



Background to the Korean War

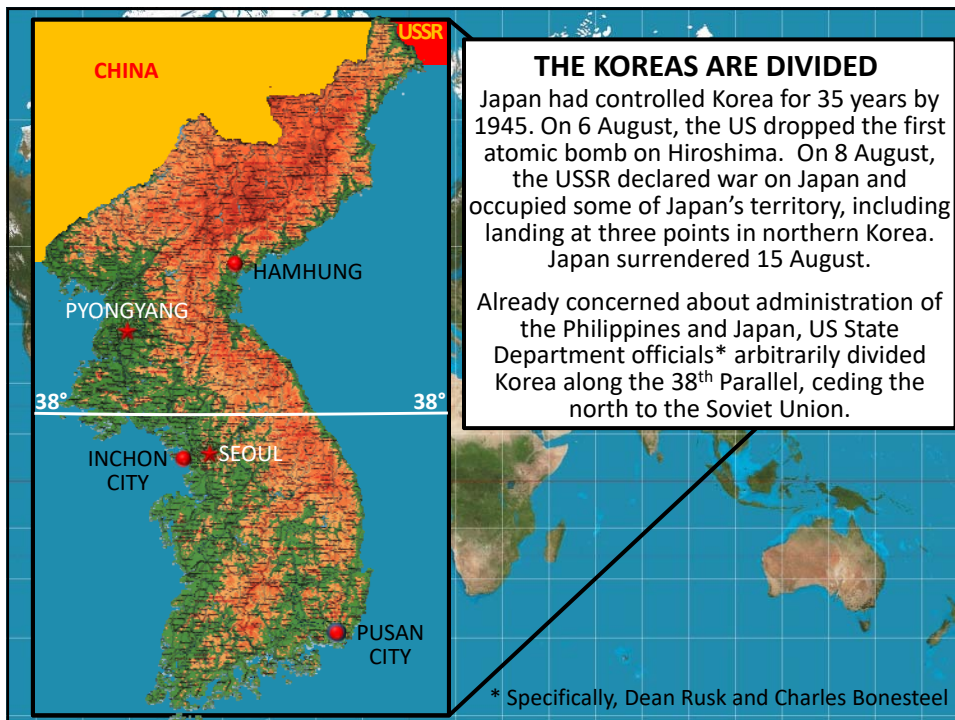
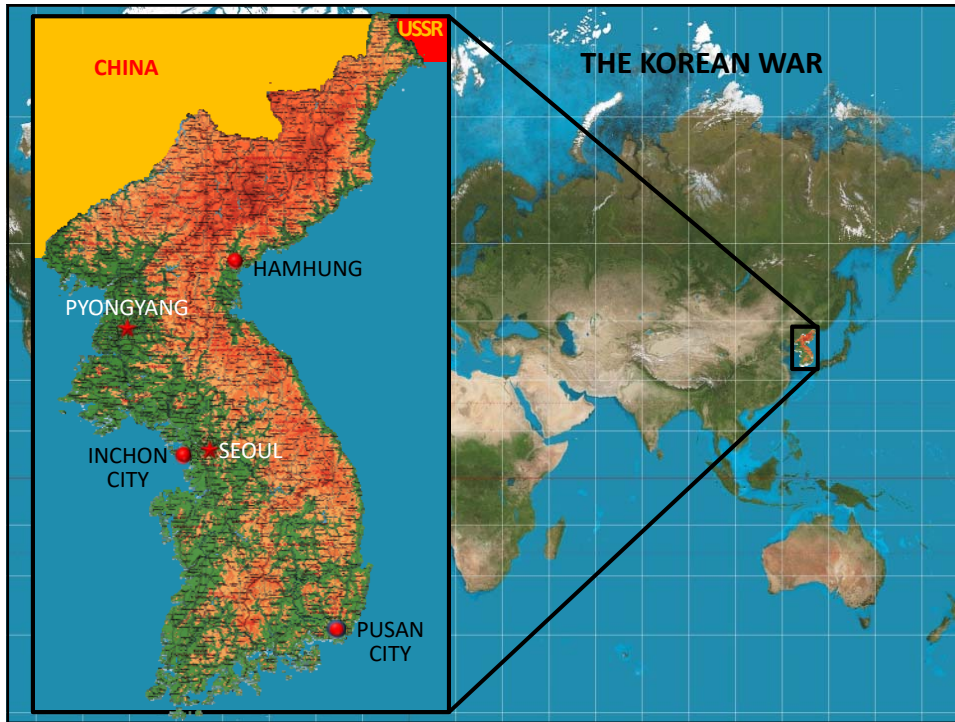
- The Potsdam Declaration called for Japan to unconditionally surrender or face “prompt and utter destruction”. (26 July 1945)
- The USSR declared war on Japan at 2300 on 8 August 1945.
- On 9 August 1945, 89 Soviet divisions in 20 armies invaded Japanese Manchuria. They faced 9 Japanese armies:

