

Chronology of the Canadian Advance in Korea

*Note: There have been recent changes to the Korean alphabet. For example, Pusan now reads Busan and Kapyong reads Gapyong. In order to maintain historical relevance, the older versions of the names are used in this article.

1950

June 25

North Koreans invade South Korea with force.

United Nations Security Council meets in the afternoon and declares war on North Korea.

June 30

United Nations Command established in Tokyo under General Douglas MacArthur of the United States.

July 12

Three Canadian destroyers, HMCS *Cayuga*, HMCS *Athabaskan* and HMCS *Sioux* dispatched to Korean waters to serve under the United Nations Command.

July

Royal Canadian Air Force squadron assigned to air transport duties with the United Nations.

August 7

Canadian Government authorizes the recruitment of the Canadian Army Special Force (CASF).

November 25

2nd Battalion of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI) sail for Korea.

December

2nd Battalion of the PPCLI arrive at Pusan.

1951

January 4

The capital of South Korea, Seoul, again falls to the Communists. A new line is established some 64 kilometres south of the former capital.

Mid-February

2nd Battalion PPCLI enters line of battle under the command of the 27th British Commonwealth Infantry Brigade, coinciding with the second general United Nations advance toward the 38th Parallel.

February 22

"C" Company sustains battalion's first battle casualties when it lost four soldiers and one was wounded in an attack on Hill 444.

March 1

Brigade had advanced north-east 25 kilometres.

March 7

Advance resumed. Hill 532 assigned to 2nd PPCLI

March 15

Seoul liberated by 1st Republic of Korea (ROK) Division.

Brigade proceeds up the Chojong valley toward Hill 1036.

March 31

Objective reached. Brigade moves east to the valley of the Kapyong River.

April 8

Patricias successfully attack objectives across the 38th Parallel.

Mid-April

Almost entire UN front lay north of 38th Parallel

April 22-23

Chinese and North Korean forces strike the western and west-central sections. 2nd PPCLI digs in on Hill 677.

April 24-25

Battle of Kap'yong – Australians withdraw under pressure, exposing 2nd PPCLI position to enemy attack.

Patricias maintain their position but the Battalion is surrounded and the supply route controlled by enemy. Ten killed and 23 wounded in defensive.

Beginning of May

Remainder of the 25th Canadian Infantry Brigade arrived at Pusan and moved north to join the 28th British Commonwealth Brigade (which had relieved the 27th Brigade) on the Han River. UN begin their third general advance to the 38th Parallel.

May 24

25th Brigade placed under command of the 25th US Infantry Division and moves to an area north-east of Uijongbu.

May 27

Brigade reaches positions on the Kansas line advancing in the face of light resistance.

May 28

Brigade takes over from "Task Force Dolvin" and begins advance north of the 39th Parallel. Halts near a burnt-out village at foot of mountain named Kakhul-bong (Hill 467).

May 30

Attack on Chail-li. Canadians forced to withdraw. Brigade's first serious engagement: six killed, 54 wounded.

June 2-18

25th Brigade remains in reserve in vital area south of Imjin-Hantan junction. Here, Imjin swings sharply south-west creating a deep salient in no man's land. Close to supply route from Seoul through Uijongbu to Chorwon area.

Brigade assigned the task of establishing and holding a patrol base in the tip of the salient.

June 11

2nd PPCLI relieved by the Royal 22^e Régiment.

Mid-June

Canadian brigade took over a 6,900 metre front extending south-west from Chorwon.

June 21

Patrol composed of infantry from the Royal Canadian Regiment and tanks of Lord Strathcona's Horse establish firm base near Chungmasan.

Early July

At Communist request, cease-fire negotiations began.

July

25th Canadian Brigade joins newly-formed 1st Commonwealth Division. Division holds a sector of the Kansas line extending 10,000 metres west-ward from the Imjin-Hantan junction. The main enemy positions were 5,000 to 7,500 metres north of the Imjin.

Late August

PPCLI and Royal 22^e Régiment encounter light resistance as they establish firm positions and patrols as far as Hills 187 and 208.

September 8

Operation Minden begins. Wyoming line, from Sanggorangpo to Chung-gol, extended to remove salient created by curve in Imjin River.

September 11

Division moves north out of the bridgehead – the 29th Brigade on the left and the 25th Brigade on the right.

September 13

Operation completed with little opposition and few casualties.

October 3

Operation Commando begins. New front line called *Jamestown* established. Commonwealth portion of the line overlooked the valley of an unnamed tributary of the Sami-chon River. Main objective of RCR was Hill 187 and PPCLI was a second hill named Hill 187 and Hill 159.

October 5

Objectives successful.

October - November 1951

First rotation of Canadian troops. 1st Battalion PPCLI 2nd Battalion PPCLI in gradual stages.

October 23

Operation Pepperpot. Raids on enemy positions. Royal 22^e Régiment assigned to Hill 166. Hill 156 and unnamed feature assigned to 1st PPCLI and RCR. The Royal Canadian Regiment and the Patricia's reached their objectives. The Royal 22^e stopped short of goal by heavy machine-gun fire – five killed and 21 wounded.

November 2-3

Enemy attack the centre of the Canadian front held by "A" and "C" Companies of the Royal Canadian Regiment.

November 4

Hills 217 and 317 fall to the Chinese.

November 9

Raid on Hill 166 by "C" Company of the Royal 22^e but forced to withdraw.
Hill 355, which dominates centre of frontline passed to American 3rd Division.
Canadian brigade responsible for seven kilometres. extending north-east from Samichon River.
November 22
Canadians complete occupation of new area. Enemy attacked Americans on Hill 355 which spread to area held by Royal 22^e. Canadian company holds its ground. Hills 355 and 227 claimed by Chinese.
November 25
Americans regain Hill 355, and "D" Company of the Royal 22^e Régiment still holds its ground.
November 27
Cease-fire negotiations renewed. Orders given that no further fighting patrols are to go out and that artillery action is to be restricted to defensive fire and counter-bombardment.
December 10
PPCLI capture Hill 277 and RCR's take Hill 166.

1952

Mid-January
25th Brigade went into divisional reserve ending 4 1/2 months on the line.
March 9-10
25th Brigade moves back into line in positions astride the Sami-chon River.
March 25
Chinese raid Hill 132. The surrounded Patricias hold their position until Chinese withdraw.
Mid-April
Rotation of 25th Brigade begins.
Patrols requiring each forward battalion to carry out one strong fighting patrol per week against enemy positions and take one prisoner every three days.
End of May
Canadian unit of RCR undertakes guard duties over prisoners of war on the island of Koje.
End of June
25th Brigade goes into divisional reserve working on defences of Kansas and Wyoming lines.
October 17-23
Hill 355, known as "Little Gibraltar" scene of bitter fighting. Heavy enemy bombardment but Canadians successful. Brigade's most difficult and costly periods, in less than three months, RCR suffered 191 casualties, PPCLI 18, and R22^e R 74.
November 3
25th Brigade goes into divisional reserve working on defences of Kansas and Wyoming lines.
End of November
Royal 22^e assigned to Yongdong east of Sami-chon River and Patricias to the Hook. RCR in reserve.

1953

Spring 1953
Commonwealth Division reinforced by 1,000 Korean soldiers (Katcoms).
Spring 1953
Second major rotation of Canadian units.
May 2-3
Only one strong attack against brigade near end of war, against 3rd RCR who came on line for first time at Hill 187. Held their position against heavy artillery.
July 27, 1953
Korea Armistice Agreement signed at Panmunjom.