



QUEENSLAND KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL - CASCADE GARDENS

KOREA VETERANS' DAY 27 JULY 2013



A REMEMBRANCE

The Queensland Korean War Memorial, within the Cascade Memorial Gardens, Gold Coast, Australia honours the Australian and Korean veterans of the Korean War, whilst at the same time recording thanks to our generous Benefactors. It was a gift to the people of Queensland by these benefactors and those hundreds of veterans and volunteer supporters who strived for two years to see their dream come true.

www.koreanwarmemorial.com.au

CASCADE REMEMBRANCE GARDENS BROADBEACH GOLD COAST QUEENSLAND AUSTRALIA

This iconic Cascade Gardens, Broadbeach, Gold Coast, Queensland is enshrined in the Gold Coast's heritage shaped as it was from traditional indigenous ownership, to the European settlement of the Hinterland, to the coastal strip development. The park is enjoyed by people of all ages and abilities who gather regularly as families groups and individuals. It is also used to commemorate and celebrate the memory of the past and serving members of the Australian and New Zealand Forces. Cascade Remembrance Gardens is uniquely located and has been set aside as a place of reflection and a celebration of peace. It embraces two of Australia's most significant War Memorials - **the Kokoda Memorial Walk and Memorial Wall and the Queensland Korean War Memorial** amongst others. Both were designed by the award winning David Yardley who recently completed the Victorian war memorial.

The Korean War Memorial Wall is aesthetically valuable, both for its high level of workmanship and its design. The murals of the Memorial create a story of the Korean War, including Australian, South Korean and Allied involvement, brilliantly displaying those aspects for which the Memorial is designed. The Memorial is set in a picturesque setting with a backdrop of Australian trees and shrubs surrounding traditional aboriginal meeting grounds. The design of the Korean Wall shows a series of ten relief murals that represent the different forces of **Navy, Army and Air Force** in addition to specialised units of Artillery, Armour, Medics and Nurses, with additional murals for those Missing in Action MIA and Prisoners of War POW. Special features are those depicting the struggles of the Korean people and a special memorial to the **Pusan Australian War Memorial in South Korea**. The central prominent sculpture of a Korean War era Australian soldier depicts the figure as a sentinel at ease overseeing the commemorative site. A dedication plaque rests to the front of the main memorial wall, positioned on a raised and angled desk plinth. Addition plaques at the left and right flanks of the Memorial Wall are displayed in both English and Korean languages to explain the involvement of the Australian forces in the Korean War.

The memorial wall is flanked by a remembrance garden, with three flag poles, flying the Australian, Republic of Korea and United Nations flags. Additionally, at the southern end there is a special tribute to the land forces of the Royal Australian Regiment (RAR) including original battlefield stones presented by the Gapyeong County, Republic of Korea, and on the northern end, a remembrance area for the Korean veterans and citizens. The area is aesthetically enhanced by appropriate plantings of flora. The Korean War has been referred to as the "Forgotten War" and the expanse of the wall allowed the designer to create a visually attractive and informative display to remember. It was also **an unforgiving war of attrition** in the perilous times of an international Cold War, an Iron Curtain, an evolving United Nations and the spread of communism. This cold hard edged part of history is conveyed in the hard lines, sharp edges and cold greys of the memorial. The natural terrain provided a flat viewing area to the front with an elevated section at the rear of the wall that lent itself to the creation of a wonderful backdrop. In addition a 2 metre garden wide bed which extends the length of the wall has been established in an Asian style garden. Large boulders, imported from Gapyeong County, Republic of Korea, have been strategically placed in the garden with select plants. The placement of the boulders forms an integral part of the landscaping, and also acts as a means for soil retention.

The focus of the memorial's forecourt central podium is **the Taegeuk or Yin Yang** Symbolising the involvement of the Korean population. The Taegeuk is the major central symbol of the Korean flag. The national flower of Korea the Rose of Sharon, is represented in the panels with three hundred and forty flowers representing a fallen Australian. The central figure and focal point of the Memorial, The Unknown Veteran was inspired by a photograph of a 3RAR serviceman standing next to a frozen lake in deep contemplation. This is a representative of all the veterans who served and will inspire others who pass by this Memorial. The dominant colours of the memorial are done in shades of grey. The wall cladding is of granite stone tiles. The murals and central figure have been cast in pigmented epoxy glass reinforced concrete. The design, now viewed by countless visitors and veterans has been lauded as an **outstanding interpretation of War and those who sacrificed and suffered in the cause of peace.**

WE REMEMBER THE AUSTRALIAN FORCES IN KOREA 1950-53-57



The inaugural meeting at Beenleigh RSL with Government Whip Margaret Keech MP, the ladies auxiliary and representatives of Korea Veterans and the Korean Communities of SE Queensland



Distinguished guests, Veterans and benefactors of the Queensland Korean War Memorial Dedication at the Unveiling of the Unknown Korean War Soldier and Memorial Wall 2011



The Construction Team:

It was a tremendous effort by the Gold Coast City Council, the RSL and the Korean and Australian Associations to unite the various Government authorities, kindred communities, associations, churches, veterans and individuals to the common cause of honouring the Australian and Korean veterans and civilians who served in that fight for freedom.