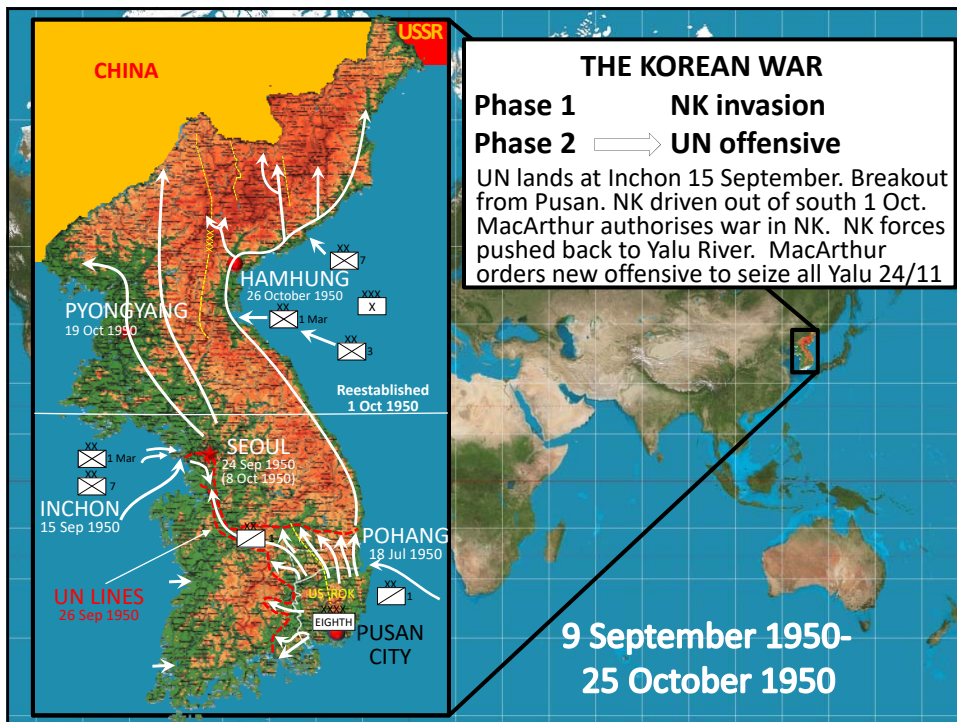
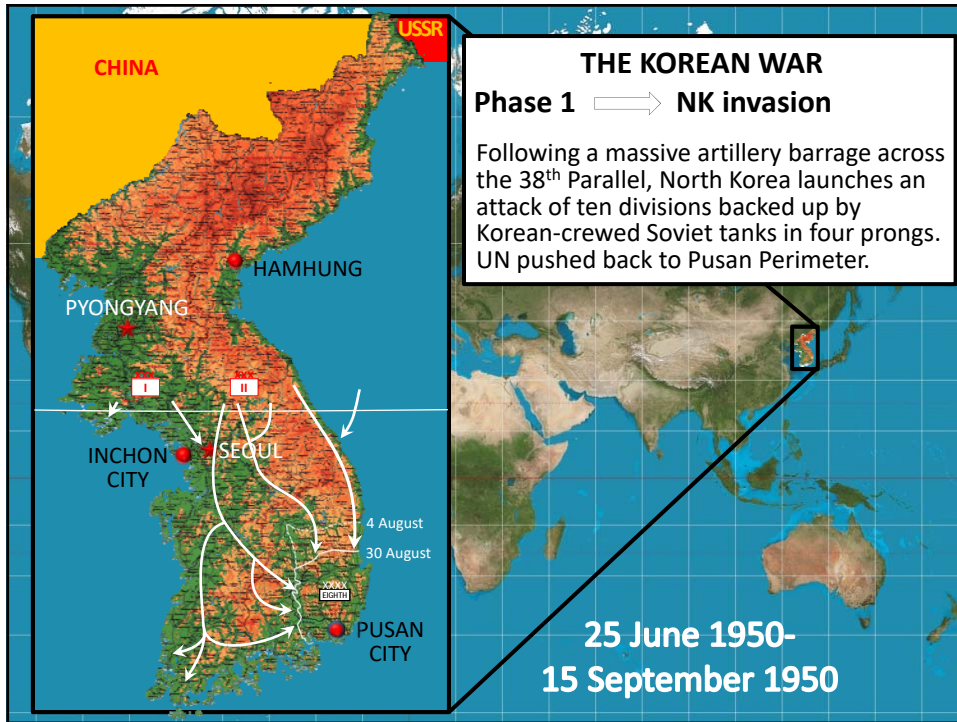
	Troops	Tanks	SP Arty	Arty	Rockets	Aircraft
USSR	1,577,725	3,704	1,852	27,086	1,152	3,721
Japan	927,729	1,155	1,215	5,360	Nil	1,800

