

SOUTH KOREA'S GARANDS

Will They Ever Return?

By Gary Paul Johnston

Photos courtesy Lionheart Industries

Following World War II, with things heating up in Korea, the U.S. furnished some 89,000 M1 (Garand) rifles to South Korea to protect their side of the 38th Parallel with America's help during the Korean War.

After the ceasefire on 7 June 1953, the South Koreans began putting the M1s they had issued (along with many more they had not issued) into storage, as they sought to adopt more modern rifles for their military.

A half-century later, a movement to have the "South Korean" M1s returned to America began. A bidding process started, with two commercial U.S. companies competing to buy the M1 rifles and spare parts.

Majority of M1s
loaned to South Korea
had been refurbished
to like new.

