

= United Nations Memorial Cemetery =

The United Nations Memorial Cemetery (UNMCK ; Hangul : ????????? ; RR : jae hahn UN ki nyum gong won) , located at Tanggok in the Nam District , City of Busan , Republic of Korea , is a burial ground for United Nations Command (UNC) casualties of the Korean War . It contains 2 @, @ 300 graves and is the only United Nations cemetery in the world . Laid out over 14 hectares (35 acres) , the graves are set out in 22 sites designated by the nationalities of the buried servicemembers .

= = History = =

= = = Temporary battlefield cemeteries and remains recovery = = =

The Korean War began when North Korean People 's Army forces attacked south in June 1950 . As the fighting progressed , temporary military cemeteries for battle casualties were established by United Nations forces near the towns of Taejon (July 9 , 1950) , Kwan @-@ ui (Kwan @-@ ni) , Kum @-@ chon , and Sindong . When the North Korean forces pushed towards Pusan , these cemeteries had to be abandoned . Later , as the Battle of Pusan Perimeter developed , temporary cemeteries were established at Masan , Miryang , and Taegu , with a Pusan cemetery being established on July 11 , 1950 . As the fighting pushed into North Korea , temporary cemeteries were established in or near the towns of Kaesong , Sukehon , Wonsan , Pupchong (Pukchong County) , Yudarn @-@ ni and Koto @-@ ri . Some 11 division @-@ level cemeteries were established in the first two months of fighting and later 5 UN military cemeteries were established in North Korea .

At the beginning of the war , the nearest U.S. Army mortuary affairs unit was the 108th Graves Registration Platoon in Yokohama , Japan , which was searching for the remains of missing World War II American airmen . The 108th was reconfigured as the 114th Graves Registration Company and deployed to establish temporary cemeteries at Hungnam , Pyongyang , and Suchon as the fighting continued . Supporting the 2nd Infantry Division was the Graves Registration Section of the 2nd Quartermaster Company , which collected the remains of Allied and American soldiers to be further processed by the 148th Graves Registration Company . When UN forces launched the Inchon Invasion in September 1950 , a platoon from the 565th Graves Registration Company accompanied them . Other mortuary affairs units included the 293rd Graves Registration Company , activated in April 1951 . It was difficult to recover remains and conduct burials in Korea , due to the rugged geography and harsh climate , and the threat of unexploded ordnance and booby @-@ traps .

= = = Construction of the Tanggok cemetery = = =

Construction of the United Nations Military Cemetery (UNMC) at Tanggok began on January 18 , 1951 and was carried out by hand @-@ labor over a 28 @. @ 2 hectares (70 acres) site . It was dedicated by General Matthew Ridgeway on April 6 , 1951 . Graves Registration units then concentrated American and allied remains at Tanggok before they were permanently buried or repatriated . Besides burial services , refrigeration units to store remains were added , as were cremation facilities . Today the 2 @, @ 300 graves in the cemetery are set out in 22 sites designated by the nationalities of the buried service members .

= = = Post @-@ armistice = = =

Following the signing of the Korean Armistice Agreement in July 1953 , the United Nations Command sought to recover bodies interred in North Korean territory . Cemeteries for POWs in North Korea were established at 16 POW camps . From September to October 1954 , the resulting exchange of casualties , dubbed Operation Glory , between United Nations forces and the North Koreans resulted in 4 @, @ 219 remains being recovered , of which 1 @, @ 275 were non @-@ US

casualties . (Also exchanged were the remains of approximately 14 @, @ 000 North Korean and Chinese casualties .) From 1950 to 1954 , approximately 11 @, @ 000 casualties were interred at UNMC , which was maintained by the United States Army Graves Registration Agency .

= = = Foundation as a United Nations cemetery and transfer to CUNMCK = = =

It was officially established as the United Nations Memorial Cemetery on December 15 , 1955 with the passage of UN General Assembly Resolution 977 (X) . Following the war , the cemetery was funded from the United Nations budget , but the Sino @-@ Soviet world objected to this funding . In 1973 , the cemetery was transferred from the UN to the Commission for the United Nations Memorial Cemetery (CUNMCK) , which is composed of representatives from the 11 countries who have servicemembers buried there .

= = = Cultural heritage and tourism = = =

The cemetery is designated as Site 359 in the listing of Registered Cultural Heritage Sites in Korea by the Cultural Heritage Administration of Korea . Also , it is a visitor attraction for Pacific Rim tourists . In 2011 , United Nations Secretary @-@ General Ban Ki @-@ Moon described it as the only United Nations cemetery in the world .

= = Memorials = =

An Honour Guard from the Republic of Korea 53rd Division carries out flag ceremonies daily .

The UN Sculpture Park was established in October 2001 and twenty @-@ nine permanent memorials are in the cemetery . The memorials include :

Commonwealth of Nations memorials :

Australian Memorial

British Memorial ? dedicated 2010

Monument to Canadian Fallen ? an identical monument is located in downtown Ottawa

Commonwealth Memorial Commonwealth Missing in Action Memorial

New Zealand Memorial ? designed by Warren and Mahoney architects and built of marble from the Coromandel Peninsula

South Africa Memorial ? the 2001 sculpture Reconciliation by South African sculptor Strijdom van der Merwe , was created as part of the International Sculpture Symposium

French Memorial ? dedicated 2007

Greek Memorial ? dedicated 1961

Interfaith memorial chapel ? built by the United Nations Command in 1964

Main gate ? designed by Korean architect Kim Joong @-@ up and built by the city of Busan in 1966

Memorabilia display hall ? built by the UN in 1968

Norwegian Memorial

Thai Memorial ? dedicated November 2008

Turkish Memorials I and II ? dedicated 1960 , 1962 , and 2008

UN Forces Monument ? dedicated 1978 and refurbished in 2007

United States Korean War Memorial ? the Frank Gaylord sculpture was carved from Barre Granite at the Rock of Ages Corporation in Barre , Vermont , and dedicated under the auspices of the American Battle Monuments Commission in 2013

The Unknown Soldiers ' Pathway

The Wall of Remembrance , completed in 2006 , has the names of the 40 @, @ 896 United Nations casualties (killed and missing) inscribed on 140 marble panels .

The UNMCK maintains a website in Korean , English , and Turkish (Türkçe) , which allows website visitors to post online flowers and tributary messages .

= = Notable graves = =

The cemetery contains the graves of 2 @, @ 289 military personnel and 11 non @-@ combatants . Amongst those are the graves of Bill Madden GC , 3rd Battalion , Royal Australian Regiment , (who died as a prisoner of war) , Kenneth Muir VC (killed in action in the Battle of Hill 282 while serving with the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders) , and Philip Curtis VC (killed in action in the Battle of the Imjin River while serving with The Duke of Cornwall 's Light Infantry) . Also buried is Lt. Col. Charles Hercules Green DSO , commander of the 3rd Battalion , Royal Australian Regiment , who was mortally wounded at Battle of Chongju and died at nearby Anju . Dutch Lt. Col. Marinus Petrus Antonius den Ouden , commander of the Regiment Van Heutsz , was killed in action during Operation Roundup in 1951 and is buried with members of his regiment ? posthumously , den Ouden was awarded Netherlands ' highest military award , the Military Order of William . In the early days of the war , journalist Christopher Buckley died from a land mine explosion , and was subsequently buried at the cemetery .