

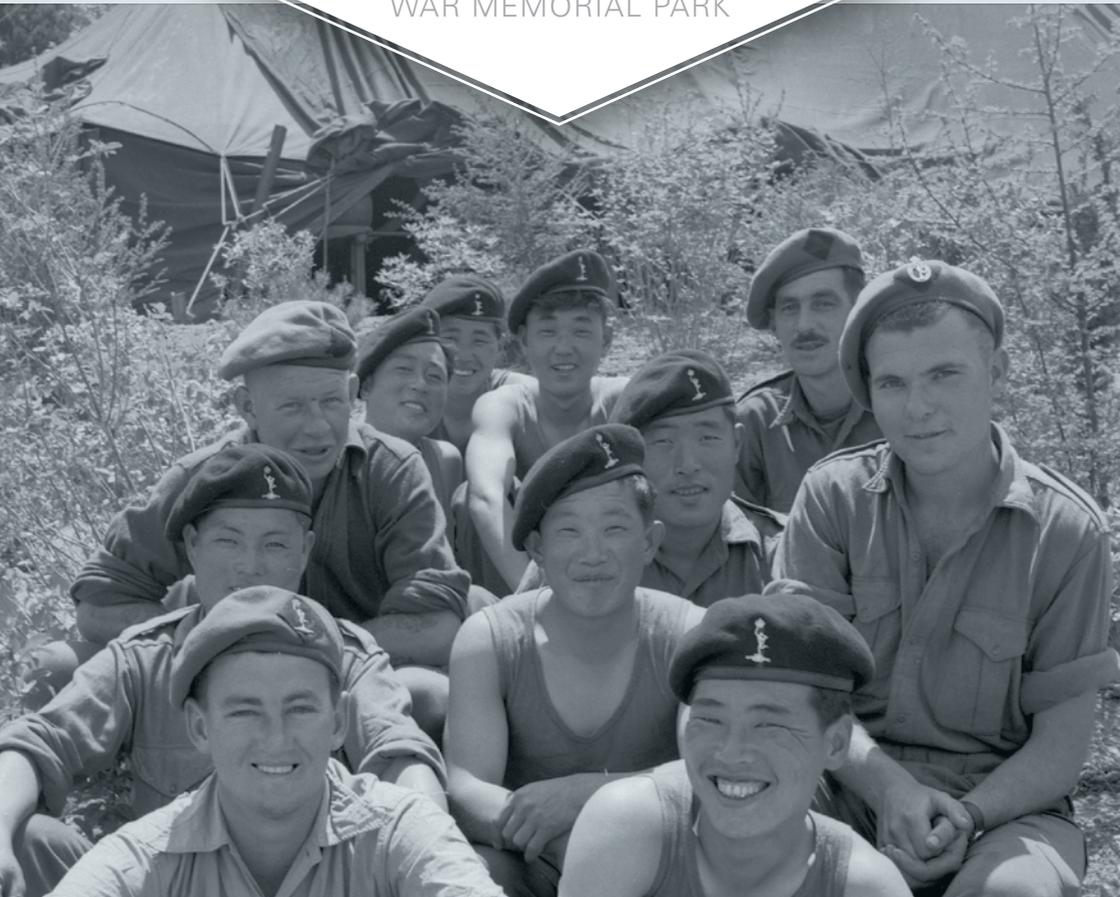


NATIONAL COMMEMORATION
TO MARK THE

**67th ANNIVERSARY
OF THE START OF THE
KOREAN WAR**

FRIDAY 23 JUNE 2017

HALL OF MEMORIES
PUKEAHU NATIONAL
WAR MEMORIAL PARK



NEW ZEALAND IN THE KOREAN WAR

Around 6000 New Zealanders served in Korea between 1950 and 1957: 4700 were members of an army force known as 'Kayforce', while 1300 served on the six Royal New Zealand Navy frigates that saw service around the Korean peninsula. During these years a total of 45 New Zealand servicemen (including two naval personnel) lost their lives in Korea, while two other New Zealanders died serving with Australian forces.

Although New Zealand's contribution and losses were not large, especially compared to the two world wars, the Korean War had a major impact on the country's approach to international relations, focusing attention on the threat of communist expansion in Asia. Events in Korea were also important in helping New Zealand achieve its post-war objective of a security commitment from the United States, leading to the ANZUS Treaty of 1951.

The Korean War began on 25 June 1950, when Communist North Korean forces swept southwards across the 38th Parallel, the pre-war dividing line between North and South Korea. New Zealand was one of the first countries to answer the UN Security Council's call with combat assistance, and one of sixteen that would eventually do so. On 29 June, the government offered two frigates, with HMNZS Tutira and Pukaki sailing from Auckland on 3 July. They escorted supply ships between Japan and the southern Korean port of Pusan (Busan), then on 15 September took part in the UN's successful amphibious landing behind the enemy's lines at Inch'on (Incheon), near Seoul. Their role was to escort the troopships carrying the attack force, and then form part of a protective screen around the UN beachhead.

