Canada's part...

Approximately 90 per cent of the soldiers fighting in Korea suffered from frostbite. In fact, much of the war was fought in extreme cold as Siberian winds whipped across the Asian peninsula.

516 names of war dead are inscribed in the Korean Book of Remembrance.

Facts about Peacemaking Peacekeeping is an important aspect of Canada's national heritage and a reflection of our fundamental beliefs. Peacekeeping is also a significant component of Canada's foreign policy and our contribution to the multilateral security system.

Fifty years of experience in peacekeeping and participation in an overwhelming majority of peacekeeping missions mandated by the United Nations Security Council has established an international reputation for Canada. Although the United Nations deployed some observer missions in its early years, the term "peacekeeping" did not enter popular use until 1956. The eruption of conflict in the Middle East, specifically between Egypt and

Israel, prompted Lester B. Pearson, then Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs and later Prime Minister of Canada, to propose the deployment of an international peace force under the UN flag. Since that time there have been over 50 United Nations peacekeeping missions.

Canadian peace support efforts include such diverse groups as the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and their provincial and municipal partners, . Elections Canada and Corrections Services Canada, and takes place not just through the United Nations but also through regional forums such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organiza-(NATO), Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), and the Organization of African Unity (OAU).

More than 100,000 Canadians have participated in Untied Nations (and NATO) peacekeeping duties throughout the world. Canada has deployed more Peacekeepers than any other country.

VETERANS' WEEK CANADA REMEMBERS THE KOREAN WAR

Canada helped repel Korean invaders

The following is an excerpted version of a speech delivered by the Honourable Dr. Rey D. Pagtakham, Minister of Veterans Affairs, to Korean War Veterans at a dinner on the eve of the unveiling of the Monument to Canadian Fallen on September 28 in Ottawa.

It is not until you hear the words of welcome and see the broad smiles of citizens whose land was occupied and whose freedom delivered back to them that you realize how truly blessed we are to call Canada our

More than 50 years ago, when the small nation of the Republic of Korea was invaded, and over-run by hostile forces, the United Nations asked its member nations for help. It was a desperate call. It was a call that you in this room answered. You volunteered, without hesitation.

Korea was a barren land then; a very poor land. Many of its hills and mountains looked the same. And were named by innocuous sounding numbers. But there was nothing innocuous about your fight to take them or defend them.

Your served valiantly in what seemed such a thankless cause! It was a cause for which

Canadians would fight and would die for, throughout three terrible years right up until the Armistice was signed on July 27, 1953.

All told, over 26,000 Canadians served in the Korean War, and another 7,000 served in the theatre between the cease-fire and the end of 1955, 516 Canadians would perish as a result of their service.

You served with such noble hearts ... to defend the principles of freedom and democracy, which prevailed so abundantly in our own land.

You took the freedom of this great land, Canada, and helped return it to a small nation in a very far-off land. In the doing, you endured terrible, terrible hardships ... the unimaginable cold of winter, the searing summers, the constant bursting of shells and bombs upon their positions.

But you did not fail, you did not flag.

Today, because of your sacrifice and that of your fallen comrades, along with your comrades in arms from other nations who also answered the call, the Republic of Korea is one of the most modern, most technologically advanced nations, on the face of the earth. In 50 short years it has risen from the chaos and destruction of war to be-

come the 12th largest economy in the world and you made that possible!

The Republic of Korea is a sparkling gem, and Korea has made its mark in every form of industry and commerce. It leads the world in some specialized branches of medicine, electronics, and heavy construction. And Korea undoubtedly leads the world, in remembering the brave sons of Canada who fought there and who made all of that wonderful transformation possible!

I know that Korea did not touch most Canadians in the way that the Second World War did. Our force was small and there was no great mobilization of industry. Canada itself was not threatened with direct attack. But had you not taken up arms, alongside our international allies, you knew then - and we know now - that the history of the world would have taken a very different course.

While we cannot turn back the hands of time, may you take some measure of comfort in knowing that today Canadians realize that far more gratitude is owing to you than anyone understood those 50 years ago.

So from the bottom of my heart, welcome home brave Canadians. We are so very proud of each and every one of you.

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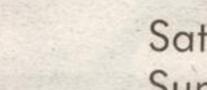


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