

Guided Inquiry Example

9TH-12TH

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Example of Guided Inquiry

To understand how to use the following resources as part of a guided inquiry, see the [Guided Inquiry](#) document.

Topic: Cost of the Korean War

Compelling Question: Was the Korean War worth the cost?

Background Information:

Several factors contributed to the Korean Conflict being called America's "Forgotten War." It never unified the country in its support the way World War II did. Americans were not asked to sacrifice through rationing and other programs. In World War II, defeat of Nazi Germany and Japan was the obvious goal. Korea was part of the Cold War global struggle against communism, but the United States was not directly fighting either the Soviet Union or China, its major proponents. American war aims in the Korean Conflict were not as clear. And the war never really ended. Neither side surrendered. A negotiated armistice established the 38th parallel as the dividing line between the two Koreas, just as it had been before the fighting commenced. The Korean peninsula was devastated. Was the cost of the war worth it? Clash with Communists The Korean peninsula off the east coast of Asia has had a long history of foreign invaders. In 1910, Japanese armies conquered Korea and occupied it until their defeat in 1945 at the end of World War II. During the war, several different nationalist factions fought against the Japanese for Korean independence. Some were supported by Communist China; others favored western democracy. In the last few months of World War II, the Soviet Union declared war against Japan and sent Russian soldiers into Korea. The U.S. made them stop their southern movement at the 38th parallel, and that line became the effective division between a communist North Korea and a western South Korea.

In 1950, after several border clashes near the dividing line, the North Korean army invaded the south and nearly occupied the entire peninsula. President Harry S. Truman and the West saw this act of aggression sponsored by the Soviet Union as part of a strategy for worldwide communist domination. Backed by a United Nations resolution condemning the invasion and building a military coalition led by the United States, Truman committed American forces to the defense of South Korea. The United Nations troops, under General Douglas MacArthur, began rolling back the North Korean forces. Fearing the advance, Communist China sent thousands of troops to support North Korea and American forces were driven back. Truman wanted to avoid an all-out war with China. MacArthur publicly disagreed and advocated bombing the Chinese. Truman fired the popular general who returned to the U.S and began a speaking tour attacking the president's policies as weak. In 1952, General Dwight Eisenhower was elected president, and he made a secret trip to Korea to help bring about an armistice in 1953 that ended the fighting. A strip of land at the 38th parallel was declared a "demilitarized zone" but both sides established heavy defenses along its border.

Counting civilian casualties, an estimated 2,800,000 people lost their lives in the Korean Conflict. American losses totaled 33,741. Of those, approximately 580 were from Iowa. In 1995, the United States dedicated a memorial on the Capitol grounds to those who served in the Korean War. Iowa had dedicated its own Korean War memorial five years earlier.

Example of Guided Inquiry

According to the Iowa government website: “The drive for a Korean War monument began in November 1984, when students from a Harding Junior High School class in Des Moines wrote the governor, asking why Korean War veterans did not have a memorial.

The Iowa monument, erected on a grassy area south of the Capitol, includes a 14-foot-tall central obelisk and eight 6-foot-tall tablets which tell the story of the Korean War utilizing words, pictures, and maps of Korea engraved in granite. The monument was dedicated by Governor Terry Branstad on May 28, 1989.”

Sources with transcripts:

Source 1: World Leaders Sign United Nations Charter

Source 2: South Korean Soldiers Prepare and Lay an Anti-Tank Mine, July 22, 1950

Source 3: Korean Woman Searches Through Rubble in Seoul, Korea, November 1, 1950

Source 4: Korean War Atrocities Report by U.S. Senate, January 1954

Source 5: “Korean Pearl Harbor? Red China’s Attack Threatens U.N. Victory as Mao Moves on Three Fronts” Article, November 15, 1950

Source 6: Korean War Fact Sheet

Source 7: Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., between 1995 and 2006

World Leaders Sign the United Nations Charter, June 25, 1945



Courtesy of Harry S. Truman Presidential Library & Museum, "Signing the United Nations Charter," 25 June 1945

