UNDER ONE BANNER:
THE UNITED NATIONS COMMAND IN KOREA.

The June 25, 1950 North Korean invasion of South Korea was declared a breach of the peace and immediate action was taken by the United Nations. To repel the attack and restore international peace, a resolution asking members to intervene on behalf of South Korea was put forth. Twenty one nations answered the call, providing combat forces and medical aid. For the first time in the history of the United Nations men and women from many countries fought to preserve freedom under one banner.

An Australian, United States, South Korean and Filipino Soldier
Courtesy of the National Archives

UNDER ONE BANNER:
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The United Nations Flag

The United Nations flag was officially adopted on October 20, 1947 by the General Assembly of the United Nations. The flag has a blue field. It's white emblem represents a map of the world, omitting Antarctica, and is surrounded by an olive wreath. The vertical line in the center depicts the Greenwich meridian and the International Date Line.

I accept this flag with deep emotion. It symbolizes one of the greatest efforts man has ever made to free himself. The Far East Command will do its best to uphold this noblest of ideals.

General Douglas MacArthur

UNDER ONE BANNER:
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Belgium Luxembourg

In support of the United Nations, Belgium contributed an infantry battalion and Luxembourg a rifle platoon. Arriving in Pusan, Korea on January 31, 1951 the combined forces of the two nations fought as a single unit known as the "BELUX Battalion".   Normally attached to a U.S. or British Commonwealth Regiment or Brigade the BELUX Battalion earned a reputation as gallant soldiers. They were involved in many engagements such as the Imjin River Battle in April 1951 and the Haktang-ni Battle in October 1951. The Luxembourg troops left Korea in January 1953, while the Belgian troops remained in Korea until June 1955.

Belgium Soldiers
Centre de Production Didactique de La Force Terrestre Belgium

Belgium Jeeps
Centre de Production Didactique de La Force Terrestre Belgium

Colombia

Colombia, the only South American nation to support the United Nations during the Korean War, furnished an infantry battalion and one frigate. Beginning with the frigate *Almirante Padilla* the Colombian Navy maintained one frigate continuously in Korean waters from May 8, 1951 to October 11, 1955. Operating under the United Nations Command, they conducted inshore patrols, escorted convoys and defended islands. The Columbian Infantry Battalion arrived in Pusan on June 15, 1951. Attached to the U.S. 24th Division and later the U.S. 7th Division the battalion fought bravely and is most noted for their stand against a large-scale Chinese attack on the Colombian outpost Old Baldy during March 1953. The last Colombian Infantry Battalion returned home on October 24, 1954.

Colombian soldiers arrive in Korea, June 1951.
Courtesy of U.S. Military History Institute

Lt. General James A. Van Fleet and Lt. Colonel Jaime Polania watches Colombian battalion troops crawl under barbed wire, Pusan, Korea, June 23, 1951.
Courtesy of the National Archives

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Ethiopia

The Ethiopian government provided the elite Kagnew Infantry Battalion who trained extensively at home for eight months before arriving in Korea on May 7, 1951. Mostly attached to the U.S. 7th Infantry Division, the battalion gained the reputation for being fierce and tough. The Ethiopian rotation system allowed for unit rotation instead of single rotation, thus they were able to send fresh units to replace the older ones. In January 1953, the Kagnew Infantry Battalion distinguished themselves on the battlefield during combat operations in the Old Baldy-Pork Chop Hill area. Ethiopian troops remained In Korea until January 1965.

Ethiopian Colonel Kerbre De Gebre joins Republic of Korea President, Syngman Rhee, on the pier as they greet Ethiopian troops arriving in Pusan Korea, May 7, 1951.
Courtesy of the National Archives

The medical section of the Ethiopian Infantry Battalion celebrates Ethiopian Emperor's Birthday, Kapyong, Korea, July 23, 1951.

UNDER ONE BANNER:
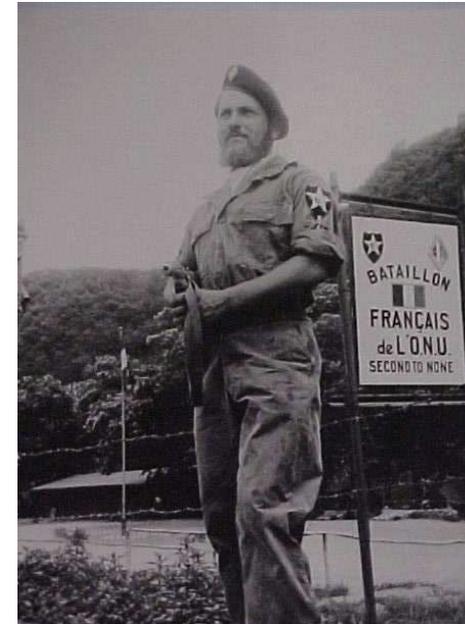## THE UNITED NATIONS COMMAND IN KOREA.
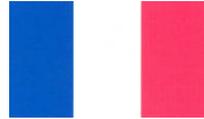
France

