

THE VOICE

June 2015 Edition

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Editor's Opening

1 Well, Anzac Day has come and gone and it was a wet one. Rain
2 threatened for much of the week leading up to the event before deciding
2 to play spoilsport on the day itself; not heavy, just persistent enough
2 to prove uncomfortable and annoying. Despite this, and given that it is
2015 and not 1995, there was a decent turnout of veterans, most of whom
3 managed to march the distance. Those who felt they couldn't manage it,
3 took to the swanky cars provided – and in one instance, wanting to take
3 the car (as in take it home). Unfortunately, due to a scheduling snafu,
3 those in the cars found themselves behind ferried behind the Borneo and
3 Malaysia groups. The editor searched in vain in the rain but, alas, no
3 photos for *The Voice* or the website.

4 It isn't very often that our patron, Major General, Jim Hughes finds
5 himself outranked. An unexpected and welcome addition to those who
5 marched was retired General Young Hae Kwon, who in addition to his
6 military service is also a former Minister for Defence and ex-Chief of
6 the National Intelligence Service in the South Korean government. Take
7 that, Jim!

8 The day was not casualty free, however. Whilst putting together the
9 KVAA banner, the editor callously and unprovoked (if unintentionally)
9 managed to club a lass from the Australian Air League, literally giving
9 her a thick lip. Fortunately, KVAA Inc. Secretary, Alan Evered, was on
10 hand with a fresh tissue to help stanch the blood. The lass recovered and
10 went on to carry the banner in the march along with another girl from the
11 Australian Air League, while their male colleagues carried the flags.

11 The Australian Air League, I hear you ask. Who are they? I'm glad
11 you asked. The AAL is a self-funding youth organisation staffed by
11 volunteers for young Australians which encourages an interest in aviation
12 as a career or as a hobby. The League's motto *A Vinculo Terrae* translates
12 into "Free from the bonds of the Earth".

12 What happened to the army Cadets, the usual bannermen and flag
13 bearers? They arrived late, which wouldn't have mattered because
13 our 10.35 start turned out to be closer to 11.05. The trouble is the cadets
14 cut it very fine, arriving late for the late start, as it were, putting in an
14 appearance just minutes before the jump-off. We allotted two to help
14 with the banner and the rest became second row marchers with the

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Merchandise Available

KVAA pocket badge	\$10.00	\$	Kapypong battle print	\$ 6.00	\$
KVAA lapel badge (undated)	\$10.00	\$	The Hook 1953 battle print	\$ 6.00	\$
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President's Report



Vic Dey, National President, KVA Inc.

On 24 April, accompanied by other Korean War veterans, and in the presence of local dignitaries and other special guests, I had the privilege of attending the Fountain Gate Secondary College's 14th Annual Anzac Day Ceremony. In the moving hour long ceremony I was asked to say a few words after the reading of the Anzac Requiem.

I had with me a letter written by Korean War veteran and KVA Life member, George A. H. Lang, about his meeting with... Well, I let what George wrote speak for itself:

It was Remembrance Day 1998 and as a committee member of the Repatriation Commissioner's Korean War Mortality Study, I was privileged to be in attendance at the Australian War Memorial for the Service. A passenger bus arrived at the Memorial and our remaining six World War One veterans alighted. They were escorted to their seats and to our delight were seated close by us.

People were being introduced to them prior to the Service and I had the honour of meeting them and shaking hands with each.

One of the veterans stood and came to me and said: "What was your name again?" I said George and this time he shook my hand and replied: "You know George, there are better things in life than wars." I told him how well I respected what he had just said.

That was the greatest honour I have ever had the privilege of receiving and it certainly made me feel very proud. I have remembered those words from

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General Kwon's Address

This year's Anzac Day parade and get-together at the Stella Maris Seafarers Centre afterwards was unique in that we were graced by presence of retired South Korean 2-star General, Young Hae Kwon, who is also an ex-Minister for Defence, former Chief of the National Intelligence Service and current President of the Association of Korean National Foundation. Also present at the Stella Maris was Madam Kwon and their daughter, Claire, who acted as interpreter, and their grandchildren. As advised in previous issues of The Voice, the general was in Australia to personally present a medallion and certificate to surviving Korea War veterans.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am honoured to be here on this special day as a former minister of National Defence in Korea to show our respects and tributes to the gallant soldiers who sacrificed their lives for their country. I also would like to express my deepest gratitude for the generous support given to us during the Korean War in 1950.

Especially, thanks to your brave soldiers, we were able to defend our freedom and peace in Korea. As a Korean and a former soldier of the Korean army, I cannot thank you enough for your support and sacrifices. The freedom and prosperity Koreans enjoy today are greatly attributed to your brave and compassionate soldiers.

Seventeen thousand soldiers from the Australian Army, Navy and Air Force fought in the Korean War for three long years, and among them, 339 precious lives were lost in defending our democracy. Once again, I would like to extend my genuine appreciation to all the veterans presenting today.

I would like to introduce a very special and heartwarming story of Kenneth and Nancy Hummerstone. Captain Hummerstone came to Korea three weeks after he got married to his wife Nancy. After he died and was buried in UN Memorial Cemetery of Korea, his wife Nancy lived alone missing her husband. She wished to be buried next to her husband when she passed away in 2008 at the age of 91. Her last wish was fulfilled and she is now buried with her husband in Korea. Many Koreans including myself were deeply moved by their touching story. Australia and Korea have had close diplomatic relationships for over 50 years and are now even closer economic partners after the recent free trade agreement.

Personally Australia is a special country for me. In 1965 I fought together with the Australian Army in Vietnam. In addition, my daughter Claire, who is currently interpreting for me, has been living in Australia for many years. My grandchildren are Australian citizens. This is my granddaughter Emily, my grandson Christian and their father, Sang.