South Korean Soldiers Prepare and Lay an Anti-Tank Mine, July 22, 1950



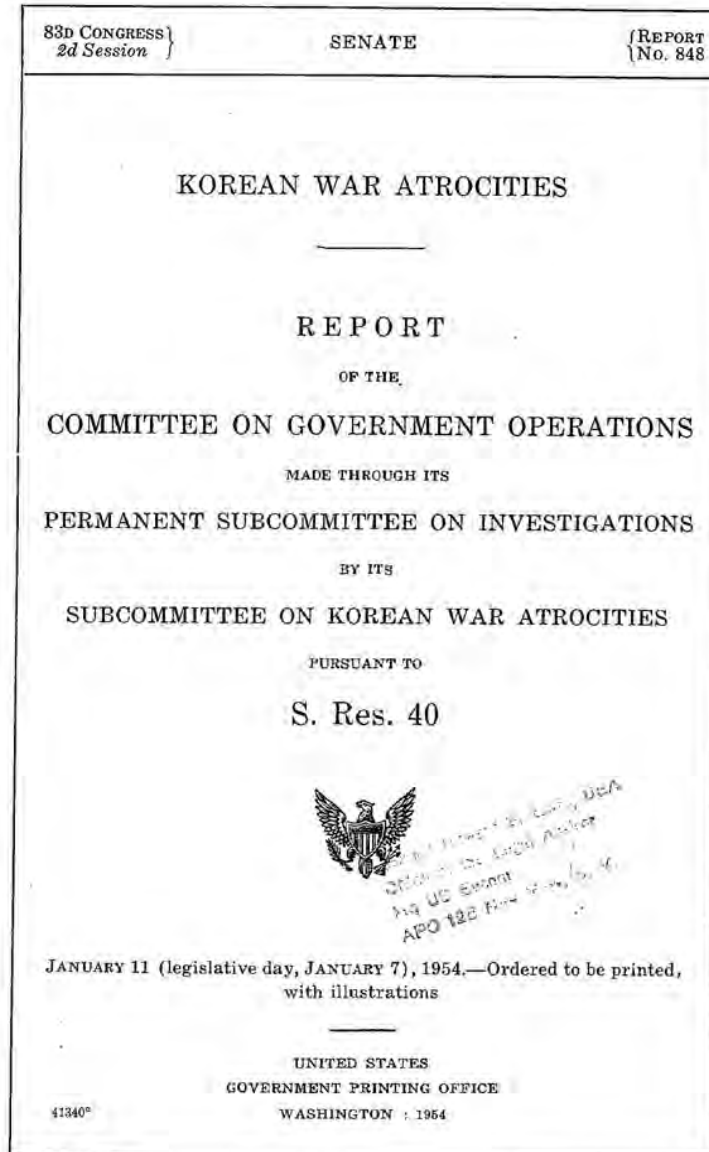
Courtesy of Library of Congress, "South Korean soldiers of the 1st Division, I Corps, prepare and lay an antitank mine somewhere in Korea during the Korean conflict," 22 July 1950

Korean Woman Searches Through Rubble in Seoul, Korea, November 1, 1950



Courtesy of Morning Calm Weekly Newspaper, Huff, C.W., "An aged Korean woman pauses in her search for salvageable materials among the ruins of Seoul, Korea," Morning Calm Weekly Newspaper, 1 November 1950

Korean War Atrocities Report by U.S. Senate, January 1954 (Pg.1)



“Korean War Atrocities Report of the Committee on Government Operations made through its Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations by its Subcommittee on Korean War Atrocities,” U.S. Congress, January 1954. [Courtesy of Library of Congress](#)

Korean War Atrocities Report by U.S. Senate, January 1954 (Pg.2)

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II

"Korean War Atrocities Report of the Committee on Government Operations made through its Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations by its Subcommittee on Korean War Atrocities," U.S. Congress, January 1954. [Courtesy of Library of Congress](#)

Korean War Atrocities Report by U.S. Senate, January 1954

(Contains Transcribed Excerpts)

83d CONGRESS 2d Session	}	SENATE	}	REPORT No. 848
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KOREAN WAR ATROCITIES

JANUARY 11 (legislative day, JANUARY 7), 1954.—Ordered to be printed, with illustrations

Mr. POTTER, from the Committee on Government Operations, submitted the following

REPORT

MADE THROUGH ITS PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS BY ITS SUBCOMMITTEE ON KOREAN WAR ATROCITIES

INTRODUCTION

On June 25, 1950, the North Korean Peoples' Army, without warning, attacked the Free Republic of South Korea.