Early Korean Church Elders at the Foundation Meeting

The Korean War Memorial was a Korean Church and Gold Coast Korean Society initiative since 1990 when Korean Church Elders conducted the first Church Prayer meeting to remember the Australian Korean War veterans. This was followed by annual celebrations with the Association of Queensland Korean Veterans funded completely by the Gold Coast Korean Society and Korean communities. Over this period a strong affiliation was formed with the Association of Queensland Korea Veterans which lasts to this day.



Korea Veteran members of the AQKV



Early Gold Coast Korean Society Executives.

The first “Australian Forces in Korea Monument Committee” was established by the GCKS, Elder Lee, in January 2009 when Lt Colonel M B Pears MC (Retd), a Korean War veteran, was asked to seek the necessary approvals from Government and authorities to oversee construction of a memorial to those veterans who served.



Selection of sites followed and discussions were held with GCCC and the Mayor Ron Clarke. Later, on 28 July 2009, Joseph Ahn was appointed by the GCKS to form the AKWMQ Trust and continue the project for the GCKS with the Gold Coast City Council. This combined AKWMQ Ltd Trust, under the leadership of Joseph Ahn did so much to obtain domestic and international support for the construction of this Gold Coast memorial. Cascade Gardens was selected and approved by Council. Margaret Keach MP, representing the Premier Anna Bligh, met with Maurie Pears and Joseph Ahn and the Council approved drawings were signed off by the Premier at Parliament House Brisbane. The Gold Coast City Council, appointed a Project Manager to design, construct and dedicate the Memorial in association with the benefactors.



Joseph Ahn President AKWMQ and Ladies



Premier Bligh with school prefects

The Australian Korean War Memorial Ltd (a trust limited by guarantee) Chairman Joseph Ahn, was a group of distinguished members of the Korean communities in Queensland anxious to honour our Korean War veterans. They obtained support from the Consulate in Sydney and directly from overseas with the ROK Government. Australian interests, State, Federal and Local, were represented by the Korean War Memorial Ltd Trust Chairman Maurie Pears, supported by Directors Michael Sing Lawyers and the Accountants For Free Enterprise. These two official joint teams, Korean and Australian, and many other associated friends and supporters, pulled together with kind hearts and busy hands, to complete the Memorial.



Kapyong Bronze



Handover of Kapyong Stones



The Sentinel



Early Cascade Ceremony



Unveiling Party Headed by Premier Anna Bligh, Consul General Jin Soo Kim and Minister Park.



TSS Cadet Unit Cataphalque Party with Alan Whelan RSL

THE MEMORIAL WAS UNVEILED BY PREMIER THE HONOURABLE ANNA BLIGH MP AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA'S CONSUL GENERAL JIN SOO KIM ON 20TH AUGUST 2011;

On this day Queensland saw a dream come true. A dream for the local Korean Gold Coast communities who have done so much to honour our veterans over the last twenty years and a dream for our Australian Korean veterans themselves, Navy, Army and Airforce that, one day, a memorial to their dedication and sacrifice would stand in the public eye for many years to come.



The Queensland Korean War Memorial, a joint effort by Korea and Australia, is a gift to the citizens and veterans of Queensland.

Our major benefactors, The Republic of Korea, the Commonwealth of Australia's Federal Ministry of Defence, the State of Queensland, the Department of Veterans' Affairs, the Gold Coast City Council, the Returned and Services' League, the Australian Korean War Memorial Queensland, the Gold Coast Korean Society and the Association of Queensland Korean Veterans all provided the extensive funding for the placement and construction of this major Memorial Wall. This generous funding built our memorial, but, It was also the passion and the devotion from 1990 onwards, of the hundreds of veterans, volunteer committees, associations, churches and individuals, both Korean and Australian, who gathered around the construction team and worked so hard to bring this project to fruition.



Premier Anna Bligh with The Southport School Cadet Unit, Unveiling with CG Jin Soo Kim and Light Horse



***Presentation of commendation awards by ROK Minister Patriots and Veteran Affairs Park and visiting VIPs
Former Mayor Lex Bell, General Mark Kelly DVA, Margaret Keech MP, Steven Ciobo MP***

The Memorial tells a story, with a series of murals and bronzes, of the many Australian units that served in Korea over the years 1950 to 56. They also show the sacrifices of the Korean people in War.