My personal wish is that my grandson Christian would join the Australian Army someday to be able to continue my love and respect for the Australian Army, but I guess I should leave it to him to decide.

I genuinely hope that the two countries would continue to strengthen and develop a close partnership in the future. Thank you again for inviting me to this honourable event. I pray that God will continuously bless both our two countries.

Thank you.

Editor's Opening (continued from Page 1)

Australian Air League cadets and 2½ students from Fountain Gate Secondary College as out flag and banner bearers.

Uh, 2½ students, I hear you inquire? One of them (Troy Norton) was also a member of the AAL so was present in a dual capacity.

Don't forget that photos of the day (164 of them) are on the website and available for viewing and/or downloading for printing. For those of you too lazy to turn to Page 2, here is the web address: www.kvaa.org.au

Now, lots of people and groups to praise...

Thanks to the Melbourne High School army cadets (too many to name individually); to the members of the Australian Air League, Alysse Portelli & Nikita Reardon (banner), and their male colleagues whose names we, unfortunately, haven't been able to ascertain despite diligent inquiry; to Daniel Tanner, one of the officers present; and to the three Fountain Gate High School students, Jordan Parr, Troy Norton, and the perennial Maddie Singleton (who must like being around grumpy old men) plus acting Principal, Linda Stanton.

The presents for the raffle were provided by George Coleman, Jim & Dawn Johnson, Noel "Boots" Riley, SPC Ardmona, the Stella Maris Seafarers Centre, Gerry & Elaine Steacy, and others. Sandra Foscoe and Dawn Johnson handled the entrance fee and raffle ticket sales.

Thanks also to Secretary, Alan Evered, who emceed the event and took care of many of the march details, and to the power behind the throne, Nicole Evered, who helped out. Gerry Steacy gets credit for the Stella Maris side of the event, and thanks also to the Stella Maris and all who sail in her, for helping to making the day a success. To Don Scally, thanks for doing what Alan Murray used to do and try to keep the marchers in some manner of order – and for surviving a potentially nasty fall in the course of doing so. Rain and tram tracks don't mix.

I also want to give a huge shout-out to Yvonne Fitzpatrick who, despite being wheel-chair bound, and despite the rain, and with a little bit of help, managed to march (uh, roll) with the rest. Well done, Yvonne. Her presence at the end of the marchers caught me by surprise, and had I spotted her earlier, would have moved her into the main body of the group. Unfortunately, the only photo I manage of her turned out blurry. But here it is anyway...

Two unexpected absences of note: Tom Parkinson and Leo Glesson who were in hospital on the day, and there were doubtless a few other on the sick list though not ill enough to warrant hospital. Many members who served in the airforce or navy (Ron Christie and John Laughton, for instance), or are also WWII or Vietnam veterans, have split loyalties. Others are down country or interstate and thus also have their own local associations. They all marched behind a different banner on the day. A larger category are those who are mobility-impaired and have no one to help them get into the city and back again.

To those of you who don't fit into the above categories, I pose the following question: if Yvonne Fitzpatrick was able to participate, why couldn't you?



Yvonne Fitzpatrick rolling along with a little help from a friend.

The Slouch Hat

Uniforms were introduced as a means of identification. In the heat of battle they helped those fighting to distinguish between friend and foe. Psychologically, they created a sense of belonging and greatly assisted in the disciplining of an army. As time went on, further practical considerations were responsible for innovations and developments in the soldier's dress. The slouch hat and its peculiar way of being turned up on the left side owes its origin to that purpose.

Now a conspicuous part of the Australian uniform, "diggers" wore it previously in the South African War. It is said to have originated in Burma. The turned-up side is due not to any kind of affectation or the wish to appear smart. It dates back at least to the 1880s and the Victorian Mounted Rifles. Their headgear, however, was turned up on the right. To them, this was essential for effective combat.

The rifles then used – of the Martini-Henry type – were very cumbersome and when soldiers were shouldering arms, the muzzle usually caught the brim of the hat. To avoid this, the obvious thing to do was to wear it with that side turned up. Rifles and muzzles today are streamlined. Yet the turned-up, slouch hat of the Australian soldier remains in service and recalls an early precaution in military drill.

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

In the last issue of The Voice, in response to an email from Annie Flagey of the French Korean War Veterans Association, we put out a call for information on three POWs: French infantryman, Oreste Fantacci (captured by the Chinese in February 1951 after the Battle of Wonju), Thomas Henry Hollis and Donald Pattison Buck (captured 20 January 1950). The passage of time made a response from anyone with personal knowledge of, or previous contact with, any of the three unlikely; however, KVAA Life Member, Olwyn Green OAM, has provided links to information at the AWM (some of it originally provided by her) on the French Battalion in Korea, and our ACT delegate, Colin Berryman, did a little digging and also came up with some interesting background material.

Fantacci, Hollis and Buck

by Colin Berryman OAM

There are no records or mentions about Fantacci as such at the AWM, or in the *Official History of Australia in the Korean War* by Robert O'Neill. However, it seems apparent that it did occur, as it is mentioned briefly in Cameron Forbes book, *The Korean War, Australia in the Giants Playground*. The incident is mentioned in an interview that the author had with Bob Parker, who was also a POW with Donald Buck and Tom Hollis; also with Slim Madden, (George Cross), and other Australians, Mo Gwyther, and Ron Guthrie. Sadly Bob Parker died recently in Darwin (age 91).

In the book, it is mentioned that in early June 1951, Bob Parker, Don Buck, and a Frenchman, Aris Fantacci (assumed that it is the Oreste Fantacci, mentioned in the email), dropped off the track on a march from the Bean Camp (named after its main diet) to another camp on the Yalu River. They remained free for eleven days living off a few frogs, bird's eggs and bean paste, but were recaptured. The story of the incident in the book ends there.