France supported the United Nations effort in Korea by providing a frigate and a French infantry battalion - the Battalion de Coree. The frigate *La Grandiere* reached Korean waters on July 29, 1950 and immediately engaged in transport and escort missions between Japan and South Korea. The French battalion, volunteers made up of active and reserve personnel, arrived in Korea on November 29, 1950 and was attached to the 2nd U.S. Infantry Division. The battalion distinguished itself during the battles at Wonju, Twin Tunnels, Chipyong-Ni, Heartbreak Ridge and many others. The French Battalion was transferred to Indo China in October 1953 with the last of the troops leaving in November 1953. A small unit of 50, later reduced to 15, remained in Korea until June 1965.

Machine gunner at his station, Korea, 1952
Courtesy of Photographie ECPA
Paris, France

General Monclare signing the gold book

Greece

Greece supplied an infantry battalion and an air transport squadron to the United Nations. The battalion, known as The Hellenic Expeditionary Force, were mostly made up of combat veterans of their civil war and easily acclimated to Korea's environment. They arrived in Pusan on December 9, 1950 and fought continuously throughout the war. The 13th Hellenic Air Force Flight arrived in Korea on December 1, 1950 and was quickly sent to aid the United Nations' soldier's withdrawal from the Yalu River. Both battalion and air squadron received many awards including the U.S. Presidential Unit Citations for their bravery. The 13th Hellenic Air Force Flight left Korea in March 1955 while the Greek infantry force remained until December 11, 1955.

Han River crossing operation by Hellenic Expeditionary
Forces soldiers
*Courtesy of Hellenic Army General Staff Military
History Directorate
Athens, Greece*

13th Hellenic Air Force Flight C-47 over Korea
*Courtesy of Hellenic Army General Staff Military
History Directorate
Athens, Greece*

UNDER ONE BANNER:
THE UNITED NATIONS COMMAND IN KOREA.

Netherlands

The Netherlands sent both naval and ground forces
to Korea. The destroyer *HNLMS Evertsen* was
dispatched in July of 1950 joining the U.S. Naval
Forces Far East's Blockading and Escort Force.
The destroyer was part of the invasion fleet at Inchon
and participated in patrolling activities near Wonsan.
In the fall of 1950 the Dutch battalion, made up of
volunteers, arrived in Korea. The soldiers fought
valiantly against the enemy in battles at Hoengsong,
Wonju, Soyang River, the Iron Triangle and many more.
The battalion left Korea on December 15, 1954 and
the destroyer sailed home a year later in January of 1955.

A Dutch soldier eating from a can
during the fighting at Hill 975,
May 1951
*Photographer W.W. Dussel
Sectie Militaire Geschiedenis
Landmachtstaf
The Hague, Netherlands*

Two cooks of the Dutch battalion
keeping warm with the help of gin and
clogs, January 1951.
*Photographer W.W. Dussel
Sectie Militaire Geschiedenis
Landmachtstaf
The Hague, Netherlands*

A Dutch soldier roasting a
chicken over a small fire,
January 1951
*Photographer W.W. Dussel
Sectie Militaire Geschiedenis
Landmachtstaf
 The Hague, Netherlands*

UNDER ONE BANNER:
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Philippines

Despite the on-going war at home, the Philippine government supported the United Nations by contributing a battalion combat team. The first military unit, the 10th Battalion Combat Team, to represent the Philippine Expeditionary Forces to Korea, arrived in Korea on September 19, 1950. During the war and after, several units, the 2nd, 10th, 20th, 19th, and 14th Infantry Battalions, rotated services until the force left in May 1955. For most of the war they were attached to the 3d Infantry Division distinguishing themselves in battle by blocking the enemy during the UN retreat at the Chosin Reservoir, fighting in the Battle of Yul-tong and defending the Arsenal and Eerie outposts.

