

# TAC NEWS

GHQ, 28100 Woodside Road, Shorewood, MN 55331 USA • 612-374-2693 • [www.ghqmodels.com](http://www.ghqmodels.com)  
September–October 2018 Modeling Excellence Since 1967

## **THE CONCLUSION OF “CONFLICT BEGINS IN KOREA”**

### **North to the Yalu**

On September 15th, 1950 the Korean Marine Corps (KMC), along with the U.S. 1st Marine Division, landed at Inchon, not far from Seoul. They were closely followed by the US 7th Infantry Division; together these units became the UN “X Corps.” All four KMC battalions took part in this operation which involved some of the most ferocious fighting of the war. Their performance was beyond all expectations and earned them the lasting respect of their USMC comrades. The landing, deep in the North Korean rear, came as a complete surprise to the Korean Peoples’ Army (KPA). This, combined with the 8th Army’s breakout from Pusan, spelled disaster for the KPA. By mid-October, UN forces were nearing the Yalu River and Manchurian border. The KPA, having sustained more than 300,000 casualties, was effectively out of the war.

### **A Whole New War**

The Peoples’ Republic of China (PRC) had been watching events in Korea with interest during the early stages when North Korean victory seemed certain. That interest turned to dismay as their shattered remnants of the Korean Peoples’ Army staggered northward, hotly pursued by the UN Command (UNC). When North Korean soldiers took refuge on the Chinese side of the Yalu, General MacArthur urged that the UNC invade Manchuria and that the US unleash Chiang Kai Shek; he even mentioned the use of atomic weapons. President Truman was speechless with fury, and five months later, MacArthur was out!

In truth, the Chinese were in no hurry to get involved. Decades of civil war had left the country in tatters. A new war with the UN was the last thing they wanted. In retrospect, it appears that their first intention was to convince the UN that they were serious about defending their territory, and that any incursion by UNC troops would mean certain war. To this end, the Peoples Liberation Army (PLA) crossed the Yalu, in secret, on October 14th. The units involved were labelled “Peoples’ Volunteers,” allowing the PRC to deny responsibility for their actions, if necessary.

MacArthur had been advised of their presence and was aware of their determination to act aggressively against him if

provoked. He failed to take them seriously. The Chinese struck on November 24th, 1950. General Peng Te Huai launched the “November Offensive” with approximately 200,000 men organized into six armies. This force was increased by a further 70,000 men a few weeks later. The Republic of Korea (ROK) 2nd Corps took the first blows east of the Chongchon river. The South Koreans seemed paralyzed with fear, and their whole force seemed to dissolve.

The men of the 2nd Division were left in the lurch with their right flank hanging in the air. It was time to move. They didn’t get far. The next day, they stumbled into a PLA ambush near Kunu-ri. They lost most of their artillery and 4,000 casualties before they escaped. On December 5th, Walker committed the Turkish Brigade, the British 29th Brigade, and the 1st Cavalry Division to shore up his exposed right. He then ordered 8th Army to fall back to the next defensible position: the 38th Parallel.

Meanwhile, on November 27th, the men of the 1st Marine Division found themselves surrounded by 120,000 Chinese soldiers of the 20th, 26th, and 27th Armies at the Chosin Reservoir. They were then notified that they, and the rest of X Corps, would be withdrawn by sea from the port of Hungnam. Major General Oliver Smith, realizing that he would be in serious trouble if he failed to deliver his command for transport as ordered, proceeded to do the impossible. First, he drove back repeated Chinese assaults and turned his division around. Then, for thirteen days, he marched his Marines through 60 miles of snow covered mountains in sub-zero cold to keep his appointment with the Navy.

On the way, 1st Marine Division slaughtered a large number of Chinese bent on preventing this. By diverting most of the Chinese effort against his division, Smith made the escape of the rest of X Corps a good deal less difficult. Part of the 7th Division was caught at Chosin with the Marines and had to march out with them. Everyone else made it to Hungnam easily. By December 15th, both X Corps and the ROK I Corps were safely back in Pusan, bringing out nearly 100,000 North Korean civilians who had the presence of mind to escape when the opportunity presented itself.