During my research, I also learned quite a lot about Corporal Donald Pattinson Buck, Private Thomas Henry Hollis, and Private Robert Parker. All three have numerous mentions in the war histories and in the AWM collections. As I mentioned, dear Bob Parker has passed away. I don't know if Don Buck and Tom Hollis are still with us but suspect that they may also have faded away. If alive, Don would now be 92, and Tom would be 90.

Both were World War II veterans, Don served with the 2/4th Infantry Bn. and Tom with 2/11 Australian Commando Squadron. Both were K Force, and members of 3RAR. Don was an original with the Bn. and arrived in Korea with the Bn. on 28 September 1950. Tom, although previously also with BCOF, arrived in Korea on 26 December 1950. Both were Mentioned in Dispatches. Both were on an ill-fated five member reconnaissance patrol led by Lt. Angus McDonald on 20 January 1950 north of Ichon, which resulted in their capture by Chinese troops.

Ironically, Lt. McDonald and the other two members of the patrol were released by their captors, but both Don and Tom, who had become separated were retained as POWs. Both were held in forward areas and in the Bean Camp but came separated for some months until reunited at Camp 5 at Pyoktong. There, along with Bob Parker and others, they were constantly in trouble with their captors and endured great suffering and hardship by being non-cooperative with their interrogators. Whilst imprisoned they also came in contact with the communist Australian journalist Wilfred Burchett, whom they condemned as a collaborator with the enemy.

Private Robert Parker, was also a World War II veteran and served with BCOF Sigs until transferred to K Force. He was an original 3RAR member and arrived with them in Korea on 28 September 1950. He also was Mentioned in Dispatches. Bob was the CO's dispatch rider and was captured at Kapyong. He was shot off his motor bike (through the hip) during the battle, and picked up by the enemy. He also was prisoner in the forward areas and eventually in the Bean Camp, where he was involved in the escape previously mentioned with Don Buck and Fantacci.

Bob was also involved in another escape, also organised by Don Buck. This escape occurred on 23 June 1952 from Pyoktong and involved 24 prisoners. However, due to the treachery of another prisoner, the Chinese were informed and they were recaptured at their planned rendezvous. All, including the four Australians involved, received a month's punishment in the infamous sweat shop at the prison. Bob was also interviewed by the communist Australian Burchett.

All three were eventually released in August 1953. Taped interviews of Tom Hollis and Bob Parker are on tape in the AWM collection, also several photographs of all three are in the collection.

A couple was having a discussion about family finances. Finally the wife exploded, "If it weren't for my money, this house wouldn't be here!" The husband replied, "My dear, if it weren't for your money I wouldn't be here."

Notices

The NAA (Dandenong Sub-Branch)

The Naval Association of Aust. (NAA) Dandenong Sub-Branch meets every month with luncheon, and for mid-month luncheons, bus trips, annual wreath laying services and annual award ceremony at *HMAS Cerberus* Recruit School. New members welcome.

Contact John Laughton JP
on (03) 5904 9457 or 0417 336 423
or by email: johnfl@aapt.net.au

Also...

HMAS Bataan Annual Reunion

The *HMAS Bataan* Veterans Association of Australia Annual Reunion is being held 10-13 September 2015, in Coolangatta, QLD. For details contact John Laughton (see above).

2RAR Association

Membership of 2RAR Association is open to all serving and ex-serving members of 2RAR and 2/4RAR and attached personnel. Our objective is to perpetuate the close bonds of mateship and *esprit de corps* and to preserve and continue the memory of those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Contact Gordon Hurford
on (07) 5443 5583 or 2rarsecretary@gmail.com

Scotch College Adelaide...

is seeking information on any old collegians or former staff who have served in any Australian peace-keeping missions or military conflicts post-WWII, including the Korean War (pre & post-ceasefire).

Reply at www.scotch.sa.edu.au/warservice
or at warservice@scotch.sa.edu.au
or write to WW2 Service Recognition Committee,
C/- Development Office, Scotch College Adelaide,
Carruth Road, Torrens Park SA 5062

Here's one for the grandchildren and great-nieces and nephews of veterans...

Gachon University, Seoul

Fall 2015 Semester Scholarship

Gachon University in Seoul is offering a scholarship for ONE Australian who has completed Year 12 and is looking to undertake (or continue or return to) tertiary study. The scholarship will cover full tuition for an entire undergraduate degree program and also includes health insurance cover with partial coverage for accommodation. Applications close on **14 August 2015**. For details or an application form contact KVAA Inc. Secretary, Alan Evered.

For more details on Gachon University (in English) go to: <http://www.gachon.ac.kr/english/>

Federation of Naval Ship Associations (NSW)

Government House Reception

The NSW Premier, The Hon. Michael Baird MP will be hosting a Reception at Government House (NSW) for Korean War Veterans.

This reception will be Sunday, 19th July, 2015.

Preference will be given to those Veterans who have not previously attended the same Reception which was held before at Government House.

Please ask your Association Members who are Korean War Veterans if they would like to attend and advise Bob Auston on 0419 491 747. Bob will need to know the name of Veteran, name of partner and address so that the Official Invitation can be sent out from the Premier's Office.

Korean War Ceasefire

The annual Korean War Memorial Ceremony will be held on **Monday 27 July at 1pm in the Inner Sanctuary at the Shrine of Remembrance** here in Melbourne. Just a reminder that the Inner Sanctuary is undercover and thus out of the reach of the rain and the biting Melbourne wind. Those interstate should check with their local organisations as to what is happening in their area.

Moama Korean War Ceremony

On Thursday 25 June at 11am there will be a ceremony at the Moama Memorial to commemorate the 65th anniversary of the start of the Korean War. All Welcome. Refreshments to follow at the Moama RSL. Moama is just over the border from Echuca and north of Bendigo. [Note to John Munro. Photos of the event for the Editor would be nice - Editor].



The Battle of Los Angeles

by Brian Dunning

At the beginning of WWII, the American defense forces in Los Angeles fought a battle against a UFO.