During the ensuing 3 years of warfare, the Communist enemy committed a series of war crimes against American and United Nations personnel which constituted one of the most heinous and barbaric epochs of recorded history. When the American people became aware war atrocities had been committed against American troops, thousands of letters were sent to Members of Congress by parents, wives, and relatives of servicemen, requesting an immediate investigation.

Accordingly, on October 6, 1953, Senator Joseph R. McCarthy, chairman of the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, appointed a special subcommittee, chaired by Senator Charles E. Potter, to inquire into the nature and extent of Communist war crimes committed in Korea.

The purpose of the investigation was to bring to the attention of the world in general and to the American people in particular, the type of vicious and barbaric enemy we have been fighting in Korea, to expose their horrible acts committed against our troops, and to foster appropriate legislation.

The War Crimes Division in Korea has already opened more than 1,800 cases of crimes committed by the enemy involving many thousands of victims, including American, South Korean, British, Turkish, and Belgian troops, as well as many civilians.¹ The sub-

EXPLANATION OF FOOTNOTES.—All page references in footnotes refer to published record of hearings on Korean War Atrocities conducted by this subcommittee on December 2, 3, and 4, 1953.

¹ Pt. I, pp. 6, 10, 11.

Korean War Atrocities Report by U.S. Senate, January 1954 (Contains Transcribed Excerpts)

committee limited its inquiry to atrocities committed against American personnel. When it became apparent numerous cases involving American servicemen were under current investigation, exclusive of hundreds of cases completely documented by evidence, the subcommittee decided to further limit its investigation to illustrative types of war atrocities.

A total of 29 witnesses appeared before the subcommittee in public hearings on December 2, 3, and 4, 1953.² Of this number, 23 were American servicemen who were either survivors or eyewitnesses of Communist war crimes. The remaining witnesses were former Army field commanders in Korea and officials of the War Crimes Division. Corroborative evidence consisting of affidavits, statements, photographs, and other official records from the files of the United States Army, Judge Advocate General's Division, and from the official records of the War Crimes Division in Korea, was also received.

I. HISTORY AND OPERATION OF WAR CRIMES DIVISION IN KOREA

First reports of war crimes committed by the North Korean armies in Korea against captured United Nations military personnel began to filter into General Headquarters, United Nations Command, early in July of 1950. When the facts were disclosed, Gen. Douglas MacArthur, Commander in Chief, United Nations Command, set up the machinery for the investigation of war crimes committed by Communist aggressors.³

Initial responsibility was assigned to the Army Staff Judge Advocate of the Far East Command. On July 27, 1950, field commanders were advised as to the procedures to be followed. In early October 1950, the immediate responsibility for war-crimes investigations was transferred to the Commanding General, Eighth Army; on September 1, 1952, responsibility was transferred to the Commanding General, Korean Communication Zone, where it presently rests.⁴

The purpose in establishing the War Crimes Division was to avoid the difficulties experienced after World War II, when little effort was made to investigate the commission of a war crime until some time after the war had ended.

In order to define and clarify the limits of the investigations in Korea, war crimes were defined as those acts committed by enemy nations, or those persons acting for them, which constitute violations of the laws and customs of war, and general application and acceptance, including contravention of treaties and conventions dealing with the conduct of war, as well as outrageous acts against persons or property committed in connection with military operations.⁵

The War Crimes Division in Korea is organized into several branches, the more important sections from an operational standpoint being the Case Analysis Branch, the Investigations Branch, and the Historical Branch, the latter containing statistical and order-of-battle sections. The Investigations Branch utilizes field teams conducting on-the-spot investigations. Thousands of enemy prisoners of war, as well as friendly personnel, have been interviewed,

² See appendix of this report.

³ Pt. 1, p. 9.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

Korean War Atrocities Report by U.S. Senate, January 1954

(Contains Transcribed Excerpts)

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KOREAN WAR ATROCITIES

General ALLEN. They were right in the tunnel. Then I heard a cry from another source, of an American, so we came down the hill, and there we came across the most gruesome sight I have ever witnessed. That was in sort of a sunken road, a pile of American dead. I should estimate that in that pile there were 60 men. In the pile were men who were not dead, who were wounded * * *. We, incidentally, found a very shallow grave, it must have contained at least 60 bodies, the other side of the road, down maybe 50 yards from that place.