Inspection of Philippine troops at the UN reception center in Pusan, Korea here the unit is waiting for the arrival of their equipment, May 18, 1951.
Courtesy of the National Archives

Filipino Sergeant Jeremias Bruno stands before the Philippine flag at UN ceremonies at Pusan, Korea, September 26, 1950.
Courtesy of the National Archives

UNDER ONE BANNER:
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Republic of Korea

In 1948, after South Korea proclaimed its independence, the Republic of Korea (ROK) established an army, navy and air force. In July 1950, the 115,000-man army consisted of eight divisions. During the war the expanded army fought valiantly alongside of the Eighth U.S. Army. The ROK Navy began the war with 7,000 men, fifteen motor minesweepers, an LST and a frigate. They were responsible for blockade operations and acquired additional frigates and other vessels. The ROK Air Force grew from a force of 16 planes to a modern air force equipped with F51 Mustang fighters and was integrated into the United Nations air operations.

A typical Republic of Korean infantryman
MacArthur Memorial Archives

Commanding officer and staff of the women's Korean Air Force.
MacArthur Memorial Archives

UNDER ONE BANNER:
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South Africa

The Union Government of South Africa sent the No. 2 Fighter Squadron of the South African Air Force (SAAF) to Korea in the fall of 1950. The squadron, all volunteers, was known as the "Flying Cheetahs." They earned a distinguished record of service in Korea flying F-51D Mustangs and later F-86F Sabre jets. Attached to the United States Air Force's (USAF) 18th Fighter Bomber Group the Squadron's responsibilities consisted of escorting USAF aircraft, strafing enemy transportation routes and napalming crucial targets. Most importantly, they helped maintain United Nation's air superiority. On October 29, 1953 the last of the South Africans left Korea to return home.

Typical pilot dress
Courtesy of the South African
Air Force Museum
Valhalla, Republic of South Africa
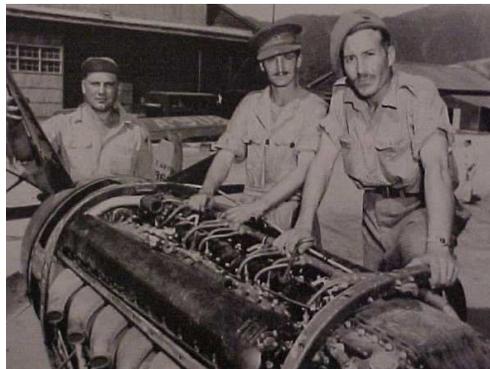
Ground crew carrying out repairs to a Mustang's Packard Merlin engine.
Courtesy of the South African Air Force Museum
Valhalla, Republic of South Africa

The Flying Cheetahs No. 2 Squadron patch
Courtesy of the South African Air Force Museum
Valhalla, Republic of South Africa

UNDER ONE BANNER:
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Thailand

Thailand gave the United Nations its full support by contributing naval, air and ground forces as well as medical units. The Thai Naval Corvette unit consisting of the frigates *HMTS Prasae, Bangpakong*, and transport *Sichang* served under the U.S. Naval Command Far East's Blockade and Escort Force arrived in Pusan on November 7, 1950. A Royal Thai Air Force detachment arrived in Korea on June 24, 1951 and took part in the UNC airlift operations. They remained in Korea until July 26, 1976. Advance elements of the Thai Infantry Battalion arrived in Korea on October 3, 1950. They fought courageously during the defense of Pork Chop Hill and Battle in the vicinity of the Boomerang sector. Thai medical support included the Thai Air Force medical Detachment, Red Cross Medical Service Detachment and Mobile Surgical Hospital personnel.

Thailand nurses in training, January 18, 1951.
Courtesy of the National Archives

Major Chamnian Pongraiboj, (Songhla, Thailand), Commanding Officer, Thailand Battalion, attached to the 77th U.S. Infantry Division in Korea, June 1951.
Courtesy of the National Archives

UNDER ONE BANNER:
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Turkey

One of the major contributors of combat forces for the Korean War was Turkey who furnished one brigade. The 1st Turkish Brigade arrived on October 19, 1950 and was replaced once a year by another brigade until Mid-summer of 1954. Attached to the Eighth U.S. Army the Turks participated in some of the roughest fighting of the war and were known for their remarkable bayonet techniques and hand-to-hand combat. In November 1950 the Turks were part of the U.S. 2nd Infantry Division's blocking force at Kunu-ri and defended outposts known as Nevada, Berlin and East Berlin in the spring of 1951.

