

**APPENDIX 8****CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
1 September 1951	ANZUS Treaty signed.
27 July 1953	Armistice effective at 2200 hrs.
30 July 1953	2 RAR and 3 RAR both withdraw from Jamestown Line to Kansas Line, returning to salvage defensive stores from the Hook through August.
3 August 1953	3 RAR permanent camp at Area 6 north of the Imjin River (see Map Overlay 4A, Chapter 5). 2 RAR moves into Peace Camp south of Imjin.
5 August 1953	Start of Prisoner of War exchanges (OPERATION BIG SWITCH)
29 August 1953	60th Indian Field Ambulance leaves Division to join Indian Custodial Force.
6 September 1953	OPERATION FINDER commences, recovering CCF bodies.
21 September 1953	North Korean pilot flies MiG 15 to Seoul and defects.
14 October 1953	UK explodes its first operational atomic bomb near Woomera.
24 October 1953	The French battalion departs Korea for Indo-China.
23 November 1953	40 guerrillas attack town near Masan, killing 4 policemen and burning several buildings.
19 December 1953	KATCOM revolt in 2 RAR—returned to ROK Army.
21 December 1953	News report that the North Koreans are using explosives to create tunnels under the DMZ.
26 December 1953	US decides drawdown of forces and announces drawdown of two of six Army/USMC divisions in Korea, with a further two by the end of 1954.
23 February 1954	Indian troops of the Repatriation Commission and Custodial Force depart Korea.
March 1954	Viet Minh forces surround the French garrison at Dien Bien Phu in northern Vietnam.
15 March 1954	77 Squadron RAAF moves from Kimpo (K14) to Kunsan (K8) and takes on a new secondary role of ground attack in addition to their role of air interception.
3 April 1954	1 RAR arrives Tokchong railhead and moves to Kansas Line, taking over from 2 RAR at Peace Camp (no overlap – 1 RAR departs on same transport).
6 April 1954	2 RAR departs Korea, returning to Australia.
26 April – June 1954	External Affairs Minister Casey attends Geneva talks on Korean peace settlement. Talks fail: ROK president applauds failure.
May 1954	ROK President Syngman Rhee threatens to recommence hostilities. French garrison surrenders at Dien Bien Phu.
18 May 1954	Air Alert Red when communist aircraft flies over Seoul.
16 June 1954	South Korean Foreign Minister says South Korea no longer obliged to abide by Armistice and is free to take any action it wants.
July 1954	Dr Syngman Rhee threatens to end the Armistice after 26 July 1954.
27 July 1954	Period of eligibility for United Nations Service Medal ends.

## Chronology

19 August 1954	US announces withdrawal of four of the six Army/USMC divisions in Korea, over ROK objections.
8 September 1954	SEATO founded, less than two months after agreements reached at the Geneva Conference paved the way for the French withdrawal from Indochina.
12 October 1954	77 Squadron RAAF moves from Kunsan to Iwakuni, Japan.
23 October 1954	US talks with ROK President Syngman Rhee on aid and currency matters fail.
5 November 1954	Main HQ 1 Commonwealth Division moved to the rear Divisional area in preparation for handover and force reduction.
8 November 1954	1 RAR takes over new Kansas Line positions under command of 29 British Infantry Brigade [the new 1 British Commonwealth Division, minus]. 28 Brigade disbands, hands over units to 29 Brigade and area to 28 ROK Division. 25 Canadian Infantry Brigade departs Korea.
9 November 1954	3 RAR departs Korea, returning to Australia (Ingleburn NSW). 16 Field Regiment RNZA departs.
10 November 1954	77 Squadron RAAF sails for Australia.
14 November 1954	4th Battalion Canadian Guards Regiment and D Squadron Royal Canadian Dragoons depart.
15 November 1954	Major General Murray hands over command to Brigadier Musson and departs.
16 November 1954	29 British Infantry Brigade disbands; 1 British Commonwealth Division reduces to Brigade strength but retains its title.
20 November 1954	US 8th Army main HQ moves from Japan to Seoul.
22 November 1954	The 24th US Artillery Division is withdrawn to Japan. This represented a major part of the US artillery force in Korea.
December 1954	1 RAR completes building and occupies Camp Gallipoli.
31 January 1955	End-date for eligibility for veterans' benefits under US 'Korean Conflict GI Bill'.
1 February 1955	Operational control of 36 Squadron transferred to HQ US Far East Air Force, delegated to 5th Air Force.
13 March 1955	36 (Transport) Squadron ceases to function from Iwakuni in order to reform at Canberra.
April 1955	The last Philippines Company withdraws from Korea.
31 April 1955	91 Wing and 391 Base Squadron disbanded at Iwakuni. RAAF Transport Flight (Japan) is the only RAAF unit left in Japan/Korea.
15 June 1955	The Belgian Infantry Company (including Luxemburg detachment) withdraws from Korea.
22 June 1955	2 North Korean pilots defect to Seoul Airport in a YAK-18 (single-engined monoplane with light bomb racks).

8 August 1955	South Korea experiences protests and demonstrations against the presence of the Communist members of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Committee (NNSC). ROK President Syngman Rhee demands Communist NNSC members leave South Korea.
10 August 1955	More demonstrations against NNSC. 22 American soldiers injured in protective action so far. At Inchon, several hundred US soldiers turn back with tear gas some 1,200 railway workers and 300 demonstrators who try to storm the truce inspectors' compound on Wolmi-do.
26 August 1955	Military Board reports to the Minister on the state of the Army, concluding that due to strength and enlistment shortfalls, 1 RAR in Korea cannot be maintained at strength after this month.
18 October 1955	OPERATION GLORY at Pusan War Cemetery – reinterment of war dead.
27 October 1955	South Korea experiences further protests and demonstrations against the presence of Communist members of the NNSC in South Korea.
11 December 1955	Greek Expeditionary Force withdraws from Korea.
24 March 1956	1 RAR departs from Inchon, returning to Australia (Enoggera QLD).
March 1956	CCK (Battalion group) established to take over from 1 British Commonwealth Division minus. Comprises British, Australian, Canadian and NZ elements.
15 March 1956	1 British Commonwealth Division ceases functioning, along with the Divisional Signals Regiment.
26 April 1956	CCK Signals Squadron personnel begin arriving at Inchon.
15 May 1956	CCK Signals Squadron takes over Commonwealth communications tasks.
16 May 1956	UK carries out nuclear test at Monte Bello Islands, NW Australia.
7 June 1956	Czechoslovakian and Polish members withdraw from Neutral Nations Supervisory Committee, precipitating its collapse.
1 July 1956	Administrative and non-operational control of British Commonwealth Forces Korea passes to UK (GHQ FARELF) in Singapore.
27 September 1956	UK carries out nuclear test at Maralinga, SA.
31 October 1956	UK and France begin military action to gain control of the Suez Canal.
4 November 1956	Withdrawal of British Commonwealth Base from Japan. Main body of Australian troops sails from Kure. Hungarian uprising crushed by Soviet troops.
22 November 1956	Melbourne Olympic Games open.
23 November 1956	Headquarters BCFK Kure closes.
25 November 1956	Commanding Officer of BCFK Kure departs from Japan.
22 December 1956	Evacuation of British troops from Suez Canal Zone completed. Anglo-American relations damaged by US pressure to cease military action.
8 April 1957	Australia declares that since the UK contingent of BCC is departing Korea, then so is the Australian commitment.
8 July 1957	BCFK disbands.
26 August 1957	Australian signals contingent leaves CCK.
November 1957	Last communications link to Singapore closed down. CCK Signals Squadron operations cease.

## Chronology