(C) TAEJON MASSACRE

On September 27, 1950, approximately 60 American prisoners who had been confined in Taejon prison were taken into the prison yard in groups of 14, with their hands wired together. These men were forced to sit hunched in hastily dug ditches and then were shot by North Korean troops at point blank range, with American M-1 rifles, using armor-piercing ammunition. Of the 2 seriously wounded survivors, only 1 lived to recount the gruesome details. Unnumbered civilians estimated at between 5,000 and 7,000, as well as soldiers of the Republic of Korea, were also slaughtered at Taejon between September 23 and September 27, 1950.¹¹

Sgt. Carey H. Weinell, formerly with the 23d Infantry Regiment, 2d Division, Korea, and the sole survivor of the infamous Taejon massacre, testified:

Sergeant WEINELL. * * * Toward the last they was in a hurry to leave Taejon, to evacuate Taejon, so they took approximately the last three groups pretty close together. I witnessed the group right in front of me shot * * *. After they was shot we was taken to the ditch and sat down in the ditch and shot.

Senator POTTER. What happened to you when you were shot?

Sergeant WEINELL. * * * I leaned over against the next man, pretending I was done for * * *. In firing, they hit my hand * * *.

* * * * *

Senator POTTER. How were you sitting in the ditch?

Sergeant WEINELL. * * * They was aiming at my head. I have a scar on my neck, 1 on my collarbone, and another 1 hit my hand * * *. They hit me 3 times.

Senator POTTER. And you played dead?

Sergeant WEINELL. Yes, sir. After they thought everybody was dead, they started burying us * * * I came close to getting panicky about that time, but somehow or other I figured as long as I had some breath there was hope * * *.

* * * * *

Senator POTTER. In other words, you were buried alive?

Sergeant WEINELL. That is right, sir.

* * * * *

Sergeant WEINELL. I might add in that whole group that I was with, there was not a man that begged for mercy and there was not a man that cracked under the deal.

* * * * *

Mr. O'DONNELL. * * * Sergeant, how long were you buried alive?

Sergeant WEINELL. That is hard to say, sir. As I say, I was shot around 5 o'clock in the morning, and I stayed in the ditch until that evening, until what time it was dark. I would say approximately 8 hours, 8 or 7 hours.

(D) THE BAMBOO SPEAR CASE

In late December 1950, five American airmen in a truck convoy were ambushed by North Korean forces. Their bodies, discovered shortly after by a South Korean patrol, showed that the flesh had been punctured in as many as 20 different areas with heated, sharpened bamboo sticks. The torture was so fiendish that no one perforation was sufficient to cause death by itself.¹²

¹¹ Pt. 1, pp. 15-25.

¹² Col. John W. Gora, pt. 3, pp. 162-164. Lt. Col. James T. Rogers, pt. 3, pp. 164-166.

Korean War Atrocities Report by U.S. Senate, January 1954

(Contains Transcribed Excerpts)

KOREAN WAR ATROCITIES

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V. TREATMENT IN COMMUNIST PRISON CAMPS

Evidence before this subcommittee indicated that the inhuman treatment given American prisoners in Communist prisoners-of-war camps was a sequel to the brutalities and indignities suffered by the prisoners on death marches. The prisoners at these camps were survivors of marches and were necessarily in poor physical condition.

The deliberate plan of savage and barbaric handling of these men was a continuation of the policy which existed on all the marches, and violated virtually every provision of the Geneva Convention of 1929. They were denied adequate nourishment, water, clothing, and shelter. Not only were they denied medical care but they were subjected to experimental monkey-gland operations. Housing conditions were horrible, resulting in widespread disease.²⁸

The prisoners were not permitted to practice their religion and on numerous occasions were beaten, humiliated, and punished. Political questioning and forced Communist indoctrination was constant, and the men were subjected to physical abuse and other punishment when they refused to be receptive to the Communist propaganda. The American newspapers available for reading purposes were the Daily Worker published in New York and the People's Daily World published in San Francisco, copies of which were in the prisoner-of-war camps within 2 months after the date of publication. The Communists utilized prisoners on numerous occasions for propaganda purposes and took posed pictures purporting to show the comfortable life being led by the prisoners, an obvious distortion of truth and fact.²⁹

Officers were segregated from the enlisted men and could therefore not exercise any internal control, and were subjected to the same harsh treatment. Prisoners-of-war camps were not properly marked, resulting in bombing by United Nations aircraft. Letters of prisoners were not mailed by their captors, and Red Cross aid was in no way permitted. American prisoners died by the thousands at the rate of 15 to 20 per day. One witness testified that during a 7- to 8-month period 1,500 prisoners died of beri-beri, dysentery, pellagra, and other diseases as a result of malnutrition at camp No. 5 at Pyoktong.³⁰ Another witness testified that during a 3-month period at camp No. 1 at Changsong 500 Americans died.³¹ The Chinese and North Korean Communists maintained no record of American dead.³² The exact number of known American dead has not as yet been determined, as interrogations of "Little Switch" and "Big Switch" returnees are still being conducted, but it is known that the figure will be in the thousands.

