**Record of Service: Korean War Transcript ENG**

Following Japan’s surrender at the conclusion of the Second World War, Korea is occupied by the Soviet Union and the United States. The Soviet Union holds the territory north of the 38th parallel and the United States remains south of the line. Both interim governments intend for the two halves to reunify, but ideological differences complicate the process. In June 1950, following border clashes, the North Korean People’s Army, using Chinese and Soviet-supplied weapons, invade the southern Republic of Korea in an attempt to reunite the country by force. The United Nations Security Council condemns the invasion and urges members of the General Assembly to give military support to the Republic of Korea. More than 20 allied nations, including Canada, do so in late June 1950.

Initial combat occurs across the Korean peninsula. But by 1951 the armies are engaged in a defensive war of patrols and raids along the 38th parallel. The allied forces are unprepared for the guerilla tactics used by the opposing North Korean and Chinese infantries. However, Canadian troops distinguish themselves during the close-combat battles of Kapyong and Hill 355. Canada also sends air and naval support, protecting UN aircraft carriers, delivering personnel and supplies, and assisting with onshore operations.

The war drags on until 27 July 1953, when the opposing forces sign the Korean Armistice Agreement. The Korean Demilitarized Zone, known as the DMZ, and a ceasefire are established, and prisoners of war are exchanged. The cooling of hostilities is meant to allow for the negotiation of a peace settlement. But that has not been reached to this day.

Canadian forces serve in South Korea until 1957, tasked with maintaining the peace. The Korean War is often referred to as the Forgotten War due to the lack of public attention it received both during and after. Over the seven years Canadians serve in Korea, 516 Canadian soldiers lose their lives, and more than 1,200 are wounded.