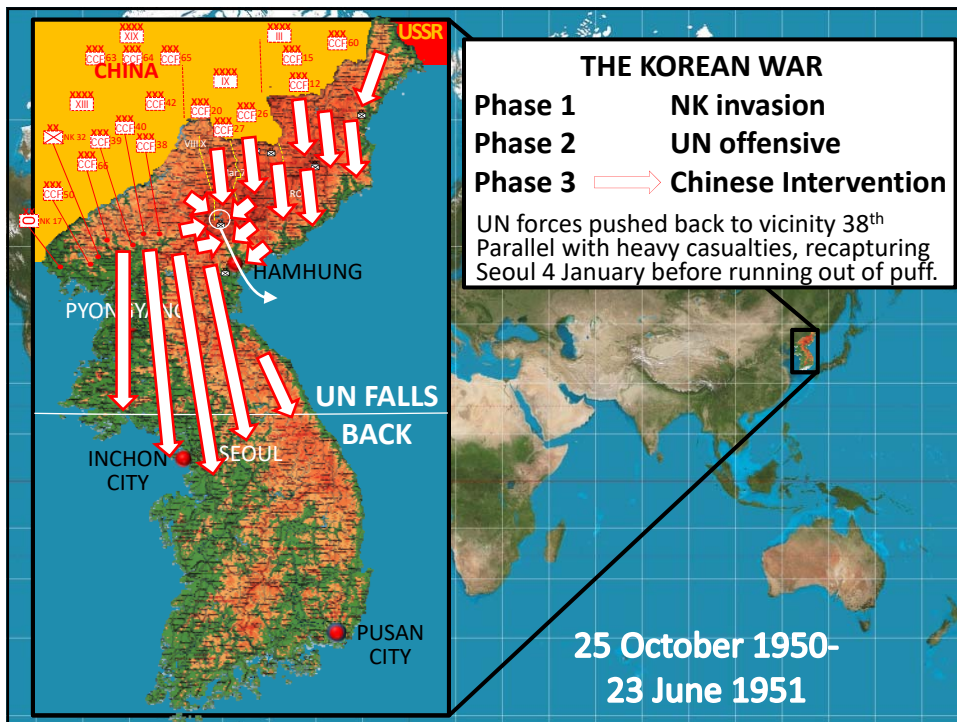
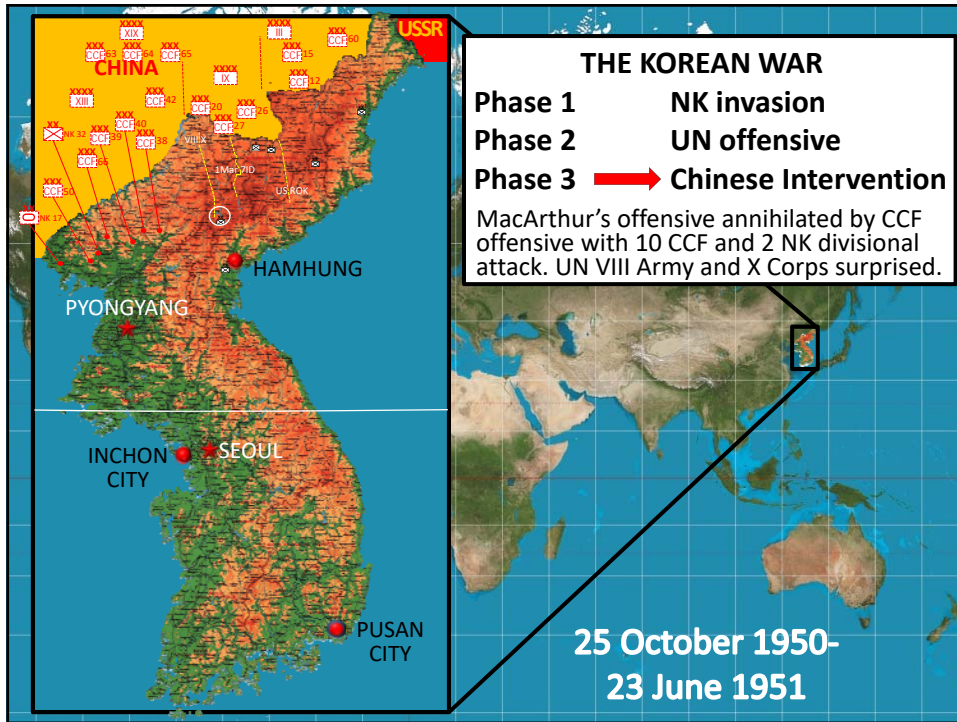
- Soviet entry into the war was a factor in the Japanese decision to surrender, but paled beside the atomic bombings of Hiroshima on 6 August and Nagasaki on 9 August.
- The **surrender** of Imperial Japan was announced on August 15 and formally signed on September 2, 1945.