Today we're going to turn the pages back to an American UFO story dating from World War II, the Battle of Los Angeles, when (according to modern lore) the United States Army and Navy battled a giant UFO hovering above the city of Los Angeles.

It was late February, 1942, less than three months after the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. Residents on the Western coast of the United States expected they were next, and so stood ready with hasty fortifications and kept their eyes on the sky. The crews manning the anti-aircraft artillery batteries in Los Angeles had been trained, but lacked experience in actual combat. Only one day before, the Japanese submarine I-17 had surfaced off of Santa Barbara and fired 25 shells at some aviation fuel storage tanks, so the alert level was the highest it had ever been. An attack on Los Angeles was imminent.

Just after 2:00am on the morning of February 25, radar picked up a target off the coast. The anti-aircraft batteries in Los Angeles were put on Green Alert, ready to fire. By 2:21am the radar target had approached closer, and a blackout was ordered. The radar lost contact with its target, and searchlight beams swept the sky for nearly half an hour. Then, reports of aircraft came in. Over Santa Monica, a balloon carrying a red flare was spotted, and the batteries opened fire at 3:06am. The Battle of Los Angeles was on.

For nearly an hour, batteries fired 1,430 rounds of anti-aircraft artillery, raining eight and a half tons of shrapnel back down onto Los Angeles. But what did they see? What were they shooting at? Therein lies the rub. Many saw nothing. Some reported balloons. A few reported airplanes. CBS Radio called it a blimp. The moon had set at 2:30am, and sunrise was not until 6:30am; combined with the blackout, it was about as dark as dark can be. The only thing anyone could see was whatever the searchlights struck, which was smoke from the AAA bursts.

The Office of Air Force History described the field reports as "hopelessly at variance". The most famous photograph, from the Los Angeles Times, shows a convergence of searchlights onto a single large cloud of smoke. Property damage from the shrapnel was widespread, and since no bombs were dropped and no evidence of enemy aircraft was ever discovered, demands for explanations and investigations followed: Both in a scathing editorial in the Los Angeles Times the following day, and from the White House.

Secretary of the Navy, Frank Knox, held a press conference that same day to state that it was a false alarm, that no aircraft had been involved, and that the entire incident had been an expensive case of jittery nerves. Chief of Staff George Marshall wrote a memo to President Roosevelt, stating the current understanding that airplanes may or may not have been involved, possibly as many as fifteen, possibly commercial aircraft, at various slow speeds. Given the lack of confirmation that any aircraft were present at all, Roosevelt's response was to ask the Secretary of War to clarify exactly who is authorized to order an air alarm.

And that's where the story was left for decades: a false alarm from the opening days of World War II: No mysteries, no strangeness, no aliens, no supernatural element. But of course, as you can guess, it did all eventually appear. It took more than 40 years, but UFO enthusiasts finally decorated the Battle of Los Angeles with some imaginative additions.

To understand how it happened, you first have to understand the Majestic 12 papers. In 1987, a group of UFOlogists, William L. Moore, Stanton Friedman, and Jaime Shandera, announced the existence of several government documents, classified as top secret, that purported to contain a 1947 order from President Harry Truman establishing a group called Majestic 12, an assortment of the usual Illuminati from government, business, and the military. Majestic 12 was charged with handling everything to do with extraterrestrial aliens.

Later, another UFOlogist, Tim Cooper, announced his own batch of secret Majestic 12 documents. Rival UFOlogists work together in the same way that rival Bigfoot hunters do: Not very nicely. Moore and his proponents launched into Cooper's documents, pointing out clues that prove them counterfeit; and Cooper and his proponents did the same to Moore's documents, revealing the flaws that disproved their authenticity. When infighting among adversarial bamboozlers does all the work revealing each others' hoaxes, it makes the legitimate investigator's job so much easier.

Among this tangled mess of hoax documents is a letter called the Marshall/Roosevelt Memo from March 5, 1942, stating that two unidentified aircraft were in fact recovered after the Battle of Los Angeles: One at sea, and one in the San Bernardino Mountains east of Los Angeles. It says in part: *This Headquarters has come to a determination that the mystery airplanes are in fact not earthly and according to secret intelligence sources they are in all probability of interplanetary origin.*

The letter is, of course, properly scuffed up and smudged in the most realistic and dramatic fashion. A PDF

(continues on Page 8)

of it is available for download from MajesticDocuments.com. Hilariously, page 2 of the PDF is an order form to purchase a wide range of UFO related documents, CDs, and books. Obviously, it's not legal to distribute actual top secret documents, and the fact that the FBI permits the availability of this (and the many others on MajesticDocuments.com) is a pretty good tipoff to the FBI's assessment of their authenticity. Skeptical investigator Philip Klass brought the documents' publication to the FBI's attention in 1988, and the FBI quickly concluded that all the documents were fake. So download freely, and send in those order forms.

As far as I could determine, this letter's late-1980's appearance was the earliest reference to anything UFO related happening at the Battle of Los Angeles. Since then, of course, innumerable references have appeared on the web. Most UFO web sites discuss the battle and show the picture from the LA Times, describing the cloud of AAA smoke in the searchlights as a "large craft". But this was not the contemporary identification. For more than 40 years, not a single person associated with the incident entertained any thoughts about extraterrestrial spacecraft or aliens, according to all available evidence (at least when you discard the hoaxed evidence). The alien spacecraft angle is purely a post-hoc invention by modern promoters of UFO mythology.

Modern UFOlogists seem to have forgotten what the "U" in UFO stands for: Unidentified. They tend to identify such objects as extraterrestrial spacecraft, for reasons known only to themselves; so they should really pick a new term. The Battle of Los Angeles was triggered by true UFO's: Something spotted in the sky that nobody was able to definitively identify. Most gunners reported never seeing anything at all, and simply fired at wherever they saw other air bursts. For this, the gun crews were officially reprimanded.

