

Korea: The Forgotten War

How would it feel to graduate from high school, get sent halfway across the world, fight and see thousands die, and then come back and not be remembered?

The date was June 25, 1950. On that day, South Korea was attacked by North Korea. It was a brutal war and yet never remembered. The main reason it is forgotten is because it was right between two giant wars, the reason for the conflict was unclear, and it was never officially declared a war.

One reason why the Korean War was forgotten was because it was in-between two major wars. It occurred five years after WWII and right before the Vietnam War. The world was still dealing with the aftermath of WWII, with many countries around the world that were affected, and still recovering at that time. Unfortunately, the Korean War was considered insignificant in comparison to WWII, which is a reason why the Korean War is sometimes forgotten.

Another reason why the Korean War was forgotten is because the reason for the fighting was unclear. The soldiers fighting were drafted very young, as soon as they graduated from high school in many cases. The soldiers did not get much information, which put them in a position where they were in a dangerous environment, fighting for their lives, for a cause they truly didn't understand. The

rest of the world was also not well-informed, which is another reason why the Korean War was forgotten.

Finally, the Korean War was forgotten because it was never officially declared a war and went by many different names. When the war began, the president was Harry S. Truman. Truman called the Korean War a “police action” to get it past Congress, because he needed Congress’s permission to declare war. It was referred to as the Korean Conflict. The people in South Korea called it 6-25, because it started June 25. The people in North Korea called it the Fatherland Liberation War. In China, it was known as the War to Resist America and Aid Korea. Just like Truman, Mao Tse Tung of China refused to call it a war. The final reason the Korean War was forgotten was because of the fact that it was never really recognized as a war.

Just as it was never really a war, the Korean War also never really ended. The north and south just came to an agreement. Even though the Korean War wasn’t as bad as WWII, it was still very devastating. There were 36,500 Americans killed in combat; 102,000 wounded; 8,000 not recovered; 7,245 prisoners of war and 2,806 died in captivity. We forgot because it was right between two giant wars, the reason was unclear, and it was never officially declared a war. Even

though we-in the United States-sometimes forget the Korean War, the people over there don't. We helped South Korea, and they remain grateful to this day. To them it will never be forgotten.

L.A.

Sophia Cintron

8th

2/6/12

Korea: The Forgotten War

There are many reasons why the Korean War is called "The Forgotten War", but there are three main points. First: America had just gone through a long and costly war and it was still dealing with the long term effects of WWII, Second: The Korean War was in between World War II and the Vietnam War; and thirdly: Many people in America questioned what was the reason we were even involved in that conflict.

America was tired of fighting wars. Two world wars had cost the United States millions of dollars, and worse, hundreds of thousands of dead and injured men and women. A lot of people in this country were still grieving over the loss of relatives and friends. So sending a whole new generation of young men and women to an uncertain situation made many upset, and to many it was too soon to face this once again.

Another reason why the Korean War is known as the "forgotten war" is that it was viewed by many as a conflict and not a war. World War II had involved most

of the civilized world and affected just about everybody so it could not be ignored. As a result of changes in communication, the Vietnam War could be seen live everyday in the evening news. The advances in satellite technology and television allowed people to follow practically up to the minute what was happening in live color. You could not avoid it. The Korean War seems in comparison to be happening on another planet.

Third, many people wondered why we were sending troops over to Korea to start with. It was not as clear as it was why we had to get involved in the conflict. Many people felt it was a waste because it was not our battle to fight. We should let the Koreans solve their own issues. The United States had not been physically attacked like World War II, so there was no need to be over there.

For example the lady who came to speak with us. Her husband went to fight in the Korean War and was killed in action. When she found out, she had no one to talk to about it because there were only World War II veterans around. They got the parades and recognition but what did the Korean veterans get when they came back home? Not much except maybe a few condolence cards, but that was about it.

In closing the Korean War was as real as World War II or Vietnam if not as glamorous. Young people fought, died or were injured as a result of it. To those that came back it is not a 'forgotten war'. Those Americans still alive carry the scars, both mental and physical, of this brutal war and will stay with them until the day they die. Their sacrifice was no less important than those who fought in the World Wars, Vietnam, or any of the Gulf Wars and deserve our respect, gratitude, and admiration forever.

