



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, 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."