United Nations Cemetery Busan ROK, where rest our honoured Australian dead and refugees moving south under invasion threat.



Royal Australian Navy: HMAS Sydney, Vengeance, Anzac, Arunta, Bataan, Shoalhaven, Warramunga, Murchison, Tobruk, Condamine, Culgoa and Fleet Air Arm squadron.



Royal Australian Regiment 1, 2, and 3 Battalions, K force: Korea, Yongju, Chongju, Pakchong, Uijongbu, Chuam-ni, Maehwa san, Kapyong, Kowang san, Samichon, Maryang san, the Hook.



Royal Australian Air Force: 77 squadron P51 Mustang and Meteor jets, 36 Transport Squadron C47

Royal Australian Navy. A crucial aspect of the Korean War was that it was fought over a peninsula surrounded by the sea on three sides. Control of the sea allowed the forces of the UN to bombard targets with naval gunfire, land shore parties and blockade North Korean sea traffic almost at will. Naval aircraft were vital in preventing North Korean forces from completely overrunning the peninsula. Australian destroyers and frigates were employed on the west coast mainly patrolling, engaging shore batteries, gunfire support, harassment, carrier screening, support for island operations and evacuation cover. The threats of mines, air attacks and counter bombarding were present. Freezing weather conditions tested men and equipment beyond the normal hazards of high seas, storms, typhoons, extreme tidal conditions and uncharted and shifting mud flats.

Shore batteries remained a constant hazard for RAN ships operating close to the Korean Coast. On 16 November, 1952 HMAS Anzac engaged in a lengthy gun duel against four 76 millimetre guns sited in caves near Cho Do. HMAS Anzac was anchored when first fired on and, even once underway, the ship was restricted in manoeuvre by nearby shoals. Controlled by Lt. A J Robertson, Anzac’s gun quickly found the range and pounded the enemy battery, but not before 50 shells had been fired. HMAS ANZAC fired 174 shells in return, silencing the battery after 43 minutes in possibly the longest running naval engagement of the war.

The largest scale naval operation of the Korean War was the **amphibious landing at Inchon**, near Seoul, beginning on 15 September 1950. The landing was risky because of the great range in tides but it went ahead as planned and was instrumental in forcing the North Koreans into a precipitous retreat. Eleven RAN vessels and three Fleet Air Arm squadrons served in the Korean waters during the course of the war. The units were aircraft carriers HMAS Sydney and Vengeance, destroyers HMAS Anzac and Arunta, frigates HMAS Bataan, Shoalhaven, Warramunga, Murchison, Tobruk, Condamine and Culgoa. Fleet Air Arm comprised the 805, 808 and 817 squadrons. One assessment of HMAS Sydney’s air operation effectiveness credits their aircraft destroying 66 bridges, seven tunnels, 2060 houses, 495 junks/sampans, two locomotives, 159 railway trucks, seven rail sidings, 38 sections of railway line, five water towers, 15 guns and about 3000 enemy casualties. Aircraft from **HMAS SYDNEY** were hit by ground fire on 99 occasions and nine aircraft were lost to this fire. Her aircraft had flown 2366 sorties at the completion of her last patrol on 25 January 1952.

Looking back on three years of the Korean War, **Chinese Premier Mao Tse-tung** wrote: “The important reason that we cannot win decisive victory in Korea is our lack of naval strength. Without naval support, we have to confine our operations to frontal attacks along a line limited by sea. Such actions always entail great losses and we are seldom capable of destroying the enemy. In March 1951 I suggested to Comrade Stalin to make use of Soviet submarines in Asia under some arrangement that the Soviet Union would not be apparently involved in the war: Comrade Stalin preferred to be cautious lest it might give the capitalists imperialism the pretext of expanding the war to the Continent. I agreed with his point of view. Until we are better equipped for victory, it is to our advantage to accept agreeable terms for an armistice”. A total of 5771 Royal Australian Navy Officers and sailors served in the Korean War. The RAN casualties were three killed in action and two missing in action lost at sea.

Royal Australian Regiment. Three great Australian battlefield leaders, **Lieutenant Colonel’s Charles H Green, Ian B Ferguson and Frank G Hassett** (later General Sir Frank Hassett) in turn commanded 10,844 heroic Royal Australian Regiment (RAR) officers and infantrymen during the war. To fully comprehend the moral greatness of these three admirable and imposing soldiers we suggest you purchase the book “The Fight Leaders” by authors **D. Butler, A. Argent and J. Shelton** published by the Australian Army History Unit. “Reflect on 3 RAR, the first battalion into action in the Korean War. It was not well equipped or trained for war in the bitter Korean climate. Hurriedly it was reinforced by volunteer K Force enlistments and soldiers from the other two battalions. For the first six months it fought up and down the Korean peninsula, always in the forefront of the fighting. It ate the hard rations and slept when it could, often in a scrape in the ground in temperatures down to minus 15 degrees Celsius. It took many casualties and defeated the North Koreans and Chinese in every encounter”. **General Sir Frank Hassett** 1998. “Most of our weapons were old fashioned; we had no weapons such as aeroplanes, artillery and tanks which are indispensable in modern warfare. Instead we fought only with human wave tactics; great numbers of men have been sacrificed. It was indescribably miserable”. **Chinese POW** 1951. “In the moonlight our effective killing range was about 10 metres and our killing time about two to three seconds – the time it took for their heads and shoulders to appear above the edge of the ridge and for them to run to