Korean War: The Forgotten War

A lot of people refer to the Korean War as a “forgotten war” because only thirty-six thousand lives were lost, or it only lasted three years. The word *only* shouldn't be in that sentence. Any life lost in a war, forgotten or not, is a life too many. This year marks the sixtieth anniversary of a war that some people called a waste of time and money. Many didn't even consider it a war. To them it was simply a conflict; not pertaining to them. It was out of sight and out of mind, but not for those whose family was fighting in it.

It was June of 1950 when North Korea attacked their sister country south of them. The north crossed the 38 parallel, the border of the two countries on the twenty-fifth. The UN requested troops from various countries as reinforcements for South Korea. President Truman sent out letters to young men, inviting them to serve their nation in the armed forces. After training, the new troops were sent off to Korea with little idea of why they were going there. As far as the American government was concerned this was a war against communism itself. There was some early back-and-forth fighting with high casualties and very little to show for it. The government worked hard and long to find a resolution to the problem of North Korea. Few people who did completely understand the severity of what was happening knew exactly what was at stake. What they feared most was a World War III. But, in the summer of 1953, the war was officially pronounced over, and for most people, that particular fear was set aside.

The Korean War was never forgotten; not in America with so many lives lost, and certainly not in Korea. In collateral damage, reminders of the war have been repaired. However, no amount of time can erase the fear that these people experienced. In our own country, the proof lies in Washington, D.C., at the Korean War Veterans Memorial. This memorial is for the Korean *War* veterans. Not the Korean *conflict* veterans. It honors all the souls lost for this cause, and forever reserves a place for them in American history.

The Korean War began in June of 1950 just five years after World War II, and ended in June of 1953 just one year before the Vietnam War. Being sandwiched by these two wars of extreme casualties and length, it is easy to see how a war of three years could be overshadowed. Thinking of those troops, being away from their country and homes and all things familiar, can three years really be considered short? What about their families, that could only watch and wait and pray as hard as they possibly can for their soldier to come home? What is three years for them? *A lifetime.*

The Korean War will never be forgotten. There are thirty-six thousand reasons why it will be remembered. The freedom that our soldiers fought for will live on forever.

LA/SS

Ryan Banahan

Grade 7

2-13-12

Korean War

In 1910, Japan seized control of the peninsula of Korea. Following the surrender of Japan in 1945, the United States divided Korea on the 38th parallel, with Soviet Russia temporarily occupying the North, and the United States temporarily occupying the South. North and South Korea watched each other on the border of "No-Man's Land." On June 25, 1950, North Korea attacked South Korea, declaring an all-out war.

The Korean War is known as the "Forgotten War." Although it is given this label, no war can ever be forgotten, including the families of the 36,940 men who were killed. This war was officially called a "police action" by President Truman, although there was too much blood that was shed for us to forget what happened during that time.

The United States sent its naval and air support to assist South Korea, as the U.S. was South Korea's primary supporter. This support was also essential to support U.S. ground troops, for a war effort nearly five thousand miles from our

west coast. The Soviet Union and China, two very powerful communist countries, came to assist North Korea, and also presented the threat of nuclear warfare. This was a complicated situation for the U.S., because if they had used nuclear weapons against North Korea, they were also bombing Chinese and Soviet troops, and the Soviets might have then invaded the NATO countries of Europe.

The war went back and forth between North and South Korea. Territory changed hands during the war, so whoever was winning the war one day might be losing the war the next. It also didn't help that the South Korean soldiers were not properly trained at that time, and at times would either retreat or defect to the north. The U.S. and NATO soldiers assisting the South Koreans were not familiar with the environment, and didn't always clearly understand the mission. These soldiers were drafted into the war, and almost immediately sent overseas to fight on the ground and through the air.

The main fighting of the war went on until 1953, when an armistice was declared. However, the fighting continued on and off for two years because the tension was still high. One major problem was how to return the prisoners of war. Many of the captured Chinese and North Korean soldiers did not want to be returned to the north. The Korean Armistice Agreement helped end the fighting.

