



Remembering the Korean War

70 Years On

Horse Guards Parade
Thursday 27 July, 2023

rbl.org.uk



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

FOREWORD

As National President of the Royal British Legion, it is my privilege to welcome you to remember and honour those who served during the Korean War. On this day, 70 years ago, the armistice was signed which brought the bitter and costly conflict in Korea to a close. It was a conflict which is now widely referred to as 'the Forgotten War'. RBL is very proud to lead this remembrance as we recognise that to be forgotten is to be lost for ever; as with every other conflict from the First World War to the present, we remember the servicemen, their friends and colleagues and their families and loved ones who have been affected by this conflict. Our reflection brings their commitment back to life with all the respect that such service and sacrifice deserves.

Following the end of the Second World War, the Allies agreed to divide Korea into two zones. What was intended as a temporary border resulted in partition - in the north the Russians set up a communist state, and in the south the Americans established the Republic of Korea.

After years of clashes along the border, the North Korean People's Army invaded South Korea in June 1950 and swept south, overwhelming the Republic of Korea's forces. In response, the United Nations Security Council declared the North Koreans as aggressors - the USA was the first to respond and sent UN troops to support South Korea, followed by a further 14 nations, including the UK.

At the end of August, the first British ground forces arrived. The UK would become the largest contingent in what was to become the British Commonwealth Forces Korea (BCFK). 60,000 British personnel travelled and served on the Korean peninsula to help a country they hardly knew and whose people they had not met.

The UN forces helped turn the momentum of the war, advancing toward China's border with North Korea. But Chinese troops intervened, pushing the UN allies back down the peninsula. A bloody stalemate would ultimately take hold for two years.

The fighting throughout the war was vicious and took place in almost unimaginable conditions. In the summer the temperature often exceeded 40 degrees centigrade, and in winter was 40 degrees below. Injury and sickness were inevitable. It didn't help that this was the time of significant social upheaval at home so the sailors, soldiers and airman had to show real resolve in a very complex political framework not of their making. Perhaps it offered us the first insight into modern warfare and its challenges.

On land, the British Armed Forces would enhance its fighting reputation in actions like the Battle of the Imjin River and the Battle of the Hook. At sea and in the air this marked the onset of jet aviation warfare – with UK carrier aviation competing with enemy jet aircraft en masse for the first time. Such action, however, always has a cost and over three years more than 1100 British Armed Forces personnel were killed in action and thousands wounded or taken prisoner.

By the time of the armistice 70 years ago, the War had claimed millions of lives. Today we remember the 60,000 British men and women who served, as well as more than 50,000 from other Commonwealth countries. We remember and honour those who did not return.

By being here today, we play our part in making sure that the Korean War is no longer the 'Forgotten War'. We remember all of those who selflessly served and sacrificed.

We offer our profound thanks to you all.

Sir Clive Johnstone, KBE, CB

PARTICIPANTS

The Ceremony will be led by

Jane Hill

Music will be performed by

British Army Band Colchester

Aurum Vocale

The Shilla Ensemble

Musical Arrangements

by David Cole OBE, MVO

ORDER OF CEREMONY

Welcome and Introduction

Jane Hill

Call to War

Sergeant Alan Guy MBE (Veteran), The Royal Army Medical Corps
Citation for Ivan Williams, 59 Medium Regiment Royal Artillery,
Citation for Bill Fox, The Gloucestershire Regiment,
read by LCpl Jack Rothwell – No 7 Coy Coldstream Guards – Manchester.

Arrival in Pusan (film)

Entry of The Standards

Hills of Korea composed by Kevin Lamb
'Neunggye' - Featuring a Korean Fan Dance
Ye Rin Lee, Dancer

Battle of Inchon

Jane Hill

What British Troops found

Citation for Jim Lucock, The King's Own Regiment,
read by LCpl Oscar Robson-Murray – No 9 Coy Irish Guards
Lieutenant Keith Webb (Veteran),
10 Infantry Workshop, The Royal Electrical And Mechanical Engineers,
In 1953: 29 Brigade Light Aid Detachment. Subsequently Captain.
Citation for Bill Fox, The Gloucestershire Regiment,
read by LCpl Jack Rothwell – No 7 Coy Coldstream Guards

Chosin Reservoir

Jane Hill

Marines Covert Ops

Alastair Grant RM, son of Lieutenant Colonel Ferris Grant,
Royal Marines, 41 (Independent) Commando

Winter sets in

Jane Hill

Resolve

'Sanjo', featuring a traditional Korean Sword Dance

Battle of The Imjin River

"Letters to my Wife" read by Dr Guy Puzey,
Grandson of Major Patrick Angier

A Company, 1st Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment

"My Dear Darling Doreen" read by Miriam Gill, Granddaughter
of Lieutenant Robert Gill
The Royal Ulster Rifles

Where is Tom?

