



BACKGROUND - DOCUMENT D'INFORMATION

Kapyong Park

This park and memorial space is dedicated to the 700 soldiers of the Second Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (2PPCLI) who fought in the Battle of Kapyong, April 22-25, 1951. The Battle was a pivotal moment in the Korean War. Ten 2PPCLI soldiers died and 23 were wounded defending Kapyong against an invasion force of 5000 communist soldiers. This park honours the sacrifice and heroic actions of the servicemen of 2PPCLI, which was stationed in Winnipeg from 1969-2004.

The seemingly insurmountable odds of the 2PPCLI soldiers being outnumbered 5000 to 700 or 7 to 1 is the inspiration for the design of this memorial space. How can those odds be represented in a meaningful manner in a space of both memorial and ceremony?

Entering the space, 10 upright granite boulders are revealed. These 10 boulders represent and honour both the 10 fallen Canadian soldiers and 700 Canadian troops who fought in the battle. Opposing these granite boulders are 70 concrete blocks, representing the 5000 communist forces. The 10 granite boulders and the 70 concrete blocks illustrate the 7 to 1 odds faced by the Canadian soldiers. Separating them, the paving stone in the ceremonial space is laid in multiple orientations representing the chaotic nature of the battle.

The concrete blocks (which double as seating for 100) are oriented in the direction of Kapyong and fan out towards the 10 granite boulders much in the same way as the Communist forces fanned out and surrounded the Canadian troops during this pivotal battle.

Through perseverance and tremendous bravery, the men of 2PPCLI were able to turn back the invading communist soldiers. This park is dedicated to those that sacrificed so much in the name of freedom for all.