the forward fighting pits. As soon as shapes appeared out of the gloom our soldiers would produce as much rapid fire as possible". **Major Ben O'Dowd** recalls in April 1951.

Officers and Infantry of the Royal Australian Regiment were honoured with 110 British Imperial Decorations and 99 mentioned in Despatches Awards from 1950 to 1953. Fourteen members of the Royal Australian Regiment received United States foreign awards. Significantly 3rd Battalion Royal Australian Regiment were awarded the Distinguished Unit Citation by the President of the United States of America "for extraordinary heroism and outstanding performance of combat duties in action against the armed enemy near Kapyong, Korea on 24 and 25 April 1951".

RAR bravery and superior ability justified twelve Battle honours including Kapyong and at Korea, Sariwon, Yongju, Chongju, Pakchon, Uijongbu, Chuamni, Maehwa San, Kowang San, The Samichon and Maryang San. "The victory of Maryang San is probably the greatest single feat of the Australian Army during the Korean War". **Robert O'Neill** – historian. The five day Battle of Maryang San is in an animated video format consistently presented every day at the Australian War Memorial in the Korean War theatre display.

RAR war casualties are – 275 killed in action, 22 missing in action presumed killed and 23 prisoners of war, 22 of which survived severe ill treatment and returned to Australia. **Private Horace William Madden**, George Cross, 3RAR, died 6 November 1951 as a prisoner of war of malnutrition and ill treatment. **BATTLEFIELD KOREA Maurie Pears**

Royal Australian Air Force. The most important role for airpower was to prevent North Korean ground movements. This became critical to the overall course of the war as well as tipping the balance on many occasions at a tactical level. It was this requirement that made the presence of **77 Squadron RAAF** so desirable for amongst other reasons this unit was in the region with the appropriate equipped combat aircraft, the P-51 Mustang. "I'd like to get those Australian fighters, too ...the squadron pilots are first class and we particularly need over Korea long range fighters like the Mustangs ...I am going to take out those North Korean airfields. I am not going to have their planes killing my airmen without hitting them where they should be hit". **General Douglas MacArthur** – 1950.

We would then land at K2 airfield, Taegu...rearm and refuel, take off for a further mission sometimes even contacting a target very close to the airfield, land back at Taegu for rearming and refuelling again (perhaps even twice more), complete a further mission and, finally, return to Iwakuni in Japan. All this was done on dead reckoning, a combination of time and distance, airspeed, course and a cockpit full of military topographical maps of differing scales. We had no navigational aids other than mental calculations and map reading abilities ..." Sgt. Ray Trebilco – July 1950.

"My immediate reaction when this Chinese or Korean started firing at me was, hell, I've got to get away from this or I'll either be dead, or a POW. And then, when he presented himself as a target, my immediate reaction was, hey, here's my target, I'll have a crack at shooting him down. You don't have time to think about anything else". **Pilot Officer Bill Simmonds** – May 1952.

During the three years of the Korean War, 77 Squadron flew from six different airfields in about 18,800 sorties destroying 1400 enemy vehicles, 100 railway locomotives and wagons, 16 bridges, 3700 buildings and an unknown quantity of enemy aircraft. 193 Royal Australian Air Force Officers and pilots served in the Korean War. RAAF casualties were – 17* killed in flying action, 18 missing in flying action presumed killed and six Prisoners Of War all of whom survived severe ill treatment and returned to Australia. (This does not include the unfortunate loss of six RAF pilots attached to 77 Squadron.)

All 339 Australian servicemen are honoured at the United Nations Memorial Cemetery, **Busan**, South Korea and at the Yokohama War Cemetery, Japan. Further, 12 Army, three RAAF and one RAN Australian serviceman who died after Armistice on operations designated as non warfare service from January 1954 to November 1956 are respectfully honoured at the Commonwealth War Cemetery, Yokohama, Japan, the Kasugano European Cemetery, Kobe, Japan and the United Nations Memorial Cemetery, Busan, South Korea.



