

Mike Levy Commemoration Battlefield Tour

10 Days - South Korea

April 18 - 27, 2026

Highlights Include:

The War Memorial of Korea

Demilitarized Zone

Gapyeong River Valley

UN Cemetery Busan

Seoul - Imjingak (DMZ) - Gapyeong - Busan - Seoul

\$5,890* CAD

Escorted from Edmonton
with Special Travel International



**SPECIAL
TRAVEL
INTERNATIONAL**

Major Michael George Levy, CD Commemoration Tour



Michael George Levy was born in Bombay, India in 1925. He grew up in Shanghai, China where he excelled in recreational boxing, roller skating, rugby, soccer and swimming. In December 1941, the Japanese Army occupied Shanghai. As a British subject, he was arrested by the Japanese and placed in various Internment Camps. On 22 May 1944, Mike and four British internees escaped from Lunghua Camp and set off for India. They successfully evaded the Japanese for nearly two months, before finally reaching India.

In India, Mike was recruited by the British Army's Special Operations Executive. With his knowledge of Chinese culture and language, he was trained in guerilla warfare and parachuting. At 19 he was promoted to Captain. On 22 July 1945, he was dropped behind enemy lines north of Kuala Lumpur and fought until the Japanese surrender on 2 September 1945.

Captain Mike Levy received a Mention in Despatches for bravery. Following the war, Mike was an investigator to the War Crimes Tribunal in Hong Kong and Singapore. He retired from the British Army in 1948 and relocated to Vancouver, where he maintained an active connection with the military by enlisting in a local militia regiment, the Irish Fusiliers of Canada.

At the outbreak of the Korean War in 1950, he volunteered for the newly formed Second Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry and proceeded to Korea as commander of 10 Platoon "D" Company. During the Battle of Kapyong, 23 – 25 April 1951 while under heavy Chinese attack, Lt. Levy personally called down extensive Artillery fire on 10 Platoon's position which was instrumental in defeating the enemy attacks.

Following the Korean War, Mike married Marjorie in 1951 (with whom he had one daughter and three sons). He remained in the PPCLI, with postings to Calgary, Germany, Edmonton and Esquimalt. He was promoted to Major in December 1960. He spent one year in Vietnam as part of the International Commission for Supervision and Control and did a tour in Cyprus.

In 1968 he was posted to the United States Marine Corps Command Staff College in Quantico, Virginia, then to Washington, D.C. with the Canadian Defence Liaison Staff. In 1971 he was moved to the Military Intelligence Directorate at National Defence Headquarters in Ottawa manning the "China Desk." In 1974 Mike retired from the CAF as a major after a distinguished 25-year career.

Mike Levy was awarded: 1939-1945 Star, Burma Star, Defence Medal, War Medal with Oak Leaf (MID), General Service Medal Malaya, Korea Medal, Volunteer Service Medal, NATO Medal, Canadian Peacekeeping Medal, United Nations Korea Medal, UNFICYP Medal, ICCS Vietnam Medal, CD with Bar, and the United States Presidential Unit Citation (Personal – Battle of Kapyong).

A Coat of Arms, flag and badge were awarded to Major (ret'd) Mike George Levy in April 2004 by the Governor General of Canada. The motto on Levy's Coat of Arms reads: "I HAVE PREVAILED."

22 - 25 April, 1951 - Battle of Kapyong

The Battle of Kapyong or Gapyeong took place from 22 - 25 of April 1951, in the Gapyeong Valley, South Korea. The battle included: 2nd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (2 PPCLI), 3rd Battalion Royal Australian Regiment (3 RAR) and 72nd Heavy Tank Battalion (72 HTB), supported by the 16th Regiment of the Royal New Zealand Artillery (16 Regt, RNZA), with 1st Battalion Middlessex Regiment of the United Kingdom (1 MX) held in reserve. The UN Forces were opposed by the Chinese 118th Division of the People's Volunteer Army (PVA).

2 PPCLI under the command of Lieutenant Colonel (LCol) Jim Stone, was tasked with setting up a defensive position on Hill 677 on the west side of the Gapyeong Valley. The intent was to halt the PVA's advance towards Seoul.

On 22 April, the PVA attacked 3 RAR who had established a hasty defensive position on Hill 504 on the east side of the valley. While the Australians were taking the brunt of the initial assault, 2 PPCLI took time to dig-in, and prepare their defensive positions. 3 RAR put up a valiant fight and repelled the PVA for two days. On 24 April, when facing a large enemy force, they conducted a fighting withdrawal to a defensive position in the rear of the brigade.

