



PEACEKEEPING AND PEACEMAKING: THE KOREAN CONFLICT

The Korean Conflict: warring and peacekeeping 1950 to 1955

Character Education

- Consider the evolving deployment of Canadian Armed Forces
- Prioritize values worth defending and even fighting for
- Appreciate Canada's role in the development of peacekeeping

Facts

- Canada, a country of 11 million, ended WWII with the third largest navy, fourth largest air force and an army of six divisions
- 26,791 Canadians served in Korea 1950-53; 516 died
- 7,000 peacekeepers were deployed in Korea between 1953 and 1955

Before the Reading

- Rank the following from top influence to least influence in deciding whether you would join a fight. In all cases you know very little about the facts surrounding the fight.
 - your parents say you have to fight for family honour
 - close friends say you have to join their fight because they were disrespected
 - The Canadian P.M. says that Canadians should fight for their country in an international dispute
 - You think you can use your conflict resolution skills to stop a fight among groups at school
 - You think Canada and its values are under attack
- Discuss the top three rankings in your class. Why were they held to be important reasons to fight?

PEACEKEEPING AND PEACEMAKING MINUTES



Russell Moses aboard the Prestonian June 1953
 The Korean War, Veterans Affairs Canada
www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/sub.cfm?source=history/other/native/korea_response

Russ Moses: Korea and beyond

Two weeks after his 18th birthday Russ Moses enlisted. A Native Canadian Delaware born on the Six Nations Reserve of the Grand River, Moses responded to

Prime Minister Louis St. Laurent's call. By his own admission he wanted to see the world. "I was always curious about the world and what lay over the next hill, plus I always had an interest in the Navy. I was young and adventurous."

After 21 weeks of rigorous physical training and instruction in submarine detection, demolitions and sonar for the Navy's Torpedo and Anti-Submarine Branch, naval seaman Moses was on board the HMCS *Iroquois* for a 50 day journey to Sasebo, Japan: from Halifax to Kingston, Jamaica then through the Panama Canal; after Manzanillo, Mexico to Long Beach, California, Pearl Harbour,



Reading #1 Korea

“The actions of the United Nations in Korea are not war. It is police action intended to prevent war. This brigade will be known as the Canadian Army Special Force, and it will be specially trained and equipped to be available for use in carrying out Canada’s obligations under the United Nations Charter.”

Prime Minister Louis St. Laurent

http://archives.cbc.ca/war_conflict/korean_war/clips/679/
http://archives.cbc.ca/war_conflict/korean_war/clips/730/

Canada’s contributions to the defeat of the Axis powers in WWII were remarkable. Its fighting forces gained respect and the arms and economic support were impressive for a nation of only 11 million people. In 1945, after six years of sustained effort, Canada and its heroic veterans were ready to re-start their lives.

The work of Canada’s Army Headquarters (AHQ), however, was just beginning. The war years had demonstrated the need to focus on armed forces capability in different environments. Canadians had served in Asia, Africa and the Middle East as well as in all seasons of the European campaigns. The WWII lessons learned, even as WWII was still proceeding, indicated that there was a new threat on the horizon for which Canada had to prepare. It was communist and nuclear.

Experienced wartime officers assessed atomic and Arctic battlefields to determine Canada’s readiness to protect its home and native land. They developed the Mobile Striking Force concept which was ready just in time for Canada to answer the United Nations call for assistance with the Korean conflict.

On June 25, 1950 troops of the North Korean People’s Army, numbering 135,000, crossed the 38th parallel which had been agreed upon by the Soviet Union and the USA as the dividing line between the democratic south and the communist north at the end of WWII. The North Koreans were supported by both Communist China and the Soviet Union.

At the request of United Nations, Canada participated in the Korean conflict as part of a 16-nation force to protect South Korea. Canadian destroyers *Cayuga*, *Athabaskan* and *Sioux* were under orders to sail for Korean waters by July 1950; the tribal class destroyers *Crusader*, *Huron*, *Iroquois*, *Nootka* and *Haida* served under UN command until 1953.

The navy was soon joined by 22 RCAF fighter pilots and the RCAF Transport Squadron that carried more than 13,000 passengers and three million kilograms of freight

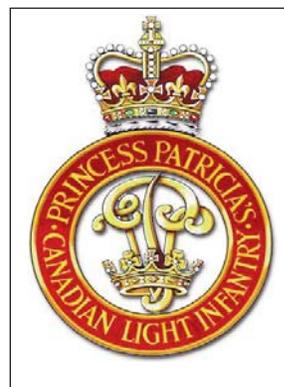
Hawaii, Kwajalein in the Marshall Islands and Guam. “The one thing I do recall from when we arrived in Japan was the numerous ships from countries like Australia, New Zealand, the United States of course, Canada; Colombia had one cruiser there at that time I believe, and the Dutch had a destroyer and an aircraft carrier.”

From Sasebo as a home port the *Iroquois* made 10 to 21 day patrols up and down the East and West coasts of Korea. “I’ll never forget the day we lost our shipmates. We were hit by North Korean fire coming from the coast of Chong-jin. Three were killed and 10 of us were wounded. When you see the action, then it changes your mind. You want to leave, you want to go home.”

Russ Moses did come home in 1952 but only to change from the naval uniform he wore proudly with three medals from Korea to an RCAF uniform. After a 15-year military career that earned him the Long Service Medal, Moses worked in Indian Affairs where in 1970–71 he was Jean Chretien’s Special Assistant.