Welcome to the Queensland Korean War Memorial



The Kapyong Stones, MIA and RAR Bronzes

THE QUEENSLAND KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL

WAS DEDICATED JOINTLY 20th AUGUST 2011

By the

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Minister of Patriots and Veterans Affairs Sung Choon Park
And

STATE OF QUEENSLAND

Premier the Honourable Anna Bligh MP

In honoured memory of those who served

This Queensland Korean War Memorial is a gift to the Veterans of the Korean War from the Republic of Korea's Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs and the Korean communities now resident in Australia, the Australian Federal and Queensland State Governments, Australian war veterans and the Gold Coast City Council.

We thank those benefactors who graciously funded the construction of this Memorial

Republic of Korea's Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs

State of Queensland

Australian Federal Ministry of Veterans' Affairs

Gold Coast City Council

Australian Korean War Memorial Queensland

Association of Old Korean Veterans & Lt Col MB Pears MC

And for all those who donated their time, effort and goodwill to this Wall of Remembrance

*They went with songs to battle; they were young, straight of limb true of eye, steady and aglow
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted, they fell with their faces to the foe.*

KOREA REMEMBERED

Joseph Ahn

President AKWMO



Maurie Pears

Project Manager



Designed and Constructed by Screenart and W3D Constructions



Missing in Action Remembrance Bronze



Land Battles Bronze - Royal Australian Regiment



Korean Veterans Day 2012 - AQKV, GCKS and GCCC Cr Taylor at new Memorial



Veterans unite



Major General Jeffery former Governor General C of A pays homage



Royal Australian Regiment Section with Kapyong stones



Veterans all



The Kapyong Stones with GCCC.



Consul General Jin Soo Kim arrives



Local Veterans



Republic of Korea Veterans of War



Mayor Ron Clarke OAM at Opening - Cr Eddie Sarroff with Keith Payne VC - DVA Alison Stanley and Mark Kelly

As Allies we fought and died together in victory and defeat. We left our 340 dead and Missing in Action in Korea, in honoured graves; cared for today in the hearts and arms of the Korean people.

On Korean Veterans Day 27 July each year Australia will remember, together with the Republic of Korea and its citizens, a war that indeed paid a price for freedom.



ROK Minister Park with Premier Bligh

Federal Member Steven Ciobo MP inspects the site.



Arai Park VP AKWMQ and war veterans at the Turning of the Soil



Australian and Korean veterans join the VIP group for a celebration of Peace and Goodwill between Australia and the Republic of Korea at the Turning of the Soil. They exchange memories with Consul General Jin Soo Kim, War Correspondent Korea Harry Gordon and GCCC Councillor Eddie Sarroff.



Association of Queensland Korea Veterans join visitors



ROK Defence Attaché Colonel Dee Ahn, General Digger James MC and Keith Payne VC with Official Party.



AQKV Committee, Jim Blake and John Fry, with Interstate visitors. The Vacant chair is in remembrance of veteran member Stan Bombell recently deceased.



3 RAR veterans of Kapyong in silent homage to comrade veterans of the Battle Fields of Korea



Visiting veterans from Sunshine Coast and Lismore with local veterans



Keith Payne VC with TSS Cadet Corps



President AQKV John Fry Welcomes Guests.



