

Virginians at War

Korean War: Hill Fights

Resource Packet

Contains: Glossary, Timeline, Images, Discussion Questions, Additional Resources

Program Description: Virginians at War - Korean War: Hill Fights, documents the American experience during the Korean War, focusing on the back-and-forth fighting in mountainous region of the Peninsula. Virginians share their memories of a campaign that was filled with extreme cold that made the simplest tactics nearly impossible. Indecisive engagements, long, hard-fought struggles, and the suffering of both soldiers and the local civilian population marked the campaign to control small portions of land. While seeming futile at times, this “Forgotten War” is also remembered as a necessary stand for American freedom and values by those who endured the fighting.

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Length: 19:13

Streaming link: <https://vimeo.com/367048174>

Featured Speakers:

SFC James H. Beaver, Abingdon
Lt. Col. Albert F. Belbusti, Virginia Beach
S/SGT Boyed H. Burnley, Lynchburg
PFC Ed Fletcher, Grundy
SGT Edsel A. Gallimore, Christiansburg
M/SGT James J. Headly, Mechanicsville
PFC James A. Jamison, Richmond
SGT Floyd Donald Newkirk, Virginia Beach
Master SGT Harold Salley, Richmond
PFC Charles H. Tinnell, Chesterfield
SGT William Curtis Twiford, Virginia Beach
SFC Wallace E. Wampler, Richmond
SFC Lawrence Douglas Wilder, Richmond



GLOSSARY

IMPORTANT TERMS

- **38th Parallel:** the name for latitude 38 degrees N, that separated North Korea from South Korea prior to the invasion of South Korea by North Korea in 1950.
- **Armistice:** an agreement between sides in a war to ceasefire for a certain amount of time.
- **Carbine:** a light automatic rifle.
- **Communism:** an economic philosophy based on the concept of community or government ownership of business; governments that took on this economic system during the Cold War era included the Soviet Union and China.
- **Democracy:** a system of government in which the people exercise the authority of government; democratic governments in the Cold War era included the United States.
- **Panmunjom:** a village just north of the border between North and South Korea where the 1953 Korean Armistice Agreement was signed. The name was often used to refer to the nearby Joint Security Area where discussions between North and South Korea were held.
- **United Nations:** an international organization formed after World War II to increase communication and cooperation between the world's countries and to promote future peace and justice.
- **UN Resolution 82:** adopted on June 25, 1950; called for North Korea to end its invasion of South Korea. This set the stage for the US and UN to take action against North Korea when the resolution was ignored.

IMPORTANT PLACES

- Cheorwon (Chorwon)
- Heartbreak Ridge
- Iron Triangle
- North Korea
- Papasan Hill
- Pork Chop Hill
- Punchbowl
- South Korea
- White Horse Mountain

MEDALS

- **Silver Star:** a military decoration awarded to a member of the United States Armed Forces for gallantry in action against an enemy of the United States. The Silver Star is the third-highest personal decoration for valor in combat.
- **Bronze Star:** a military decoration awarded to a member of the United States Armed Forces for either heroic achievement, heroic service, meritorious achievement, or meritorious service in a combat zone.