The Office of Air Force History says in its 1983 report entitled *The Army Air Forces in World War II: A careful study of the evidence suggests that meteorological balloons – known to have been released over Los Angeles – may well have caused the initial alarm. This theory is supported by the fact that anti-aircraft artillery units were officially criticized for having wasted ammunition on targets which moved too slowly to have been airplanes. After the firing started, careful observation was difficult because of drifting smoke from shell bursts. The acting commander of the anti-aircraft artillery brigade in the area testified that he had first been convinced that he had seen fifteen planes in the air, but had quickly decided that he was seeing smoke. Competent correspondents like Ernie Pyle and Bill Henry witnessed the shooting and wrote that they were never able to make out an airplane.*

But of course, to the conspiracy theorists and UFO believers, any report put forth by the Air Force is simply part of the conspiracy and not to be trusted. So let's play the devil's advocate and assume that interplanetary spacecraft were, in fact, shot down during the battle and recovered, and the government has full knowledge of it, as the UFOlogists expect us to believe. Then it becomes a question of how they were able to keep this a secret for more than 40 years: Retroactively change the newspaper accounts, change the radio reports, pay off or kill everyone who participated, pay off or kill everyone in Los Angeles who witnessed it, yet continue to allow the "top secret" confessions to be downloadable from the Internet; the proposition quickly becomes ludicrous.

Ripped From the Headlines...

Red Cross Appeals For Envoy's Entry

BY LEIF ERICKSON

SEOUL (AP) – The international committee of the Red Cross broadcast Wednesday night an appeal to the North Korean government to admit into North Korean territory the committee's delegate to observe Red treatment of prisoners of war.

Jacques de Reynier of Geneva, a swiss citizen named committee delegate to North Korea at the outbreak of hostilities last June, broadcast an appeal over Seoul radio.

DE REYNIER, never permitted entry into North Korea, told the democratic people's government of North Korea "that in the Geneva negotiations you declared officially you would respect and apply the stipulations of the Geneva conventions concerning in particular the treatment of prisoners of war, the wounded and the sick."

De Reynier asked a broadcast answer designating a time and place for him to enter North Korean territory.

Source: *Stars and Stripes (Pacific Ed.)*, Oct. 20, 1950

An alternate explanation, supported by evidence, requires us to make no such absurd leaps of logic or pseudoscientific assumptions: That the Battle of Los Angeles was simply a case of jittery nerves, at a time when every single person in Los Angeles was living in daily fear for their lives from imminent Japanese attack. There is simply no need for the introduction of a paranormal element to explain it. Whenever you hear a tale from history that involves alien spacecraft or any other paranormal element, you should always be skeptical.

Source: Dunning, Brian. "The Battle of Los Angeles." Skeptoid Podcast. Skeptoid Media, Inc., 15 Sept. 2009. Web. 17 April 2010. <http://skeptoid.com/episodes/4171>

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The Failure of French Armor

by Danny S. Parker

There exists a popular myth claiming the reason for the decisive defeat of French armor in 1940 was in the numerical superiority of the German tanks and the abject quality of the French tanks. The first part of the myth is obviously wrong. Embarrassed by his defeat, Gamelin claimed that the Germans had 7,000 to 7,500 tanks, a rather blatant exaggeration. The accepted figure states that, for the entire battle for France, the Germans counted on 2,600 machines. The majority were MkI and MkII tanks, which were solely meant to be training vehicles. Conversely, the French possessed 2,300 tanks at the start of the battle, virtually all of which were superior to the German MkI and MkII. Moreover, the average French AFV was superior to the panzer both in armor and gun calibre. The only real advantage the German tanks could physically claim over the French was in the agility of their vehicles. The panzers were superior both in cross country and road movement. Thus we can see that in terms of numbers, both sides were roughly equal; in terms of fighting quality, the French possessed a decided superiority. Why then the defeat of French armor?

Just as in most myths there is some seed of truth, the myth of the quality of the panzers and that truth had to do with two potentially decisive factors...the radio and the men who crewed and led them. Ever since the birth of his tenets of panzer warfare, Guderian had insisted on having “the wireless” installed in each vehicle and trained his crews to use it accordingly. This allowed orders to be executed or changed on a moments notice and imbued reconnaissance with a new vitality. The French, on the other hand, lacked radio communications, and a common formation of French vehicles involved keeping them within shouting distance! Predictably, this made it hard for enemy anti-tank guns to miss and led to confusion in a prolonged action, when it literally became impossible to control the flow of the action once engaged.

The quality of individual training, tactical doctrine and leadership were more obscure, but equally important, factors in the quality of the German panzer divisions. The French still considered the tank an infantry support weapon and scattered much of their numbers into small penny packets in each infantry formation. And even though exposed to the stunning panzer victories in Poland, General Gamelin remarked, that “Tanks no longer enjoy the invulnerability they had in 1918.” In a sense this was true, but much more so for the Germans with their sophisticated anti-tank doctrine than for the Allies. Also, Guderian had come up with his own answer to the invulnerable problem – the combined arms, or *kampfgruppen* principle.

Recognizing the inherent weaknesses in each combat arm, he decided to combine forces for maximum benefit to each other. Coupled with the infiltration tactical lessons of the previous war, this led to a formation with dynamic offensive and defensive capabilities. This balanced force contained tanks, infantry, artillery, reconnaissance and support elements in balanced numbers. Also the Germans did not scatter their meager tank resources among infantry divisions, but concentrated them decisively in ten panzer divisions.

On the French side, the DCR armored divisions were sadly top heavy in armor, with both too little infantry and artillery. Because of their dearth of infantry, they often could not hold onto the territory they had won. Only the French DLM division anywhere approached a balance of forces, and even then the “armored cavalry division” role under which they acted and the poor tactical doctrine under which they operated, doomed any inherent strengths from the start. The final nail in the French armored coffin was the way the armored divisions were led and put into action, it is kindest to depart from this subject and say that their commitment was piecemeal and lethargic, their command indecisive and unimaginative.