Turkish Soldier
Courtesy of the National Archives

Prisoners of war are interrogated.
Courtesy of the Turkish Embassy

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United States

Immediately following the North Korean invasion of South Korea, the United States government committed U.S. air, sea and ground forces to repel the Communist aggression. Fighting as part of the United Nations Command, United States ground forces would ultimately expand to six Army and one Marine division. They fought valiantly from the Natong River front, better known as the Pusan Perimeter, to the Yalu River and for two years along the 38th parallel. Along with ships from many nations the U.S. Naval Forces,
Far East gained and maintained command of the sea from the beginning of the war. U.S. Air Force, Navy and Marine aviation elements in conjunction with the allies secured air superiority early in the war. These aviation elements also provided much needed close air support to the United Nations ground forces. During the war, 1,789,000 United States military personnel served in the Korean Theater of Operations.

U.S. Soldiers
MacArthur Memorial Archives

U.S. Soldiers
Courtesy of the National Archives

UNDER ONE BANNER:
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British Commonwealth Forces

Australia

One of the first countries to support the United Nations in its effort to defend South Korea was Australia. On June 30, 1950, Australian Prime Minister Menzies announced that two ships, the destroyer *HMAS Bataan* and the frigate *HMAS Shoralhaven*, based in Japan, were available for service to the United Nations. The day after, the 77 squadron Royal Australian Air Force was sent to Korea. Soon after, an infantry battalion, incorporated into a British-led Commonwealth Brigade was committed on September 28, 1950. The squadron returned home in July of 1953, while the naval and ground support remained until the spring of 1954. Eventually, Australia was the fifth-largest contributor to the United Nations Command.

Officers of the watch of HMAS Warramunga fixing the position of the ship while on patrol off the coast of Korea, 1952.
Naval Historical Collection Courtesy of the Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Troops from C Company, 3rd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment marching over a river crossing during the withdrawal to Pakchon, November 4, 1950.
Courtesy of the Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

UNDER ONE BANNER:
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British Commonwealth Forces

Canada

Canadian air, naval and ground forces served under the United Nations Command in Korea. In July 1950 the Royal Canadian Air Force sent the No. 426 transport squadron. Also, 22 fighter pilots flew combat missions with the U.S. Fifth Air Force. The squadron returned home in June 1954 followed by the pilots in December. In July 1950, the Canadian destroyers, *HMCS Cayuga*, *HMCS Athabaskan* and *HMCS Sioux*, were dispatched to Korean waters. The Canadian Navy maintained eight destroyers until September 7, 1955. The 25th Canadian Infantry Brigade was formed as a special force to be sent to Korea. The first ground forces, the 2nd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, arrived in Korea in December 1950 and were followed by battalions from three Canadian Infantry Regiments. The ground forces remained in Korea until July 27, 1953.
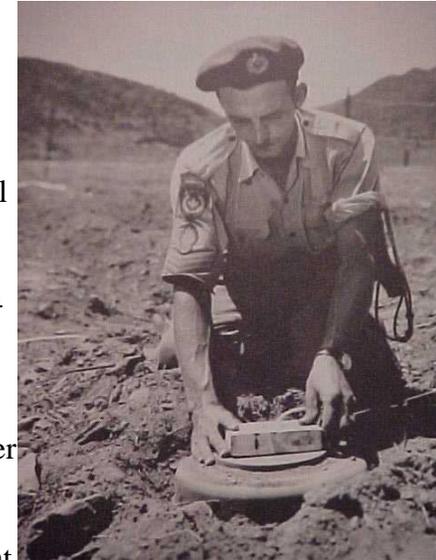
Sergeant Lorne Gardiner, 23rd Field Squadron, Royal Canadian Engineers, carefully prepares a Chinese anti-tank mine for demolition, 1952.
Photographer G. Whittaker (NAC-PA132172)
Courtesy of the National Archives of Canada

The faces of these members of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment, reflect the shock and relief felt by soldiers after battle.

UNDER ONE BANNER:
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British Commonwealth Forces

New Zealand

New Zealand furnished both naval and ground forces in support of the United Nations in Korea. The 16th Field Regiment, New Zealand Artillery, known as the "Kayforce", landed in Korea on December 31, 1950. They provided effective artillery support for the 27th and 28th Commonwealth Brigade, as well as, other units of the 1st Commonwealth Division. The majority of the ground forces left Korea in November 1954. In August 1950 the *HMNZS Pukaki* and *HMNZS Tutira* arrived in Korean waters. Two New Zealand vessels were maintained continuously throughout the war until March 1954.

