

Capel St Mary Parish Council publication



VE DAY
75TH ANNIVERSARY
A SHARED MOMENT OF CELEBRATION
8-10 MAY 2020

SEPTEMBER 2020

Capel

REPORTER



VJ DAY
75TH ANNIVERSARY
A SHARED MOMENT OF CELEBRATION
15TH AUG 2020

FREE TO ALL RESIDENTS

**Dateline: 6am
Saturday, 15 August,
2020, 75 years
from the day
Japan surrendered**

William Dimond, Parish Councillor and Flight Lieutenant RAFAC, pipes the start to Capel St Mary's celebrations of VJ Day and the honouring of all who died in the war against Japan.

Capel was marking VJ DAY at the same time and with the same official celebrations as many communities through the United Kingdom and in many other parts of the world.

This newspaper is published by the Parish Council as an important and lasting record of the village's achievement in celebrating both VE DAY and VJ DAY in the limited manner possible during the virus pandemic.

It will be kept by the Parish Council, the Library, Suffolk Record Office and offered to local schools to keep alive for future generations a knowledge of the war against Japan, described by The Prince of Wales, Prince Charles, on 15 August as the Forgotten War.

David Thompson, Editor



Photograph by COUNCILLOR STEPHANIE BONFIELD

**The Chairman of
Capel St Mary
Parish Council, has a
VJ Day message for
the village**

On behalf of the Parish Council I express our sincere thanks to everyone who participated in the VJ Remembrance Day Memorial event.

A great deal of thought and effort was put into organising our Tribute to those who gave their lives in conflict, so we - some 75 years on - may enjoy freedoms which are often taken for granted

The creation of a Memorial on our Village Green has been significant in giving a focus to these occasions and, again, I would like to express my appreciation to everyone involved in that project.

It is sobering to remember, however, that while we are still in the grip of an international health crisis - drastically limiting our freedom of movement - this is insignificant compared to the years of sacrifice and hardship experienced between 1939 and 1945. Something we must never forget.

Councillor Brian Rogers



General Bernard Montgomery accepts the surrender of German military at Luneburg Heath

Key dates in the the war against Nazi Germany

Pre-War 18 September, 1931, Japan invades Manchuria. **2 October, 1936,** Italy invades Ethiopia. **23 August, 1939,** Germany-Soviet Union Non-Aggression Pact.

1939 1 September, Germany invades Poland, **3 September,** Britain and France declare war on Germany. Battle of Atlantic begins. **17 September,** Soviet Union invades Poland. **13 December, 1939** Battle of River Plate, three British cruisers and German Graf Spee. **17 December,** Graf Spee scuttles.

1940 7 January, Basic food rationed. **10 May,** Churchill is Prime Minister. **27 May,** Dunkirk Evacuation begins, ends June. **14 June,** German Troops enter Paris. **10 July,** Battle of Britain begins, ends **31 October. 22 September,** Pact between Germany, Italy and Japan.

1941 3 February, General Rommel Appointed Head of German Africa Corps. **8 March,** Buckingham Palace bombed. **15 April,** Royal Navy sinks German Africa Corps Convoy transports and three Italian cruisers. **10 May,** Deputy Fuhrer Rudolf Hess lands in Scotland. **24 May,** HMS Hood sunk by German Battleship Bismarck. Three crew survive. **22 June,** Germany invades Soviet Union breaking 1939 Pact. **13 - 14 November,** Aircraft Carrier HMS Ark Royal torpedoed and sinks.

1942 5 January, Soviet General Zhukov launches major offensive. **3 September,** Battle of Stalingrad begins. **23 October,** British victory in Second Battle of El Alamein. **10 - 18 November,** British breakout from El Alamein capture Bardia, Tobruk and Bengazi.

Churchill said: Before Alamein we never had a victory, after we never had a defeat.

1943 21 January, Germans surrender at Stalingrad. **13 May,** Allies take 250,000 German and Italian prisoners. **10 July,** Invasion of Sicily. **12 July,** largest tanks battle ever at Kursk, Soviet Union. **3 September,** Italy surrenders.



