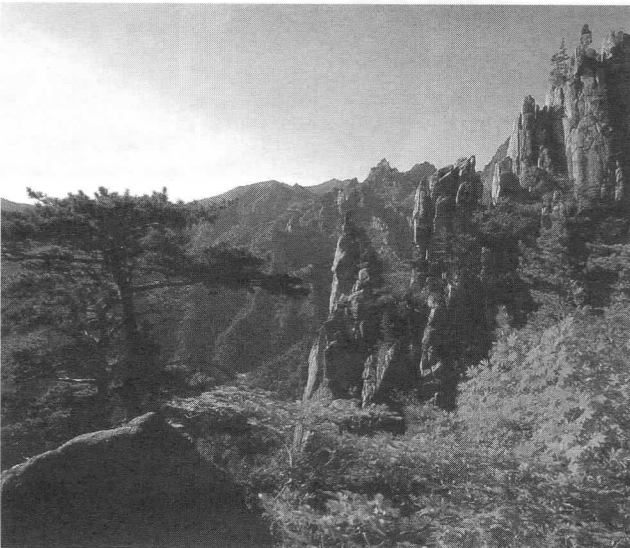


FACT SHEET 3

HISTORY OF KOREA

Korea is known as the Land of the Morning Calm, but its history has been far from peaceful....

- In the late 19th Century, China, Russia and Japan competed for occupation of Korea. Japan invaded Korea in 1910 and occupied it until the end of the Second World War. After the Second World War, Korea became divided along an invisible boundary called the 38th Parallel.
- North of the 38th Parallel was occupied by the Soviet Union. The United States took control south of the 38th Parallel. These occupations were assumed to be temporary as an independent, unified Korea was to be formed.
- When the Cold War began to develop around the world, tensions increased between the United States and the Soviet Union. This resulted in the 38th Parallel becoming a permanent boundary.
- In the north, the Soviet Union instituted a communist regime. In the south, the United States established a democracy under the leadership of Syngman Rhee. He appealed to the United States for an end to the division of Korea and the United States took this matter to the United Nations.

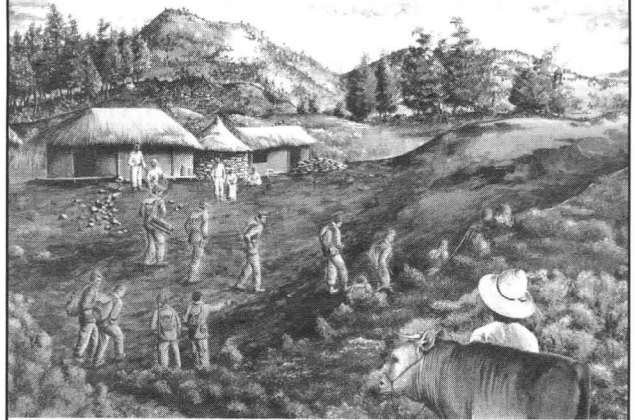


- The Soviet Union countered this by suggesting that the United States and Soviet Union withdraw all forces from Korea to leave Koreans to decide on their own government. The United States rejected this because North Korea was so heavily armed that it felt South Korea would be at the mercy of North Korea.
- In 1947, the United Nations General Assembly decided to create a Temporary Commission to Korea to supervise free elections and oversee the withdrawal of the occupational forces (Soviet Union and the United States). The Soviet Union and the United States withdrew their troops from Korea.
- South Korea, which had been occupied by the United States, established the Government of the Republic of Korea which was recognized by the United Nations General Assembly. In North Korea, the Soviet Union created the Democratic People's Republic of Korea under the communist leadership of Kim Il Sung.
- Trouble started along the border of the 38th Parallel when both sides argued over the right to rule all of Korea. The Korean War began on June 25, 1950, when North Korea invaded South Korea. Trained by Soviet officers, the North Korean army used force to invade the Republic of Korea (South Korea).
- World reaction to this, the first open act of aggression since the establishment of the United Nations, was swift. The United Nations called an emergency meeting to find a solution to the situation in Korea. The member nations agreed it was an aggressive breach of peace and must be stopped.
- Member countries, including Canada, were asked to contribute military power and join forces to stop the invasion, defend South Korea and restore peace. On June 30, United States President Truman committed United States troops. The United Nations recommended that all troops be placed under a single commander. The United Nations Command was established in Tokyo under General Douglas MacArthur of the United States.

