

15 AUGUST 1945

Victory over Japan

75th Anniversary

Commemoration Event

Saturday 15 August 2020 at 12am

VJDAY 75

Parade of Standard Bearers

Legion Scotland Branches from across Dumfries and Galloway

Introduction

**Councillor Archie Dryburgh MBE, Armed Forces Champion,
Dumfries and Galloway Council**

Whilst VE Day marked the end of the war in Europe in May 1945, many thousands of Armed Forces personnel were still involved in bitter fighting in the Far East. Victory over Japan would come at a heavy price, and Victory over Japan Day (VJ Day) marks the day Japan surrendered on the 15th August 1945, which in effect ended the Second World War.

Fighting in the Asia-Pacific took place from Hawaii to North East India. Britain and the Commonwealth's principle fighting force, the Fourteenth Army, was one of the most diverse in history - over 40 languages were spoken, and all the world's major religions represented. The descendants of many of the Commonwealth veterans of that army are today part of multicultural communities up and down the country, a lasting legacy to the success and comradeship of those who fought in the Asia-Pacific.

This year we remember the contribution of all Commonwealth and Allied Forces, without whom victory and the freedoms and way of life we enjoy today would not have been possible

Known as the Forgotten War, we remember today those who took part and those that will never return.

Finally, we hope that you will now join us as we say thank you and as we remember those who gave the ultimate sacrifice in the Asia Pacific conflict.



Prayer

Reverend Alison Burnside

Father, on this the 75th anniversary of VJ Day, we come together to remember that you created your world to be a place of peace and blessing. As your children we work for peace and long for peace in our troubled world.

Few of us have first hand experience of the reality of war - for those who do the memories are hard to forget and haunt many a night's sleep. However, we can all acknowledge the horror of war through what is shared through our tv screens and in the newspapers. Or perhaps we are so used to fiction that we do not want to grasp that what we see on the TV is real.

Forgive us if we watch the news or documentaries of the truth of war and battle, of the implications it has for those who are there - be they fighting for good or simply struggling to survive.

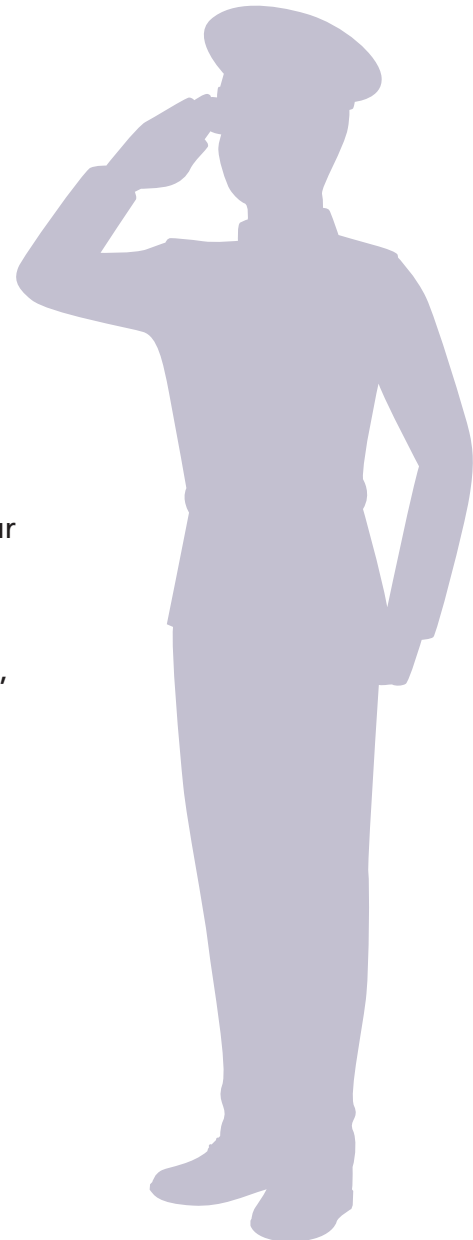
We may well wish that war were not a necessity - but sometimes there is no other option when those with power have hearts filled with greed and hatred and selfish desires that exclude the rights of all your children. No amount of talking or praying will change hearts and the most innocent and vulnerable are those who suffer the most.

Today we gather to remember that peace can be reality. We gather together to remember that peace is often achieved at great cost. Let us never ignore that cost or take it for granted.

Instead, we commit ourselves to working towards peace throughout your world - seeing peace for all your children and supporting those trying to make peace reality in the darkest and most fearful of places.

Eternal God from whom all thoughts of truth and peace proceed: kindle, we pray, in the hearts of all people, the true love of peace and guide with your pure and peaceable wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth that in tranquillity your will may be done, till the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love; through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

VJDAY
75



VJDAY 75

Psalm Reading

Councillor David Stitt, Dumfries and Galloway Council

Isaiah 9 chapters 1 to 6

Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan -

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder.

For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor.

Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

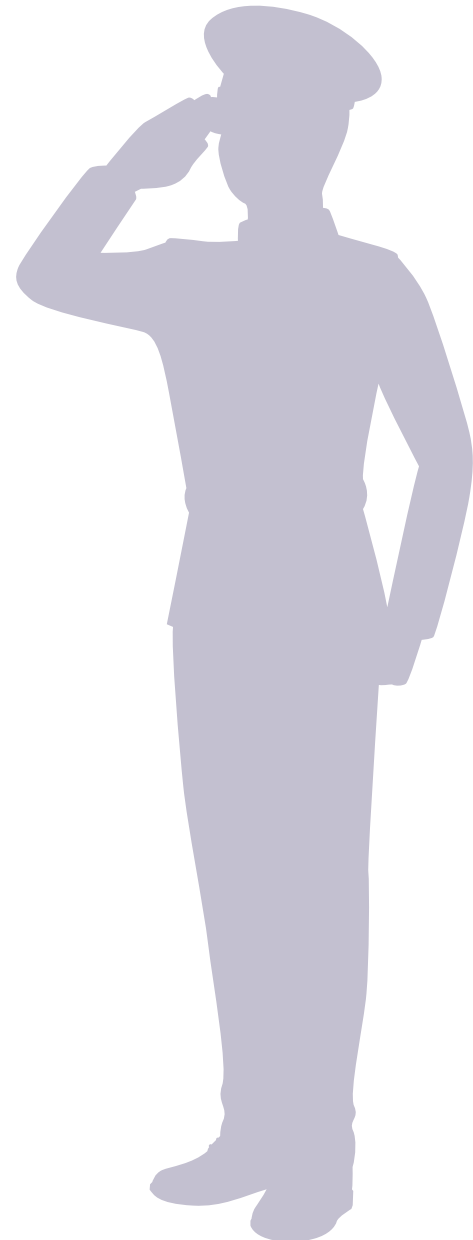
Thanks Be to God for this Reading



Hymn - 'o God our help in ages Past'

- 1 O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home.
- 2 Under the shadow of Thy throne
Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,
And our defence is sure.
- 3 Before the hills in order stood,
Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God,
To endless years the same.
- 4 A thousand ages in Thy sight
Are like an evening gone;
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun.
- 5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
Bears all its sons away;
They fly forgotten, as a dream
Dies at the opening day.
- 6 O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while life shall last,
And our eternal home.

VJDAY
75



VJDAY 75

A relatives view of the war in the Asia Pacific

Lt Col John Charteris, MBE, MC (late the Royal Scots)

A nation that forgets its past has no future.

We must always remember and commemorate those who fought the Japanese in Burma and Nagaland and were victorious. They are not a forgotten army. They fought and died to remind future generations of the debt they owe to their forebears. Their battle was the turning point of the war with Japan.

My own Regiment, The Royal Scots, were part of the victorious 2nd Division who defeated and killed the Japanese at Kohima. Their memorial stands at the Avadura Spur, the point of victory.

The 1420 soldiers and airmen who died are buried in the Kohima Cemetery. Sikhs lie beside Hindus, Gurkhas lie next to Nagas, British graves lie next to the Canadians, Australians, New Zealanders, South Africans and Indians.

My wife's father who served with the 9th Jat Regiment helped to found the Assam Regiment, India's greatest Infantry Regiment. He commanded The 2nd Assam Regiment at Kohima and was wounded in the head.

He woke up lying on a stretcher with a revolver in his hand. He was separated from the Japanese by only the width of a tennis court. As he lay there in the early morning mist to his amazement the sound of Scottish bagpipes advancing up the hill to relieve Kohima. It was my own Regiment The First Royal Scots.

The battle of Kohima was a truly epic battle in the annals of The British Army. Perhaps the greatest ever feat of arms, rivalling Thermopylae, where in 480 BC, 300 Spartan soldiers held the mountain pass against an enormous invading Persian Army.

On the Kohima Memorial are these immortal words.

When you go home, tell them of us and say, for your tomorrow we gave our today.

Poem

Mr John Nelson, Son of Burma Star holder



Psalm Reading

Councillor Iain Howie, Dumfries and Galloway Council

John 15, vs 9-13:

Jesus said, "As the father has loved me, so I have loved you. Now remain in my love. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this, Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends".

