

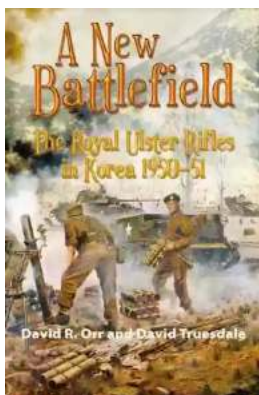
The Royal Ulster Rifles In Korea 1950 51: A Tale of Bravery and Sacrifice

The Royal Ulster Rifles, a renowned infantry regiment of the British Army, played a pivotal role in the Korean War (1950-1953) during their deployment from 1950 to 1951. Their unwavering bravery and sacrifice in the face of adversity exemplify the heroic spirit and determination of those who served in this harrowing conflict. This article delves into the story of The Royal Ulster Rifles in Korea, shedding light on the challenges they faced and the significant contributions they made towards achieving peace in the region.

Background: The Korean War

The Korean War erupted in 1950 when North Korean forces, supported by the Soviet Union and China, launched a surprise invasion of South Korea. As part of the United Nations response to restore peace, British forces were deployed, including the Royal Ulster Rifles.

The Royal Ulster Rifles, known for their strength, discipline, and professionalism, were sent to bolster the United Nations Command in Korea. Comprising soldiers primarily from Northern Ireland, they brought with them a strong tradition of military excellence which would soon be tested on the unforgiving battlefield.



A New Battlefield: The Royal Ulster Rifles in Korea

1950-51 by Mark Stille (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

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Screen Reader : Supported

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Print length : 272 pages



The Battle of Imjin River

One of the most defining moments for the Royal Ulster Rifles in Korea was their participation in the Battle of Imjin River. In April 1951, the Chinese People's Volunteer Army launched a massive offensive aimed at pushing back the United Nations forces. The Royal Ulster Rifles, stationed on a key hill known as Hill 235, found themselves at the forefront of this attack.

The Battle of Imjin River witnessed the Royal Ulster Rifles endure intense Chinese assaults. Despite being heavily outnumbered, they displayed remarkable resilience and fought valiantly, holding their positions for multiple days. Their determination and refusal to retreat bought precious time for other United Nations units to regroup and strengthen their defensive lines.

However, the Royal Ulster Rifles could not withstand the overwhelming Chinese forces forever. After facing relentless attacks and running out of ammunition and supplies, they were eventually forced to make a tactical withdrawal. The decision to withdraw was not a sign of defeat but a strategic move to ensure the survival of their remaining forces.

Bravery and Sacrifice

The Battle of Imjin River demonstrated the immense bravery and sacrifice displayed by The Royal Ulster Rifles. Despite being vastly outnumbered and facing brutal conditions in the Korean terrain, they fought vigorously to protect

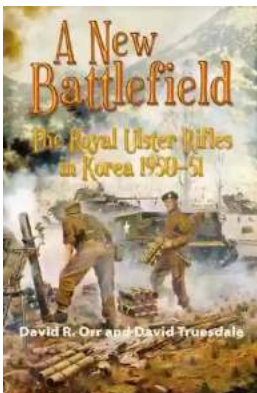
their fellow soldiers and hold their line. Their unwavering courage inspired both their comrades and future generations to never surrender in the face of adversity.

During the battle, many members of the Royal Ulster Rifles made the ultimate sacrifice, losing their lives in the pursuit of freedom and peace. Their bravery, selflessness, and devotion to their comrades epitomize the true essence of heroism.

Lingering Legacy

The actions of the Royal Ulster Rifles in Korea have left a lasting legacy and garnered immense respect and admiration. Their achievements and sacrifices during the Korean War have been commemorated through memorials and plaques in Northern Ireland. The courage and resilience they displayed continue to inspire future generations of soldiers and remind us of the cost of freedom.

The Royal Ulster Rifles' presence in Korea during the Korean War was a testament to their unwavering dedication to duty, resilience, and bravery. The Battle of Imjin River showcased their indomitable spirit and willingness to make sacrifices for the greater good. Their contributions in preserving liberty and fighting oppression shall forever be remembered and honored.



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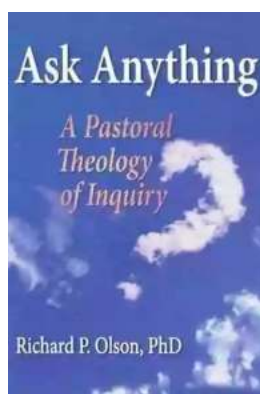
Since the publication of *The Rifles Are There* in 2005, which dealt with the 1st and 2nd Battalions Royal Ulster Rifles in the Second World War, it was felt by many that a follow up volume dealing with the Korean conflict was overdue. A limited yet competent history had been produced in 1953 by the then Adjutant Captain Hugh Hamill, although this has been long out of print.

A New Battlefield follows the Battalion as it prepares for the first major conflict fought by Britain since the defeat of the Japanese in 1945. During the summer of 1950 the Battalion was stationed at Sobraon Barracks in Colchester and was in the process of being issued with desert kit for a tour of duty at Khartoum in the Sudan and its numbers were just under four hundred men. For service in Korea these numbers had to be drastically increased and drafts of volunteers and reservists were brought in from various sources. Consequently this 'Irish' Battalion contained men from the Lancastrian Brigade, Welsh Brigade, Mercian Brigade, the Light Infantry and other Battalions of the Irish Brigade, The Irish Brigade also reinforced other regiments, the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers sending two officers and fifty 'other ranks' to the King's (Liverpool) Regiment. Despite their varied backgrounds all ranks soon coalesced into a professional unit that took the campaign in its stride. From winter temperatures that dropped well below 40f to a summer heat that rose to 105f with a humidity to match these men survived all and dealt with a brave and tenacious enemy.

The Battalion sailed for Korea in October 1950 and fought its first major action in January 1951 at Chaegunghyon, or as it was known to the Rifles, 'Happy Valley'. Here, for the first time they faced an enemy that often literally fought to the death, despite overwhelming firepower, bombing and widespread use of napalm. Three

months later, on the banks of the Imjin River, the Rifles, in conjunction with the remainder of 29 Brigade, faced an army that came in such numbers that running out of ammunition before the enemy ran out of men became a reality. While the Battle of the Imjin is today largely remembered for the last stand fought by the 'Glorious Glosters', research reveals that it was the Royal Ulster Rifles that held open the door that allowed the survivors of 29 Brigade to escape annihilation. The media reacts with horror at the loss of life in Afghanistan when it is in single figures, yet during the fighting at 'Happy Valley' the Battalion lost 157 men in one twenty four period. In the 1950's with limited television and press coverage Korea was quite literally on the far side of the world and generated little interest with the population; it remains so to this day. With the current situation in that country its past deserves to be reexamined and reassessed.

Besides numerous photographs there are also appendices including Honors and Awards, Operation 'Spitfire', an Order of Battle for 29 Brigade, and a Nominal Roll, which includes casualties. A New Battlefield will be produced in a strictly limited hardback printing of 500 numbered copies, each copy signed by both authors.



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