1944 22 January, British and American troops land at Anzio, Italy. **9 April,** General De Gaulle becomes Commander in Chief of all Free French Forces. **9 May,** Soviet Army captures Sebastopol, frees Crimea. **6 June,** Normandy landings begin liberation of Europe **3 July,** Minsk, last German base in Soviet Union falls. **27 August,** Soviet troops liberate German death camp at Maidanek, Poland. **19 December,** Battle of the Bulge begins in Ardennes Belgium.

1945 9 January, Battle of the Bulge slows Allied victory in Europe. **25 March,** Allies cross the Rhine into Germany. **30 March,** Russians capture Danzig, Poland. **28 April,** Italian dictator Mussolini executed and his body hung upside down. **30 April,** American and Soviet armies meet on the Elbe River. Hitler commits suicide **4 May,** Germans surrendered to General Montgomery on Luneburg Heath. **7 May,** Germany officially surrenders. **8 May** designated Victory in Europe Day.

Research by Griff Johns.


CAPEL ST MARY WAR MEMORIAL


www.capelmemorial.org.uk

"My dear friends, this is your hour. This is not victory of a party or of any class. It's a victory of the great British nation as a whole."

Winston Churchill - 8th May 1945







How Capel St Mary Celebrated VE DAY


75TH ANNIVERSARY

A SHARED MOMENT OF CELEBRATION

8-10 MAY 2020







Celebrate today Japan tomorrow

On May 8, 1945, the Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, announced victory over Germany and the end of the war in Europe. The Japanese remain to be defeated.

Yesterday morning at 2:41 a.m. at Headquarters, General Jodl, the representative of the German High Command, and Grand Admiral Doenitz, the designated head of the German State, signed the act of unconditional surrender of all German Land, sea, and air forces in Europe to the Allied Expeditionary Force, and simultaneously to the Soviet High Command.

General Bedell Smith, Chief of Staff of the Allied Expeditionary Force, and General Francois Sevez signed the document on behalf of the Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Force, and General Susloparov signed on behalf of the Russian High Command.

To-day this agreement will be ratified and confirmed at Berlin, where Air Chief Marshal Tedder, Deputy Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Force, and General de Lattre de Tassigny will sign on behalf of General Eisenhower.

Marshal Zhukov will sign on behalf of the Soviet High Command. The German representatives will be Field-Marshal Keitel, Chief of the High Command, and the Commanders-in-Chief of the German Army, Navy, and Air Forces.

Hostilities will end officially at one minute after midnight to-night (Tuesday, May 8), but in the interests of saving lives the "Cease fire" began yesterday to be sounded all along the front, and our dear Channel Islands are also to be freed to-day.

The Germans are still in places resisting the Russian troops, but should they continue to do so after midnight they will, of course, deprive themselves of the protection of the laws of war, and will be attacked from all quarters by the Allied troops.

It is not surprising that on such long fronts and in the existing disorder of the enemy the orders of the German High Command should not in every case be obeyed immediately.

This does not, in our opinion, with the best military advice at our disposal, constitute any reason for withholding from the nation the facts communicated to us by General

Eisenhower of the unconditional surrender already signed at Rheims, nor should it prevent us from celebrating to-day and to-morrow as Victory in Europe days.

Today, perhaps, we shall think mostly of ourselves. Tomorrow we shall pay a particular tribute to our Russian comrades, whose prowess in the field has been one of the grand contributions to the general victory.

The German war is therefore at an end.

After years of intense preparation, Germany hurled herself on Poland at the beginning of September, 1939; and, in pursuance of our guarantee to Poland and in agreement with the French Republic, Great Britain, the British Empire and Commonwealth of Nations, declared war upon this foul aggression.

After gallant France had been struck down we, from this Island and from our united Empire, maintained the struggle single-handed for a whole year until we were joined by the military might of Soviet Russia, and later by the overwhelming power and resources of the United States of America.

Finally, almost the whole world was combined against the evil-doers, who are now prostrate before us.

Our gratitude to our splendid Allies goes forth from all our hearts in this Island and throughout the British Empire.

We may allow ourselves a brief period of rejoicing; but let us not forget for a moment the toil and efforts that lie ahead. Japan, with all her treachery and greed, remains unsubdued.

The injury she has inflicted on Great Britain, the United States, and other countries, and her detestable cruelties, call for justice and retribution.

We must now devote all our strength and resources to the completion of our task, both at home and abroad.