Despite considerable combat experience and improved equipment, the ROK Army couldn't seem to get over their fear of the Chinese. Again and again, at the Chongchon, in the Chinese New Year offensive, and their first and second spring offensives, South Korean formations simply fell apart when the PLA attacked, leaving wide gaps in the line. It was only during the summer stalemate, when time could finally be found to reorganize and retrain the South Koreans, that they began to improve. The final Chinese offensive of the war in July 1953 told the story. After a short period of panic, ROK forces rallied and organized a series of savage counterattacks, driving the Chinese back to their starting point. The ROK soldier had conquered his fears for good!

### **The Half-Century Truce**

The Korean War ended in a "temporary" truce on July 27th, 1953. Battles had raged the length and breadth of Korea, devastating the countryside, ruining crops, killing livestock, and destroying factories. Hundreds of thousands of people had been killed or wounded as well. The rebuilding process was to be slow and painful, especially in the north, where aid from their communist allies was slow in coming. In contrast, South Korea, with considerable US aid, eventually experienced much economic growth and political stability, becoming a dynamic export-oriented economy, with a large middle class and democratic reforms.

For the next 39 years little changed in the DPRK. North Korea remained an armed camp, constantly prodding its southern rival, attempting to destabilize it. Kim Il-Sung continued to

dominate every aspect of North Korean political, economic, and social life until his death in 1991, creating an extensive cult of personality around himself as "father and savior" of his people, and personally molding North Korea into one of the most repressive and strictly-regimented societies on earth.

### **Wargaming Possibilities**

The Korean War is one of the most under-appreciated wargaming venues, perhaps mostly due to the limited number of detailed accounts available. We hope you will find the TO&E information in this article useful in overcoming this problem.

In the period between June 1950 and February 1951, both sides were on the offensive and defensive; this provides an opportunity for a full range of wargame scenarios from meeting engagements to rear-guard actions. The battles fought at places like the Pusan Perimeter, the "Bowling Alley," Chipyong-ni, Pork Chop Hill, and the Chosin Reservoir are only a few of the many engagements to be explored.

### **Tactical Notes**

During the war the ROK army showed an admirable capacity to endure both hardship and privation. Their strength and determination, when properly trained and led, were considerable. Their weaknesses were considerable as well, and should be reflected in any scenario you design for them. In addition, ROK troops may be added to any U.S. force in the Korean War, as the two armies often worked in close cooperation. Though it took them a long time to realize their full potential, ROK soldiers can give a good account of themselves.

## **Tables of Organization and Equipment: KOREAN WAR ALLIES**

The United Nations Command committed to the defense of South Korea included the British "Commonwealth" Division, the 25th Independent Canadian Brigade, the 1st Turkish Brigade, the Royal Thai 21st Regiment, and the Philippine 10th Battalion Combat Team (BCT), among others. These units served with courage and distinction and are included here as a tribute to their sacrifice.

### **COMMONWEALTH FORCES: 1950-53**

**Generation: II, Air Superiority Rating: 70, Class: Professionals, Base Determination Factor: 35%**

Infantry Company:	3 x TL1 Infantry(A)
Engineer Company:	3 x TL1 Engineer(A)
Support Company:	1 x 3" Mk-1 Mortar(3)/Truck, 1 x TL1 Engineer(A), 1 x TL1 Infantry Support(A)
British Tank Squadron:	5 x Centurion Mk3
Canadian Tank Squadron:	5 x M4A3E8
Artillery Battery:	2 x 251br "Mark/2"Gun/How.(2)/Truck
Infantry Battalion:	1 x TL1 Inf.(A) HQ/Ben Carrier, 4 x Infantry Co., 1 x Support Co.
British Armoured Regt.:	1 x Centurion Mk3 (HQ), 1 x Daimler AC, 1 x Centurion "Dozer"3 x British Tank Squadron,
British Engineer Battalion:	3 x Engineer Company
Artillery Regiment:	3 x Artillery Battery