Chaplain and Elder dedicate the Memorial



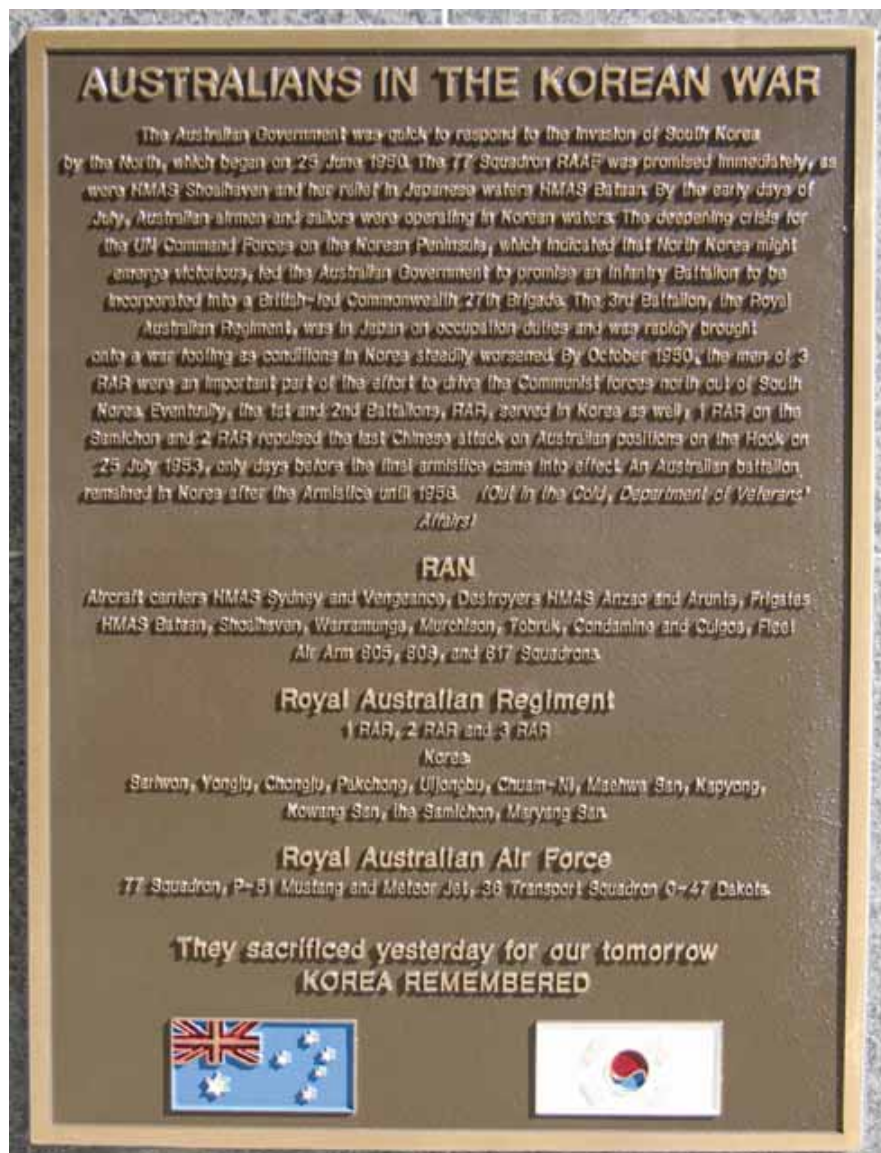
The beautiful ladies of our volunteer support group.



The Korean Delegation welcomed by the Master of Ceremonies



Our guests of honour ROK Minister and Consul General Jin Soo Kim and Mrs Kim



Australians at War



International Veterans at Peace – Busan International War Cemetery



60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMISTICE 27 JULY 2013



General Mike Jeffery with distinguished guests Wan Sik Min, Soung You, Sun Soo Kim and Payne VC

Focus



Australia suffered 1584 casualties, 340 of them killed, in the Korean War. The US lost 54,000 soldiers. Despite the huge toll the three-year conflict has become a "victim of neglect". Gold Coast resident Harry Gordon, a war correspondent with Australian Infantry troops during the

advance to the Yalu River and the punishing winter of 1950-51 and later editor-in-chief of *The Herald and Weekly Times* and chairman of Australian Associated Press, reflects on a cold, unromantic war responsible for political happenings 60 years on.

THE FORGOTTEN FIGHT

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KOREAN WAR



SIXTY years ago today, a mighty war ended. It was the first military showdown of the Cold War, one that provoked a real risk of nuclear conflict between two great world powers. It was multinational and fratricidal. Ironically, though, it failed to make much impact on public consciousness then, and is largely unremembered today.

The armistice which provided a formal finish to the Korean War will be celebrated today in major capitals around the world, including such cities as Washington, Canberra, Sydney, London, Istanbul, Seoul and Ottawa... and, yes, even Pyongyang. The war lasted three years, from mid-1950, and it involved 17 nations representing the United Nations, versus invading troops from North Korea and China.

The casualties were enormous: by the time the armistice documents were signed, at least two million Koreans – from the South and the North, civilians and soldiers – were dead. The US forces lost 54,000 killed among a UN casualty list of 142,000. Australian servicemen suffered 1584 casualties, 340 of them killed.

It won't be just in the big cities that such losses are remembered and reflected upon today. Around cenotaphs and other monuments in hundreds of smaller towns around the world, and around this nation, there will be gatherings of veterans, their families and notables. The largest in Queensland will take place close to the handsome Korean War Memorial in Cascade Gardens on the Gold Coast.

The Korean War does not deserve to be forgotten. It began because the Korean peninsula was torn apart with an act of ruthless aggression from the north. An arbitrary, quite artificial dividing line was drawn across the 38th Parallel, to separate occupying forces from the US and Russia. It had the effect, of course, of also often separating families and friends. Since that line was violated, people on either side of it have come to hate those on the other side.

For all its awful toll of casualties, for all its grand theatre – the mighty advance by United Nations forces that ended with a successful invasion of North Korea, the surprise intrusion and winter advance by the Chinese Army, the public sacking of the much-lauded General MacArthur – the truth is that the Korean War failed to make a lasting impression on the consciousness of the outside world. It seems to have been an easy war to forget, unless of course you were there.

Not only has Korea been branded with a label that has become a cliché: the "Forgotten War"; it has become a victim of neglect, by comparison with other wars, in popular culture and even in military history.