**Advance, Britannia!
Long live the cause of freedom!
God save the King!**



SWEET SORROW FOR CHILDREN

Food rationing during and after World War Two began on 8 January 1940 and didn't fully end until 5 February 1953, writes David Thompson.

To those who were not alive during those eight years the amounts are very hard to believe, particularly for children.

Essential and some comfort food amounts varied at times between a weekly minimum and a maximum.

For example: Ham and bacon, 4 or 8 ounces (113g or 227g); cheese 1 ounce (28g) or 8 ounces (227g); milk 3 pints; one egg.

For children the sweet ration was severe. I remember it well.

It was a minimum of 8 ounces (227g) or a maximum of 16 ounces

(454g) **not a week but a month.**

It was intended, subject to permission from the Head Teacher and parents, to bring this home to pupils at Capel Primary School.

Pupils were to have been given in a bag the number of sweets they would have if, like their grandparents and great grandparents, they had divided their monthly ration into weekly amounts.

Jelly babies were available on ration and are still popular.

Two 2.85kg bags and 10 150g bags were bought to share out a wartime weekly number of sweets per pupil.

JUST SEVEN JELLY BABIES

PUT THAT LIGHT...

One of the least liked wartime laws on the Home Front was the BLACKOUT.

From 1 September 1939, the day Nazi Germany invaded Poland, all street lighting was switched off and homes, factories and offices had to cover all windows and door to prevent even a glimmer of light escaping to aid German bombers.

The full blackout gave way in September 1944 to a DIM-OUT, the equivalent of moonlight.

Until the lights finally went back on in April 1945 civilian Air Raid Wardens patrolled the streets shouting at offenders: PUT THAT LIGHT OUT!

As part of Capel's VE DAY celebrations, it was intended to ask residents and businesses throughout the weekend to put all their lights...

ON!



The paintings are, clockwise from the top left, VE Day Street Party by Pauline Wragg; The famous New York Kiss and Winston Churchill in Wartime Uniform by Joan Root; Revellers In Trafalgar Square, London on VE Day by Jane Wilson.



Paintings from the exhibition that couldn't be held

The four paintings shown here are only a few of those which would have been exhibited in the Village Hall during VE Day weekend had it not been for the pandemic.

They are by members of Capel St Mary Art for Fun Club.

Members had previously staged an exhibition in aid of the War Memorial Fund.



No street parties but fun

Capel, still a remote agricultural village, in 1945, didn't have any VE DAY street parties. It was going to be very different during the VE DAY 75 weekend.

As well as street tea parties organised by residents, plans were underway to have large street-type tea parties in the CO-OP car park,

alongside the Methodist Church, in St Mary's Church Hall and on the The White Horse patio.

It was not to be, but there was a marvellous show of individual garden tea parties linked across boundaries with neighbours. They are shown on Pages 2 and 3.

75 VJ DAY

The key dates in the war against Japan

1941 7 December, Japan attacks British Malaya and neutral US base at Pearl Harbour. **18 December**, Hong Kong invaded.

1942 January and February, Japan makes vast gains from Burma to the Philippines. **11 January**, captures Kuala Lumpur, Malaya. **15 February**, Singapore surrenders. **19 February**, bombs Darwin, Australia. **29 February**, cross Saiween River, Burma. **5 March**, Japan captures Batavia, Dutch East Indies, Indonesia. **4 - 8 May**, US wins Pacific Battle of Coral Sea fought entirely by aircraft carrier planes. **31 May**, Japan midget submarines attack Sydney Harbour, Australia. **4 - 7 June**, US victory in Naval Battle of Midway.

1943 2 January, US and Australia recapture Bona, New Guinea. **2 February**, Japanese counter attack to try to regain control of Solomon Islands. **8 February**, British Chindits begin operating behind Japanese lines in Burma. **9 February**, Japan abandons Solomon Islands after US victory at Guadalcanal. **8 June**, Japan evacuates Kiska Island, in the Aleutians. **30 June**, US Operation Cartwheel begins to recapture Pacific islands.

1944 9 January, British capture Japanese-held Port Maungdaw supply base, Burma. **23 February**, US Navy planes attack Japanese bases in Saipan, Guam and Tinian, Marianas Islands. **8 March - 3 July**, Battle of Imphal, British stop Japanese invasion of India. Japanese retreat in Burma. **4 April - 22 June**, British victory, Kohima, India. **21 October**, US General MacArthur returns triumphant to the Philippines.

