



VJ Day 75 Community Engagement Briefing

The 15th August 2020 is the 75th anniversary of VJ Day (Victory over Japan Day), marking both the surrender of Japan and the end of the fighting during the Second World War. The Royal British Legion and the National Memorial Arboretum are playing leading roles in the commemorations, asking the nation to remember the impact the conflict in the Far East had on service men and women and their loved ones from Britain and across the Commonwealth.

Background

VJ Day marks the anniversary of the surrender of Imperial Japan, and was in effect the end of the Second World War.

The principle British and Commonwealth army in the Far East, known as the Fourteenth Army, was extremely diverse with people coming from regions including East, West and Southern Africa, pre-partition India, Nepal and Britain to serve alongside each other. The diversity of the Fourteenth Army has many parallels with multicultural Britain today. Although the Fourteenth Army won some of the most hard-fought battles in the Second World War, its contribution is often overlooked.

Leading up to the 75th anniversary of VJ Day The Royal British Legion and the National Memorial Arboretum will be shining a spotlight on the untold stories of the British, Allied and Commonwealth forces who made up the Fourteenth Army, and encouraging the nation to remember all of those who served in the Far East and the impact of their service and sacrifice to secure the freedoms we enjoy today.

The Royal British Legion is looking for WW2 Far East Veterans

To help commemorate this important anniversary the Legion is looking for individuals from the Second World War generation who are interested in sharing their stories and memories from VJ Day. It would like to hear a range of stories from those who served in the Asia Pacific region and their loved ones, to those who marked VJ Day at home.

As well as the many British veterans who served, it will be highlighting the significant contribution of Commonwealth troops from around the world including those from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, East, West and Southern Africa, Australia, New Zealand and from across the South Pacific Islands.

If you know of anyone who would like to share their story and who is happy to be contacted by the Legion's PR Team for this, please email PRTeam@britishlegion.org.uk

Community Engagement Resources

The National Memorial Arboretum and The Royal British Legion are producing a package of community engagement resources to encourage remembrance and learning about those who served. The resources will be freely available to housing providers for use in tenant engagement and communications activity. They have been designed to ensure that social distancing can be maintained and are suitable for a range of ages and backgrounds.

The resources will include:

- Downloadable participation packs featuring craft activities, puzzles, recipes and interpretation
- A downloadable quiz to be facilitated in residential homes or over digital channels
- A digital illustration exhibition on the National Memorial Arboretum website
- A remembrance hub on The Royal British Legion website

All resources and links will be available at thenma.org.uk from 4th August 2020.

For further information, please contact Chris Ansell, Head of Participation and Learning:
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