

# NEW ZEALAND DEFENCE FORCE: PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS

## KOREA

### WHERE:

Korea is a peninsula in east Asia that is divided into North and South Korea.

### WHO:

The people of North and South Korea are the same people and share a common heritage.

### WHAT:

From 1905, Korea had been under Japanese rule. At the end of WWII and the surrender of Japan to the Western Allies, Korea was divided by the Soviet Union and the USA at the 38th parallel, into North and South occupation zones.

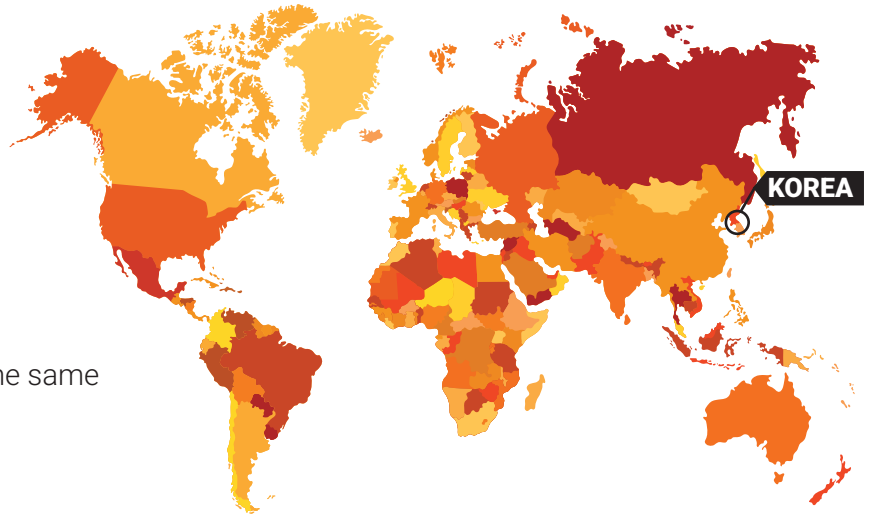
In 1948, the zones formed their own governments and both claimed to be the sole legitimate government of all of Korea. On 25 June 1950, the Korean People's Army (KPA), equipped and trained by the Soviets, launched an invasion of the south. The United Nations Security Council denounced the attack, and United Nations (UN) military forces from 21 countries (including New Zealand) entered Korea to repel the KPA. The USA provided approximately 90% of UN military personnel. 6,000 New Zealanders served over the course of the war, and 45 died. This conflict displaced millions of Koreans, inflicting three million fatalities. North Korea became one of the most heavily bombed countries in history. The Korean War had a significant impact on New Zealand's foreign policy and helped to secure a security commitment from the USA.

### WHY:

Despite the Soviet Union and the United States working together to defeat Hitler, after WWII rivalries and hostilities developed as they sought to assert their global power and influence in Asia. A unified Korea was a threat to both USA and Soviet Union ambitions – depending on whether the North or South was victorious. UN troops on China's border with North Korea were unacceptable to the Chinese government.

### WHEN:

The Korean war was fought from June 1950 to July 1953, ending with an armistice. An armistice is a temporary agreement to ceasefire. This is why the Korean War is sometimes referred to as the war that never ended.



# **NZDF PEACEKEEPING IN KOREA**

## **UNITED NATIONS MILITARY ARMISTICE COMMISSION**

### **WHERE:**

Korea, Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), the buffer zone between North and South Korea.

### **WHO:**

New Zealand is part of the United Nations Military Armistice Commission (UNMAC) that ensures adherence to the terms of the Armistice Agreement between North and South Korea.

18 nations make up the UNMAC, and NZDF personnel are currently serving under UNMAC in South Korea.

### **WHAT:**

Some of our roles include education of Republic of Korea (South Korea) military personnel, developing policy for the removal of mines from the DMZ, participating in interviews with defectors from North Korea, networking with UNMAC personnel, and maintaining security at the DMZ.

### **WHY:**

Peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region are crucial to New Zealand's economic interests and security. Our commitment to Western allies and international responsibilities is demonstrated by the deployment of NZDF personnel to the Republic of Korea.

### **WHEN:**

This is an ongoing commitment that New Zealand has undertaken since 1998. It is New Zealand's second-largest current NZDF deployment, reflecting the geo-political importance to New Zealand of maintaining the Korean Armistice Agreement.