Prayer

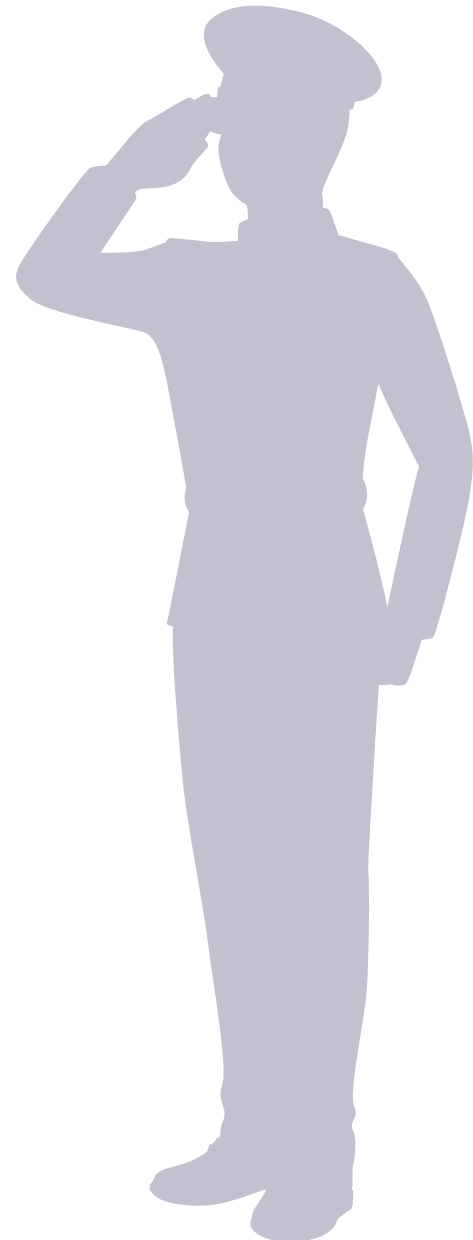
The Reverend Christopher G Ketley

Lord Jesus, you have taught us that we can only be forgiven as we ourselves learn how to forgive: help us to bear in mind our own shortcomings and our many failings. If we remember the injuries we suffer and never deserved, help us to remember the kindnesses we received and never earned, and the punishments we did deserve and never suffered. Help us to be thankful for your unfailing mercies and those of other people; for the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Hymn - 'Guide me o though great redeemer'

- 1 Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty;
hold me with thy powerful hand:
bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore,
feed me now and evermore.
- 2 Open now the crystal fountain,
whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through:
strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield;
be thou still my strength and shield.
3. When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side:
songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to thee,
I will ever give to thee.

VJDAY
75



VJDAY 75



Psalm Reading

Councillor Jane Maitland, Dumfries and Galloway Council

Ephesians 6:10-18

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armour of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people – praise be to god for this reading

Standard Bearers carry Standards

Binyons Lines

Councillor Pauline Dryfesdale, Dumfries and Galloway Council

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn;
At the going down of the sun, and in the morning,
We will remember them.

Last Post

Two Minutes Silence

Reveille

Wreath Laying

Mrs Patsy Gilroy,
Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for The Stewartry of Kirkcudbright
Councillor Elaine Murray, Leader, Dumfries and Galloway Council
Representatives of Legion Scotland Branches
across Dumfries and Galloway

VJDAY
75

Kohima

Councillor Pauline Dryfesdale, Dumfries and Galloway Council

When you go home think of us and say, for your tomorrow we gave our today

Prayer

Father William R McFadden

Almighty God, grant, we ask that we who honour the memory of those who have died in the service of their country and of the Crown, may be so inspired by the spirit of their love and fortitude that, forgetting all selfish and unworthy motives, we may live only to thy glory and to the service of your people.

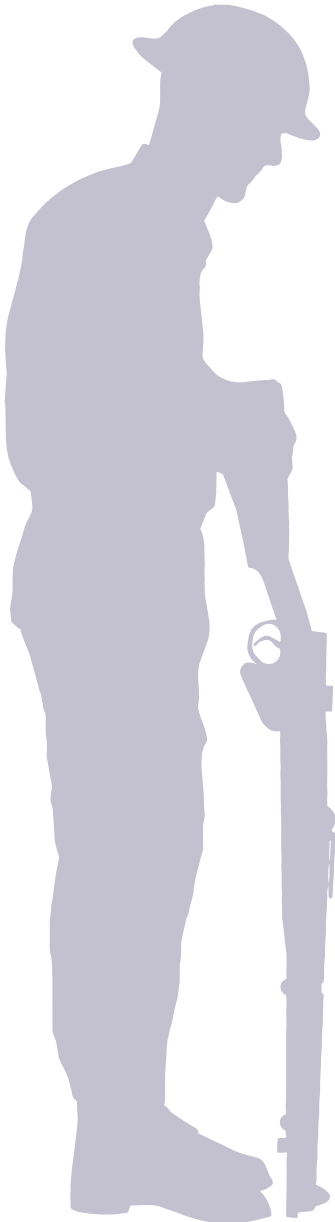
Teach us, Lord, to serve thee as thou deserves; to give and not to count the cost; to fight and not to heed the wounds; to toil and not to seek for rest; to labour and not to ask for any reward, save that of knowing that we do thy will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

National Anthem

God save our gracious Queen,
Long live our noble Queen;
God save the Queen!
Send her victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us:
God save the Queen!



VJDAY 75



Benediction

Reverend Alison Burnside

May the Lord bless you,
And keep you.
May the Lord smile upon you.
And be gracious unto you.
May the Lord show His favor to you.
And give you peace.

Reverend Christopher G Ketley

For I am sure that neither death nor life,
nor angels nor rulers,
nor things present nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Father William R McFadden

Father God, we come to the end of worship, and we thank you for enabling us to participate in this virtual service
Thank you for touching our lives in ways we cannot explain.
You have taken us to your realms of glory, and we want to say thank you.
As we conclude this service and continue with our lives, we ask you to remain with us.
Let your Spirit see us through.
In Jesus' name, we believe and pray, Amen.

Vote of Thanks

**Councillor Archie Dryburgh MBE, Armed Forces Champion,
Dumfries and Galloway Council**