1945 1 January, US troops land on Japanese island of Okinawa. **19 February**, Battle for Iwo Jima begins. **25 February**, US Marines raise US Flag on Mount Suribachi. **5 March**, British capture Meiktila cutting Burma in two. **3 May**, British 14th Army takes Rangoon, Burmese capital. **15 - 16 May**, Royal Navy defeats Japanese in Battle of Malacca Straits. **6 August**, first Atomic Bomb dropped on Hiroshima, Japan. **9 August**, second Atomic Bomb dropped on Nagasaki, Japan. **15 August**, Japanese Emperor announces surrender in Tokyo. **2 September**, Tokyo Bay, Japan formally signs the surrender.

Research by Griff Johns

World War Two comes to an end



Japan signs the surrender document in Singapore on 15 August 1945

Celebrating victory over Japan and honouring those who died in the war



OYEZ! OYEZ! OYEZ!

VICTORY IN EUROPE WAS ON THE EIGHTH DAY OF MAY NOW IT'S AUGUST FIFTEENTH, SO WHAT OF THIS DAY?

JAPAN'S NOW SURRENDERED, AND TOLD TO "LAY DOWN ITS ARMS, GO BACK TO YOUR FACTORIES, OFFICES, AND FARMS."

BUT IN SINGAPORE, THAILAND, AND BURMA, NO LESS OUR 'FORGOTTEN ARMY' STILL HAD TO CLEAR UP THE MESS

WE MUSTN'T FORGET THE WAR IN THE FAR EAST, OR THE LIVES WHICH WERE LOST, BEFORE THE BATTLES WERE CEASED.

THREE QUARTERS OF A CENTURY HAVE PASSED SINCE THOSE DAYS AND LIFE HAS MOVED ON, IN SO MANY WAYS.

SO AUGUST FIFTEENTH BECAME A DAY OF CELEBRATION AS JAPAN AGREED TO THE POTSDAM DECLARATION.

AND ON SEPTEMBER SECOND, AT LAST IT WAS DONE. THE WORLD WAR WAS OVER, THE BATTLE'S BEEN WON.

V.J. DAY, IS A DAY TO BE CHERISHED WHEN WE REMEMBER ALL THOSE WHO HAVE PERISHED

STAND PROUDLY MY COUNTRY, STAND PROUDLY WITH BRITAIN DWELL ON THIS CRY, SO PROUDLY WRITTEN

THIS KINGDOM NEVER GAVE UP, AND IT MUST NEVER FORGET!

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN

The pandemic cancelled all plans for village-wide celebrations of VE Day, including formal ceremonies, street parties, an exhibition, film show and military

vehicles. Only individual garden tea parties were possible. (See Pages 2 and 3.) On VJ Day the village achieved the maximum possible under guidance from the nation's

Pageant Master. Capel was linked to celebrations across the UK and overseas. The War Memorial site was enclosed and reserved for those leading the celebrations.

At 6am a lone bagpiper (Councillor William Dimond) played the Battle's O'er, a traditional air played at the end of a battle. At 10.57am the Last Post was

sounded on a trumpet by Grace Harman. At 11.00am there was the two-minute silence followed by Reveille played by Grace Harman.

At 11.10am Town Crier for the Day, Griff Johns, read The Cry for Peace Around the World. (A new poem which was read around the world.) Wreath Laying followed.

Photographs and a report of the Wreath Laying are overleaf on Pages 8 and 9.

Wreath laying at the War Memorial

(From left to right)

At 11.15am wreaths were laid led by Parish Council Chairman, Councillor Brian Rogers, (on behalf of the village).

War Memorial Trust Chairman, Group Captain Gary Bunkell, (to honour the men who died for the village).

Flight Lieutenant William Dimond RAFAC (to honour all who died for Britain in wars).

At 11.20am the enclosed site was opened for groups and individuals to lay crosses and poppies.

At 8.18pm a lone piper, Councillor William Dimond, piped Sunset.

On Sunday there was a religious Service at the War Memorial (Report Page 11).

Photographs of the formal ceremonies on Pages 6 -7 and on these Pages were by Lucy Taylor



Who are the new performers?