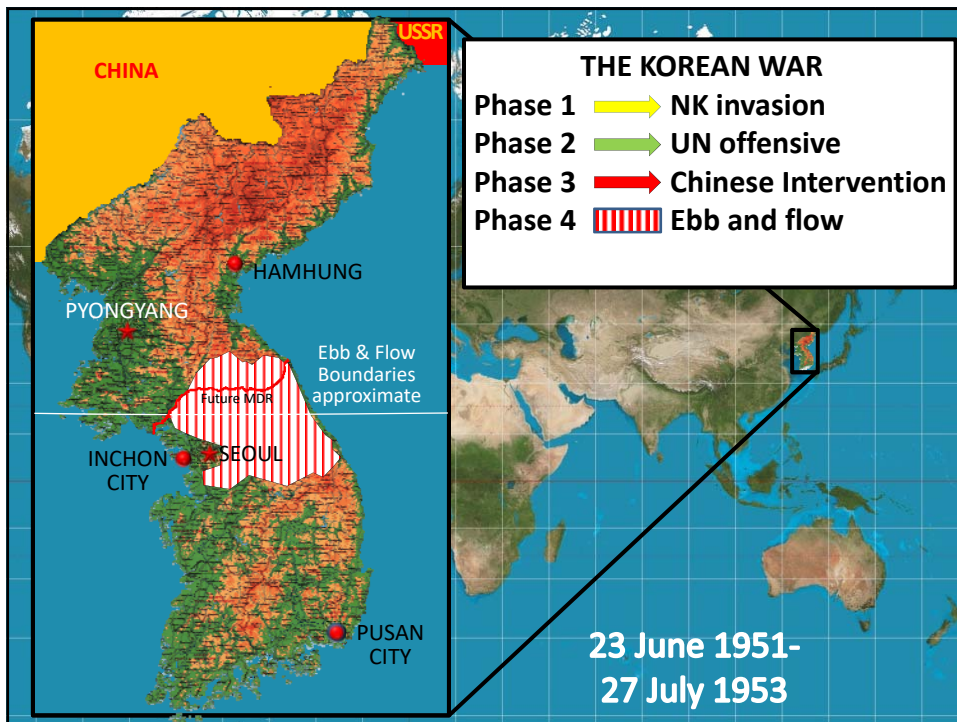
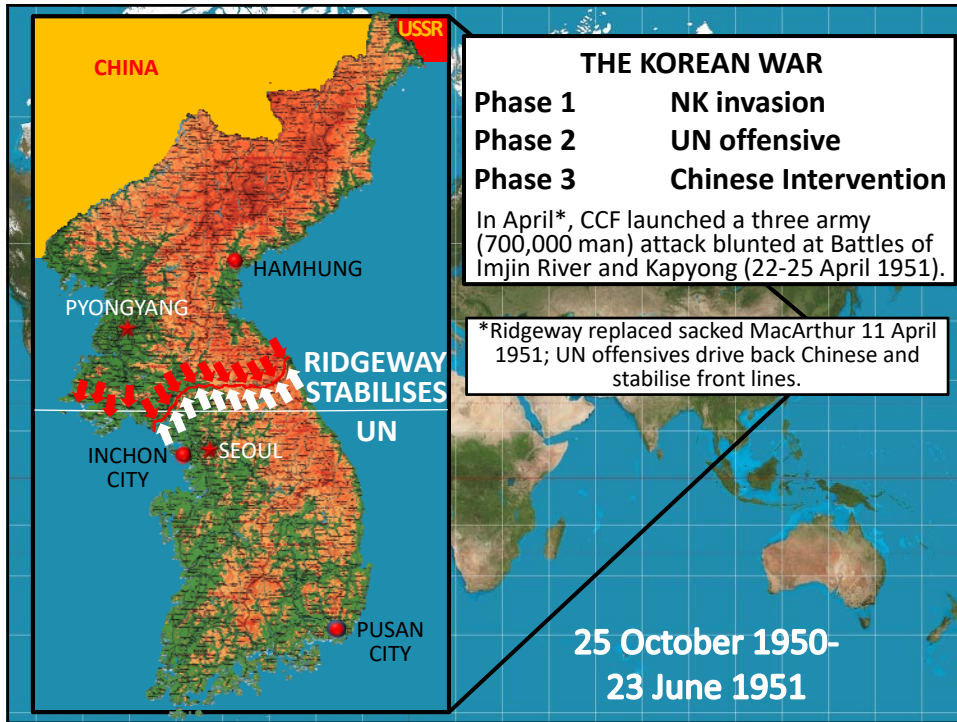