Once the PVA had captured Hill 504, they focused on Hill 677. On 24 April at 22:00 hrs, they assaulted the right flank of 2 PPCLI. The assault was met with coordinated heavy machine-gun and mortar fire which initially deterred the PVA's advance. The PVA eventually overran the forward right platoon which withdrew to the company's main defensive position. The PVA's advance was halted when B Company repelled the second wave of the PVA's attack.



Night Action at Kapyong by Katherine Taylor

The PVA sent a company or more to attack Battalion Headquarters. Mortar Platoon and Bn HQ, held their fire and waited until the PVA were within 180m then opened fire, striking the enemy hard and defeated the attack.

Wave after wave of Chinese soldiers tried to overrun the Canadian positions, mostly attacking at night using machine guns, mortars and grenades. 2 PPCLI's ingenious use of terrain had made it difficult for the enemy to determine their position as well as to assault effectively. This meant the enemy could not deliver effective machine gun nor mortar fire.

22 - 25 April, 1951 - Battle of Kapyong

On the early morning of 25 April, the PVA infiltrated and partially surrounded D company. Captain J. G. W. Mills, who commanded D Company, approved a request from Lt Mike Levy (10 PI Comd) to call an artillery strike on his PI position. 10 PI survived the artillery barrage of an estimated 4,000 or more rounds unscathed and the PVA attacks were defeated. Mike Levy's actions and bravery were instrumental in defeating the PVA attack. His heroism was not officially acknowledged until April 2004, 53 years later when he presented with his own Coat of Arms by Adrienne Clarkson, Governor General of Canada.

