



NATIONAL COMMEMORATION FOR
THE 69TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
COMMENCEMENT OF THE KOREAN WAR

TUESDAY 25 JUNE 2019

HALL OF MEMORIES
PUKEAHU NATIONAL WAR MEMORIAL PARK
WELLINGTON



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.

Cover image:

Korean soldier and New Zealand soldier. New Zealand. Department of Internal Affairs. War History Branch :Photographs relating to World War 1914-1918, World War 1939-1945, occupation of Japan, Korean War, and Malayan Emergency.

REF: PA1-F-115-2032. ALEXANDER TURNBULL LIBRARY, WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND. /RECORDS/23017691

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'yong. 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.



163 Battery personnel outside the mess tent after Christmas dinner] part of Mackley, Ian Chappell, 1928-2016. [163 Battery personnel outside the mess tent after Christmas dinner]. New Zealand. Department of Internal Affairs. War History Branch :Photographs relating to World War 1914-1918, World War 1939-1945, occupation of Japan, Korean War, and Malayan Emergency.

REF: K-0661-F. ALEXANDER TURNBULL LIBRARY, WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND. /RECORDS/22338204



Crowd at Aotea Quay, Wellington, as K Force troops leave on the Ormonde. New Zealand. Department of Internal Affairs. War History Branch :Photographs relating to World War 1914-1918, World War 1939-1945, occupation of Japan, Korean War, and Malayan Emergency.

REF: K-0123-F. ALEXANDER TURNBULL LIBRARY, WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND. /RECORDS/23143867

ORDER OF SERVICE

ARRIVAL

Official guests are welcomed by Rear Admiral David Ledson ONZM (Rtd), Chair of the National War Memorial Advisory Council and Becky MacNeill, Deputy Chief Executive Organisational Performance, Ministry for Culture and Heritage

The Honourable Grant Robertson

Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage

Melissa Lee MP

representing the Opposition

His Excellency Seung-bae Yeo

Ambassador of the Republic of Korea

His Excellency Leasi Papali'i Tommy Scanlan

Dean of the Diplomatic Corps

Air Vice-Marshal Andrew Clark

Chief of Air Force

New Zealand Defence Force

BJ Clark QSM

National President

Royal New Zealand Returned and Services' Association

The Official Party move up the steps to the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior

RESPECTS PAID AT THE TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN WARRIOR

Whakamaharatanga, the Remembrance Bell tolls four times as the Official Party pay their respects at the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior

KARANGA

The karanga is called by June Jackson MNZM, Taranaki Whānui, supported by Peter Jackson, Taranaki Whānui, as the Official Party proceed into the foyer of the Hall of Memories

Please stand

PROCESSIONAL

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

Please remain standing

Mounting of Catafalque Guard

Please remain standing

NATIONAL ANTHEMS

The National Anthem of the Republic of Korea sung by Sarah Nam, Sophia Marquez and Minseo Kim

The National Anthem of New Zealand led by Anon Vocal Ensemble

Please be seated

WELCOME

Master of Ceremonies

Brodie Stubbs

Manager Memorials and Taonga

Ministry for Culture and Heritage

OPENING PRAYER

Chaplain Class 2 Peter Olds

Royal New Zealand Chaplains' Department

New Zealand Defence Force

PROLOGUE

Rear Admiral David Ledson ONZM (Rtd)

Chair, National War Memorial Advisory Council

COMMEMORATIVE ADDRESS

The Honourable Grant Robertson

Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage

VOCAL ITEM

Anon Vocal Ensemble sings

ADDRESS

His Excellency Seung-bae Yeo

Ambassador of the Republic of Korea

HISTORICAL READING

Des Vinten

PRAYER OF PEACE

Chaplain Class 2 Peter Olds

LAYING OF WREATHS

Wreaths are laid by:

The Honourable Grant Robertson

on behalf of the Government and People of New Zealand

Melissa Lee MP

on behalf of the Opposition

Des Vinten

on behalf of the Korean War Veterans'

His Excellency Seung-bae Yeo

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

His Excellency Leasi Papali'i Tommy Scanlan

on behalf of the Diplomatic Corps

Air Vice-Marshal Andrew Clark

on behalf of the men and women of the New Zealand Defence Force and their families

His Worship Mayor Justin Lester

on behalf of the City of Wellington

Trevor Appleton

on behalf of the Royal New Zealand Naval Association

Commander Chris Griggs RNZNR

on behalf of the New Zealand Korea Veterans' Memorial Trust

Soon Sook Kim

on behalf of the Korean Association of Wellington

Arthur Ritchie

together with

Kathy Nam

representing the youth of the Republic of Korea and New Zealand

BJ Clark QSM

on behalf of the Royal New Zealand Returned Services' Association

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

ROLL OF HONOUR

Bruce Diggle

Peter Stitt

Please stand

THE COMMEMORATION

LAST POST

Uniformed personnel salute

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

THE ODE

Warrant Officer Jack Rudolph

New Zealand Defence Force

E kore rātou e kaumātuatia
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

BJ Clark QSM

Royal New Zealand Returned and Services' Association

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

Silence is observed

THE ROUSE

BUGLER

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

BENEDICTION AND DISMISSAL

Chaplain Class 2 Peter Olds delivers the Benediction and Dismissal

Please stand

Dismounting of Catafalque Guard

Please remain standing

RECESSIONAL

The Official Party process to the Foyer

In the foyer, The Honourable Grant Robertson, His Excellency Seung-bae Yeo and Des Vinten sign the Visitor's Book

Taranaki Whānui, Anon Vocal members, Korean Trio and youth representatives are introduced to the Official Party

FERNS LAID ON THE TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN WARRIOR

The Honourable Grant Robertson, His Excellency Seung-bae Yeo and Des Vinten place their ferns on the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior

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



WAAC officers and sergeants, prior to departure for Korea. New Zealand. Department of Internal Affairs. War History Branch :Photographs relating to World War 1914-1918, World War 1939-1945, occupation of Japan, Korean War, and Malayan Emergency.

REF: K-0138-F. ALEXANDER TURNBULL LIBRARY, WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND. /RECORDS/22851717



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