Military forces patrolled the Korean Demilitarized Zone, which divided the North and South. It was made so no attacks or invasions would start up the war again. Although there was an agreement to stop fighting, nobody won the war.

The truth is, the war never ended. A conflict could rise at any time and spark another battle. North Korea is a communist country that does not agree with South Korea about how to live. Unfortunately, our country's enormous sacrifice to help this country has never been fully appreciated.

The Korean War

Understanding the War Through the Eyes of Veterans

What are the first words that pop into mind when you hear the word “war”? Battle, conflict, struggle? Yes, but what is it to the people actually in the war? Risking your life; never knowing if you’ll ever reunite with your family. It’s scary, and the Korean War is just one example.

The Korean War was between the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (supported by China) and the Republic of Korea (supported primarily by the USA). In 1910, the Korean peninsula was conquered by Japan, but in 1945, Japan surrendered. American administrators divided the peninsula along the 38th parallel. We then began to occupy the southern part of Korea.

On June 25, 1950, North Korea invaded South Korea, beginning the Korean War. Young American men were sent to South Korea at once. That meant leaving their families and friends. Some felt honored to be given such an opportunity, but most, if not all, were terrified. No one knew if they were going to come back alive and what about their family? It was scary enough to sacrifice their lives, but they were worried about their families too. These men couldn’t send letters every day. What if something bad happened to them, and their families won’t know until weeks (maybe even months) later?

The United States and other members of the United Nations force came to the aid of South Korea repelling the invasion. General MacArthur was ordered by President Truman to transfer material to the Army of the Republic of Korea while giving air cover to the evacuation of US nationals. North Korea forces numbered between 150,000 to 200,000 troops. They were organized into 10 infantry divisions, including a tank division and an air force division. China and Russia gave North Korea ALL their weapons.

Many soldiers were unfamiliar with Korea, therefore making it harder to win the battle. Soldiers were fed a spoon full of rice a day and slept in a fox hole. It was difficult to survive, and many struggled. In 1951, US troops switched from steel to aluminum for war craft. On August 29, 1952, 1400 Far East Air Force and carrier aircrafts bombed P'yongyang, North Korea, causing the largest strike of the Korean War.

On July 27, 1953, a ceasefire was signed, which stopped the fighting and hostilities. The US got its primary goal of keeping South Korea free and independent, but the North was not defeated and continues to present a significant regional threat. Even though the war isn't completely over, Koreans are very appreciative of our country. Veterans are welcomed back, having the ability to stay in a Five-Star hotel, expenses paid.

Many Americans didn't care about the war and thought it was a waste of time, but they were wrong. In our minds, we may just think about winning, but it's different to our Korean Veterans. They believed in doing their best, working hard, saving lives, and giving Korea their freedom. And that's what we should remember about the Korean War.

L.A.

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2-12-2012

The Forgotten War

"War is Hell." - William T. Sherman

War is a horrific conflict between two or more groups of people resulting in the loss of hundreds to millions of lives. This war, sadly, was forgotten in the eyes of the public. What makes this war so special from others? Why did it happen, but more importantly, why was it forgotten? The Korean War was a U.N. police action defending The Republic of Korea (South Korea), against the invading Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea).

The South Korean people built their society based upon capitalist and democratic principles. However, the North Korean's ideals were opposite to those of its Southern counterpart. So in an attempt to unify the country under one government, they invaded South Korea. The United Nations later passed a resolution, condemning North Korea's actions, and authorized the shipment of troops and supplies to aid the South Korean government. After retaking Seoul, the capital of South Korea, and pushing the invaders back beyond the 38th parallel, U.N. Commander Douglas MacArthur decided to continue pursuit of the North Korean forces. This pushed the remaining North Koreans back to the Yalu River, the Northern border between Korea and China.

Unfortunately, with reinforcements from China and supplies from Russia, they unleashed a devastating surprise counterattack, pushing the U.N. forces back to the 38th parallel. A prolonged deadlock ensued until an armistice was signed in 1953. Although the

"official" war was over, hostilities remain between the two nations. So why was this war forgotten? Some opposed it altogether, believing it was merely an extension of the Truman doctrine to prevent the spread of Communism. Others said that General MacArthur crossed the line pursuing the North Koreans over the border, or that the war was a drain on our resources. Many didn't care, as World War Two had just ended, and many were still sick of the idea of going to fight a battle that technically wasn't ours to fight. There wasn't a figurehead to blame, unlike World War Two that had several negative icons such as Tojo, Hitler, or Mussolini.