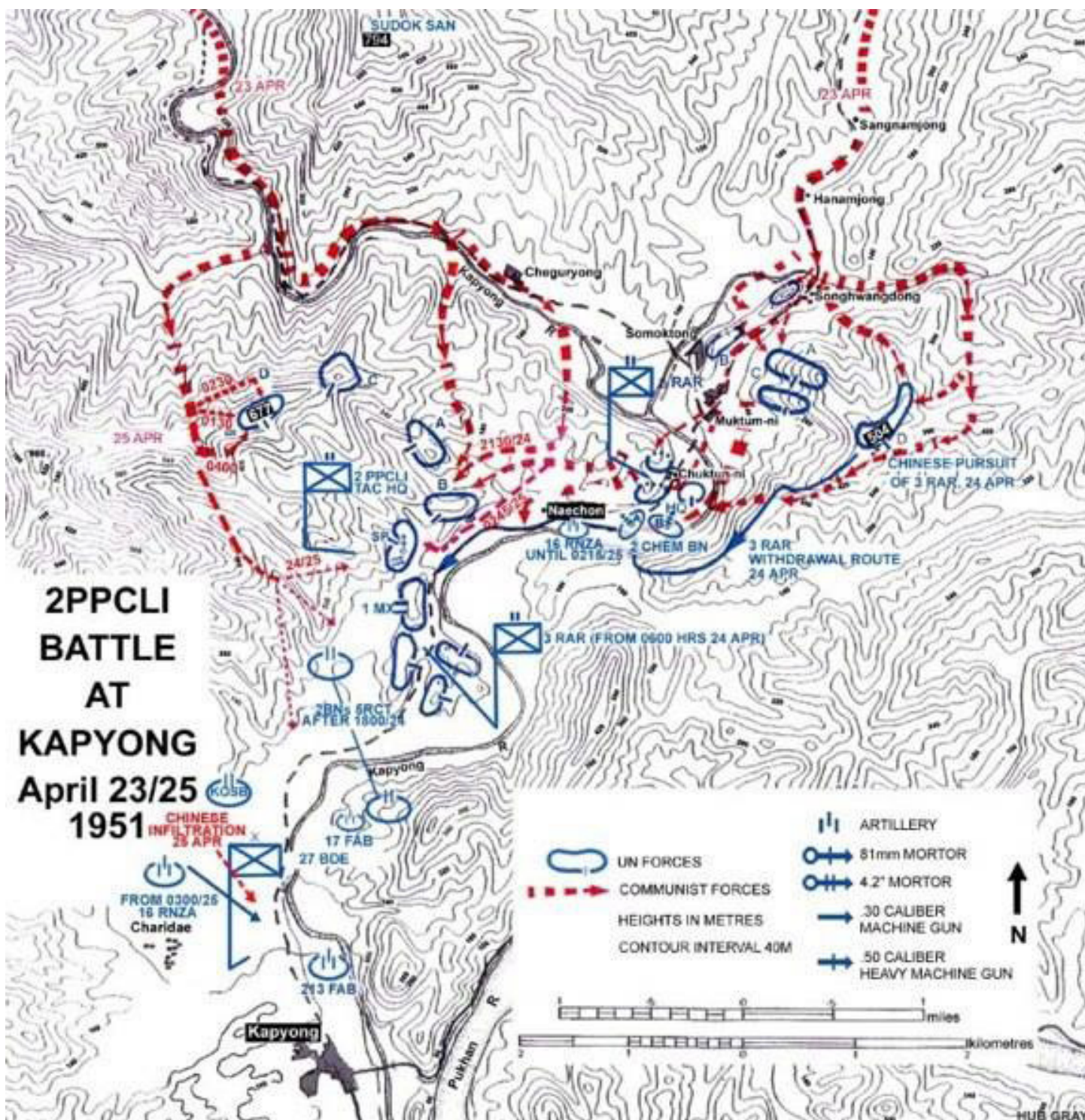


Holding at Kapyong by Edward Zuber

The PVA conducted a series of minor attacks which were unsuccessful. Expecting the PVA to conduct a stronger offensive, LCol Stone requested an air drop of supplies which they used to bolster their defensive position. The PVA did not conduct a larger offensive, and on 25 April with the support of 72 HTB, 2 PPCLI cleared North of Hill 677.

In the end, the PVA, ill-supplied and after having suffered heavy casualties, withdrew in the afternoon of 25 April. The PVA suffered around 1000 KIA during the battle with many more wounded, while 2 PPCLI suffered 10 KIA and 23 WIA. In total 16 Regt, RNZA fired 18,500 rounds of artillery in support of this battle. For their heroic efforts 2 PPCLI, 3 RAR and 72 HTB were awarded the United States' Army Presidential Citation.

On 24 April 2026, we will commemorate and honour the accomplishments of 2 PPCLI, 3 RAR, and 72 HTB, supported by the 16 Regt, RNZA on the 75th Anniversary of the Kapyong Battle.



Mike Levy Commemoration

Day 1 / Sat, Apr 18: DEPART CANADA

Departure from Canada on your overnight flight to Seoul.

Day 2 / Sun, Apr 19: ARRIVE SEOUL

Touching down at Incheon International Airport places you in the heart of Korea. Upon clearing immigration and customs, your English-speaking tour guide greets you. Traditional Korean Table d'hôte is planned for dinner. Settle into your hotel and relax as you acclimatize to the new time zone. (D)

Day 3 / Mon, Apr 20: SEOUL

This morning, we start with an orientation city tour, covering Gyeongbokgung Palace a particularly charming spot that represents a colorful and turbulent side of the capital's 500-year history. Your visit to the National Folk Museum of Korea will illustrate the history of traditional life of the Korean people. Tinsadong, at one time the center of traditional Korean art and antiques, features a mixture of historical and modern atmosphere representing the cultural glimpse of the nation. It can be plenty of fun walking on the main street, but you venture into the hidden alleys that do spring some unexpected surprises. While here, you may want to buy some souvenirs or simply wander and browse at leisure admiring cultural ambience. You will enjoy a brief visit to Gwangjang market. It is one of few markets retaining the traditional Korean atmosphere. (B,L,D)

Day 4 / Tue, Apr 21: SEOUL

Half day tour of The War Memorial of Korea that showcases Korea's military history and provides a comprehensive overview of the Korean War (B,D)



Day 5 / Wed, Apr 22: SEOUL – DMZ – SEOUL

We visit the Demilitarized Zone (3rd tunnel) After exploring the tunnel, climb back out of the tunnel and make your way to the DMZ Exhibition Hall for a unique insight into the Korean War and model of soldiers digging the tunnel, equipment used by the North, model of Panmunjeom (Joint Security Area) (B,L,D)

Day 6 / Thu, Apr 23: SEOUL – GAPYEONG

Today, we travel to Gapyeong to learn about the sacrifices and dedication of the Canadians during the Korean War. For those feeling adventurous, join us for an optional climb up Hill 677 where Canadian soldiers fought with distinction. (B,L,D)

Day 7 / Fri, Apr 24: GAPYEONG - SEOUL

Spend the day in Gapyeong to participate in an official program. In the afternoon, return to Seoul.(B,D)

Day 8 / Sat, Apr 25: SEOUL - BUSAN

Following a hearty breakfast, travel to Busan on a speed train. Well over 2 hours journey leads you to Busan, Korea's second largest city surrounded by the ocean on one side, and mountains on the other. Visit UN memorial cemetery. Next we explore Gamcheon Village. Check in to hotel followed by dinner. (B,L,D)

