and then we were approached by many Koreans asking what that was and for us to write it down for them...

We had the afternoon free and made the most of it exploring the streets of Seoul and taking in as much of the local food and hospitality as possible. We even figured out the subway system without ending up on the other side of the city.

Tonight we were treated to a grand function in the hotel's crystal ballroom by the ROK Minister of Veterans

(continues on Page 14)

Korea Visit / Revisit

April 22-27 2013

Among the Australian contingent on the April Korea revisit trip were the KVAA's own Merv Heath, Ted Richardson and George Coleman. Photos via all three and comments by Merv Heath.



The Australian contingent, carers, companions, and Australian and South Korean officials, joined by children and teachers from a local school, at the Australian War Memorial at Gapyeong.



The Australian group of returnees with carers and two South Korean Guards at the border to the D.M.Z.

Merv Heath 23rd April: *Bus to DMZ. Briefing on tour by American Guards. They lined us up and told us not to cross the white line in front of us as we would be in North Korea. We promptly stepped over it and sang our Aussie! Aussie! Aussie! Oi! Oi! Oi!. The American guards and the North Koreans wondered what hit them. After that we had a tour of the front lines and general area. Lunch at the local restaurant. Don't know what we ate (all Korean food). But it was nice.*



George Coleman admiring (trying to steal?) a Soviet-made motorcycle from the Korea War Memorial.



Ted Richardson, George Coleman and Merv Heath

Merv Heath 24th April: *We had our own bus. Everything was spread out, so we had a good look at the towns and countryside. The roads were five lanes wide...*



Merv Heath 25th April: *Had a big thank-you banquet for everyone. Most of us, if not all, awarded thank-you plaque, medallions, Ambassador for Peace medal, Certificate of Ambassador for Peace. Banquet consisted of several speeches by senior officials, etc. Lovely Korean food (six courses) and drinks. Entertained by South Korean drummers and school children singing. (Very good)...*

An Aussie Soldier in Korea (continued from Page 12)

Affairs. These guys don't skimp on anything. Everything was first class, with a 7 course meal and nine or more pieces of cutlery. I had no idea what I was doing and ended up with half the knives and forks still on the table when all the meals had been served. They got all us toasting with their national drink, *soju*, a sweet potato or rice whiskey which you drink as a shot. The function lasted a few hours and we ended up down stairs in the bar till the early hours. I have to say that when we left there were still some veterans up going strong.

Friday 26th 2013: Today was our last day of traveling with the group and we were not looking forward to saying good bye in the afternoon. We were up early and off to Seoul station for a two and a half hour train ride to Busan. This was the first time I had been on a train that travels at speeds of up to 300km/hr and it was pretty impressive.

Once we arrived we went to lunch and knowing it was the last time I will have so much food in front of me I made the most of it and could tell I enjoyed it when I started having trouble putting my black belt back on. We moved to the United Nations Memorial Cemetery. The area is broken up into different sites. Every site is unique and has a different theme: the UN Sculpture Park, the Peace Park, the Memorial Tower, the Cemetery, and areas of remembrance for each nation that lost lives during the war.

In the cemetery lie the remains of 2,300 soldiers, 281 of which from Australia. During the period of 1951-1954 the remains of about 11,000 soldiers were gathered here. After that, most of the remains from Belgium, Colombia, Ethiopia, Greece, India, the Philippines, Thailand and United States were repatriated to their home countries.

Here we had our final Commonwealth commemoration ceremony and were then able to tour the cemetery. This was a moving time as a lot of the veterans were finding their mates' graves for the first time since the war and were telling us some remarkable stories of the soldiers that lay before us. As part of our study, we were given a soldier to research and talk to the veterans about, so for me it was a good feeling to find the grave of Private Madden and talk to others about him. I laid a cross and poppy for him and left with a sense of pride.



Aussie! Aussie! Oi! Oi! Oi!

Editorial Disclaimer

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Farewells

David W. G. Bates
2832, 1RAR on 4 May 2013

David John Campbell,
2401040, 3RAR
in late March 2013

Clem Conlan,
35636, HMAS *Sydney*
in late May 2013

Ronald Cecil (Ron) Curtis,
54536, 3RAR on 12 June 2013

Frank William Davies,
51174, 3RAR on 25 July 2013

Walter John (Wally) Davies,
2410214, 3RAR
on 11 June 2013

Gordon Ferguson,
51814, 1RAR on 12 June 2013

Robert D. Fisher,
13015, 1RAR on 3 August 2013

Patrick Fitzpatrick,
3400614, 3RAR on 7 July 2013

John P. Gerdson,
3400464, 1RAR & 2 RAR
in June 2013

Sidney D. Holloway,
210156, 3RAR on 13 April 2013

David Irving,
3400412, 3RAR on 14 July 2013

Lyle Johnston,
35636, HMAS *Sydney*
on 30 March 2013

George (Scruffy) McGovern,
52516, 3RAR on 21 April 2013

Patrick Gordon Turner,
310235, 3RAR on 20 April 2013

Richard Welsby,
British Army 1951-1952
on 15 July 2013

Douglas D. Whyburn,
45038, HMAS *Condamine*
on 31 August 2012

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