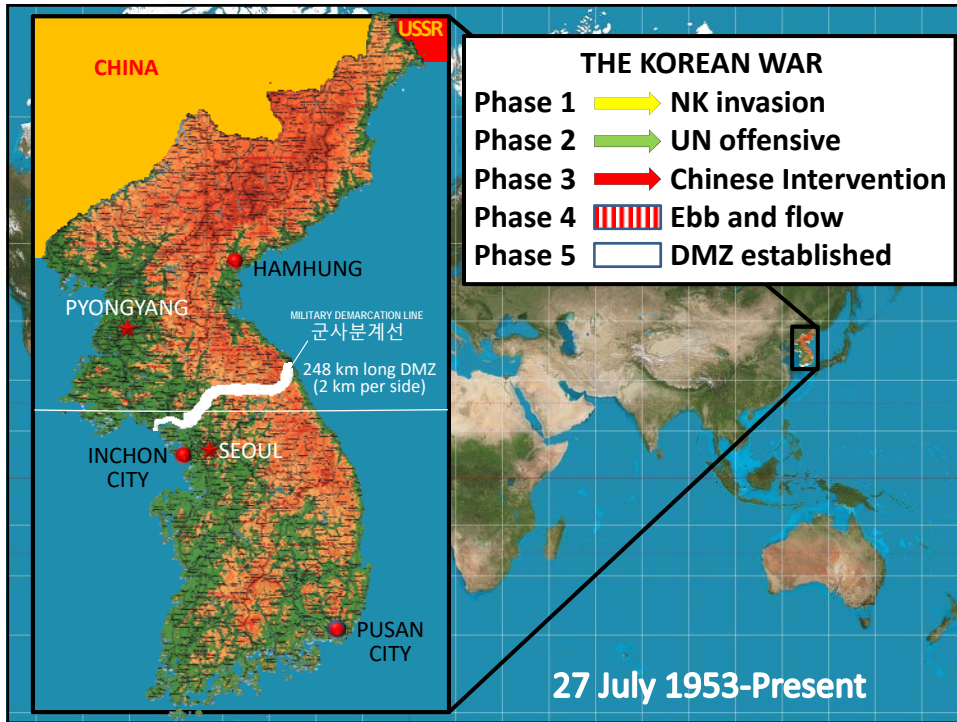












Strategic Direction

- Under MacArthur, strategic direction was shambolic. The war was being run off of obsolete maps by UNC in Japan.

