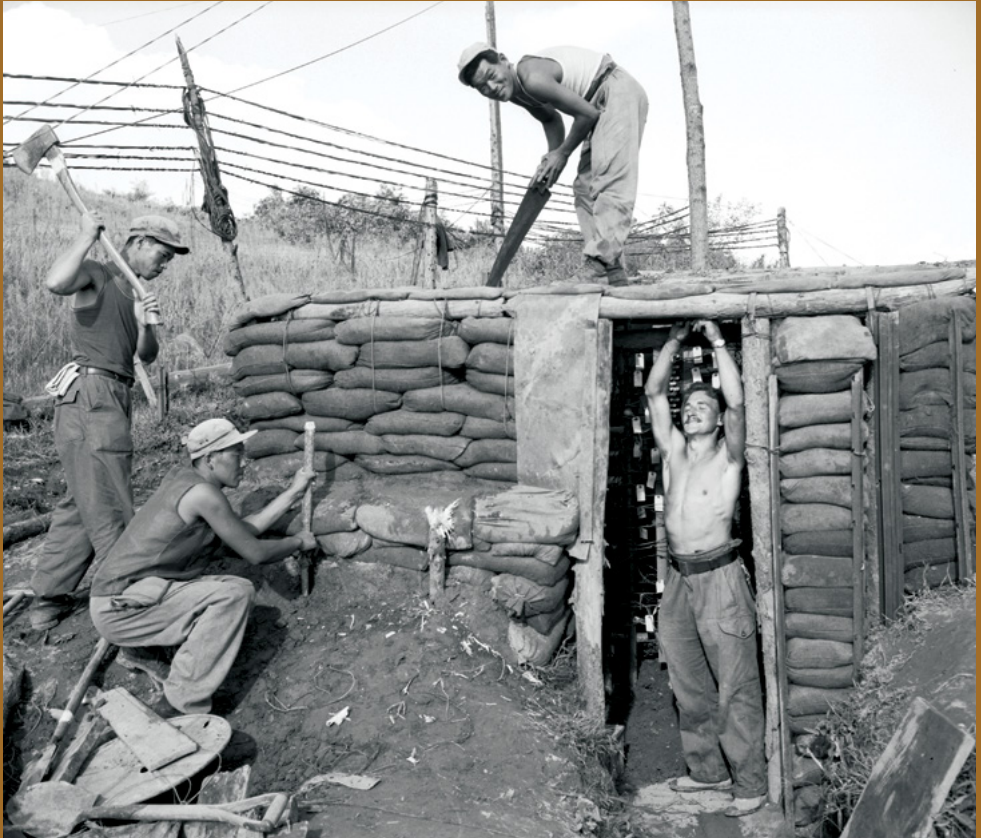




The National Commemoration for New Zealand's Involvement in the Korean War

**HALL OF MEMORIES
PUKEAHU NATIONAL WAR MEMORIAL PARK
25 JUNE 2023**



Signalman Leslie William Officer, of Invercargill, working with Korean labour battalion men on the construction of a sandbagged test point for the Divisional Signals telephone circuit, 1 Sep 1952. Image courtesy of Alexander Turnbull Library, Ref: K-1328

Cover image: The post-armistice Korean headquarters of the 16th Field Regiment, Royal New Zealand Artillery known as "Kiwi Hill", circa 1953. Image courtesy of Alexander Turnbull Library, Ref: 1/2-121222-F

Aotearoa ki te pakanga o Kōrea

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. This year marks the 70th anniversary of an armistice signed on 27 July 1953 that 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. Today 12 New Zealand Defence Force personnel serve with United Nations Command & Military Armistice Commission in the Republic of Korea.

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.

Ngā Whakaritenga Order of Ceremony

KARANGA

Pekaira Rei, Taranaki Whānui
Response by
Dale Cousens,
Ngāruahine, Taranaki Whānui

NATIONAL ANTHEMS

National Anthem of
the Republic of Korea
Jina Yoon and Hannah Kim

National Anthem of New Zealand
Anon Vocal Ensemble

KARAKIA TĪMATANGA

Toa Waaka,
Taranaki Whānui

WELCOME

Major Fiona Cassidy (Rtd),
Chair of the National War Memorial
Advisory Council

COMMEMORATIVE ADDRESS

Ibrahim Omer MP,
List Member
Labour Party

WAIATA

Pokarekare Ana
arranged by Sheena Phillips
sung by **Anon Vocal Ensemble**

HISTORICAL READING

Des Vinten,
Korean War veteran

PRAYER OF REMEMBRANCE

Chaplain Elijah Peters,
New Zealand Defence Force

LAYING OF WREATHS

Ibrahim Omer MP,
on behalf of the Government and
People of New Zealand

His Excellency Mr Changsik Kim,
Ambassador of the Republic of Korea
on behalf of the Government and People
of the Republic of Korea

Rear Admiral David Proctor,
Chief of Navy on behalf of the
New Zealand Defence Force

and

Des Vinten,
on behalf of the Korean War veterans

Tim van de Molen MP,
on behalf of the Opposition

and

**His Excellency
Ahmad Salem Alwehaib,**
Dean of the Diplomatic Corps and
Ambassador of the State of Kuwait on
behalf of the Diplomatic Corps

Sir Wayne Shelford KNZM MBE,
National President,
Royal New Zealand Returned and
Services' Association on behalf of the
Royal New Zealand Returned Services'
Association

and

Maia Goza and Jina Yoon,
on behalf of youth of New Zealand and
Republic of Korea

ROLL OF HONOUR

Read by veterans

Des Vinten and 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

and

THE ODE IN ENGLISH

Sir Wayne Shelford KNZM MBE,
National President,
Royal New Zealand Returned and Services'
Association

ONE MINUTE SILENCE

ROUSE

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

CLOSING

Chaplain Elijah Peters,
New Zealand Defence Force

KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA

Toa Waaka,
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.

New Zealand Defence Force personnel, deployed to the United Nations Command and its Military Armistice Commission, commemorate Anzac Day in the Republic of Korea, 25 April 2023. Image courtesy of the New Zealand Defence Force



캐나다
CANADA

뉴질랜드
NEW ZEALAND

터키
TÜRKİYE



DATE OF PARTICIPATION
1950-1953
TOTAL PARTICIPANTS
16,700
REMAINING IN ACTION
1,202
KILLED IN ACTION
464

DATE OF PARTICIPATION
1950-1953
TOTAL PARTICIPANTS
1,600
REMAINING IN ACTION
85
KILLED IN ACTION
103

DATE OF PARTICIPATION
1950-1953
TOTAL PARTICIPANTS
1,600
REMAINING IN ACTION
85
KILLED IN ACTION
103