Yet because of the courage of the men and women, who did go and fight, hope was given to a discouraged nation, and gave them a reason to fight again after so much had already been lost. We asked much, too much perhaps of these men and women, as many had just served lengthy tours a few years prior. The war, sadly, was forgotten in the eyes of those who stood on the sidelines, and to those who didn't care. To this day, the South Koreans honor these veterans as heroes, and rightfully so. It is up to the scholars of today, and the historians of tomorrow, to decide whether this hard fought battle will be lost to time, or remembered with pride.

The Forgotten War

A popular question about the Korean War is, "Why is it called the Forgotten War?" There are actually many reasons why it is called the Forgotten War. First of all, there was no big bad guy such as Adolf Hitler, but instead, Communism. Second of all, the Korean War was nearly completely overshadowed by World War Two (WWII), which was right before it. And lastly, it ended as a truce, not as a victory or defeat. Those may be only a few reasons why it is called the Forgotten War, but they are very important ones.

An extremely important reason why the Korean War is called the Forgotten War is because there wasn't a villain that everyone could blame everything on, such as Hitler, Kaiser Wilhelm, or King George III. Communism is simply not a memorable villain. Actually, we were more interested in stopping the spread of Communism than defeating it. A form of government normally doesn't have the power to split the country in two.

The Korean War also came right after WWII. To be honest, no one wanted to deal with any more conflict. People were used to their lifestyles after WWII. They were just glad to be free of such a large conflict. Many of the soldiers that fought in WWII were called back to fight in the Korean War, and this practice was unpopular. The

Korean War to them couldn't hold a candle to what they experienced during the previous war.

Another important reason that the Korean War is known as the Forgotten War is because it never really ended. People might say, "Well wouldn't that make people remember it?" No, people got bored of meetings that went nowhere. Day after day, the meetings would go on, but they never accomplished anything. We don't hear many stories now about the Korean War. To many people, it is something that, to them, does not matter anymore.

So, the Korean War is known as the Forgotten War because it did not have a memorable villain, if a single one at all. It also came just after a much larger war. Lastly, the Korean War never officially ended. Unfortunately, to many people, the years 1950 to 1953 were not very remarkable at all. And that is why, the Korean War is known as the Forgotten War.

The Korean War

“What is the Korean War? Why was it forgotten?” The Korean War is many things; anger and despair as well as jubilant times. There was sadness and sorrow as well as joy. The Korean War affected many people’s lives. Here are a few reasons why it was called “forgotten,” how it affected many families, and what came of it.

The Korean War is sometimes referred to as “The Forgotten War.” This is because it was in between two major wars (World War II & The Vietnam War). Many people were still going through the trials of World War II that they didn’t want to focus on a new war. This insignificance and unusual timing caused many people to call it unremembered. So many people set aside its true meaning and called it what they might, but to those who have experienced it, it is all but forgotten.

Many people have heard of the Korean War but have never really known how it affected other families. The Korean War caused many men to leave their families and all they know best to come and serve. It also affected many people because of the change in lifestyle. Many men did not have a comfy bed to sleep on. Instead, they slept in fox holes(holes dug to protect from enemy fire). Not only did they sleep in fox holes and leave their families, many men had never heard of planes or trains because of their farm background. This shows how proud and honored we should be to have such wonderful soldiers.

The Korean War was started from a frivolous act due to a desire of something Russia and China didn’t have. They wanted land. When Korea was divided at the 38th parallel, Russia and

China were not content to just have North Korea. They wanted South Korea as well. To win over South Korea (which was occupied by the USA), they would have to plan a surprise attack as well as use some of their own weapons. To South Korea's surprise, North Korea was fully equipped with tanks and other advanced weapons. South Korea was very shocked to see such an enormous army. Nevertheless, they fought bravely. For three years this war raged on (1950-1953). Finally, it ended on July 27, 1953, due to the signing of the Panmunjom Peace Treaty. Even though the treaty was signed, many troops are still in Korea to make sure it is withheld. Veterans are now invited to go back to South Korea in honor of their previous deeds.