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graph TD
    A[U.N. Command-Far East Command] -.- B[Far East Air Forces]
    A -.- C[Eighth Army]
    A -.- D[X Corps]
    A -.- E[Japan Logistical Command]
    A -.- F[Naval Forces Far East]
    
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- Strategic military intelligence (G2) was virtually non-existent. To make it worse, strategic planners didn't appreciate that.
- Control in Korea was split between two major commands:
 - The U.S. Eighth Army managed the western half of Korea
 - The U.S. X Corps managed those on the right (east).
- Field commands were handicapped by micromanagement and rapidly changing missions and sometimes conflicting orders.
- Even his one brilliant stroke, the Inchon landing, was flawed.

Turning disaster to stalemate

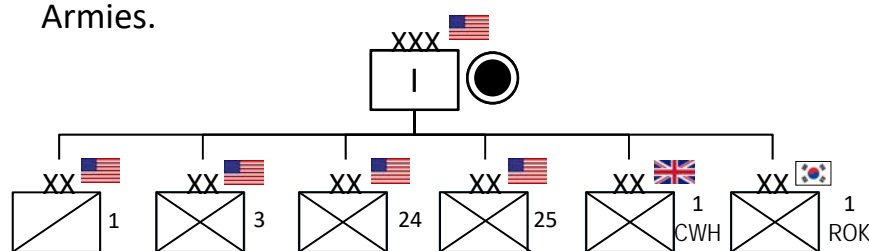
- The Chinese launched their Spring Offensive (Fifth Phase Attack) with some 700,000 to 1,000,000 men around the time General MacArthur was dismissed by President Truman.
- Under General Matthew Ridgeway, the UN forces had blunted the impetus of the offensive by the end of April. Australia's **Battle of Kap'yong** (22-25 April) occurred in this phase.
- The Chinese launched a second impulse on 15 May, but were halted within five days.
- At the end of May, the UN counterattacked the exhausted Chinese and inflicted heavy losses.
- Fresh Chinese troops were thrown in, and the UN counterattack stopped at "Line Kansas" at the end of May.
- The remainder of the war involved bitter fighting for little territory change.

- When General MacArthur was relieved for cause by President Truman in April 1951, he was replaced by experienced WWII Infantryman GEN Matthew Ridgeway, who quickly stabilised the battlefield and turned around the morale of the 8th Army.
- Assuming overall United Nations Command, Ridgeway appointed General James Van Fleet to replace him at 8th Army. He was a highly experienced Infantry combat officer from WWI and WWII who continued strengthening the 8th Army.
- Lieutenant Colonel Francis Hassett took command of 3RAR in July 1951. Wounded at Tobruk in WWII, he was a LTC by age 23. He led 3RAR through some of the toughest fighting of the Korean war. He later became the first ADF commander.