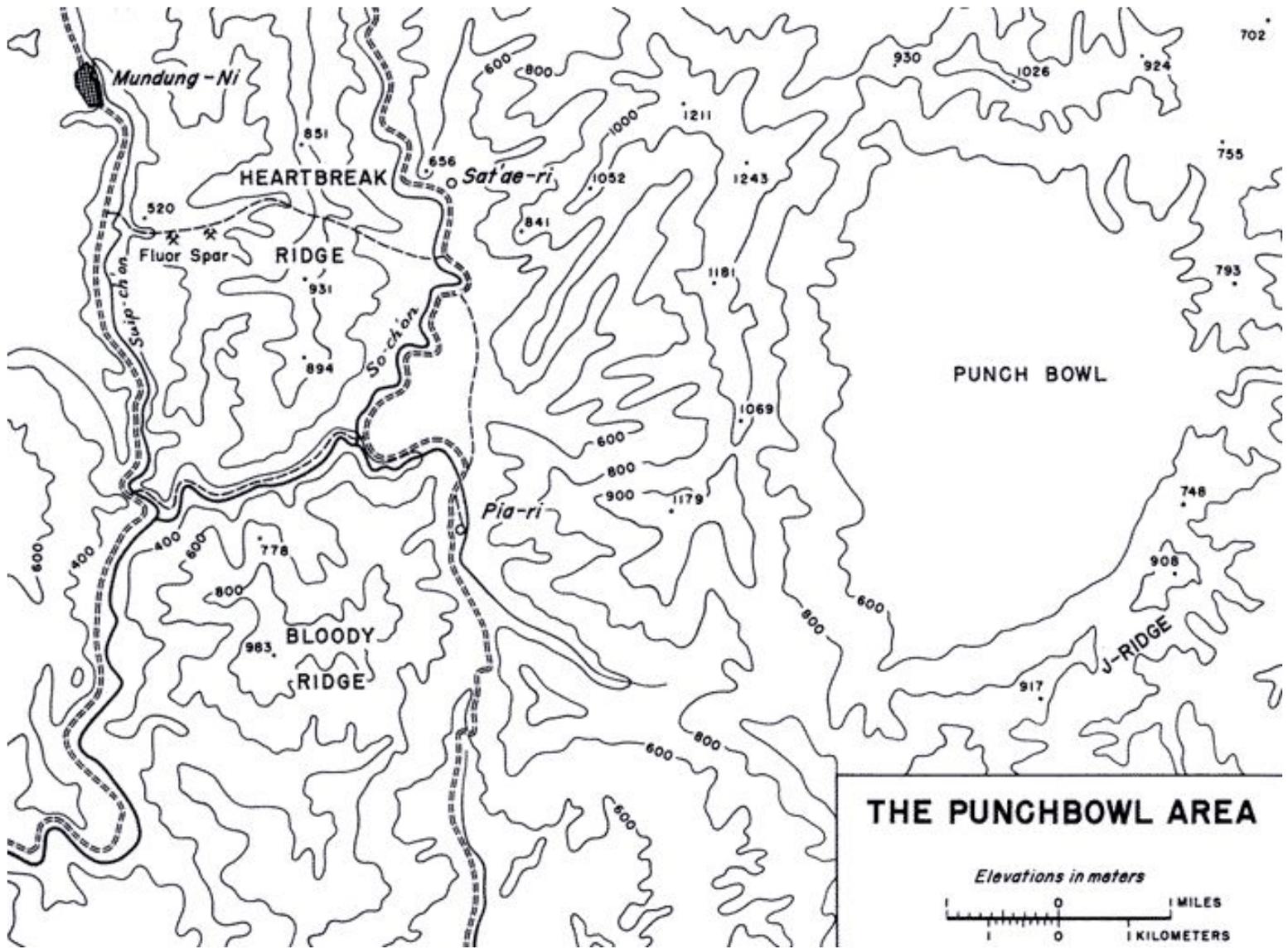
KOREAN WAR TIMELINE

- **August 14, 1945:** World War II ends with Japan's surrender
- **June 25, 1950:** North Korea crosses the 38th Parallel and invades South Korea
- **June 27, 1950:** United Nations passes Resolution 83
- **September 12, 1950:** North Korea reaches its furthest invasion point at the Pusan Perimeter
- **September 15, 1950:** UN forces land at Inchon
- **September 25, 1950:** Seoul is liberated by UN forces
- **October 25, 1950:** Chinese troops arrive in South Korea, begin pushing UN forces South
- **August 31-September 21, 1951:** Battle of the Punchbowl
- **September 13-October 15, 1951:** Battle of Heartbreak Ridge
- **October 6-15, 1952:** Battle of White Horse
- **October 14-November 25, 1952:** Battle of Triangle Hill
- **April 16-18, 1953:** Battle of Pork Chop Hill (UN victory)
- **July 6-11, 1953:** Battle of Pork Chop Hill (Chinese victory)
- **July 27, 1953:** Armistice signed by representatives of the United Nations, North Korea, and China at Panmunjom, North Korea

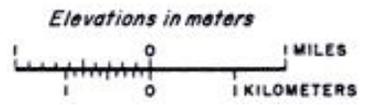


(Encyclopedia Britannica, Inc.)





THE PUNCHBOWL AREA



(US Army)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why was the Korean peninsula divided after World War II? What is significant about the participation of United Nations troops?
2. Why do you think the Korean War is called “the Forgotten War?” What is unique about the Korean War that gave it this name?
3. What acts of service do you think earn someone a Silver or Bronze Star? Would you have given an award to Governor Wilder or his friend? Explain.
4. Compare the stories of combat in Korea to the stories of those from World War II and Vietnam. What are some things that remained consistent between each conflict? What were some things that were different?
5. How does the war in Korea relate to the Cold War as a whole? Were the goals of the United States met? The United Nations? China and the Soviet Union? How does this impact the relationship between the world and North and South Korea today?
6. What is the role of a place like the Virginia War Memorial in helping us remember events like the Korean War? What are some other ways to remember?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

To learn more about the experiences of Virginians in the Korean War, view *Virginians at War: Korean War - Inchon Landing, Pusan Breakout* at vawarmemorial.org. Looking to do more research? Check out the links below.

- <https://www.britannica.com/event/Korean-War>
- https://www.ducksters.com/history/cold_war/korean_war.php (Elementary level)
- <https://www.koreanwarvetsememorial.org/the-memorial/>
- https://www.army.mil/article/47963/combating_cold_korea
- <https://ny.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/1d561db0-05bb-4838-8048-fc045db69c14/the-korean-war/> (Grades 6-12)
- <https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/us-history/postwarera/1950s-america/a/the-korean-war>
- <https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/us-history/postwarera/1950s-america/v/korean-war-overview> (High School level)
- Propaganda during the Korean War:
<http://www.digitalhorizonsonline.org/digital/collection/ndsu-korea>
- Eisenhower Memo (public opinion):
<https://www.eisenhowerlibrary.gov/sites/default/files/research/online-documents/korean-war/public-opinion-1953-06-02.pdf>