*Commonwealth Forces continued on page 3* →

British Infantry Brigade: 1 x TL1 Inf.(A) GHQ/Truck, 3 x Infantry Battalion, 1 x 4.2" Mk-1 Mortar(3)/Truck, 1 x Engineer Company

Canadian Infantry Brigade: 1 x TL1 Infantry(A) GHQ/Truck, 1 x Engineer Company, 1 x Canadian Tank Squadron

Commonwealth Division: 2 x British Infantry Brigade, 1 x Canadian Brigade, 3 x Artillery Regiment, 1 x British Armored Regiment

**Forces Notes:**

1. Fifteen British infantry battalions, three armored, and three artillery regiments were rotated through Korea.
2. Thirteen Canadian and Australian infantry battalions and three Canadian artillery regiments served in Korea.
3. The 27th Canadian Brigade was part of the "Commonwealth" Division.
4. Total forces included the "Commonwealth Division", the 25th Independent Canadian Brigade, the 29th Independent British Brigade, a New Zealand artillery battalion, the "Royal Australian Regiment", and an Indian ambulance company.
5. Further information on the Canadian contribution to the Korean War can be found at <[www.VAC-acc.gc.ca](http://www.VAC-acc.gc.ca)>.
6. Further information on the Australian contribution to the Korean War can be found at <[KoreanWar.net/Australia](http://KoreanWar.net/Australia)>.

**1st TURKISH BRIGADE: 1950-53**

**Generation: II, Air Superiority Rating: 20, Class: Professionals, Base Determination Factor: 40%**

Infantry Company: 3 x TL1 Infantry(B), 1 x TL1 Infantry Support(B)

Engineer Company: 3 x TL1 Engineer/Truck

Support Company: 1 x 81mm M1 Mortar(3), 2 x TL1 Infantry Support(B)

Infantry Battalion: 1 x TL1 Infantry(B) HQ, 3 x Infantry Company, 1 x Support Company

Artillery Battalion: 3 x 105mm M101(2)/Truck

Infantry Brigade: 1 x TL1 Infantry(B) GHQ/Truck, 3 x Infantry Battalion, 1 x Artillery Battalion, 1 x Engineer Company

**10th PHILIPPINE BATTALION COMBAT TEAM: 1950-55**

**Generation: II, Air Superiority Rating: 20, Class: Conscripts, Base Determination Factor: 25%**

Infantry Company: 3 x TL1 Infantry(A), 1 x Infantry Support(B)

Support Company: 1 x 81mm M1 Mortar(3)/Truck, 2 x TL1 Infantry Support(B)

Tank Company: 4 x M4A3E8

Recon Company: 3 x M24 Chaffee[R], 3 x Jeep/50cal.[R], 2 x TL1 Infantry (R)/Jeep

Battalion Combat Team: 1 x TL1 Infantry(B) GHQ/Jeep, 3 x Infantry Company, 1 x Support Company, 1 x Tank Company, 1 x Recon Company, 1 x 105mm M7(3), 1 x 4.2" M1 Mortar(3)/Truck

**21st "ROYAL THAI" REGIMENT: 1950-55**

**Generation: II, Air Superiority Rating: 20, Class: Conscripts, Base Determination Factor: 25%**

Infantry Company: 3 x TL1 Infantry(B), 1 x Infantry Support

Support Company: 1 x 81mm M1 Mortar(3), 2 x TL1 Infantry Support(B)

Infantry Battalion: 1 x TL1 Infantry(B) HQ, 3 x Infantry Company, 1 x Support Company

**Notes:**

1. This regiment's three infantry battalions were attached to separate American divisions.

**1st BELGIAN BATTALION: 1951-53**

**Generation: II, Air Superiority Rating: 30, Class: Conscripts, Base Determination Factor: 25%**

Infantry Company: 3 x TL1 Infantry(B)