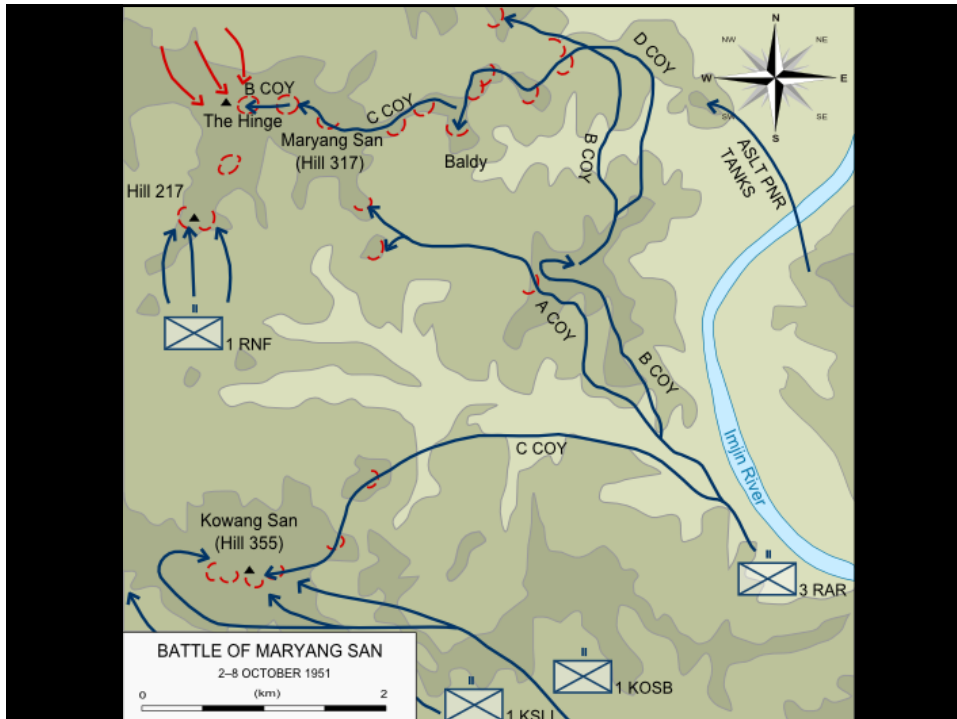
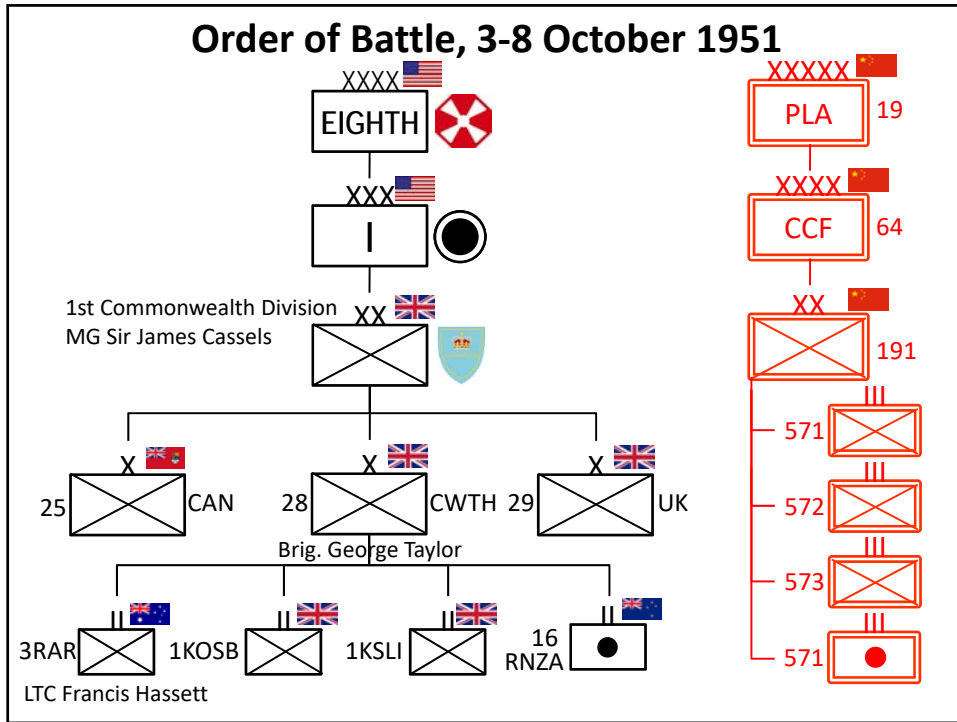
OPERATION COMMANDO

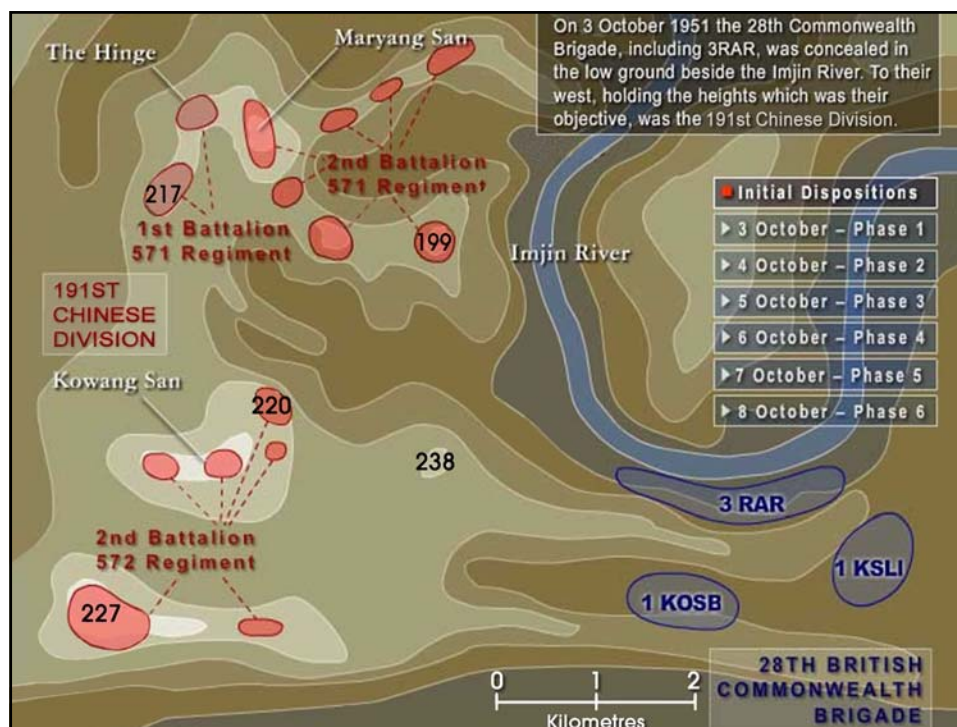
- The last action in the 16 month Korean war of manoeuvre took place from 3-15 October 1951 to straighten and consolidate front lines.
- The US I Corps seized the Jamestown Line, destroying elements of the 42nd, 47th, 65th and 65th Chinese Armies.



