



## Ansty remembers VJ Day 15-08-2020

V-J Day stands for Victory in Japan Day. It marks a very important event in World War 2 - the day Japan surrendered to the Allies after almost six years of war on 15 August 1945, 75 years ago.

The end of war was marked by another two-day holidays in the UK, the USA and Australia.

While Britain was awash with street parties and bonfires to celebrate VE Day, thousands of miles away, British and Commonwealth Armed Forces were still fighting in Burma, Singapore and Thailand. It was there that they heard the news that the war was over in Europe.

The Asian theatre was the longest campaign of the war with continuous fighting for three full years. Unlike their comrades fighting in Europe, the British Forces had no leave during which they could go home, even if it was for just a few days. They were there for the duration; their only hope of seeing England was in victory.

Six years of warfare which had caused untold loss and misery to the world came to the end with the surrender of Japan after the USA dropped two atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

[VE and VJ Day 75 HM Government](#)

[VJ Day 75 The Royal British Legion](#)

Pictures from [IWM](#)

During the campaigns in Asia, Britain lost almost 30,000 people, 12,433 of whom died as Japanese prisoners of war. There are now so few veterans left from this final campaign that events planned for this year would be probably be the last to recognise their sterling efforts in this victory.

The coronavirus pandemic and restrictions have certainly put a 'damper' on this year's plans – but perhaps we can all take a moment to reflect and pay our own personal tribute to the veterans of the Far East campaign – some of them would have come from our local area.

Indeed the British and Commonwealth's fighting force was one of the most diverse fighting armies in history – more than 40 languages were spoken and all the world's major religions represented.

Just pause awhile on VJ Day 75 and remember these veterans for their service and sacrifice, including the many prisoners of war held by the Japanese. They really were unsung heroes and never received quite the same acclaim that the Armed Forces personnel fighting in the Europe theatre received on VE Day in May 1945

There will be two minutes of silence at 11am across the country to remember those who died.