Source: *Strategy & Tactics* magazine, No. 71

National Symbolism

During WWII, civilian populations often knew little of what was happening. In all the major combatants they were subjected to rigid censorship, together with major state-directed propaganda campaigns that emphasized national unity and mobilization to help those fighting at the front. All the governments and leaders tended to look back to the past to find conservative, nationalistic symbols that could unite the nation.

By the autumn of 1941, the Soviet leadership was referring to the conflict as “the great patriotic war,” not a war to defend communism. They emphasized figures and events such as Alexander Nevsky, Suvorov, Kutuzov, and the war against Napoleon in 1812. In Germany, Hitler became obsessed with Frederick the Great, and Goebbels spent huge sums making epic films about the Prussian king as a way of boosting morale. In 1940, Churchill drew instances from the past – the defeat of the Spanish Armada in 1588, Trafalgar in 1805 – as examples of Britain’s resistance to the threat of invasion. Japan turned to the image of the Kamikaze, or “divine wind,” that had saved the country from Mongol invasion in the thirteenth century.

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

British Lend Lease

Though overshadowed by the massive assistance provided by the US, Britain sent what it could to help the Soviet war effort. Britain, struggling to support its own war effort while also receiving Lend Lease aid from the US, didn't have much to spare, but it provided armaments at a critical juncture. In December 1941, during the crucial battle in front of Moscow, the Red Army's entire operative tank force was made up of only 1,700 vehicles, 60 percent of which were light models. By that time Britain had already provided 750 tanks, about half of Russia's tank force. At a time when Stalin was phoning commissars on the front line to tell them to use their shovels to dig their own graves, because there could be no retreat from Moscow, the presence of any armored vehicle was precious.

Though lacking the same impact as the tanks, the British also formed a unit that fought directly for the Soviets in 1941. The first British deliveries included the personnel and all 40 Hurricanes of 151 Wing of the RAE. From 11 September through 18 October, those British pilots flew missions over Murmansk, claiming 15 kills for the loss of just one of their own. After training Soviets to fly their planes, the RAE personnel returned to England where their commander was awarded the Order of Lenin by the Soviet ambassador.

In all, Britain sent the USSR 5,218 tanks that, coupled with those sent by the US, made up about 11 percent of Russia's total wartime tank production. England also provided Russia with 5,511 Bofors anti-aircraft guns, along with approximately 3,300 Hurricane and 1,000 Spitfire aircraft. In all, London sent 308 million pounds sterling of armaments and another 120 million in raw materials, food and medical supplies. In dollar terms (using the then extant exchange rate), the British sent about 1.7 billion dollars worth of supplies, 15 percent of the total aid to Russia.

Source: *World at War* magazine No.32, Oct.-Nov. 2013

President's Report (continued from Page 3)

him and thought of that precious honour he had given me.

His name was Alec Campbell, and in 2002 he was the last World War I Gallipoli Anzac veteran to pass away. Thank you Alec for talking with me on that day, one I shall treasure forever.

If you ever met George, be sure to shake his hand, for not only are you shaking hands with George Lang, OAM, MiD, FCES, ex-3RAR Korea, a privilege in its own right, but you are shaking hands with the hand that shook the hand of a Gallipoli veteran.

Speaking of privileges, it was mine to personally receive a medallion and certificate from retired general and former South Korean minister Young Hae Kwon at the Stella Maris on Anzac Day. That the general is spending so much time and effort touring Australia and meeting with veterans all around the country is truly a generous act, and his presence at both the march and Stella Maris made it one of the best reunions (in my opinion) ever. A fantastic day for the family and friends present.

Saturday 23 May saw the Second Korean Festival take place in Federation Square (opposite Flinders Street Station). Of the many acts performed on the stage, the *Buchaechum*, a Korean traditional fan dance in particular drew my attention – and admiration. Absolutely beautiful. The coloured costumes and fans were a real stand out. The weather was cool but fine, enabling the crowd to peruse the Cultural Zone and the Kid's Zone in comfort, and there were over a dozen Korean food stalls for people to taste and enjoy.

The last official outing for the month came on Wednesday 27th May with the KVAA Inc. Committee/General Meeting at the Stella Maris here in Melbourne. At the meeting another 20 veterans were presented with the medallion and certificate, this time by Consul General Hongju Jo.



The veterans at the Stella Maris Seafarers Centre on 27th May.

Finally, could I warmly thank my dental technician, Andrew Snelling from Reservoir, who, despite having no personal connection to the KVAA or the Korean War, on the 22nd April donated \$100 to our association. Many thanks, Andrew.

Winter is well and truly here, and we know what that means – football. Go the Tigers!

Lesser Known Murphy's Laws

1. Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
2. Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.
3. Those who live by the sword get shot by those who don't.
4. Nothing is fool-proof to a sufficiently talented fool.
5. The 50-50-90 rule: Anytime you have a 50-50 chance of getting something right, there's a 90% probability you'll get it wrong.
6. The things that come to those who wait will be the junk left by those who got there first.
7. The shin bone is a device for finding furniture in a dark room.
8. A fine is a tax for doing wrong. A tax is a fine for doing well.
9. When you go into court, you are putting yourself into the hands of 12 people who weren't smart enough to get out of jury duty.
10. If you lined up all the cars in the world end to end, some fool would be stupid enough to pass them, five or six at a time, on a hill, in the fog.

And a few from the Editor (from personal experience)

11. If you are building a house, it will be sunny up to the first day of construction then pour rain every day until lockup stage.
12. The stock market will fall 20% the week you invest your money in it then rise 30% the week after you eventually pull the remnant of your money out.
13. Inside every older person is a younger person wondering what the hell happened.