Treatment improved somewhat when the peace talks at Panmunjom commenced, as the Chinese Communists adopted their so-called

²⁸ Pt. 2, 87-97, 118-128, 143-146; pt. 3, pp. 185-202, 208-212, 215, 216.

²⁹ Pt. 2, pp. 87-97, 118-128, 143-146; pt. 3, pp. 185-202, 208-212, 215-216.

³⁰ Lt. Col. Robert Abbott, pt. 3, p. 189.

³¹ Colonel Abbott. * * * At camp No. 5 it is estimated that in a period of 7 or 8 months approximately 1,500 prisoners died in that camp.

³² Sergeant Treffery, pt. 2, p. 90.

³³ Mr. O'Donnell. Of the total number that were there (camp 1), approximately how many American PW's died?

Sergeant Treffery. 500.

Mr. O'Donnell. That would be between what periods of time?

Sergeant Treffery. May 1951, sir, until August 1951.

Pt. 3, p. 188.

“Korean Pearl Harbor? Red China’s Attack Threatens U.N. Victory as Mao Moves on Three Fronts” Article, November 15, 1950 (pg.1)

Pathfinder

November 15, 1950: p. 22

Korean Pearl Harbor?

*Red China’s attack threatens U.N. victory
as Mao moves on three fronts*



New U.N. Joe. First Chinese Communists taken prisoner

Will Mao Tse-tung’s intervention in the Korean conflict become the Pearl Harbor of World War III? At Lake Success and Washington, in all the capitals of the non-Communist world, that was the great, frightening question as this election week began.

Two weeks ago the United Nations forces had the 20-week war in Korea all but won. The enemy suffered 335,000 casualties, including 135,000 taken prisoner. Torn and bleeding, he was pinned down in the hills of North Korea, a badly-mauled rat in the U.N. trap. All that remained to be done was the mopping-up.

But last week Mao, Red China’s boss and Joseph Stalin’s partner-in-arms, mixed into the fight at the eleventh hour plus, presumably at the instigation of the Kremlin, and with its blessing. The first surprise attack came at night. It was mounted by reckless fighters, who swarmed into battle on horseback and afoot after bugles had morbidly sounded “taps.” The Reds pounced on two combat regiments of the American First Cavalry Division and the South Korean First Division. Hundreds of civilians, caught by the flaming machine-gun and mortar fire, were mowed down. In U.N. casualties, it was one of the costliest engagements of the war.

Deadly Answer. Pfc. George Dick of Lake Village, Ind., was one of the Americans who lived to tell about the attack. The bugles sounded, he said, when he was “talking to a couple of other guys” who couldn’t sleep, wondering whether Chinese Communists were helping the North Koreans.

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“Korean Pearl Harbor? Red China’s Attack Threatens U.N. Victory as Mao Moves on Three Fronts” Article, November 15, 1950 (pg.2)

2

Red China’s Attack

“We kidded about some frustrated GI bugler playing his tin horn. We were having a good laugh when two guys no more than five feet from us began spraying us with lead.”

Pfc. Henry Tapper of High Point, N.C., also was in the thick of it and came out alive. Said he: “Someone woke me up and asked if I could hear a bunch of horses on the gallop. I couldn’t hear anything. The bugles started playing taps, but far away. Someone blew a whistle and our area was shot to hell in a matter of minutes. I’m not too sure how it all happened right now, but I know we lost more of our outfit there than got out.”

In the days of probing attacks that followed the Reds put aside bugles and horses and struck with modern lethal weapons from the Soviet arsenal. On the ground they used Russian T-34 tanks, self-propelled artillery, recoilless guns and “*katyushas*,” Soviet World War II multiple rocket launchers. And flashing in from Manchurian bases across the Yalu River boundary of Korea came Russian jets and Yak fighters to strafe troops and battle American planes.