Support Company: 1 x 3" Mk-1 Mortar(3), 1 x TL1 Infantry Support(B), 1 x Infantry Engineer(B), 1 x 6lbr ATG/Bren Carrier

Infantry Battalion: 1 x TL1 Infantry(B) HQ, 3 x Infantry Company, 1 x Support Company

**Notes:**

1. A total of three Belgian Battalions eventually served in Korea.

### **1st FRENCH BATTALION: 1951-53**

**Generation: II, Air Superiority Rating: 30, Class: Professionals, Base Determination Factor: 35%**

Infantry Company: 3 x TL1 Infantry(B), 1 x TL1 Infantry Support(B)  
Support Company: 1 x 75mm M20 RcR, 1 x 81mm M1 Mortar(2), 1 x TL1 Infantry Support(B), 1 x Engineer(B)  
Infantry Battalion: 1 x TL1 Infantry (B) HQ/Truck, 3 x Infantry Company, 1 x Support Company

#### **Notes:**

1. The stand made by the French battalion along with the U.S. 23rd R.C.T, when surrounded by a large Chinese force at the "siege" of Chipyeong-Ni, ranks as one of the finest achievements in the history of both French and American arms.
2. One French infantry company was "parachute" trained.

### **GREEK, COLOMBIAN, ETHIOPIAN, and DUTCH BATTALIONS**

**Generation: II, Air Superiority Rating: 30, Class: Conscripts, Base Determination Factor: 30%**

Infantry Company: 3 x TL1 Infantry(B), 1 x TL1 Infantry Support(B)  
Support Company: 1 x 81mm M1 Mortar(3), 2 x TL1 Infantry Support(B)  
Infantry Battalion: 1 x Infantry(B) HQ, 3 x Infantry Company, 1 x Support Company

#### **Notes:**

1. Greeks served in Korea between 1951 and 1955.
2. Four Colombian battalions served in Korea between 1951 and 1954.
3. Three Ethiopian Battalions served in Korea between 1951 and 1953.
4. The Dutch served in Korea from 1950-1954. Their contribution included a large naval contingent.

#### **TACTICAL NOTES**

The above TO&Es have been included primarily for historical purposes. But, they also provide the sort of "color" that makes for interesting scenarios. The exploits of the 29th British Brigade and the 1st Turkish Brigade to protect the 8th Army's right flank and the French stand at Chipyeong-Ni make for great wargaming. The Canadian Army also deserves considerable praise, especially for the battles at Kapyong and Chail-li. Further information on all the countries involved (including the Soviet Union) is available at <[www.korean-war.com](http://www.korean-war.com)>.

*- John Fernandes*

See the Modern Micro Armour sections on the "Free Stuff" page at [www.ghqmodels.com](http://www.ghqmodels.com) for many more country history articles and TO&Es!

## **NOW AVAILABLE**

US115	<b>GMC CCKW 353, BOFORS 40mm</b> - 3/pk	\$11.95
AC124	<b>SU 24</b> - Soviet attack aircraft. 1/pk	\$11.95
N615	<b>M60 SABRA</b> - Turkish upgraded M60. 5/pk	\$11.95
N616	<b>LARS RAKETENWERFER</b> - Rocket system. 3/pk	\$11.95
N617	<b>RMMV HX SERIES 4 x 4</b> - German tactical truck. 5/pk	\$11.95
N618	<b>RMMV HX SERIES 6 x 6</b> - German tactical truck. 5/pk	\$11.95
N619	<b>RMMV HX SERIES 8 x 8</b> - German tactical truck. 4/pk	\$11.95
GWT3	<b>CL PISA CLASS</b> - Three ships in class. 1/pk	\$11.95
HRN8	<b>ALBION CLASS LPD</b> - Landing Platform Dock. 1/pk	\$16.95

Place your order safely on our secure website at [www.ghqmodels.com](http://www.ghqmodels.com)!