Mr. Gorsky

Editor's note: The following story has been doing the Internet rounds for years now. It is always portrayed as a true story. In fact, Neil Armstrong denies it and NASA transcripts do not include any record that Neil Armstrong made a reference to a Mr. Gorsky during his lunar excursion. NASA regards the story as a joke.

On July 20, 1969, commander of the Apollo 11 Lunar Module, Neil Armstrong was the first person to set foot on the moon. His first words after stepping on the moon, "That's one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind", were televised to Earth and heard by millions. But just before he re-entered the lander, he made the enigmatic remark: "Good luck, Mr. Gorsky."

Many people at NASA thought it was a casual remark concerning some rival Soviet Cosmonaut. However, upon checking, there was no Gorsky in either the Russian or American space programs. Over the years many people questioned Armstrong as to what the "Good luck Mr. Gorsky" statement meant, but Armstrong always just smiled. On July 5, 1995, in Tampa Bay, Florida, while answering questions following a speech, a reporter brought up the 26 year old question to Armstrong. This time he finally responded. Mr. Gorsky had died and so Neil Armstrong felt he could answer the question.

In 1938 when he was a kid in a small Midwest town, he was playing baseball with a friend in the backyard. His friend hit a fly ball, which landed in his neighbour's yard by the bedroom windows. His neighbours were Mr. and Mrs. Gorsky.

As he leaned down to pick up the ball, young Armstrong heard Mrs. Gorsky shouting at Mr. Gorsky. "Sex! You want sex? You'll get sex when the kid next door walks on the moon!"

The Son-In-Law

A very successful businessman had a meeting with his new son-in-law. "I welcome you into the family," said the man. "To show you how much we care for you, I am making you a 50-50 partner in my business. All you have to do is go to the factory, everyday and learn the operation."

The son-in-law interrupted. "I hate factories. I can't stand the noise."

"I see," replied the father-in-law, "Well, then you'll work in the office and take charge of some of the operations."

"I hate office work," said the son-in-law. "I can't stand being stuck behind a desk."

"Wait a minute," said the father-in-law. "I just made you half owner of a money-making industry, but you don't like factories, and won't work in an office. What am I going to do with you?"

"Easy," said the son-in-law. "Buy me out."

Shot at Dawn

Many of the armies who fought in the First World War carried out executions of their own men for cowardice. It was believed that indiscipline on the battlefield had to be punished severely in order to discourage others. Once charged, a man would be brought before a court martial. These were strict military tribunals that sometimes only lasted a few minutes. Usually, the accused's commanding officer would be called, and sometimes his regimental medical officer, although MOs were not always listened to sympathetically.

During the war nearly 2,700 men in the British army were found guilty of cowardice or desertion. Some of these were classed as insane', and so were sent to an asylum. For those regarded as responsible for their actions, the sentence was death by firing squad. One in nine of those found guilty were actually executed, a total of 306 men. The French army executed double this number, around 600, on similar grounds, and on rare occasions picked men by lot from units that were thought to have displayed cowardice. The German army executed 48 men.

The War Office and the British government always denied that a single soldier suffering from shell shock and deserving medical treatment had ever been shot. However, when the National Archives opened the surviving records in the mid 1990s, it became clear that many men who were likely to have been suffering from the condition had been executed.

The most infamous case was that of Private Harry Farr, who had fought bravely until breaking down with shell shock in 1916. He was shot on 18 October 1916. Finally, in 2006, Defence Secretary Des Brown issued a posthumous pardon for all 306 men executed during the Great War.

Source: *Military History magazine* No.41

Shovelin Thoughts

Editor's intro: British Korea War veteran, the gloriously named Albert Coulson Wyllie-Shovlin (presumably a distant relative of 17th century English admiral, Sir Cloudesley Shovel), watched the elaborate ceremony complete with high ranking military officers, political heavy weights and civilian celebrities welcoming home British service personnel from Afghanistan and mused, "It would have been nice..." The result was a letter (unpublished) sent to The Sun. Due to its length, this is a much shortened and edited version of his thoughts.

I have debated long and hard whether to write to you on your magnificent efforts, along with the television and the MOD [Ministry of Defence] to promote the St. Pauls ceremony for Afghanistan and other recent military actions, in London on Friday the 13th of March, and also your efforts to raise donations for a permanent Memorial. Watching it, I thought, how magnificent it would have been to have had at some of that time and effort bestowed upon the Korean War veterans attended by all the Personages who were present at St Pauls.

All those young men (70% of them being National Servicemen), who fought, poorly outfitted, in Korea, of which over eleven hundred died in a "Police Action" carried out in one off the harshest of climates, in bitter cold and harsh heat, over a period of more than three years. The shelling, the mortaring, the shooting, the bullets, the grenades, the noise, the screams of the wounded and the dying; it sounded uncannily like a real war to me. Most of those who died have their remains interred in Busan Cemetery, a most beautiful place, lovingly looked after by a grateful Host Nation.

Yes, it would have been nice to have had a ceremonial return, post 1953. Yes it would have been nice to have had these Personages gathered for the March 2015 event present at the Westminster Abbey Ceremonial in 2013 when the Korean War veterans marched to Westminster Cathedral almost from the gates of Buckingham Palace. These Personages would have watched men in their eighties and nineties marching, limping, stumbling, shuffling along, determined to be present at that which was denied them for all those years.

One man, whom I pleaded with to take a taxi to the Abbey, drew himself upright and announced proudly, "Sir, I will march if it is the last thing I do. I will march with my colleagues." Sadly, he and others, eventually had to be taken by taxi to the Abbey.