FACT SHEET 4 CANADA'S ROLE IN THE KOREAN WAR

- The Korean War began on June 25, 1950, when North Korea crossed the 38th Parallel with tanks and aircraft and invaded South Korea.
- The United Nations Security Council voted to defend South Korea. The Canadian government, headed by Prime Minister Louis St-Laurent, decided to commit a military force.
- Canada's contribution to the United Nations forces was significant, and was surpassed only by that of the United States and Great Britain. More than 26,000 Canadians participated in the war and additional troops assumed peacekeeping roles after the war ended (when the Korea Armistice Agreement was signed).
- The first Canadians to serve in Korea were with the Navy. Three Royal Canadian Navy destroyers sailed in July 1950. They were followed by the Royal Canadian Air Force. While the first group of Canadians assumed military duties, the government organized the recruitment of the Canadian Army Special Force (CASF) for Korean service.
- Many First Nations people served in Korea. While a final figure of participants was not reported, it is estimated that several hundred First Nations peoples served on the battlefields and also at sea in Korea.
- Coincidentally, two Royal Canadian Navy ships (HMCS *Cayuga* and HMCS *Sioux*) bore the names of some Native Canadians. Later in the war, they were followed by the *Nootka*, the *Iroquois*, the *Huron* and the *Haida*. These names were testimony to the respect Native Canadians had earned within the Canadian military establishment and continued a tradition that had begun in the Second World War.

VALOUR REMEMBERED



Canadians in Korea

- The Canadian contribution may have been a small portion of the total United Nations effort, but it was a considerable contribution in proportion to our population. In total, 26,791 Canadians served in the Korean War and another 7,000 served in the theatre between the cease-fire and the end of 1955. The names of 516 Canadian dead are inscribed in the Korean War Book of Remembrance.
- Canadian participation in Korea marked a new stage in Canada's development as a nation, and a break from traditional policy. It was the beginning of a new era of involvement in world affairs which saw Canadian troops deployed around the world in truce teams, peace commissions and emergency forces in efforts to promote international freedom and maintain world peace. A new page in Canada's proud military history was written.

FACT SHEET 5 UNITED NATIONS' ROLE IN THE KOREAN WAR

- On June 25, 1950, the forces of North Korea crossed the 38th Parallel into the Republic of Korea. This marked the beginning of hostilities which were to rage for three full years and more, throughout that country known to its people as the Land of the Morning Calm. The magnitude of the assault made it clear that this was a full-scale invasion.
- This was the first open act of aggression since the establishment of the United Nations Organization and the actions it would take were of great significance for its prestige and credibility - in fact for its very future. The invasion of South Korea was declared a breach of the peace and 16 member nations joined forces to resist the aggression.
- On July 27, 1953, the Korea Armistice Agreement was signed at Panmunjom, ending three years of



fighting. The truce which followed was an uneasy truce and Korea remained a divided country. Yet the United Nations intervention in Korea was a move of incalculable significance. For the first time in history, an international organization had intervened effectively with a multi-national force to stem aggression. The United Nations emerged from the crisis with enhanced prestige.

- Both sides reached their peak strengths just prior to the end of hostilities. On the Communist side the total manpower has been estimated at 1,155,000, of whom 858,000 were Chinese. In addition, there were perhaps some 10,000 Soviet troops in various non-battlefield roles. The United Nations Command consisted of 272,000 South Koreans and 266,000 from the 16 nations represented in the formation. There were thousands more employed along the lines of communication and in quasi-military roles.