Gunner Don Jackson with string vest, part of the winter clothing issue, October 6, 1951.
War History Collection, Alexander Turnbull Library
Wellington, New Zealand

WAAS officers and sergeants, prior to departure for Korea, August 1951
War History Collection, Alexander Turnbull Library
Wellington, New Zealand

The United Kingdom

The British government provided air, ground and naval forces during the Korean War and was the second largest contributor of forces, next to the U.S. The British Royal Navy, already in Eastern waters, joined forces with the U.S. Navy on June 30, 1950. During the war the British Naval forces consisted of aircraft carriers with operational aircraft of the Fleet Air Arm, cruisers, destroyers, frigates, a hospital ship and logistics support ships. The 41st Marine Independent Commando unit arrived in August 1950 and served with distinction at Hagaru-ri. The first elements of the 27th British Infantry Brigade, which included the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders infantry battalions and Middlesex regiment, arrived in Korea on August 28, 1950. They immediately joined the Eighth U.S. Army's Pusan Perimeter defense line. Other battalions soon followed.   In September 1956 British troops left Korea.

Men of the 29th British Brigade gather for their afternoon tea, February 20, 1951.
Courtesy of the National Archives

A Royal Highland Regiment, The Black Watch, on parade
Courtesy of George W. Hyatt
Virginia Beach, Virginia

UNDER ONE BANNER:
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Medical Support Units

Denmark

On March 7, 1951 the Danish hospital ship *Jutlandia* arrived at the Port of Pusan, Korea with about 100 medical personnel aboard. The *Jutlandier* operated mainly in Pusan, but often moved to other ports to transport or treat serious cases. There were over 6,000 patients treated during its three tours of duty, departing for the last time on August 16, 1953. The National Medical Center in Seoul, a significant postwar contribution made by the Danish government and others, was established in September 1958 and is one of the largest general hospitals in Korea.
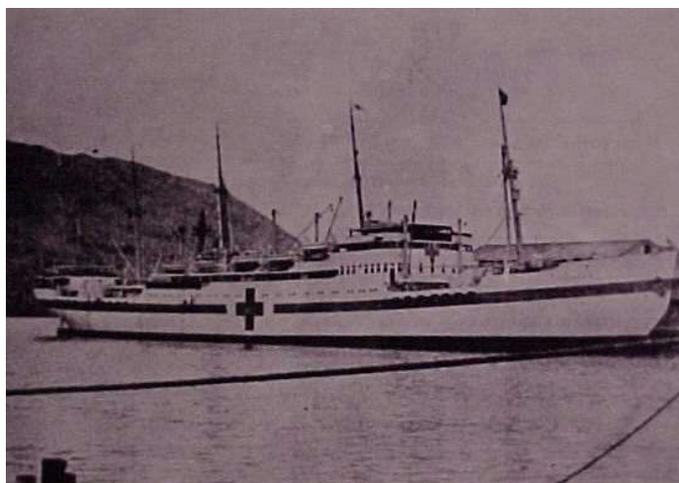
The Danish hospital ship *Jutlandia* at Pusan Port, Korea.
Courtesy of Ministry of National Defense
Republic of Korea
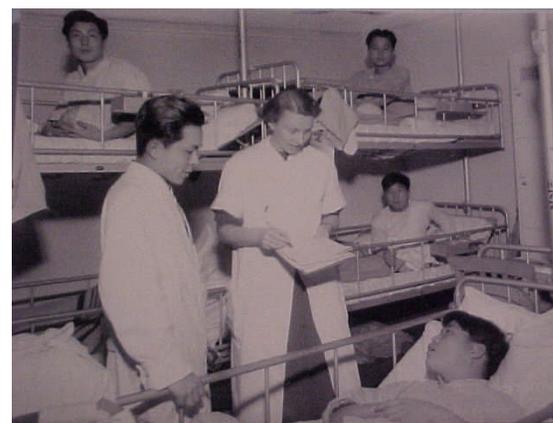
Sergeant Meom Yong Chin, Republic of Korea Army, receives treatment from Anna Roflsgaard and Dr. Kim Yoon Don aboard the *Jutlandia*, January 18, 1952.
Courtesy of the National Archives

Medical Support Units

India

The 60th Indian Field Ambulance and Surgical Unit arrived in the port of Pusan on November 20, 1950 and remained in Korea until February 23, 1954. The unit consisted of 17 officers and 329 enlisted personnel who brought their own equipment. Unlike other medical units, the Indian unit was separated into two sections; one section served the British Commonwealth troops in the battle zone, while the other section served the Republic of Korea hospitals in the Taegu area.