TRUMPETER: Grace Harman, 18, from Kesgrave, is about to study trumpet at the Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester. Her aim is to be a professional musician, specialising in trumpet. Aged seven, Grace began playing the piano. Aged nine, she started playing the cornet with a brass band. Grace has been Suffolk Youth Orchestra's Principal Trumpet, and has played at Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club.

TOWN CRIER: Ex-Royal Marine, researcher, writer, author of The Fallen Griff Johns in a costume kindly lent by Orchard Players.



Photographs by EDDIE COX

CAPEL REPORTER is published by Capel St Mary Parish Council, 27a The Street, Capel, Ipswich IP9 2EB and printed by Keith Avis Printers, 68 High Street, Hadleigh, IP7 5EF.

The men who died



Two of the 35 men remembered and honoured on Capel's War Memorial Monument died in the war against Japan.

Private Harry Walter Burch lived at 1 Blue Gate Cottages, off the old London Road. He had been a farm labourer before joining the Territorial Army 4th Battalion The Suffolk Regiment.

The 4th and the Territorial 5th Battalion, were sent to Singapore after Japan invaded the colony. They fought briefly before being surrendered with 100,000 British, Indian and Dominion forces,

Harry was among the many hundreds of prisoners sent to construct the notorious Thailand - Burma railway.

Prisoners were routinely executed, tortured and beaten, starved and overworked. Disease was left untreated. Harry died on 12 September 1943 in Tambaya Prison Camp, Burma.

Sergeant Eustace David William Fraser (known as Bill) whose family during World War Two lived at Nursery House, near today's Bypass Garden Centre, and later in Bentley, became a planter in Malaya in 1937.

He joined the Federation of Malaya Volunteer Force Selangor Battalion, and was accidentally shot resisting the Japanese invasion.

Inhuman Crimes

Japan invaded Manchuria in 1931, fought the Soviet Union in border battles leading in 1940 to defeat in a full-scale war involving 100,000 men, 1,000 tanks and bombers and fighter planes.

This forgotten war, its tactics and alliances, and Japan's full-scale invasion of China in 1937, shaped World War Two and the Allied victory.

From 1937 to 1945 Japan killed 10 - 25 million Chinese civilians. Chinese and Japanese military deaths totalled 4 million.

Japan committed war crimes of mass murder, torture, enforced starvation and rape - between 20,000 and 80,000 girls and women were raped in Nanking city, China, in 1937.

From Korea, China, and the Philippines Japan abducted hundreds of thousands of girls and women as brothel sex slaves, described as comfort women, for its soldiers.

While serving in the Royal Marines in Singapore, Griff Johns was billeted in barracks used by Japanese troops during their invasion.

A woman called only Sew Sew because she repaired clothing wouldn't go in one barrack room and was fearful passing it because she had been held as a Japanese slave in it.

The Pageant Master's Certificate
See Back Page

On Sunday, 16 August, a service at the War Memorial was conducted by the Rev Andrew Sankey, Methodist Minister, with Pastor David Owen, Capel Community Church Leader, Mel Sutcliffe, St Mary's Church Warden, and Damian Hearne, Roman Catholic Community



A Prayer for Hiroshima

God, you are the Father of all the families of the earth, and call the nations to live in peace and unity.

We remember with sorrow the devastating destruction and death unleashed in the closing days of the war upon the cities of Hiroshima, and Nagasaki.

We pray for the people of Japan, and all whose lives are disfigured by war.

We pray for ourselves, the often unwise stewards of the powers of the universe. Transform the lives and cities scarred by conflict by the revealing of your glory and move us by your uncreated energies to advance your sovereign purpose of peace.

This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our light and our salvation. Amen.

A Prayer for VJ Day

God our Father, in the dying and rising of your Son Jesus Christ, you have brought life and salvation out of cruelty and death.

We mark Victory in Japan in gratitude for the courage of the Allied forces who suffered for freedom in the Far East campaign and in sorrow for all that hinders the coming of your kingdom of peace.

Give us wisdom to learn from the bitter memories of war, and hearts that long for the unity of all nations.

We ask all this in the name of Jesus, in whom there is no east or west, no north or south, but one fellowship of love across the whole earth. Amen.

For those who served and died in World War II

O God of truth and justice, we hold before you those men and women who have died in active service, particularly in the Second World War.

As we honour their courage and cherish their memory, may we put our faith in your future; for you are the source of life and hope, now and for ever. Amen.