The Korean War consists of many other stories and secrets that have determined the fate of many. Many of those times are jubilant. Some of those times are sorrowful. Why it was called "forgotten." How it affected many families. What came to happen. They all make up something. The Korean War.

8th

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LA

2-6-12

Korean War

June 25, 1950 to June 27, 1953, a span of three years, resulted in over 10 million unnecessary deaths. Many more remained, but with either wounds or memories more painful than wounds. These men and women have seen what most people should never see, but instead of dwelling in misery, they came to share their stories and help others in the same position. These heroes are the veterans of the Korean War. Here are life-changing stories from the point of two perspectives.

Have you ever felt that your life is nearly over, that you are so scared that you can't differentiate flying dirt from bullets, that you may never see your loved one again, but yet you had no idea why it's happening? Most likely not. For a Korean War veteran named Tom Theio, this was a repeating scenario. As a patriotic American he was drafted into war, but what makes his story just the same as most of the soldiers of the Korean War, he had no clue why he was there. He spent countless nights in a trench, literally a hole in the ground. This somewhat wretched but, protective ditch consisted of a

gut wrenching combination of mud and water and made any soldier susceptible to any fungal infection which eventually took the lives of many good men. Not only did Tom Theio use this trench as a protection from enemy fire but as his temporary home. This loyal soldier with no clear knowledge of why he was there, spent his nights in a damp hole in the ground with gun fire always a threat. Yet he never complained. He did his duty. To be in a place so unholy, Tom never separated himself from God. With evil fire and bloodshed, he would walk proud with a rosary in his pocket with God's protection and love.

The second perspective finds a women waking up every morning anticipating her husband coming home so that she can hug and love him. This women's name is Carol Beckner. At the time of the Korean War people were drafted quickly and without notice. A way to try to get a deferment back then was to get married. If you were married, there would be a lower chance that you would get drafted over someone who wasn't. So they pushed up their planned marriage date. But Mr. Beckner was drafted anyway. After a few long years of waiting and prayer in anticipation of his homecoming, a truce was signed. Her husband will be coming home. She finally receives a telegram about her husband. With excitement and joy that he is coming home she rips it open to find that he is coming home, but she

will never be able to speak . . . love. . . or be with him again. He had been killed in the war, even after the armistice was in effect.

No one should have to endure the mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual pain of war. We as Americans salute all drafted, or enlisted, fighting men and women who have died while protecting the liberties we cherish, we thank you for your sacrifice.

L.A.
Gr 8

Lynette Fisher
2-5-12

Essay

I kneeled there hating everything that had happened here in the last year. I hated the letter I received when I was 20 that brought me. I hated leaving my wife and I hated myself for coming here, even if the only other choice was prison. I was tired of fighting, at this moment, I wanted to forget everything about training and just sit and cry myself to sleep. I wanted to quit. I was lucky to even be still be here; a soldier had just run out of luck.

I stared at him and that awful bullet in his arm that caused him to bleed to death. I wanted out of Korea. Every day I heard that the war was ending tomorrow, but it seemed as if tomorrow was farther and farther every day. Although I didn't even know this soldier, I felt an awful feeling. I had seen many die in this war before, but this was different. It was as if my heart couldn't hold up. I knew I had to leave the spot if I didn't want a bullet in my flesh, but I couldn't pick myself up.

I looked around at Korea. Fighting for South Korea wasn't easy. America was trying to get democracy into North Korea and defend their own part of Korea: the south. This soldier was going to be just one of the 33,741 that would end up dying. I knew I had to make it out of here, not for me, but for my wife and for the world. I knew I had to tell my story so this war wouldn't be forgotten. People had to know about the awful war.

I knew it was a risk, but I pulled out the rosary that I kept in my pocket. I held it tight in my hand, right by my heart. I closed my eyes and I prayed. I prayed that I would someday come home to my wife. I prayed for all the soldiers, for people in Korea, and that this would be the last war. I prayed harder than I ever had before. At that moment, I felt my heart warm up, and I pictured my wife when I had last seen her at the train stop in 1950. I hoped that would not be the last time I would see her.

