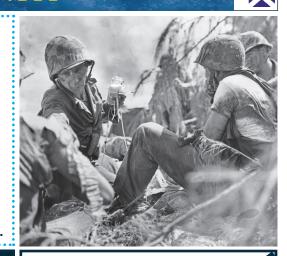## *75th Anniversary*

THE KOREAN WAR
June 25, 1950 - July 27, 1953

- The Korean War began on **June 25, 1950** with the invasion of South Korea by North Korean forces. This posed a critical challenge to the United States and its commitment to containing the spread of communism.
- The widespread use of **helicopters for medical evacuation** and new **frontline surgical capabilities** improved survivability.
- The war concluded with the Korean Armistice Agreement on July 27, 1953, which **established a heavily fortified Demilitarized Zone (DMZ)** near the 38th parallel, solidifying the division of the Korean Peninsula.

1.7+ million
U.S. Navy and Marine Corps personnel served in the Korean War

For every 1,000 Navy and Marine Corps personnel serving in Korea there were about 50 Navy medical personnel (officers and enlisted)

4,738
U.S. Navy and Marine Corps personnel killed in Korea. This includes 2 Navy physicians and 109 hospital corpsmen attached to the 1st Marine Division.

Navy and Marine total battle casualties due to missile wounds

85%

20%
Navy and Marine fatalities due to missile wounds

Inchon Invasion, Sept. 15 - 19, 1950

- U.S.-led amphibious operation preceding the recapture of Seoul, South Korea from North Korea. Within 12 days after the invasion, the **First Marine Division**, supported by units of the United Nations X Corps, occupied Seoul.
- It was the **largest amphibious operation post-World War II** and largest since the Battle of Okinawa (1945). The operation involved some **75,000** troops and **260+** naval vessels.
- Navy medical personnel at Inchon treated **5,510+** casualties and processed **2,840+** surgical cases.
- Over **58%** of casualties received at the 1st Marine Division Hospital at Inchon during the assault phase were returned to the fight.
- An estimated **99.43%** of patients treated by Navy Medicine survived evacuation.

Chosin Reservoir, Nov. 26 - Dec. 13, 1950

- Beset by a vastly superior enemy and brutal subzero temperatures, the 1st Marine Division fought a tenacious withdrawal from the Chosin Reservoir in northeast Korea. The conditions and fierce fighting tested the limits of human endurance and became a legendary example of Marine Corps resilience.
- Conditions like frostbite, hypothermia, and dehydration were widespread. Navy medical personnel were responsible for first aid, frontline surgery, treating cold weather injuries, managing evacuation, and transporting casualties across difficult terrain under constant attack.
- Over 7,350 casualties, many with cold weather injuries and requiring amputation, were treated by Navy medical personnel by the time the Marines reached Hamhung-Hungnam, a major evacuation port.

NOTABLE MEDICAL INNOVATIONS

- **Casualty evacuation.** Navy hospital ships Consolation, Repose and Haven were fitted with helodecks helping to expedite casualty evacuation.
- **Field medical training.** Basic courses in amphibious and field medicine were re-established at Camp Lejeune and Camp Pendleton.
- **Vascular repair surgery.** New frontline surgical capabilities reduced the rate of amputation from 70 percent to 37 percent.
- **Surgical units.** Mobile surgical teams were used to supplement medical personnel and serve as rapid response units.
- **Floating laboratories.** The Navy expedited diagnostic analysis by employing laboratory ships offshore.

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MEDICAL HEROES

- Navy medical personnel in the Korean War were awarded 5 Medals of Honor, 27 Navy Crosses and 122 Silver Stars.
- HM3 Edward Benfold (1931-1952). Posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for heroism in the Battle of Bunker Hill (Sept. 5, 1952).
- HM3 (later HMCM) William Charette (1932-2012). Awarded the Medal of Honor for heroism during the fight for Vegas Outpost (March 26, 1953).
- HM3 Richard De Wert (1931-1951). Posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for heroism in Operation Rugged (April 5, 1951).
- HN Francis C. Hammond (1931-1953). Posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for heroism at Outpost Reno (March 26, 1953).
- HN John E. Kilmer (1930-1952). Posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for heroism in the Battle of Bunker Hill (Aug. 13, 1952).