For those who serve today

O Lord God of Hosts, stretch forth, we pray, your mighty arm to strengthen and protect our service men and women.

Support them in times of conflict, and in their rest and training keep them safe from all evil; endue them with courage and loyalty; and grant that in all things they may serve without reproach; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



ANDREW SANKEY



DAVID OWEN



MEL SUTCLIFFE



DAMIAN HEARNE



VJ Day reflections by Andrew Sankey

In 1946, Bishop Leonard Wilson preached on the BBC Radio Sunday service. He was Bishop of Singapore at the time of its capture by the Japanese Imperial Army and was interned in the notorious Changi prison camp.

Accused of being part of a spy network within the camp, he was interrogated under torture, and in the broadcast said this: "In the middle of that torture they asked me if I still believed in God. When, by God's help, I said, 'I do', they asked me why God did not save me, I said, 'God does save me. He does not save me by freeing me from pain or punishment, but he saves me by giving me the spirit to bear it.'"

This was not easy as Leonard Wilson had his moments of doubt and despair. He longed to be able to exercise the Christian virtue of forgiveness but it was tough: "I looked at their faces as they stood around and took it in turn to flog, their faces were hard and cruel and some of them were enjoying their cruelty. But by the grace of God I saw those men not as they were but as they had been. Once they were little children playing with their siblings and happy in their parents' love, and it is hard to hate little children."

Such stories of human courage in the grimmest of circumstances abound from the conflict that we remember today.

The more I learn of that conflict, the more I feel a fraud standing here and saying anything at all, as part of a generation that has not had to endure world war. As I grew up people were so reticent to speak of it.

There are stories of those who inspired our forces to press for victory, Field Marshal Slim and Lord Mountbatten of Burma, that Prince Charles reminded us of yesterday.

Many stories could be told but why tell any of them, why remember?

We remember because we need to be reminded of what the human spirit can achieve. But the sacrifice should not be forgotten, not least of those who did not survive battle or imprisonment. An inspiring story of hope is told by a POW. "I ask myself sometimes what positive results came out

of my three years of captivity. Not much, but I think of the comradeship of one's fellows. There was always suffering amongst us and one felt deeply for those in need of help which was freely given and received."

We remember, because false ideologies stalk our world today and those too need to be denounced for the suffering they cause.

We remember because of the terrible destructive power that lies in human hands.

This POW survived imprisonment and was asked to help at a transit camp for ex-prisoners.. He was flown there, and the pilot diverted to take photographs of a city called Nagasaki destroyed by a new type of weapon. Despite all his privation and suffering he said in his talk:

"I see from the notebook I kept at the time, that I expressed great concern about the morality of dropping the atomic bombs and the great suffering inflicted..."

Like many he came to change his mind on reflecting on the greater casualties that might have followed with a conventional invasion, but all a reflection of the terrible consequences of war.

We remember because we need to say that it is wrong and evil to treat human beings in the way so many captives were treated. It is right that profound apologies, should be made.

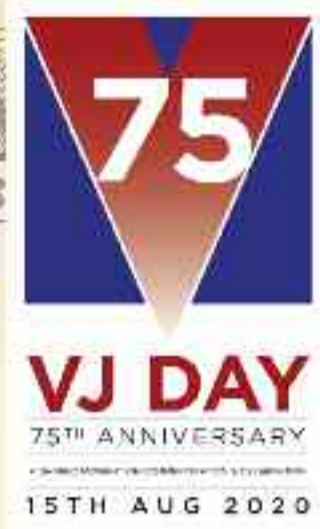
We remember because the Christian Gospel calls us to a better vision as we follow Jesus Christ.

In Jesus God calls us not to be content with the sins and failures of this world. As Christ suffers for us and brings us the astonishing hope of new life in resurrection, he calls us to work with him for his Kingdom, for the hope of heaven, and never to be complacent in the face of human folly and sin.

We could just be overwhelmed with despair - but those we remember today call us to something far better

I conclude with a quote from St Paul:

"For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, 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."



*Certificate of Grateful Recognition
15th August 2020*

*With sincere thanks for your grateful contribution to VJ Day 75,
the important, historic Commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of VJ Day
"Lest we forget the many sacrifices made."*



Bruno Peck
Bruno Peck LVO OBE OPR
Originator & Pageantmaster
VJ Day 75

