

Lesson 1

READ THIS STORY #2, Advanced

Korea

An icy wind swept across the barren plateau. Matthew wrapped his arms around his shoulders and stomped his feet. He was going to have to spend another seemingly interminable day patrolling the Korean demilitarized zone. Despite his lieutenant's impassioned speech, which was intended to raise the spirits of his men, Matthew wondered if he was really needed in this forsaken place.

More than 55 years ago, at the end of World War II, Korea was split into two countries. But in 1950, North Korea invaded the Republic of South Korea. The United Nations considered it an act of aggression, so U.N. forces, consisting primarily of American troops, came to the aid of South Korea. North Korea was aided by troops from China. Although the Korean War produced many casualties, neither side could win. Negotiations ending this costly war dragged on for twenty-two months. The cease-fire agreement pleased no one, but the fighting ended. Korea was once again divided, as it had been prior to the war.

Matthew's lieutenant had reminded everyone that still today, they were serving the cause of peace by insuring that South Korea was impenetrable to North Korean forces. But Matthew thought it was improbable that world peace would be imperiled if he were allowed to go home. He was impatient for his tour of duty to end.