Albert Davey, brother of Tom Davey
1st Battalion, The King's Shropshire Light Infantry

Prisoners of War

Lynne Lambert, niece of David Gardiner
1st Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment

Bill Speakman VC

Susie Sandström and Jane Speakman, Daughters of Bill Speakman
VC, The King's Own Scottish Borderers

The Hook

Jane Hill

Lance Corporal Mike Mogridge (Veteran),
BEM 1st Battalion The Royal Fusiliers (Veteran)

Poem

“To The Great Friends in Lifetime”

By John Masefield, read by Zeb Soanes

Armistice

Second Lieutenant Brian Parritt (Veteran)

20 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery

Subsequently Brigadier Brian Parritt, CBE

Thank You (Film)

The Building of the Drumhead

Act of Remembrance

Stand

The Exhortation

read by Ronald Yardley

President, HMS Belfast Association

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old,

Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun, and in the morning

We will remember them.

(All)

We will remember them.

Last Post

Only officers to salute

Two minute silence

Reveille

Kohima Epitaph

When you go home, tell them of us and say,
For your tomorrow, we gave our today

Sit

Wreath laying

*Those wishing to lay personal wreaths can do so after the ceremony.
During the wreath laying 'Sleep' composed by Eric Whitacre will be
performed by Aurum Vocale*

Poem

"Door to Liberation"

By So Chong-ju read by Jung Hyun

Thank You

His Excellency Yoon Yeocheol
Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to the United Kingdom
HRH The Duke of Gloucester

National Anthems

Arirang

Traditional Korean Folksong,
arr. Bob Chilcott orch. David Cole
Performed by Haegee Lee, Aurum Vocale and the
British Army Band Colchester

WITH THANKS

The Royal British Legion wishes to express our heartfelt thanks to the many organisations and individuals who have worked with us for this Remembrance Event.

Our grateful thanks firstly to the Ministry of Defence and Embassy of the Republic of Korea, without whom this would not have been possible.

Produced by
Seren Irvine

Our thanks also go to the following organisations and participants:

Horse Power Group, Royal Parks, Metropolitan Police, St John's Ambulance, Westminster Council, London Fire Brigade, Lara Agland, Maggie Oakley, Andy Richards, Albert Davey, Tabby Angiers, Kilchan Lee (Calligrapher) and with thanks to Tae young Kim, British Pathé and Reuters footage supplied by British Pathé, Gábor Adonyi via Pixabay, IWM, Kim Dae Jeung via Pixabay, 'Made in Korea' a film by Daniel Kemeys, NARA, The Paju City Government, RM Historical Society, United Nations Memorial Cemetery in Korea, akg-images Alamy, RAF Museum, Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum (for use of Pat Angiers photo), Korea Tourist Organisation, Aleksey Chistilin - @Lexin_Music, PrabajthK - @MildRelaxation, sound effects by Pixabay, The Tank Museum, Royal Signals Museum, REME Museum, Royal Regiment of Fusiliers Association and Blind Veterans

Standard Bearers

under the direction of

John Thornhill, Royal British Legion National Parade Marshal

Korean Children Wreath Layers, London

Jung Hyun

Eunseo

Corbyn

Jacob

Subeen

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

What we are here for

The Royal British Legion is at the heart of a national network that supports our Armed Forces community through thick and thin – ensuring their unique contribution is never forgotten. Since its origins in 1921, the RBL has supported Remembrance in recognition of the service and sacrifice of the Armed Forces community and their unique contribution in safeguarding our freedoms and values. We remember those who have served on active service to the Crown, including Commonwealth Armed Forces, Foreign Services under British command, past and present, and their families. The RBL is also the champion of Remembrance and safeguards the Military Covenant between the nation and its Armed Forces. It is well known for the annual Poppy Appeal, and its emblem the red poppy.

Our Community

As the country's largest Armed Forces charity, we couldn't be prouder of our national network of 200,000 members and over 100,000 volunteers. Without their passion and dedication, the support we offer Service men and women, veterans and their families would not be possible. We also work with many partners and other charities to direct support wherever and whenever it's needed, so we can help everyone who approaches us.



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Registered address: Royal British Legion, Haig House, 199 Borough High Street, London SE1 1AA
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