Forgotten No More
70th Anniversary of the Korean War
Commemorative Campaign
June 25, 2020 ~ July 27, 2023

Media Briefing Package

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70th Anniversary of the Korean War

Forgotten No More! It will soon be 70 years since the start of the Korean War, Canada’s 3rd bloodiest war. A war in which more than 26,000 Canadians from across Canada volunteered to fight against Communist tyranny, and another 7000 served in peacekeeping duties from 1953-1955. Now in their mid 80’s and 90’s the brave young Canadians who volunteered to proudly serve their nation and go to Korea’s aid, still feel the sorrow in their hearts when they remember what happened upon their return and felt as though Canada had forgotten them.

Fast forward six decades. It was only in 2013 that a Senate bill (S-213) was enacted to designate July 27 (Armistice Day), as Korean War Veterans Day in Canada. 1953 to 2013. Far too late, but better late than forgotten - to remember the sacrifices made, and the Canadians that are buried to this day in the UN Memorial Cemetery of Korea in Busan, South Korea, whose families never saw again and Canada had “forgotten” for decades past.

June 25, 2020 marks a historic milestone for both Canada and Korea as we commemorate the start of the historic 70th anniversary of the Korean War.

Across Canada (in Korea and around the world), people will stand united with the remaining veterans, to pay tribute to the sacrifices made by our brave Canadians who fought in the Korean War. We will remember their courage and all those who did not return home, paying the ultimate sacrifice in the fight for freedom and democracy.

“Canada as a nation, owes an everlasting debt of gratitude to those young men and women, who served and continue to serve their country. I owe my life, literally, to Canadians and others from around the world who served and sacrificed their lives so that my parents and others could live in peace.” ~ Senator Yonah Martin (Grand Patron of KVA Heritage Unit; Sponsor of S-213, Korean War Veterans Day Act)
Forgotten No More

Commemorative Projects & Events (June 2020)

**June 21 (11:00 EDT)** 70th Anniversary Wreath-laying Ceremony @ Monument to Canadian Fallen (Confederation Park, Ottawa, ON)

**June 23 (21:00 EDT)** International 70th Anniversary Commemorative Ceremony

70th anniversary of the Korean War Commemorative ceremony hosted by Sae Eden Presbyterian Church in Seoul, Korea. This special online event is being organized by the church to honour our beloved veteran of the Korean War. The historic on-line international commemoration will bring together Korean War veterans and family members of Canada, the USA, Thailand, and the Philippines to participate in the LIVE commemorative event taking place in Seoul, South Korea. 10 Veterans will take part in the live ceremony via Zoom to represent Canada.*

**June 25** Minister Lawrence MacAulay to lay a wreath (PEI, location/time TBC)

**June 25 (11:00 EDT)** 70th Anniversary Wreath-laying Ceremony @ KVA Wall of Remembrance National War Memorial (Meadowvale Cemetery, Brampton, ON)

**June 25 (11:00 PDT)** 70th Anniversary Wreath-laying Ceremony @ Ambassador of Peace Korean War Memorial (Central Park, Burnaby, BC)

**June 25** – Launch of “Intergenerational Integrities” (paired veteran-student writing project)

This project aims to connect youth and seniors, especially during this global pandemic where many are feeling isolated. Students who are paired with veterans will interview the veterans (by zoom or by phone) and write about what they have heard. Stories written by the students will be published and shared at a commemorative event and on Parliament Hill. Initiated by grade 11 student (Coquitlam, BC). Contact information available on request.

*Veterans Participating in the International Commemorative Ceremony & “Intergenerational Integrities” – contact information available on request*

- Bill Black – Navy/President of Korea Veterans Association (KVA) Unit 7 (Ottawa, ON)
- Vince Courtenay – Army/Editor of an online publication, Korean War Veteran (Windsor, ON)
- Claude Charland – Army/Secretary of KVA Unit 7 (Gatineau, QC)
- Alphonse Martel – Army/Treasurer of KVA Heritage Unit (Repentigny, QC)
- Dennis Moore – Army (Thunder Bay, ON)
- Bob Orrick – Navy (Ladner, BC)
- Frank Smyth – Army (Coquitlam, BC)
- Don Sudden – Army/President of KVA Heritage Unit (St. Breslau, ON)
- Leo Valentine – Army/President of KVA Unit 14 (Chilliwack, BC)
- Peter Wilkins – Navy (Lunnenburg, NS)
Backgrounder of the Korean War