- In November, after both sides kept fighting intensely over same ground, peace talks began in earnest.







Casualties 3-8 October 1951

UN Forces

3rd Royal Australian Regiment

- 20 KIA
- 104 WIA
- Nil CIA
- 320 total strength

1st Battalion, King's Own
Scottish Borderers (KOSB)

1st Battalion, King's Shropshire
Light Infantry (1 KSLI)

A Squadron, 8th Royal Irish
Hussars

Chinese

571st, 573rd Regiments

- 282 KIA
- Unknown WIA
- 50 CIA
- 1,200 total strength



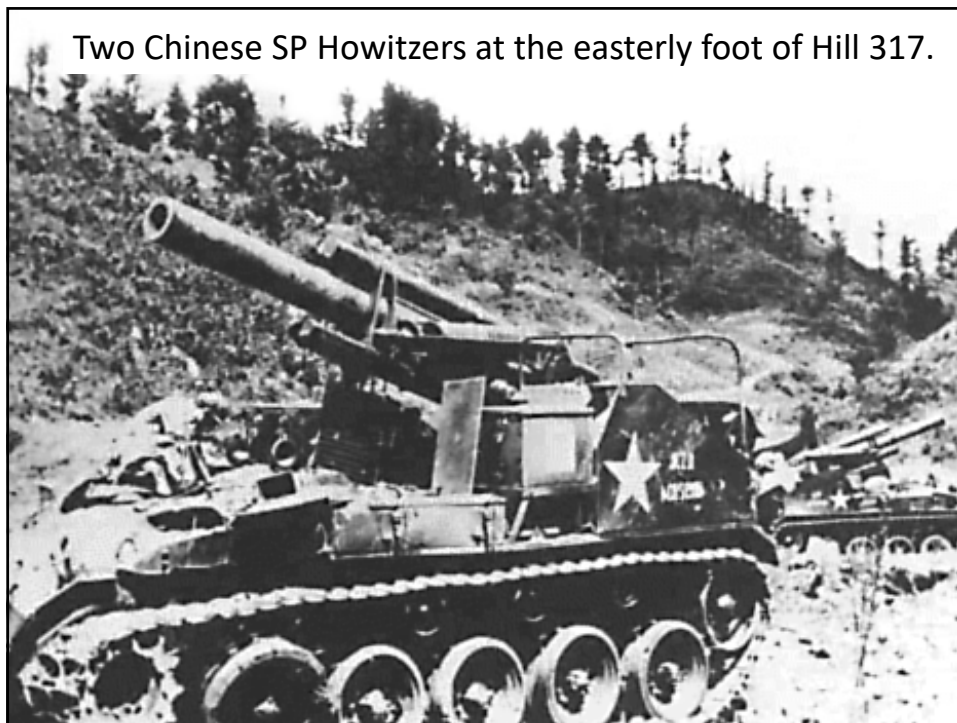
Tank of the 8th Irish Hussars supported at Maryong San



Chinese propaganda photo claiming 402 killed 6 enemy tanks at Maryang San. On reverse slope of Hill 317 aiming over crest.



Two Chinese SP Howitzers at the easterly foot of Hill 317.





Planning counter-attack on Hill 317



