

## *The Korean War Veteran*

*Internet Journal - January 4, 2012*

### **The War Memorial of Korea needs our help!**



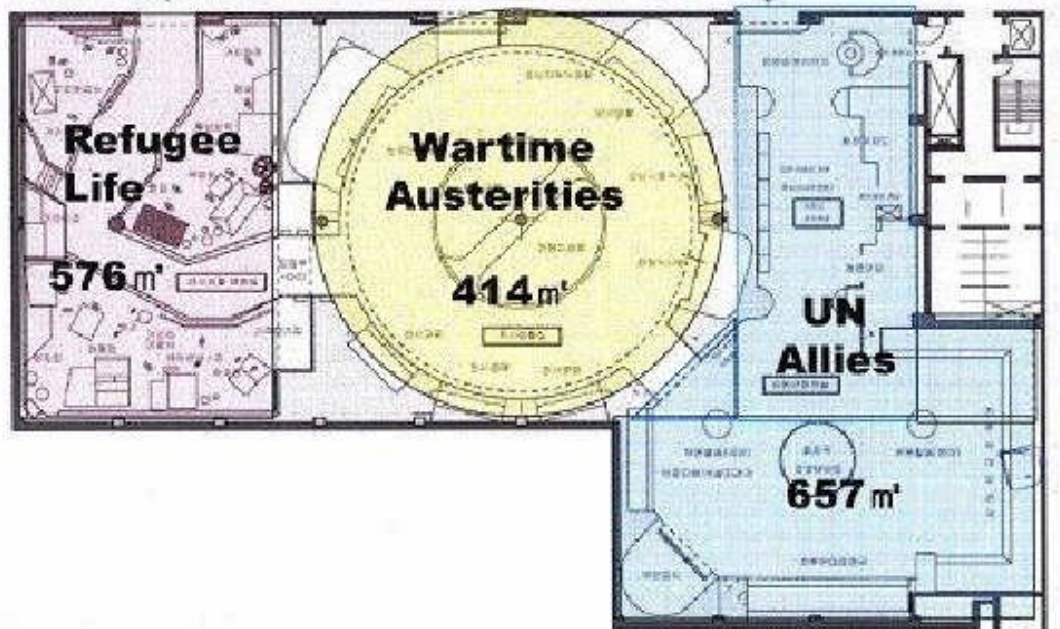
*Artifacts required to commemorate UN member nations in museum's greatly expanded exhibit area*

To Veterans all over the world, and apologies to those in Canada. For Canada, the Korean War Veteran publication was asked sometime ago to publish an article about an appeal being made for Korean War artifacts, including personal family mementos.

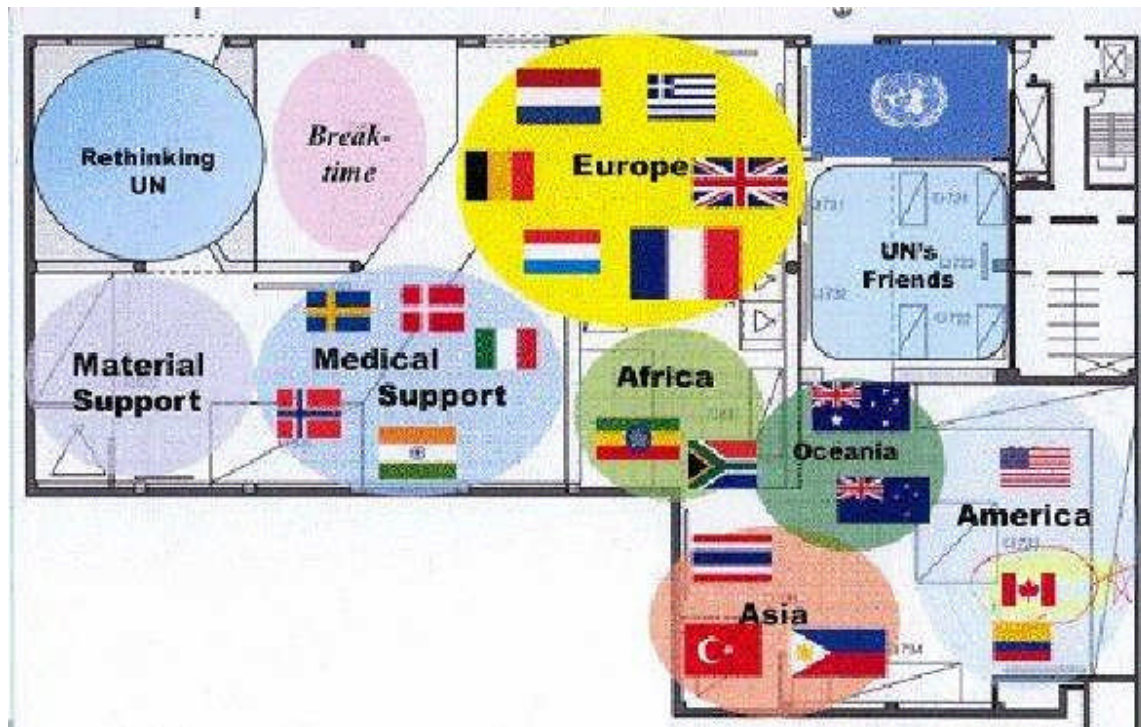
The War Memorial of Korea is undertaking a huge expansion of the displays that commemorate the activities of all United Nations Forces countries during the Korean War.

