## **Resource sheet 2.2B**

**Timeline of the British Experience in Korea 1950–1953**

1. Complete column 3 to show which developments were a UN or a North Korean victory or neither.
2. Complete column 4 to show what type of warfare soldiers were engaged in. Choose from the boxes below:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Guerrilla warfare | Bombing of cities with heavy civilian casualties | Trench warfare | All-out surprise attack | Use of conscripts  | Amphibious landing |

1. Use column 5 to compare this type of warfare with other wars that you know about.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **What happened** | **UN or NK victory?** | **Type of warfare** | **Similar to?** |
| June–September 1950 | North Korea mounted a surprise and speedy all-out attack across the 38th parallel. They quickly captured Seoul and forced South Korean forces into a small corner around Busan.  |  |  |  |
| In June the United Nations agreed to help South Korea. In late August the first British troops arrived in Busan as part of the UNO forces. |  |  |  |
| Mid-September 1950 | UN troops landed by sea near the port of Inchon. The British navy provided cover. Seoul was retaken. The KPA fled north.  |  |  |  |
| October–November 1950 | UN forces crossed the 38th parallel, captured Pyongyang and reached the Manchurian border. USA bombed cities and industrial plants in the North. There were high civilian casualties. |  |  |  |
| September/October 1950 | British soldiers set out for Korea in troop ships. Many were conscripts on National Service. (Between 1949 and 1963, all British men aged 18–21 had to do 18 months’ service. This was extended to two years during the Korean War.) They had uniforms and basic equipment. They were given basic training on board the ships. |  |  |  |
| November–December1950 | The Chinese sent in around 300,000 trained troops who were expert guerrilla fighters, relying on ambushes and surprise attacks. They often attacked at night. In freezing conditions, the UN forces retreated. |  |  |  |
| January 1951 | The Chinese and KPA crossed the 38th parallel and captured Seoul. There were heavy civilian casualties. General MacArthur considered using atomic weapons against the Chinese and KPA. |  |  |  |
| March 1951 | The UN counter-attacked using massive aerial bombardment and napalm (jelly that burns the skin). Seoul was recaptured. The Chinese and KPA fled back across the 38th parallel. .  |  |  |  |
| April 1951 | 27,000 Chinese launched an attack on the Imjin River, aiming to break through to Seoul. Imjin was defended by 4,000 British troops with fierce fighting and heavy casualties. Many troops were captured. It was the bloodiest battle fought by British forces since World War II. |  |  |  |
| June 1951–July 1953 | Stalemate: * Both sides built trenches defended with barbed wire, covered by machine gun positions and supported by artillery.
* Nighttime patrols and trench-raiding became the main tactic, with raids across no-man’s land to ambush or attack exposed positions.
* Soldiers endured extreme cold and heat.
 |  |  |  |
| 27 July 1953 | An armistice was signed. There was a ceasefire. Korea was divided along the 38th parallel.The war left millions of North and South Korean soldiers dead.The UNO force suffered over 100,000 casualties.British casualties were:* 1,078 killed in action
* 2,674 wounded
* 1,060 missing or taken prisoner

There were heavy civilian casualties. Many refugees fled from the fighting. Seoul was in ruins. Its population of 1.5 million had been reduced to 200,000. An estimated 2 million North and South Korean civilians died and at least 50,000 children became orphans. |  |  |  |