The year is 1950. The Second World War is over. The UN has been in place for just five years, and is working to promote global peace and security. Canada is brimming with optimism as Canadians look forward to a prosperous and peaceful second half of the 20th century. Suddenly, an international crisis is brewing on the Korean peninsula and people, the world over, are holding their collective breath. What happens next is history. (www.veterans.gc.ca/eng)

Key Dates

- June 23, 1950: Outbreak of the Korean War
- July 27, 1953: Signing of the Armistice (South and North Korea are technically still at war)
- 1953-1957: Peace Keeping Years post Armistice

Timeline & Details of Canada's Contribution

- 26,291 Canadians volunteered for military service in the Korean War, making it the 3rd largest military deployment in Canadian history
- More than 7000 served in the theatre of war between the cease fire and the end of 1955
- Canada's casualties totalled 1,558 including 516 who made the ultimate sacrifice, making the Korean War Canada’s 3rd bloodiest war
- Canada’s military contribution (3rd largest contingent after the United States and the UK forces) was larger, in proportion to its population, than most other UN participants
- On 30 July 1950, three Canadian destroyers (Cayuga, Athabaskan and Sioux) arrived in Sasebo, Japan, under orders to sail for Korean waters, and were the first Canadians to see action in Korea
- 5 other destroyers - Crusader, Huron, Iroquois, Nootka, Haida - served under UN Command during the war
- On 7 August 1950 the government authorized the recruitment of the Canadian Army Special Force (CASF)
- The original Canadian infantrymen of the Special Force included the second battalions of the Royal Canadian Regiment (RCR), Princess Patricia’s Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI) and Royal 22 Regiment; "C" Squadron of Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians); 2nd Field Regiment, Royal Canadian Horse Artillery (RCHA), 57th Canadian Independent Field Squadron, Royal Canadian Engineers (RCE); 25th Canadian Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron; No. 54 Canadian Transport Company, Royal Canadian Army Service Corps (RCASC) and No. 25 Field Ambulance, Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps
- The air force’s transport planes ferried people and materials across the Pacific Ocean, while 22 Canadian pilots flew jet aircraft with the United States Air Force in Korea
- In November 1950, the Canadian Army brigade’s 2nd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry Regiment, was sent overseas and landed in Korea in December
• In May 1951, the rest of the Canadian brigade arrived
• For the army, the Korean War became largely a “war of patrols” in rough, mountainous terrain, but infantry, tank, and artillery units were also involved in heavy fighting at the battles of Kapyong (22-25 April 1951), Hill 355, also known as Kowang-San, (22-25 November 1951 and 22-24 October 1952), and Hill 187 (2-3 May 1953)
• **NOTE:** *The Battle of Kapyong* (22-25 April, 1951) is the Battle of Vimy of the Korean War in terms of what Canadians of 2PPCLI did to hold the last line of defence against an overpowering Communist insurgence (while the two other commonwealth lines of defence were breached), and protect the retreating US and Korean soldiers in the Kapyong Valley and the capital of Seoul from being overtaken. 2 PPCLI received the first and only prestigious US Presidential Citation for their valour, which no other Canadian unit has received since
• The Canadian brigade’s operational role in Korea ended on 8 November 1954
• The last to leave was the Canadian Medical Detachment, which sailed from Incheon on 28 June 1957
Photos of the Korean War

HMCS Cayuga, Athabaskan and Sioux were the first from Canada to respond to the outbreak of the Korean War and departed within 2 weeks of January 25, 1950. Photo was taken of all 3 ships and HMCS Nootka in January 1951 in Japan. (Photo Credit: Korea Veterans Association Heritage Unit archives)

Korean War Veterans Scott Moore, unknown soldier and Dennis Moore in Korea 1951-1952. (Photo Credit: The Memory Project)

