



The National Commemoration for New Zealand's Involvement in the Korean War

PUKEAHU NATIONAL WAR MEMORIAL PARK
25 JUNE 2022



Wintertime at sea in Korea, HMNZ Taupo, c1951-2. Image courtesy of National Museum of the Royal New Zealand Navy, Photograph by Richard Hale, Ref: 2010.27.1129 (CC BY-NC 4.0)

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 around the Korean peninsula on six Royal New Zealand Navy frigates.

The Korean War began on 25 June 1950, when Communist North Korean forces swept southwards across the 38th Parallel, the 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, providing two frigates and promising a volunteer ground force to serve as part of a Commonwealth formation.

In September, the frigates took part in the UN's successful amphibious landing at Inch'on (Incheon), near Seoul. The operation transformed the war: Seoul was liberated and the North Korean army collapsed. When UN forces crossed the 38th parallel in October, however, 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 and the loss of Seoul.

Kayforce joined the Commonwealth formation in January 1951. This 1056-man 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 another offensive, the Commonwealth brigade fought a successful defensive battle at Kap'yong. Between 23 and 25 April the New Zealand gunners provided crucial support to Australian and Canadian troops.

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. 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. Forty-five New Zealand servicemen (including two naval personnel) lost their lives as a result of the conflict, while two other New Zealanders died serving with Australian forces.

The Korean War had a major impact on New Zealand's approach to international relations, focusing attention on the threat of communist expansion in Asia. It also helped New Zealand achieve its objective of a security commitment from the United States, leading to the ANZUS Treaty of 1951.

Order of Ceremony

KARANGA

Pekairā Rei, Taranaki Whānui

NATIONAL ANTHEMS

National Anthem of the Republic of Korea
**Kathy Nam, Sarah Nam and
Sophia Marquez**

National Anthem of New Zealand
Anon Vocal Ensemble

OPENING KARAKIA

Te Ahu Jason Hamilton, Taranaki Whānui

COMMEMORATIVE ADDRESS

The Honourable Meka Whaitiri,
Minister for Veterans

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Chaplain Class 2 James Molony,
RNZChD

LAYING OF WREATHS

The Honourable Meka Whaitiri,
Minister for Veterans

together with

His Excellency Mr Sang-jin Lee,
Ambassador of the Republic of Korea
on behalf of the Government and People
of the Republic of Korea

Des Vinten,
on behalf of the Korean War veterans

together with

Air Marshal Kevin Short,
Chief of Defence Force

Melissa Lee MP,
on behalf of the Opposition

together with

**A Representative for the Dean of the
Diplomatic Corps**,
on behalf of the Diplomatic Corps

BJ Clark QSM,
National President, Royal New Zealand
Returned and Services' Association
on behalf of the Royal New Zealand
Returned Services' Association

ROLL OF HONOUR

Read by Korean War veterans

Des Vinten

Peter Stitt

THE COMMEMORATION

LAST POST

Uniformed personnel salute

The flags of the Republic of Korea
and New Zealand are lowered to
half-mast head

THE ODE IN TE REO MĀORI

BJ Clark QSM,

National President, Royal New Zealand
Returned and Services' Association

THE ODE IN ENGLISH

Des Vinten,

Korean War Veterans' Association

ONE MINUTE SILENCE

ROUSE

The flags of the Republic of Korea and
New Zealand are raised to full-mast head

CLOSING KARAKIA

Te Ahu Jason Hamilton, Taranaki Whānui



This National Commemorative Service was arranged by the Visits and Ceremonial Office, Te Tari Taiwhenua Department of Internal Affairs, in partnership with Manatū Taonga Ministry for Culture and Heritage, Manatū Aorere Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Te Ope Kātua o Aotearoa the New Zealand Defence Force.

Korean showing Gunner B R Melleur of 16th Field Regiment Royal New Zealand Artillery how to prepare rice straw for thatching, 12 December 1952. Image courtesy of Alexander Turnbull Library, Ref: PA1-f-112-1691



GRANTS
PA 102
1.02 12 DRS



Cover image: Gun crew of Easy 4, 163 Battery, Korea, 17 July 1952. Image courtesy of Alexander Turnbull Library, Ref: K-1216-F