Three years later, 1953, the war finally ended. I made it home and my wife and I were reunited. The South Koreans were grateful to us and welcomed us back whenever we wanted. I wanted to go back, but not for many, many, years. I prayed to God again, but this time, thanked him for answering my prayers.

L.A.

Ryan Saez

Gr.6

2/6/12

Korean War Essay

The Korean War was known as the "Forgotten War" for a lot of reasons. One reason was because the Korean War started 5 years after World War II. Some believe that the Korean War was more brutal than World War II, because both North and South Korean teenage boys were made to join the Army and fight in combat. This was a civil war between the North and South Koreans, so families were separated.

This war was different from World War II, because the United States was not attacked like in Pearl Harbor. There was also no single villain in Korea like there was in World War II like Hitler. The enemy was communism and that North Korea and China wanted to make all of Korea one communist country. Also, many Americans originally came from Europe, and they felt like they had a connection to Europe, but there were not as many Koreans in America so there was not as big of a connection.

The U.S. never declared war on North Korea, so it was a war by the United Nations Security Council and the U.S. was part of the United Nations. So this was not thought of as an American War; it was a United Nations War. Technically it was not the United States that declared war so the American people didn't support this war as much as they did World War II.

When the war was over, the soldiers came back home and continued with their lives. Since there was no real victory, there were no victory parades for the soldiers coming home. In World War II, there were victory parades and celebrations. When the soldiers came home, many

used the G.I. Bill to go back to school and get an education. This helped them get jobs and become successful. So, many Americans forgot the war because it involved a number of countries, not just the U.S. People also felt that Korea was not as important as Europe after World War II.

The reason that the Korean War is known as the “Forgotten War” is because it was really not a war; it was a “police action” by the United Nations. Americans did not have a strong connection to the people of Korea unlike Europe during World War II. There was also no victory for the U.S. to celebrate, but the soldiers never forgot the war, because they lost a lot of buddies in Korea.

Korean War

Can you imagine, being away from your family and risking your life for a war that the people in your own country didn't find important? The Korean War is sometimes called the "Forgotten War." It is not forgotten in the minds of the many young men and women that served in this brutal war. It may not have been a war about the direct safety of Americans and the United States of America, but it was considered for many to be the war that stopped the rapid spread of Communism in Asia.

The Korean War started as being called a "police action." The job of the soldiers sent to Korea were to help police the situation brewing in the country and protect the rights of the Republic of Korea from the larger Communist nations China and the Soviet Union. It quickly turned into a full-scale war between the United States, with the help of the United Nations and the other half of Korea, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea with the help of China and the Soviet Union. China and the Soviet Union wanted all of Korea to be unified under Communism, as they were.

This war occurred between two more well-known wars, World War II and the Vietnam War. In the three years of the Korean War there were over thirty-six thousand United States casualties. This means that there were approximately twelve thousand deaths per year, compared to the Vietnam War, which averaged only three thousand deaths per year. There

was also no main villain for Americans to rally around in this war. World War II had both Hitler and Stalin, but this war had only a vague government concept, which made it harder for people to be enthusiastic about.

When our soldiers arrived back to their home country, there were no victory parades or cheering crowds. All the soldiers just came back and went on with their lives. Although it affected the men and women that served deeply, there was no way for them to deal with it once they arrived home. The Vietnam War started a short two years later and the Korean War was forgotten by most Americans, earning it the nickname "The Forgotten War."

Although it has been called the "Forgotten War", it will be remembered by many as the war that effectively stopped communism across Eastern Europe and Asia. Personally, I think it shouldn't be known as the "Forgotten War." It should be recognized by all people because those brave soldiers helped put a huge dent in stopping communism. Also, it may be not known as one of the most brutal wars in history, but it was harsh for the people there. Not only for the soldiers, but for the families and citizens that wanted a peaceful life and country. We should forever honor the people that served in this war.

Why the “Forgotten War”?