The Vietnam conflict overshadowed it totally in those terms, managing to spawn large numbers of fine novels, histories and movies which examined the agony of the battlefield and the divisions it caused, particularly in middle America.

Graham Greene's *The Quiet American*, David Halberstam's *The Making of a Quagmire*, Francis Ford Coppola's *Apocalypse Now* and Robert de Niro's *The Deer Hunter* are just a few examples of the genre... all enduring cultural monuments to a most unpopular war.

And Korea? Some histories and memoirs, official and personal, have been published – but to quite modest audiences. No films or novels of consequence have emerged from the war. Only the television comedy *M*A*S*H* might be said to have penetrated the popular awareness barrier, and for all its fierce satire it hardly did justice to the harshness of the conflict.

Why the neglect? Somehow the Korean War seemed to invite it. It was a lonely, thankless, unromantic war, fought in a remote corner of the globe, so soon after World War II that some saw it as a sad little echo.

It began, for Australian infantrymen, with battles on an almost weekly basis. The temperature sank deeply below zero. Frostbite was frequent and cruel.

Chinese bugles sounded eerily in the night. The CO, Charlie Green, was mortally wounded by shellfire. Jack Stafford faced a tank with just a Bren gun, and knocked it out. A drum major called Tom Murray dived into a frozen river, rescued a wounded man whose stretcher craft had capsized and swam him to safety.

This pattern of action, amid what seemed like enduring discomfort, was repeated later in the signature battles of Kapyong, Maryang San, the Samichon and the Hook. The setting for much of the last two years of the war – with its sandbagged trenches, barbed wire, live-in tunnels, primitive weapons and constant no man's land – surely contained echoes of World War I's Western Front.

And throughout it all the RAAF and RAN, the first UN elements committed to battle against the North Korean invaders, roamed dangerous skies and frozen Arctic seas. Forty-one pilots of the Mustangs and later Meteor jets of 77 Squadron – one in every four – were killed, and seven taken prisoner.

It had no living-room audience, that war, having pre-dated live long-range

television in the US and Britain – and any kind of television in Australia. It provoked no great moral outrage or protest, probably because of its raw beginnings. In Australia there were no peace marches, no anti-war demonstrations, no arguments about conscription – which wasn't surprising, since all the Australian combatants were volunteers.

The troops went away in small batches, and when they came home there was no parade of welcome: no great sense of triumph, no visible outpouring of national pride. The war was accepted as just something that happened, and nobody seemed to care too much. Despite the dead we left behind, its memory has been allowed to slumber.

It shouldn't be that way. These days, with wars that are just as remote and even less popular, we at least know how to celebrate our heroes.





Harry Gordon (left), writer for the *Melbourne Sun News Pictorial*, and Ronald Monson, of *The Daily Telegraph*, in the cold in Korea with their typewriters.

A freezing battlefield

HARRY Gordon accompanied the 3 Battalion, RAR, as a war correspondent for six months in 1950-51, following the "advance from a region close to the bottom of South Korea almost to the Yalu River, the northern-most border of North Korea".

"And then, after the Chinese entered the war during a winter more punishing than anything any of us had ever known, came the dreadful, humiliating retreat... all the way down again."

Gordon became close to the soldiers on the frontline, reporting their tasks and lives back to Australians in days without television — let alone internet, cable and digital services.

"On the very rare occasions when there was a lull in the fighting, I took the opportunity to spend time on the destroyer HMAS *Bataan*, then on patrol duties in Korean waters, and to visit the RAAF's 77 Squadron, which switched from Mustang fighters to Meteor jets during this period."

"Despite the general apathy, all of us who were there retain distinct, indelible memories. Here are just a few of mine."

"I will never forget the suffering of the Korean people, those hapless souls we saw beside us on the roads, old men with A-frames on their backs, women and children... most of them clad in white. I flew over them in a spotter plane once, and it was like being above a long, white, ragged procession, heading south, from horizon to horizon."

"I will never forget the night in November 1950 when our commanding officer, Lt Col Charlie Green, was killed. He was resting in his tent after a tough battle when a freak shell exploded in the headquarters area. He was a brilliant leader, a well-loved man. He remains revered by veterans today."

"Another night stays in my memory... when Seoul was evacuated during the great retreat south. The city, these days a great, glittering metropolis, was then ablaze and absolutely empty of civilians. The Han River, whose bridge to the south was about to be blown up, was the scene of awful tragedies as whole families, often with handcarts and bullocks, skidded across the ice, desperately fleeing for their lives."

"I will never forget the cold near the top of North Korea. Temperatures were a long way below freezing. Men were frozen to death at their posts. Hot water, tipped from a jug, froze before it reached the ground. I remember getting out of a Jeep and falling down. My knees had stiffened with the cold, and I couldn't walk."