The Inch'on operation transformed the war: Seoul was liberated and the North Korean army quickly collapsed. The United States now saw an opportunity to unify the Korean peninsula, despite warnings from Beijing that China would respond forcibly to any such move. When UN forces crossed the 38th Parallel in October, the conflict entered a new phase. Chinese forces, poorly equipped but in vast numbers, responded with a series of offensives, the second of which led to a 'big bug out' of UN forces. Seoul was lost again before the Chinese onslaught was halted in early 1951.

Earlier, on 26 July 1950, the New Zealand government had agreed to provide a volunteer ground force to serve as part of a Commonwealth formation. But it took months to recruit, train and dispatch Kayforce, and it would have missed the war altogether were it not for the Chinese intervention. The 1056-man force, made up of 16th Field Regiment and small ancillary units, eventually sailed from Wellington on 10 December. The New Zealanders arrived at Pusan on 31 December and joined the 27th British Commonwealth Infantry Brigade on 21 January 1951. This brigade took part in the operations which saw UN forces fight their way back to and across the 38th Parallel, recapturing Seoul in the process.

In April 1951, when the Chinese launched their Fifth Phase Offensive, the brigade fought a successful defensive battle at Kap'uyong. Between 23 and 25 April the New Zealand gunners provided crucial support to Australian and Canadian troops. In July three Commonwealth brigades were formed into the 1st (Commonwealth) Division. New Zealand agreed to provide divisional signallers, as well as a transport company, expanding Kayforce to 1500 men.

The failure of the April offensive helped convince the Chinese that outright military victory was unlikely. Armistice talks opened in July 1951, but progress was slow. By the end of the year a stalemate had emerged as both sides sought to improve their defensive positions. Even so, bitter fighting continued in the Commonwealth sector. The New Zealand gunners would eventually fire more than three-quarters of a million shells before the end of the fighting, earning a reputation as an extremely proficient element of the Divisional Artillery.

An armistice signed on 27 July 1953 finally brought fighting in Korea to an end, although no peace settlement was subsequently concluded. A reduced New Zealand force continued to serve in a garrison role in Korea until 1957, when the last troops were finally withdrawn.

COVER IMAGE: KIWI GUNNERS IN KOREA

NATIONAL ARMY MUSEUM, WAIOURU, NEW ZEALAND

ORDER OF SERVICE

ARRIVAL

Official guests are welcomed by Rear Admiral David Ledson ONZM (Rtd), Chair, National War Memorial Advisory Council, and Heather Baggott, Ministry of Culture and Heritage. The Official Party proceed up the steps to the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior.

RESPECTS PAID AT THE TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN WARRIOR

Whakamaharatanga, the Remembrance Bell, tolls as the official party pay their respects at the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior

KARANGA

June Jackson MNZM, supported by Peter Jackson, Taranaki Whānui

Presentations in the Foyer follow

PLEASE STAND

PROCESSIONAL

Rangimārie, the Peace Bell, tolls as the official party processes into the Hall of Memories

PLEASE REMAIN STANDING

NATIONAL ANTHEMS

The National Anthems of the Republic of Korea and New Zealand are played by Anon Vocal Ensemble

PLEASE BE SEATED



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MĀORI GUN CREW SERVING IN KOREA, DURING THE KOREAN WAR

WELCOME

Chaplain Class 1 Anthony Hawes RNZAF, Principal Defence Chaplain (Air)

PROLOGUE

Rear Admiral David Ledson ONZM (Rtd), Chair, National War Memorial Advisory Council

HISTORICAL READING

The Honourable Maggie Barry, Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage on behalf of the Government and People of New Zealand

Wilfred Poulton recalls a Chinese attack in the last days of the war:

We have just had the hardest few days and nights of any since I've been here. The Marines, on our left, were heavily attacked on Friday night and in drizzling rain and inky blackness we fired 415 rounds, the most of any gun in the regiment that night, and the biggest night since I've been here. Everything went smoothly, though we were soaked to the skin and dead beat. My gun stood up to it very well and we could have boiled a billy on the barrel. It was sizzling hot.

In the morning we had a terrific mess to clean up and the gun to strip down and clean, and loads of ammunition to prepare, so most of us didn't get to bed until midday.

Then that night we fired another 200 odd rounds up until 3.30am when things quietened down and most of us got to bed. Fired another 100 rounds on Sunday.

I couldn't understand the Chinese attacking so strongly when a Truce was all but signed, but anyway they were beaten back, largely by our artillery fire. The Yanks were pleased as one thing with us. One marine was heard to say, "Just let me get a Kiwi on leave in Tokyo. I'll buy him all the beer he can drink."

Source: Wilfred Poulton, *K Force in Korea: A Soldier's Life in the 16th New Zealand Field Regiment* (2004), p.111

VOCAL ITEM

Anon Vocal Ensemble Sings

Pokarekare Ana

HISTORICAL READING

His Excellency Seung-bae Yeo, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea

Colin Peterson recalls the extreme cold of the Korean winter:

On this particular night we were feeling the cold very badly. When outside, it was painful to take a breath. Everything was freezing up, solid. I began to be concerned about our fitness and ability by the time the night was through. On reading the thermometer I found that it had gone down to -20°C which on the Fahrenheit scale is 50° below freezing point. On the Celsius scale this is -28°C. We found that this temperature was well outside the official graph issued to us from which we were to plot the adjustment for temperature [in calculating targets].