On June 25, 1950 the first shot of the Korean War was fired; except no one heard it. That first bullet that caused the start of so many deaths was forgotten. When the North Koreans crossed the 38th parallel, which divided Communist North Korea and the Democratic South, United States’ President, Harry S. Truman, sent American troops to aid the South. The American soldiers did not understand why so many of them had been drafted. They had no clue that they were, as the Korean War Veterans explained, “*Fighting to drive the first nail in the evil coffin of communism*”. The Korean War took place 5 years after WWII and a few years before the Vietnam War, making it of little importance compared to other major wars.

While the brave servicemen and women of our country were fighting, bullets dashing past their heads, in the cold, freezing weather of Korea, most Americans were entirely unaware that the war was taking place. Nobody knew of the terrors our troops were facing to put a stop to the spread of communism not only in South Korea but Southeast Asia as well. The people who knew about the war were relatives or friends of someone who’d been

drafted. They did not wish to talk about it though because it was too painful. Although most people didn't know, the Americans in Korea were fighting for South Korea's freedom.

Another important reason why the Korean War won its nickname, the "Forgotten War" was because it took place after World War II and before the Vietnam War. While WWII faced such a malevolent person like Hitler that was seen clearly overpowered by the eyes of the world, the Korean War did not. The Vietnam War seized controversy because many Americans did not agree with the fact that we had entered the war. These major wars made the Korean War seem like just a conflict, but it was more than a mere conflict. How can you call a confrontation against the evil of communism a conflict, when more than 140,000 people were wounded, killed in combat, or in captivity? Still, when our soldiers came back from Korea there were no victory festivities or parades; no welcomes.

That first bullet of the Korean War might have been silent to the rest of the world but the KWV that came to my school helped me to understand the huge impact the war has had on communism and Korea today. They demonstrated how North Korea and South Korea look at night. North Korea has very little lights on and South Korea is filled with the bright light. They

are also filled with the light of their shining star of democracy. “The Forgotten War” got its name, because no one knew that the war was happening and it was between two major wars. Through their different stories, the Korean War Veterans helped me appreciate the soldiers who risked their lives for freedom and explained why it was called The Forgotten War.

L.A.

Logan Waddell

Grade 8

Korean War Essay

War: a state of armed conflict between different nations or states or different groups within a nation or state. This is the official definition, and yet the Korean War is seen as the "forgotten war." What makes this war special? What is the irony of the fighting in the Korean peninsula and how has the pain and suffering affected so many lives today? Not long ago, a group of men and women sat down and talked to my school about their understanding of the Korean War. I am now going to show them what I made of it, and how I have reflected on what they said. This is my understanding of war.

The Korean War is called the Forgotten War... How could a war just be forgotten? Well there's the catch. It was never even heard of at the time by the American people! A vet even said himself that at the time he was drafted, he didn't even know there was a country called Korea! These soldiers were sent to fight in a foreign land, for an unknown cause, and spilled blood and tears on the soil of a battlefield. It is hard enough to fight for a cause, but harder to fight not knowing your cause.

The vets were given letters saying that their neighbors had chosen them to be drafted into the army. Who has the right to send someone to a Hell on Earth? These men had to answer this call and train for the next couple of months, which would be the hardest experience of their lives, and then sent to a foreign land to fight for the previously named "unknown cause." They probably hadn't slept under a roof for that whole year they were there. They had to march, shoot, dig, hide, and survive for a whole year. And all of this happened because their neighbors had been decided that persons fate.

War is a confusing place. You will miss your family and want nothing more then for you and your friends to make it home and see your families. The first moments of battle can be a blur. The screaming and shouting, the bullets whizzing and popping from unknown directions, and men you had seen alive not moments ago, now lay dead on the ground. You are running and a mortar round explodes in front of the guy ahead of you. Because he was first and not you, he died and you lived. What made you better then him for you to live? You had shot a man who was the enemy. Did he have a family like yours? These are the sad thoughts of a soldier in war.

These men had gone home with the images and experiences they gathered. Even in the Hell, they did the greatest deed any man could give. They gave a people their freedom. And to me, they are not "Forgotten", but they are our Humble Heroes.

"All wars are civil wars, because all men are brothers." ~Francois Fenelon