Korean War Veteran Frank Smyth in Korea, handing out clothes and toys donated by his family in Toronto in 1952-1953. (Photo Credit: The Memory Project)

Photo of PPCLI soldiers who participated in the victorious Battle of Kapyong from April 22-25, 1951, where they stopped a massive communist invasion force from overrunning the Kapyong Valley and ultimately capturing Seoul, the present-day capital of Korea. (Photo Credit: The National Post)

The 25th Canadian Infantry Brigade “Imjin Cup” championship match between the PPCLI and R22eR held on March 11, 1952. Spectators were either soldiers who had just come off front-line duty, or came from reserve units to watch the games at the “Imjin Gardens” rink on the frozen Imjin River in Korea. (Photo Credit: R22eR archives)

Team photo of the Royal 22e Regiment (Vandoos) who played in the “Imjin Cup” championship match in 1952 at the “Imjin Gardens” rink. (Photo Credit: R22eR archives)
Brigadier Jean Allard, Commanding Officer of the Canadian Brigade and Colonel K L Campbell, Commander of the 3rd battalion of the RCRS on August 2nd, 1953 following the signing of the armistice. (Photo Credit: New York Times)

Soldiers of the Princess Patricia’s Canadian Light Infantry attending a ceremony for their fallen comrades in Pusan (Korea). Year unknown. (Photo Credit: The Memory Project)

KVA Unit 7 President Bill Black and Walt Conrad at the 60th Anniversary of the Battle of Kapyong Ceremony held at the National War Memorial in June 2011. (Ottawa, ON)

Replica of the Monument to Canadian Fallen designed by Korean War Veteran Vince Courtenay. Original is located at the UN Memorial Cemetery in Pusan, South Korea. (Ottawa, ON)

The Honourable Steven Blaney (then Minister of Veterans Affairs) declared 2013 as the Year of the Korean War Veteran to mark the 60th Anniversary of the Korean War Armistice. The announcement was held at the Canada Aviation and Space Museum on January 2, 2013. (Ottawa, ON)
The Korea Veterans Association National Wall of Remembrance in Brampton, Ontario. Dedicated in 1997 by Korean War Veterans to honour their fallen comrades. The national Korean War Veterans Day Ceremony (July 27) is held at this site simultaneously with other commemorations across Canada. (Photo Credit: Veterans Affairs and Office of Sen. Martin) (Brampton, ON)

"Imjin Classic" is an annual commemorative hockey game. The inaugural game took place in Ottawa in 2013, on the frozen Rideau Canal, to mark the 60th anniversary of the Korea War Armistice and the 100th anniversaries of two Regiments that served in Korea: Princess Patricia’s Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI) and the Royal 22nd Regiment (R22R). (February 10, 2013) (Ottawa, ON)

The Ambassador of Peace Memorial was designed by Hyun Kak Cho and is located in Burnaby (BC) Central Park. Commemorative Ceremonies are held every June 25 and July 27. Donated by the Korean War Veterans Association of Canada, the Monument was unveiled in 2007. (Burnaby, BC)
The Kap’Yong Memorial Cairn and Plaque is located on Radar Hill in Pacific Rim National Park, Tofino (BC). A commemorative ceremony is held each April to honour the veterans who fought in the Battle of Kap'yong in 1951. The cairn and plaque were installed in 1998 following the symbolic twinning of Pacific Rim National Park Reserve of Canada and Hallyo Haesang Sea National Park of Korea in 1997. (Tofino, BC)

The Gapyeong Stone Korean War Memorial is located in the Derek Doubleday Arboretum in Langley, BC. The stone was unveiled by the Township of Langley in January 2019 as a symbol of sacrifice, honour, and gratitude for the important contribution Canada made to the Korean War during the Battle of Gapyeong. (Langley, BC) (Photo credit: Langley Advance Times)

The Gapyeong Memorial Stone is located in the newly renamed Gapyeong Park in Winnipeg, MB. The boulder was donated by the South Korean Government. Korean War commemorative ceremonies are held at the park each year since 2019. The park is dedicated to the 700 soldiers of 2PPCLI who fought in the Battle of Kap'yong during the Korean War.