After some head scratching (with gloves on!), we simply extended the curve of the graph to cope with the situation. Fortunately, the target was well inside enemy territory and the accuracy of our shooting was never questioned.

Source: Quoted in Ian McGibbon, *New Zealand and the Korean War, Volume II: Combat Operations*, Oxford University Press, Auckland, 1996, p.89.

READING

Young woo Lee & Georgina Hassell-Hopkinson on behalf of the youth of New Zealand and Korea

Des Vinten, dispatch rider, 3rd Reinforcements, looks back on his time in Korea:

Korea was a forgotten war. Nobody wanted to talk about it. In fact, the press used to write it up as a police action. They never stood on the side of the road and watched streams of refugees pouring out of North Korea and running for their lives.

I quite liked the military life. Otherwise I wouldn't have stayed in for as long as I did. I liked the camaraderie that builds up over time. You don't really have too much to worry about. You get three squares a day. You get, in those days, in comparison with the British forces, reasonably well paid. You had a bed to go to at night. It suited me down to the ground.

But in the overall greater picture of things, you've got to stop and think, did we really do the right thing? The war served a purpose at the time. It kept South Korea free, as free as it can be under ceasefire conditions. But all you've got to do is stand at the gates of the Korean War Cemetery in Pusan and behind those gates there's thousands of souls. What does that tell you? The absolute, utter futility of what we were doing. The Koreans will tell you that it was worth every one of those souls, and more, to be free, and I can sympathise with that.

PRAYER OF PEACE

Chaplain Class 1 Anthony Hawes RNZAF, Principal Defence Chaplain (Air)

LAYING OF WREATHS

Wreaths are laid by the following:

The Honourable Maggie Barry

Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage
on behalf of the Government and People of New Zealand

His Excellency Seung-bae Yeo

Ambassador of the Republic of Korea
on behalf of the Government and People of the Republic of Korea

Her Excellency Zodwa Lallie

High Commissioner of South Africa
Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps

The Honourable Annette King MP

on behalf of the Leader of the Opposition

Rear Admiral John Martin ONZM

on behalf of the New Zealand Defence Force and their families

Councillor Jill Day

representing the Mayor, on behalf of the City of Wellington
on behalf of the City of Wellington

Des Vinten

on behalf of the Wellington Region Korean Veteran's Group

Trevor Appleton

on behalf of the Royal New Zealand Naval Association

Air Commodore Terrence Gardiner ONZM

on behalf of the Royal New Zealand Air Force Association

Bob Hill

on behalf of the Royal New Zealand Returned and Services' Association

Young woo Lee

together with

Georgina Hassell-Hopkinson

representing the youth of New Zealand

During the wreath laying Anon Vocal Ensemble sings from the rear of the Hall

**PRAYER IN COMMEMORATION OF THE
ANNIVERSARY OF THE KOREAN WAR**

Chaplain Class 1 Anthony Hawes RNZAF, Principal Defence Chaplain (Air)

ROLL OF HONOUR

Robbie Robieson

Phil Wallace

Peter Stitt

PLEASE STAND

THE COMMEMORATION

THE LAST POST

The Bugler plays “The Last Post”

Uniformed personnel salute

The flags of the Republic of Korea and New Zealand are lowered to half mast on the forecourt

THE ODE

WOSCS Jack Rudolph recites The Ode in Te Reo Māori

E kore rātou e koroheketia
Pēnei i a tātou kua mahue nei
E kore hoki rātou e ngoikore
Ahakoa pēhea i ngā āhuetanga o te wā
I te hekenga atu o te rā
Tae noa ki te aranga mai i te ata
Ka maumahara tonu tātou ki a rātou

Response: “Ka maumahara tonu tātou ki a rātou”

Bob Hill; Royal New Zealand Returned and Services Association recites The Ode in English

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

Response: “We will remember them”

1 minute silence

THE ROUSE

The Bugler sounds “Rouse”

The flags of the Republic of Korea and New Zealand, on the forecourt, are raised to full mast head on the forecourt

BENEDICTION AND DISMISSAL

Chaplain Class 1 Anthony Hawes RNZAF, Principal Defence Chaplain (Air), delivers the Benediction and Dismissal

RECESSIONAL

The Official Party process to the Foyer

In the foyer, The Honourable Maggie Barry and His Excellency Seung-bae Yeo sign the Visitors' Book

FLORAL TRIBUTES LAID ON THE TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN WARRIOR

The Honourable Maggie Barry, His Excellency Seung-bae Yeo and Des Vinten place their floral tributes on the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior

Veterans and guests may place poppies on the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior



THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE ROYAL NEW ZEALAND NAVY

HMNZS HAWEA PATROLLING HAN RIVER 1951



The National Commemorative Service was arranged by the Visits and Ceremonial Office, Department of Internal Affairs, in partnership with the Ministry for Culture and Heritage, the New Zealand Defence Force, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Protocol Division), and the Royal New Zealand Returned and Services' Association