U.S. Sergeant First Class Stuart A. interviews Major N. Banerjea and members of his staff at the 60th Indian Field Ambulance Unit headquarters in Taegu, Korea, January, 1951.
Courtesy of the National Archives

A bugler of the guard with the 5th Battalion Napiers, CFI, on duty in Korea, December 15, 1953.
Courtesy of the National Archives

UNDER ONE BANNER:
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Medical Support Units

Italy

Personnel from the Italian Red Cross arrived in Korea on November 16, 1951. In less than a month, the team consisting of 67 medical personnel, established the Italian Red Cross Hospital 68 in a vacant school building. The hospital, located in the Yongdungpo area, provided medical assistance primarily to the local populace. On January 2, 1955 the Italian Red Cross ceased its operations in Korea and gave all of the hospital's equipment to the Korean government.

Italian head nurse Anna Marie Rossi places the Korean Unit citation on the Red Cross flag, June 5, 1954.
Courtesy of the National Archives

Professor Fabio Pennachi, Commander of the Italian Red Cross Hospital in Korea, addresses guests during the celebration of Red Cross Day. June 5. 1954.

UNDER ONE BANNER:
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Medical Support Units

Norway

The Norwegian Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (NORMASH) was set up in the vicinity of Tongduchon on July 19, 1951. Initially, there were 83 Norwegians, but within six months 106 more arrived. Training with an emphasis on mobility and armed preparedness were required for medical personnel working in a MASH unit. Like most field hospitals, surgical operations were the most important activity. NORMASH averaged eight operations a day until they returned home in the fall of 1954.

Norwegian soldier stands watch
Courtesy of the Norwegian Armed Forces Museum
Oslo, Norway

NORMASH field hospital tents
Courtesy of the Norwegian Armed Forces Museum
Oslo, Norway

Norwegian and NORMASH Shoulder Insignia
Courtesy of the Imperial War Museum
London, United Kingdom

Medical Support Units

Sweden

On September 23, 1950 the 160-member Swedish medical team arrived in Pusan, Korea. Within a few days, a vacant school building was converted into the Swedish Red Cross Field Hospital. The demand for medical treatment was so great that the original 200-bed capacity quickly expanded to 450 beds. Swedish personnel treated the soldiers and civilian population who came to the hospital. They also went to local hospitals and gave them their technical assistance, as well as medical supplies. The Swedish Red Cross Hospital operated until April 10, 1957.

Swedish Field Hospital Chief C.E. Groth and Quarter Master Stig Ljunggren in front of the Swedish hospital building, September 1950.
Courtesy of Ake J. Ek
Chairman, Association of the Swedish Field Hospital for Korea

Swedish officers at the Field Hospital in Korea resting in their tent barrack after a hectic day during the winter of 1950/51.
Courtesy of Ake J. Ek
Chairman Association of the Swedish Field Hospital for Korea

UNDER ONE BANNER:
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Fill in the Blank

1. The United Nations flag was adopted on _____.
2. The countries of _____ and _____ formed the "BELUX
Battalion".
3. _____ was the only South American country to support the United Nations during the Korean War.

4. _____, _____, _____, _____, and _____ sent Medical Support Units to Korea.

5. Ethiopia sent the elite _____ _____ _____ to help The Republic of Korea.
6. France supported the UN efforts by providing a _____ and a French infantry battalion – the _____ ____ __ _____.
7. Greece supplied The _____ _____ _____ and The __ _____ ___ _____ _____ to the United Nations.
8. The Netherlands sent both _____ and _____ forces to Korea.
9. Despite the on-going war at home, the _____ government contributed a battalion combat team to Korea.
10. In 1948 The Republic of Korea established an _____, ____ and
_____ _____.
11. The South African "_____ _____" earned a distinguished record of service while flying during the Korean War.
12. What Asian nation gave its full support to Korea? _____
13. _____, one of the major contributors of combat forces for the Korean War, furnished one brigade.
14. _____, _____, ____ _____, and _____ _____ fought under the British Commonwealth Forces during the Korean War.
15. The _____ _____ came to South Korea's aid by sending air, sea and ground forces to repel the Communist attack.

UNDER ONE BANNER:
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Match each flag with its country :

Australia / Belgium / Canada / Columbia / Denmark / South Africa / France / Netherlands / Greece / New Zealand / Republic of Korea / Norway / Philippines / Ethiopia / Sweden / Thailand / Turkey / Italy / Luxembourg / United Kingdom / India / United States.