

The Holy Site for Good Samaritans

The United Nations Memorial Cemetery in Korea, the only one of its kind in the world, rest heroic brave soldiers from several UN nations, who sacrificed their lives for world peace and freedom.

After the war broke out in Korea on June 25, 1950, when North Korea suddenly invaded South Korea, the UN hurried to convene a meeting of the 2nd UN Security Council and decided on the 28th of June 1950 to dispatch UN troops to Korea. This remains, in the history of the UN, as the unique resolution where troops were dispatched in the name of the UN.

In all, 22 nations(including Germany) volunteered to assist under the UN flag to help Korea. 16 nations provided combat troops, equipment and armaments, while 6 nations provided non-combat assistance by dispatching medical ships with staff and medicine.

In this holy site, the brave fallen of the 11 nations are interred. There are currently 2,311 including 37 Korean soldiers who fell as members of the UN troops. Approximately 11,000 were interred at the UNMCK between 1951~1954. Most were repatriated home; Belgium, Colombia, Ethiopia, Greece, Luxemburg, Philippines and Thailand have taken back all of their expatriates. The USA, who had the highest number of casualties in the war, took all of their fallen home soon afterwards.

The USA, who had the highest number of casualties in the war, took all of their fallen home soon afterwards. However, 40 members of the UNC dispatched from the USA and stationed in Korea after the war, who died and wished to be interred at the UNMCK, also reside here at the UNMCK.

The Parliament of Korea, to honor the services and sacrifices made by the UN forces during the Korean War, volunteered this land for permanent use by the UN as a cemetery in August 1955. The General Assembly accepted the proposal and UN Resolution #977(X) to establish a United Nations Memorial Cemetery in Korea became effective in

December of 1955.

Brief history of UNMCK

– Jan. 18, 1951 Establishes a UN Command cemetery for fallen UN troops

– Nov. 17, 1955 Korean Parliament recommends to the UN to accept the land for its perpetual use as a sacred UN memorial cemetery

– Dec. 15, 1955 UN General Assembly passes a resolution to perpetually manage a UN memorial cemetery in Korea

– Nov. 6, 1959 Korea and UN sign the “Agreement between the United Nations and the Republic of Korea for the Establishment and Maintenance of a United Nations Memorial Cemetery in Korea”

– Feb. 16, 1974 UNCURK transfers the management of the UNMCK to the Commission for the UNMCK consisting of 11 member nations

■ Status of Interred at the UNMCK

Nation	No. of Dispatched	No. of Fallen	No. of Interred
Australia	8,407	346	281
Belgium	3,590	106	
Canada	27,000	516	380
Colombia	5,100	213	
Denmark	630		
Ethiopia	3,518	122	
France	3,760	270	46
Greece	4,440	186	
India	346		
Italy	185		
Germany			
Luxemburg	89	2	
Netherlands	5,320	124	120
New Zealand	5,350	41	32
Norway	623	3	1
Philippines	7,500	120	
South Africa	900	37	11
Sweden	1,164		
Thailand	6,326	136	
Turkey	14,936	1,005	462
U.K.	56,000	1,177	886
U.S.A	1,600,000	36,492	40
Total No of Troops	1,755,184	40,896	-
Korea	-	-	37
Non-Combatants	-	-	11
Unknown	-	-	4
Total No of at UNMCK	-	-	2,311

■ Main Gate

The main gate, designed by the architect Kim Jung-up(1922~88), embodies traditional Korean aesthetics. As for the memorial service hall, also designed by Kim, the interior pays tribute to 16 countries that participated in the war while the exterior conveys diversity in nationality and religion. This facility has great significance as a symbol of the war.

■ Main Plaza

Walking in through the Main Gate one may see the entry arch to the cemetery on the left. The map of the cemetery and the statistics of the interred are engraved on the wall near the entry arch.

■ Daunt Waterway



It is named after one of the youngest brave soldiers interred at the UNMCK, Mr. J. P. Daunt, an Australian soldier who fell at the age of 17.

The waterway runs between the Grave Area and the Green Area and symbolically represents the line between life and invaluable sacrifice. It is 0.7 meters wide and 110 meters long with fish and water lilies living in it.

■ Memorabilia Hall

Memorabilia Hall and the Office of the UNMCK were built simultaneously by the UN in 1968. The Commission for the UNMCK, CUNMCK, held its first meeting in the Memorabilia Hall after the manage-

ment of the UNMCK was transferred from UNCURK in February, 1974.

Photos of the UN troops in the Korean War and memorial artifacts are exhibited, as well as the first UN flag used in the Korean War.



■ Memorial Service Hall

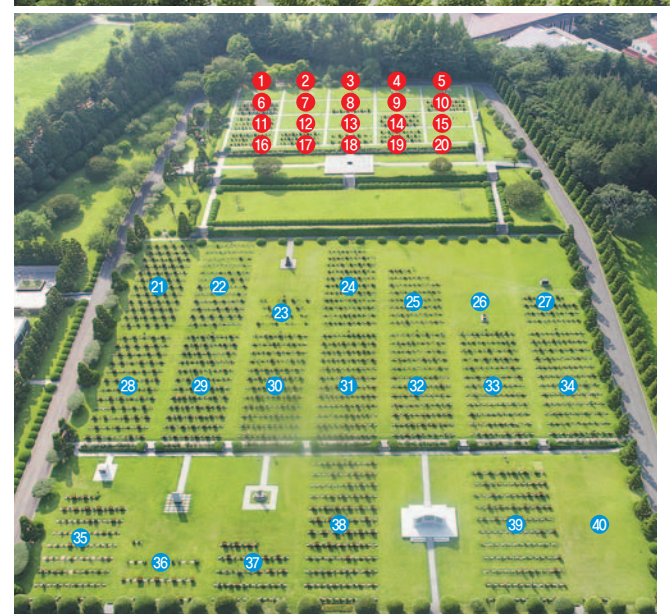


Built by the UN in memory of the UN fallen during the Korean war, it was completed on August 21 1964. Architect Jung-Up Kim, after carefully considering the diverse religious backgrounds of the UN forces, designed the hall with six support beams and a triangle representing geometric abstraction and eternity.

The stained glass decorating both sides of the Service Hall consists of many smaller artistic designs. Each symbolizes an apostle of peace, sublimation, tragedies of war, love and peace. 16 lines are representing the 16 nations from the center of the floor radiating through the UN logo and the ceiling to the sky.

■ WALL OF REMEMBRANCE

WALL OF REMEMBRANCE is engraved with the names of all the UN troops who fell during the Korean War(25 June 1950~27 July 1953), 40,896(including the missing ones) names from 17 countries in all. It was completed on October 24, 2006. It had been funded by the Korean Government.



■ Symbolic Area

① Norway ② Sweden ③ Ethiopia ④ Denmark ⑤ Colombia
⑥ Korea ⑦ Belgium ⑧ South Africa ⑨ India
⑩ Netherlands ⑪ Turkey ⑫ Greece ⑬ Thailand
⑭ New Zealand ⑮ Philippines ⑯ Australia ⑰ Canada
⑱ U.S.A. ⑲ U.K. ⑳ France

■ Main Cemetery Area

②①~②④ Turkey ②⑤ Netherlands ②⑥ Vacant ②⑦ France
②⑧ Australia ②⑨~③① Canada ③②~③④ U.K. ③⑤ Australia
③⑥ U.S.A ③⑦ Canada ③⑧~③⑨ U.K. ④① Unknown



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