PART 4

THE WAR ON THE GROUND
New Zealand artillerymen provided accurate and devastating firepower in attack and defence to various nationalities of the United Nations Command.

Source: National Library of New Zealand—Te Punahau o Aotearoa Ref: K-1216-F.
Lieutenant Colonel Frank Hassett (centre) took over 3RAR during a period of change and, with support of his junior officers, welded the battalion into a fine fighting unit.

Source: AWM 044485.

In the early hours of 3 October 1951, the start of Operation Commando, A and B Companies, 3RAR, crossed this valley floor and captured Hill 199.

Source: AWM 044744.
British units in Korea were brought up to strength with national servicemen and men from other battalions. Private Bill Speakman of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders served with the King’s Own Scottish Borderers and was awarded the Victoria Cross.

Source: AWM HOBJ2808.
Wounded soldiers were often sent to Japan for further treatment and convalescence. Pictured is Second Lieutenant William Purves of the King’s Own Scottish Borderers, resting at the Commonwealth Forces Convalescent Depot in Kure, Japan.

Source: AWM LEEJ0057.
Captain Perditta ‘Dita’ McCarthy, of the Royal Australian Army Nursing Service, served at the British Commonwealth General Hospital at Kure during the Korean War and took part in aeromedical evacuation flights to Korea.

Source: AWM HOBJ0204.
Sister Betty Washington, of the Royal Australian Air Force Nursing Service, had over a period of 10 months amassed 259 hours on casualty evacuation flights between Kimpo and Japan.

Source: AWM FEAF0656.

The morning after the armistice came into effect, Australian soldiers stand above their front-line trenches at the Hook. For the first time in more than three years the front line was silent.

Source: AWM P04641.105.
Defence in depth was vital in case of a Chinese breakthrough. Here men from 2RAR unload timber baulks to construct bunkers, most likely on the Hook.

This text is taken from In from the Cold: Reflections on Australia’s Korean War, edited by John Blaxland, Michael Kelly and Liam Brewin Higgins, published 2020 by ANU Press, The Australian National University, Canberra, Australia.