General MacArthur took note of the serious turn of events in a Monday communique. The briefing that followed was one of the most somber in the experience of newsmen who have covered MacArthur from Corregidor to Pyongyang.

Undeclared War. The Communists, said MacArthur, “committed one of the most offensive acts of international lawlessness of historic record by moving, without any notice of Lelligerency, elements of alien Communist forces across the Yalu River into Korea and massing a great concentration of possible reinforcing divisions with adequate supply behind the privileged sanctuary of the adjacent Manchurian border.”

While he did not identify Mao’s regime in his statement, the target was unmistakable. In a formal report to the United Nations Security Council, MacArthur listed 12 separate instances of Communist intervention, on land and air, since Oct. 16.

At the request of the U.S., the Council called a special meeting to consider the issue Wednesday. Last June, with Russia sidelined by a walkout, it moved with admirable speed to resist the North Korean invasion of South Korea. Unless the U.N. again acts quickly and with equally firm resolution, the Allied blood spilled in Korea will have been in vain.

Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Vish-

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“Korean Pearl Harbor? Red China’s Attack Threatens U.N. Victory as Mao Moves on Three Fronts” Article, November 15, 1950 (pg.3)

3

Red China’s Attack

insky is at Lake Success, and it’s a safe bet that he would veto any Security Council action against Communist China for its intervention in Korea. But last week, the General Assembly set up new machinery to get around the veto when world peace is at stake. It approved the Acheson plan (PATHFINDER, Nov. 1) to give the veto-proof Assembly a chance to act when a veto hog-ties the Security Council.

The Lamps of Manchuria. Last week speculation on Mao’s aims in Korea centered on the giant hydroelectric power project on the Yalu River in the general area of present fighting. Built during Japanese occupation of Manchuria and Korea, it is regarded as the TVA of Asia. The 525-foot Suiho dam at Supung is one of the world’s largest—compares favorably with some of the large U.S. dams. The Yalu project provides power for North Korea and Southern Manchuria. U.N. spokesmen first interpreted Mao’s thrust across the border as an effort to protect the source of power for Manchurian cities.

But MacArthur’s serious charges and the U.N.’s quick decision to consider them indicate that Mao is after more than electricity. His forces are invading Tibet (see page 25). He is aiding Ho Chi Minh’s Communists in their fight against the French in Indochina. And he has 600,000 troops within easy striking distance of U.N. forces in Korea. These well-armed, seasoned Red fighters are commanded by Gen. Lin Piao, who forged many links in the Communist chain of victories against Chiang Kai-shek’s Nationalists.

War Fever. In Peking, capital of Red China, the sabers were being rattled louder and louder. Press and radio stepped up attacks on the United States. Screamed Mao’s New China press agency: “Just as with the Japanese imperialists in the past, the main objective of U.S. aggression in Korea is not Korea itself, but China.” And Red China is swiftly moving to war footing. Factories are urged to step up production “to meet the threat of mounting American aggression.” Dairen, Port Arthur, Mukden and other Manchurian cities have been put under martial law. Air-raid shelters are being built in Mukden. The Peking-Mukden rail line has been closed to passenger traffic and the military has been given top priority in use of the line.

Red China’s man of mystery may hurl his juggernaut full force into Korea. Or in the face of U.N. pressure he may

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“Korean Pearl Harbor? Red China’s Attack Threatens U.N. Victory as Mao Moves on Three Fronts” Article, November 15, 1950 (pg.4)

4

Red China’s Attack

elect to keep the bulk of his vast army on his side of the Yalu in a maneuver to pin down U.N. forces. In any event, American lads who have been fighting their hearts out from Pusan to the edge of Manchuria face a cold Christmas in Korea rather than a warm reunion at home.

November 15, 1950

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Korean War Memorial Fact Sheet, 2016 (pg.1)

Korean War Memorial

Quick Facts

- The N. and S. Korean border was at the 38th parallel
- Statues are over 7 feet tall
- The 19 statues are reflected on the wall to make 38 images.
- Statues are made of stainless steel in a ghostly hue
- You walk uphill representing the mountains
- Ground cover represents the rough terrain
- Granite slabs represent the rice paddies and order in the chaos
- The Mural Wall wavy appearance evokes mountainous ranges
- Soldiers were equipped like WWII soldiers
- Etched on the wall with no identification are 2400 photos of men, women, and a dog who served in Korea
- Was a U.N. action against the invasion of S. Korea by N. Korea



- The mural wall measures 164 feet long and eight inches thick, and from an aerial view, the memorial appears as an isosceles triangle, with the soldiers spearheading the tip which intersects a circle over the Pool of Remembrance.