Day 9 / Sun, Apr 26: BUSAN - SEOUL

Today we visit Yongdusan Park, BIFF Square, and Jagalchi fish Market before traveling back to Seoul on the speed train. Return to the hotel where we will join in our farewell dinner. (B,L,D)

Day 10 / Mon, Apr 27: RETURN TO CANADA

After breakfast, return to the airport for your flight back to Canada (B)

Lieut. Mike Levy (left) inspects a captured submachine gun in Korea, 1951. As Platoon Commander 10 Platoon, D Company, 2 PPCLI, Levy made the call to bring down artillery on his own position during the Battle of Kapyong. (Courtesy of Don Levy)

INCLUDED

- Accommodation in comfortable 3-4 star hotels
- Airport transfers (when flights are booked with Special Travel International)
- Hotel portorage for one piece of luggage per person
- Meals as per itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner) 8 Breakfasts, 5 Lunches, 8 Dinners
- Modern motor-coach and first class high speed train transportation
- English speaking guide with the tour throughout
- Comprehensive sightseeing including guides and admission fees as per itinerary
- Bottled water on tour

NOT INCLUDED

- International flights between Canada – Seoul, Korea
- Travel insurance (please contact our office for a quote)
- Drinks with meals
- Gratuities for drivers and guides
- Items of a personal nature

TOUR COSTS in CAD*

*based on a group size of 24 travellers

Per person, twin-share	\$5,890
Single supplement	\$1,300

(approximate cost, depending on final group size)

FLIGHTS & TRAVEL INSURANCE

- Please contact our office for a quote.
- Flights booked with STI include airport transfers
- Our licensed insurance agents can help you with the coverage that will suit your needs

TOUR PACE and FITNESS TO PARTICIPATE

This itinerary includes some walking through historic city centres and to/from sites – easily accomplished if you are comfortable walking a few kilometres at a standard pace.

Travellers with restricted mobility are welcome but may be unable to enjoy all of the walking tour portions or may require taxis.

REGISTER ONLINE TODAY



2 Ways to Register

1. Scan the QR Code
2. Visit our website
sticanada.com/southkorea26

FACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW

RESERVATIONS AND PAYMENT:

- » \$2,000 per person deposit due at time of booking
- » 2nd installment of \$2,000 pp due by 31 October, 2025
- » Balance due by 13 February, 2026

Tour documents will be sent to you approximately 14 days prior to your trip departure, provided full payment has been received.

TOUR PRICES:

All tour prices for land arrangements are based on rates effective at the time of printing and are expected to be in effect at the time of departure. Should these rates change, it may be necessary to surcharge the price of your vacation. Should the tour price increase by more than 10%, the passenger shall have the right to cancel within seven days of notification without penalty.

CANCELLATION AND REFUNDS:

Notice of cancellation must be made in writing. The effective cancellation date is the date when written notification is received by Special Travel International (hereafter called STI). **Deposits are non-refundable.** The following scale of charges will apply per person when cancellation is received prior to departure:

Until 30 October, 2025	\$2,000
31 Oct 2025 – 12 Feb 2026	\$4,000
From 13 February, 2026	100% non refundable

NB: different payment/cancellation policies apply to airline tickets; you will be advised at time of booking.

TRAVEL INSURANCE:

STI strongly recommends that each tour participant has health, cancellation, interruption, accident and baggage insurance for the duration of his/her travels.

RESPONSIBILITY AND LIABILITY:

STI acts only as an agent in securing all services related to the tours described in this brochure, including transportation, sightseeing and accommodation. STI shall not be responsible or liable for any loss, cost, damage, injury, delay or expense arising from the use of any conveyance, accommodation or service or from acts of God, war, terrorism, strikes, weather, quarantine, accidents, sickness, government regulations, insufficient documents and any loss expense resulting from the above contingencies shall be borne by the tour member. In the event it becomes necessary or advisable for the comfort of the passenger, or for any reason whatsoever, to alter the itinerary or arrangements, such alterations may be made without penalty to the operators. Additional expense, if any, shall be borne by the passenger. The right is reserved to withdraw any or all tours should conditions warrant, and also to decline to accept or retain any passenger as a member of the tour. In such instances, full or equitable amounts will be refunded.

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS, VISAS AND VACCINES:

It is entirely the passenger's responsibility to possess whatever documents, visas and vaccines are required by the law of the countries visited on the tour.

AIRLINE RESPONSIBILITY:

Any air carrier providing transportation in connection with these tours is not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time the passenger is not on board its planes. The passenger contract in use by the airlines concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airline and the purchase of these tours and/or passenger. Similar responsibility as noted applies to all types of carriers, including car rental companies.



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