

PEACEKEEPING DECORATIONS

THE UNITED NATIONS KOREA SERVICE MEDAL

CONTEXT

Korean War 1950-1953 & UNCURK 1950-1954

Military operations under United Nations Command (UNC) in Korea.

Creation and duration:

The Medal was created on 12 December 1950 by Resolution 483 of the United Nations General Assembly in recognition of service from 27 June 1950 to 27 July 1954.

DESCRIPTION

Piece: A circular medal made of bronze alloy 35 millimetres in diameter.

Obverse: The emblem of the United Nations, which is the globe of the earth viewed from above the North Pole within a wreath of two olive branches.

Reverse: An inscription which reads « FOR SERVICE IN THE DEFENCE OF THE PRINCIPLES OF THE UNITED NATIONS ».

Mounting: A single-toe scroll claw is attached to a plain, strait, solid, suspender bar with a claw which holds the medal.

Bar: A permanent bar is attached to the mount with the word « KOREA » or « CORÉE » inscribed on it.

Ribbon: A ribbon of 35 millimetres in width is composed of 17 vertical alternate blue and white bands. Both extremities of the ribbon are blue.

Symbolism: The ribbons' bands may unofficially represent the 17 countries which provided combatants. Blue and white are the official colours of the United Nations. White represents peace and blue signifies the spirit. Only Turkey has distributed this decoration with a red ribbon since blue and white are also the national colours of Greece.

Versions: This decoration was distributed in four official languages; English, French, Sanskrit and Greek. The Medal has also been issued in the principal languages of 23 participating countries.



RIBBON



OBVERSE



REVERSE

CRITERIA

Eligibility: This medal was awarded in recognition for serving one day under *United Nations Command* (UNC) in Korea or adjacent areas, including Japan and Okinawa, between 27 June 1950 and 27 July 1953.

The medal could also be awarded for an aggregate of thirty days service, which need not have been consecutive, including time spent on official visits of inspection to the qualifying area until one year after the war, to July 1954.

Peacekeeping: Apart from combat service in Korea or adjacent areas between 27 June 1950 and 27 July 1953, the members of the *United Nations Commission on the Unification and the Rehabilitation of Korea* (UNCURK) from the armistice of 27 July 1953 at Panmunjom, to 27 July 1954 were eligible to receive this medal.

Recipients: There were nearly a million participants including about 26,000 Canadians. The recipient's name and military service number are engraved on the rim of the medal.

Sacrifice: 516 Canadians have given their lives on the field of honour in Korea, including 43 Peacekeepers.

Wear: This military distinction is worn over the left breast after the war decorations and before peacekeeping medals in accordance with the official Canadian order of precedence.

Initials: There are no post-nominal initials for this decoration.

UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING MISSIONS IN KOREA

UNTCOK: United Nations Temporary Commission on Korea

*14 November 1947 to 12 December 1948 (not eligible for this decoration)**

UNCOK: United Nations Commission on Korea

*12 December 1948 to 07 October 1950 (not eligible for this decoration)**

UNCURK: United Nations Commission on the Unification and the Rehabilitation of Korea

07 October 1950 to present (eligible prior to July 1954)

**(Peacetime service in all UN missions in Korea since 1947 is recognised by the Canadian Peacekeeping Service Medal)*