History

Korea had been occupied by Japan from 1910 to the end of WWII. After the defeat of Japan in 1945, the Soviet Union took control of the area north of the 38th parallel and the United States took control of the area south. Because of the Cold War between the Soviet Union and the United States, Korea had separate governments in the north and south. Both parts claimed to be the legitimate government of all of Korea, and neither accepted the border as permanent.

The conflict turned into open warfare when North Korean forces, supported by the Soviet Union and China, invaded the south on June 25, 1950. On June 27, 1950, the UN Security Council dispatched UN forces to repel the North Korean invasion of the South. While 17 countries contributed troops, the United States supplied 88% of the UN's military personnel.

After 38 months of warfare, an armistice was signed on July 27, 1953, ending the fighting. This agreement created the Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) to separate North and South Korea and allowed for the exchange of prisoners. However, because no peace treaty was ever signed, the two Koreas are technically still at war.

In 1986, the U.S. Congress authorized the construction of a memorial to honor Korean War veterans. In 1995, President Bill Clinton and South Korean President Kim Young Sam dedicated the memorial.

Statues



The 19 statues represent a patrol who are walking uphill. The soldiers all wear ponchos over their equipment, signifying the bitter, cold winds. The juniper ground cover represents the rough terrain while the granite slabs represent water and rice paddies. Each branch of

Korean War Memorial Fact Sheet, 2016 (pg.2)

the armed services is represented as follows: 15 U.S. Army, 2 Marines, 1 Navy Hospital Corpsman, and 1 Air Force Forward Air Observer. The concept was to show 38 soldiers in full combat gear, representing the 38th parallel and 38 months of war, but because of lack of space, only 19 statues were made. However, with their reflections on the mural wall, the total is 38 soldiers. The reflections also have a mountainous feel. The granite slabs represent order in chaos and the uphill grade symbolizes the mountainous terrain. Looking at the soldiers from the flagpole, you can see three of the soldiers emerging from the woods. It creates the feeling that there could be many more soldiers, maybe even hundreds or thousands more, in the woods.

The sculptor, Frank C. Gaylord II, of Vermont wanted to show the ethnic diversity of the troops, so he referred to books for pictures. All statues are based on real men who actually fought in WWII or Korea. The statues range from 7'3" to 7'6" and weigh 1000 pounds each. Weapons include semi-automatic Carbines and Garand rifles, a 30 caliber machine gun and a Browning Automatic Rifle (BAR).

The United Nation's Curb, running along the northern side of the statues, contains a listing of the 22 nations who participated in the Korean War.

Mural Wall

The Mural Wall is made of Black California Academy Granite. The muralist was Louis Nelson Associates.

On the wall are over 2400 photos of men, women, and a dog who served during the war. There is no identification of anyone but all the photos were taken from the National Archives.

These support forces include the Army, Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps. Many of those people would have seen combat but not intensive or close up.



13 feet separates support personnel on the wall from the troops (statues) but you see them together on the wall as reflections, representing a oneness of the military. You also see the visitors reflected, representing the citizenry of the country who depend upon the

military. The mural wall unifies different services and citizens of the USA.

From the tip of the triangle, the following personnel are represented: Army, Air Force, Navy, and Marines. The incline of the granite represents mountains. The Rose of Sharon Hibiscus found behind the Mural Wall is the National Flower of South Korea.

Pool of Remembrance

The pool goes around the wall and point of the triangle because Korea is a peninsula. By the pool are benches and Linden trees to create a peaceful area of reflection. The message, "Freedom is not Free" is inscribed on the wall. Across from it we see the casualties of the US and UN forces.

The dedication stone, located at the point of the triangle and the American Flag, reads: "Our nation honors her sons and daughters who answered the call to defend a country they never knew and a people they never met" 1950-1953.

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Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., between 1995 and 2006



Courtesy of Library of Congress, Highsmith, Carol M., "Korean War Veterans Memorial, Washington, D.C.," between 1995 and 2006