In a 2006 interview Russ Moses said, “I enjoyed my military time, but I view it as one part of my life ... you know it’s sort of the story of my life up until this point.”

into the conflict zone. By the end of 1950, the Second Battalion, Princess Patricia’s Canadian Light Infantry was on the scene. This unit received the US Presidential Unit Citation in April 1951 for preventing an enemy breakthrough of the UN lines at Hill 187. “The 700 Pats not only held their ground, but fought hand-to-hand when ammunition ran out, and called allied artillery on their own positions when overrun by Chinese. And thought nothing of it.”¹



Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry Cap Badge | wikipedia

The Princess Pats were joined by other Canadian troops who raged bloody back and forth battles in exhausting summer heat, torrential downpours and freezing winter cold until a cease-fire was finally called in July 1953. After a period of valiant fighting, a new phase began.

The Korean Armistice Agreement created a 244 km long demilitarized zone between North and South Korea

PEACEKEEPING AND PEACEMAKING MINUTES



Pte. H.P. McIntee and Pte. C. Morningstar serving with the Royal Canadian Regiment National Defence Photo <http://rcassociationniagara.smffor-free.com/index.php/topic,106.0.html>

One Who Did Not Come Home: Private Clayton Morningstar

The article "Veteran died in action 54 years ago. For his family, the wound is still fresh" was written for the *Niagara Falls Review* by John Robbins in 2008.

"His name was Clayton, but friends and family called him Donny. And like the other Morningstar boys from Chrysler Avenue, he was well built but not overly tall. A quiet young man, with a square jaw and a

handsome smile, Donny always seemed mature for his age. Even more so when he came home on his first leave from the army wearing the crisp new uniform of a private of the 3rd Battalion Royal Canadian Regiment. The whole family was proud, if somewhat apprehensive about what lay in store for him and the other young men of his outfit. When he shipped out to Korea, his mother, Mildred, would pen long letters filled with all sorts of ordinary details

about life back home in Niagara Falls. One can only imagine Donny sitting on the edge of his bunk all those thousands of miles away, his eyes hungrily scanning the precious lines of Mildred's elegant, cursive script. Mildred was glad to get Donny's letters, too, since it was proof that her first-born son had survived yet another week in the Land of the Morning Calm. She could never know for certain, though, because of the time it took for mail to reach the front-line troops. In fact, what turned out to be Mildred's last letter was slowly making its way across the vast width of the Pacific Ocean just about the time when Donny's outfit was mauled by a strong force of the Chinese infantry. By the time Mildred's letter made it to the front, the critically wounded 22-year-old had been shipped out to a mobile army surgical hospital behind the lines. Donny died of his wound a few days later on Mothers' Day, May 10, 1953, just three days shy of his 23rd birthday."

Clayton died a week after being shot five times at short range at the height of fighting for Hill 187. He is interned in Busan, South Korea among 377 other Canadians. There are 2,267 servicemen buried in the United Nations Memorial Cemetery in land granted by the Republic of Korea in tribute to all those who laid down their lives in combating aggression and in upholding peace and freedom.

<http://www.niagarafallsreview.ca/ArticleDisplay.aspx?archive=true&e=770848>

stretching from the Yellow Sea to the Sea of Japan. The 38th parallel continues to be the most highly defended border in the world.

The summary of the Korea Veterans Association of Canada states,

"South Korea, which arose from the ashes of war to become one of the leaders of the industrialized world, provides its citizens with the amenities of a modern society. In contrast, their brethren to the north in the dull grey world of founder, Kim Il Sung and his son successor, Kim Jong-Il, live in poverty, repression and conditions of frequent starvation. The salvation of the Republic of Korea from the latter is coupled with the knowledge that the free world as we know it today could be a great deal smaller if the UN had not intervened."



Flags at the Gapyeong Canada Monument, Korea wikipedia | Danleo

Between 1950 and 1953, 27,000 Canadians did their duty as fighters for the United Nations multinational force. Until the end of 1955, 7,000 Canadians served as peacekeepers. The evolution towards Canada's post-WWII role in the world had begun.

After the Readings

- How is Canada's role in Korea different from its participation in WWII?
- Where did Canada's confidence come from to do what was needed in Korea?
- What values does Canada's military and peacekeeping involvement in Korea reflect

Extensions

- During the six years of WWII approximately 42,000 Canadian soldiers died. During the Korean conflict 516 Canadians died. Between 2002 and 2011, during the Afghan Mission, there have been 157 Canadian military deaths. Provide three reasons for the differences in the fatalities
- *The Bridges at Toko-Ri*, *All the Young Men*, *War is Hell*, *The Young and the Brave*, *The Manchurian Candidate*, and *MASH* (also a series on TV) all deal with the Korean War. Report to your class on at least one film from the perspective of “Hollywood as propaganda?”
- Research Ted Zuber, Canada’s last official War Artist who served in Korea. Images are available at www.zuberfineart.com

Sources

- “Aboriginal Korean War veteran shares memories”, *National Defence and the Canadian Forces*, www.army.forces.gc.ca/land-terre/news-nouvelles/transcription-eng.asp?id=4838 also posted as a bilingual YouTube at www.youtube.com/watch?v=hWqsYMBz25A
- “Canadians in the Korean War”, Korea Veterans Association of Canada Inc., www.kvacanada.com (also in French)
- Ma, Suzanne “Russ Moses”, *Ottawa Citizen*, Nov. 9, 2006
- Robbins, John “Veteran died in action 54 years ago.” *Niagara Falls Review*, available at www.rcrassociationniagara.smfforfree.com
- www.niagarathisweek.com/news/news/article/818270

Legion Connection

Private Clayton Morningstar | Royal Canadian Legion
Branch 479, Niagara Falls, ON

¹ Worthington, Peter “The forgotten Canadian heroes”, *Toronto Sun*,