Yes, it would have been nice to have these Personages at the Korean War Memorial unveiling in December 2014. Attendance was limited to a few hundred, UK Media coverage was minimal due to "no public interest." In contrast, the attention given by the Korean media to the Memorial unveiling was outstanding! It should be noted that funding by government departments for Korean War memorials, ceremonies, etc, is nil, or minimal. For instance, the Memorial sited in the Busan Cemetery in South Korea, in the British burial area, a small black lion, was funded by the British businessman, Sir Philip Green.

South Korea arose from the ashes through the efforts of the military forces of Britain and other nations. It is now a vibrant, democratic, wealthy, and successful nation. The South Korean Government show its gratitude to the veterans who return to South Korea by funding travel and hotel costs, and the welcome from the general population, once experienced, is never forgotten. It quote an old cliché, "It is nice to be appreciated."

Unfortunately, in the U.K. this has never been applied to the Korean conflict, "The Forgotten War," as it is known, and to which we can, sadly, add, "and Men."

Out & About 1

Anzac Day Photos

Melbourne, Saturday 25 April 2015



Members of the AAL and students of Fountain Gate Secondary College bear aloft the flags and banner of the KVAA Inc.



(l-r) Alan Evered, Young Hae Kwon, Dong-Up Kim and Ted Stewart



More brass than a cathedral's bell. Our patron, General Jim Hughes, receives his medallion and certificate from General Kwon.



A group shot of most of the veterans.



A Guard of Honour for the honourable General.

Fountain Gate SC Anzac Day Ceremony

Melbourne, Friday 24 April 2015



Attendees included Ron Kennedy & Ivan Ryan (KVAA Inc.), John Laughton (*Bataan Veterans Assoc. of Aust.*), Maeve Kennedy (NZ Consulate), Luke Donnellan MP, Lt. Tim Lovell (*HMAS Cerberus*), Mick Morland (Mayor, City of Casey) and Ibrahim Tümençi (Turkish Consulate General)

Bernie Schultz Medallion Presentation

Carrum Downs, Melbourne, 12 May 2015



Korean War veteran and KVAA Inc. member, Bernie Schultz, was unable to attend the Anzac Day march and reunion. No problem. General Kwon went to him, visiting Bernie at his Carrum Downs residence. Bernie in return presented the General with a hugely merited *Certificate of Appreciation* from the KVAA Inc.

Korean War Memorial

Cascade Gardens, Broadbeach Gold Coast, 17 May 2015



Maurie Pears, General Kwon, Councillor Paul Taylor (Gold Coast Council).

Out & About 2

Solway Primary School

Ashburton, Melbourne,
Thursday 23 April 2015



(l-r) School captains, Sophia and Lukas; Ron Christie; Principal, Julie Wilkinson, and Deputy Principal, Peter Mills.

Solway Primary School Newsletter Volume 2, No 3

On Thursday we conducted our annual ANZAC commemoration, involving the whole school as we develop our students' understanding of the importance of this occasion. All students have been involved in age-appropriate studies about the ANZAC stories prior to the day, within their classes, as we teach them about this important time in our Australian History. However this year it was special.

To commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Gallipoli landing in 1915, the school has received an ANZAC Memorial Stone, which sits proudly under the Aleppo Pine near our Kitchen Garden. This pine, a descendent of the Lone Pine trees on ANZAC Cove, was grown from pine cones of these trees, brought back to Australia by returning servicemen, and was donated to Solway by Legacy. So in the shadow of the Aleppo Pine, and with a backdrop of colourful landscapes painted by our Year 3/4 students, and a carpet of beautiful, ceramic poppies created in the Art Room by our Year 5/6 students, we gathered for a very special Anzac Ceremony at 11am.

Confidently led by our School Captains, Sophia and Lukas, we listened to stories and poems about the ANZAC Legend as we usually do. However, this year, we were very fortunate to have Ron Christie, President of the Victorian Fleet Air Arm Association, and a Korean war veteran and Benji's (1/2CK) grandfather, join us for the service. After meeting with the 1/2 students in Benji's class, Ron shared the reading of the poems and read The Ode. With his medals proudly displayed, Ron gave an authentic feel to our ANZAC ceremony, and we thank him for giving us his time on Thursday. In the photos below you will see Ron at Solway on Thursday, and leading the Fleet Air Arm in the ANZAC parade on Saturday.

Kyneton Secondary College

Kyneton, Thursday 14 May 2015



KVAA Inc. President, Vic Dey and Secretary, Alan Evered at the front of a group of Year 10 students from the Kyneton Secondary College (it's on the highway to Bendigo in country Victoria) after finishing a talk about the Korean War.

Farewells

Allan M. Anderson, A35822, No.77 (Fighter) Squadron
on 25 February 2015

Robert J. F. Cochrane, 35316, Royal Australian Auxillary Service
Corp. in late January 2015

Leslie J. Cooper, 25454, 3RAR in mid-January 2015

Derek Donnelly, 2400892, 3RAR on 14 October 2014

Kevin J. Hatfield, 3400078, 3RAR, on 10 April 2015

Francis J. Kenny, A32220, No.77 (Fighter) Squadron in Feb. 2015

John T. Langridge, 51374, 3RAR on 26 February 2015

Raymond C. Maley, A36003, *HMAS Sydney* on 30 October 2014

Brian R. Mau, 2400794, 1RAR on 18 November 2014

Ralph C. Mayer, A27958, *HMAS Sydney* on 17 May 2015

Leonard George McKee, 39056, *HMAS Sydney* in February 2015

Henry Francis Rixon, 2900105, 1RAR on 2 April 2015

Donald J. Robertson, 3400373, 3RAR on 25 February 2015

Ronald Frederick Smith, 33350, 2RAR on 6 October 2015

Robert C. Turner, 24073, 3RAR in December 2014

Francis (Frank) J Winters, 51208, 3RAR on 24 April 2015

&

(better late than never!)

David G Campbell, 2401040, 3RAR on 24 March 2013

Keith R. Worboys, 44485, *HMAS Murchison* on 6 Jan. 2010

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