It is the first such major expansion in decades. The relatively small former UN Room, which contained 657 square metres (approx 7,000 square feet) of floor

space, is being expanded by 250%, to cover an area of 1,647 square metres (approx 17,730 square feet).



Old layout of floor (above) in Korean War Memorial showing relatively small UN Allies exhibit are of just 657 square metres – always a point of contention by some veterans because the UN Allies figured so significantly in Korea’s history and yet remembrance of 26 nations was jammed into such a small area. The new design (below) devotes the entire 1,647 square metres of floor space to the UN Allies and their historic united achievement.



Major General (Ret'd) Park Jang Gyu, director of the War Memorial of Korea, has asked Canada's defence attaché, Col. Jaques Morneau to ask veterans to contribute photographs and artifacts that might be used in the expanded exhibits. In his very energetic appeal for these materials, General Park specifically asked for:

- Photographs
- Video films
- Oral histories
- Letters to/from service personnel
- Diaries of service personnel
- Service uniforms
- Service medals
- Stories of famous servicemen
- Essays by family members reflecting on participation in the war by loved ones

Of course, the list is open ended and the above items were suggested by General Park in his appeal. However, they do impart the sort of material that his curators are looking for a hint at the overall story they are trying to tell in their exhibits.

Of course, this request no doubt applies to veterans of all of the nations that defended and supported Korea during the war, including the five that provided us

with that wonderful medical support, which augmented and in some cases or at some times surpassed that available to us by medical units of our own forces.

Canadians can send artifacts to Colonel Jacques Morneau at the following address.

**Col. Jacques Morneau**  
**Canadian Defence Attache**  
**Embassy of Canada**  
**16-1-Jeong-dong,**  
**Jung-gu, CPO Box 6299,**  
**Seoul, Korea 100-662**  
[\*\*jacques.morneau@international.gc.ca\*\*](mailto:jacques.morneau@international.gc.ca)

If express or other charges are involved, we recommend asking your Member of Parliament to help, or to request the support of Captain Yves Lesieur at the Directorate of History and Heritage, Department of National Defence, Ottawa.

[\*\*YVES.LESIEUR@forces.gc.ca\*\*](mailto:YVES.LESIEUR@forces.gc.ca)

Veterans from other nations should contact their defence attaches in Korea, if they have not been separately asked to participate in this activity.

They should use their own embassies in Korea to maintain control over the materials. However, as an alternative, artifacts can also be sent directly to the War Memorial of Korea, but should have ample identification of nation, unit, donor and contact information.

Those who elect to make donations in that way should send them to:

**Major General Park, Jang-gyu**  
**Director**  
**The War Memorial of Korea**  
**#8 Yongsan-dong, Yongsan-gu,**  
**Seoul, Korea L40-021.**  
**Tel : 02-709-3044. Fax ; 02-709-3069**

We are sorry that the appeal is being published on the late side, for which we take responsibility. The matter is now urgent as the target date for refurbishment of the exhibits is **April, 2012** – so response should be immediate.

*A caveat.* You likely will never again have the artifacts, photographs, documents in your hands, so be very wary about sending precious originals that have family value. In some cases, the originals may be required as copies will not suffice.

In the case of the Canadian exhibit the Korean War Veteran publication has recommended installing prints of paintings that will show some of the positions the Canadians defended.

One of these is “Holding at Kapyong” by renowned Canadian veteran and war artist, Ted Zuber.



*Holding at Kapyong – Artist Ted Zuber*

We have also recommended commissioning Mr. Zuber to execute another painting that would show Canadians in action on the Hill 355 complex, on or around which or on patrols a quarter of all Canadians who fell in Korea lost their lives.

We have not discussed this with Mr. Zuber, or with the museum curators, but feel certain he would accept the commission if we receive the go ahead from the War Memorial curatorial staff.

There should also be artifacts and a print of one of Mr. Zuber’s paintings that reflect the proud role of the Royal Canadian Navy, which went into action in Korea in August, 1950 and participated in the Incheon Landing operations and stayed in action throughout the war with eight destroyers rotating in flotillas of three.



*Daybreak, Gulf of Korea – Artist Ted Zuber*

We have also recommended that artist Yoo Young-mun, who sculpted, cast and assembled the Monuments to Canadian Fallen that stand in the UN Memorial Cemetery and in Ottawa, be commissioned to sculpt and cast a small version of the Monument for inclusion in the exhibit.



***Monument to Canadian Fallen, courtesy National Capital Commission, Ottawa***

Some of these things will require funding, which we are ready to address, if their exhibition is assured in advance.

Canadian veterans, please note. None of these recommendations have been discussed with officers of the Korea Veterans Association of Canada and have been advanced as suggestions requested by Canada's Defence Attache.

However, we stand ready to support the projects, including initiating and assisting in any funding requirements, including development of fund raising strategy, with donated funds being received and managed by non-affiliated third parties.