"Most of all, I remember the constant courage, camaraderie and good humour of the soldiers whose company I kept. Most of them had never even seen snow. They were a fine blend of veterans of World War II and young soldiers who had been serving with the Occupation forces in Japan."





Ambassador for Peace Medal Recipients 2013



The Captains and the Kings depart. Our memories live forever within the Memorial.

The Queensland Korean War Memorial was Designed by Screenart David Yardley, Constructed by W3D Constructions Ross Wolbers

Major Benefactors: Republic of Korea, C of A Department of Veteran Affairs, Queensland Premier's Department, Gold Coast City Council, Australian Korean War Memorial Queensland Ltd, Gold Coast Korean Society, Association Queensland Korea Veterans Inc, RSL, Stratagem and the Veteran and Korean Communities of SE Queensland. **Construction Team:** Project Manager Maurie Pears, GCCC Ross Greenwood, President AKWMQ Joseph Ahn and Committee, RSL Surfers Paradise Alan Whelan, AQKV Committee, GCKS Committee.

Authorised by M B Pears, the Queensland Korean War Memorial Committee; PO Box 1, Isle of Capri, Q 4217.Australia;

Photographs Alan Fortunato

www.koreanwarmemorial.com.au



Kim Yung Sin, John Paul Langbroek, RSL Arch McDonald and Terry Meehan



President RSL Queensland Terry Meehan lays the wreath for the RSL



Central Queensland Veterans representative Ted Parkinson



Steven Ciobo MP, Karen Andrews MP with Cr Paul Taylor



ROK War Veteran Leaders Kim Yung Sin, Kim Paul; Sa Hyun and Kim Paul Hyul



General Mike Jeffery



Korean War Veterans Tom Muggleton, Harry Gordon, Keith Payne VC and Lou Brumfield



Elder Lee, ROK veterans and Alexander Bates 3 RAR Association



VIP Veteran guests open the ceremony



TSS Cadet Corps Catafalque Party Last Post



GCCC Mayor Tom Tate lays the City wreath



War Correspondent Harry Gordon – laudatory address



General Mike Jeffery presents award to TSS bagpiper



General Mike Jeffery presents award to Mrs Margaret Whelan



President GCKS Sun Sou Kim presents award to General Jeffery



Old comrades General Digger James and Gil Lucas



Popular veteran Harry Pooley and President AQKV John Fry



Cr Lex Bell, Ross Eastgate and President Southport RSL Brian Baker.



QUEENSLAND KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL

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*Republic of Korea, Federal Minister Veteran Affairs, Qld State Govt,
Gold Coast City Council,*

AKWMQ/GCKS, KWMQ, Stratagem Pty Ltd.

MEMORIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

GCCC, RSL, AQKV, GCKS, KWVAA, KVAA, TSS.

KOREAN VETERANS' DAY - 60th ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMISTICE.

SATURDAY 27 JULY AT THE QUEENSLAND GOLD COAST.

The remembrance ceremony for our Korean War Veterans was carried out by the RSL Surfers' Paradise and supporting veteran and community groups with great dignity under sunny skies at our beautiful Memorial within Cascade Gardens.

General Mike Jeffery, our former Governor General, and distinguished War Correspondent Harry Gordon were the principal speakers. Their address each touched the hearts of all those present. The response on behalf of the Korean Veterans and Communities was made by the President of the ROK KVAA Sydney, Young Shin Kim, who expressed thanks for Australia's participation.

Federal, State and Regional dignitaries were represented by JP Langbroek MP for Premier Campbell Newman and our Gold Coast Mayor Tom Tate. Presidents of all principal RSLs and Veteran Organisations were present supported by the Korean Communities of Brisbane and the Gold Coast.

Over 300 visitors attended, principal of whom were our Korean War Veterans of both Nations from the Navy, Army and Airforce. It was a moving and touching ceremony for veterans' families and friends.

WE REMEMBER OUR COMRADES CURRENTLY LOCATED OVERSEAS IN THEATRES OF CONFLICT.



**Queensland
Government**



***The Queensland Korean War Memorial** was Designed by Screenart David Yardley, Constructed by W3D Constructions Ross Wolbers*

***Major Benefactors:** Republic of Korea, C of A Department of Veteran Affairs, Queensland Premier's Department, Gold Coast City Council, Australian Korean War Memorial Queensland Ltd, Gold Coast Korean Society, Association Queensland Korea Veterans Inc, RSL, Stratagem and the Veteran and Korean Communities of SE Queensland. **Construction Team:** Project Manager Maurie Pears, GCCC Ross Greenwood, President AKWMQ Joseph Ahn and Committee, RSL Surfers Paradise Alan Whelan, AQKV Committee, GCKS Committee.*

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Photographs Alan Fortunato

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