



The first wave of assault troops land on Ramree Island, Burma, 1943. Photo: Imperial War Museums.

The 80th anniversary of Victory over Japan (VJ Day), marking the end of the Second World War, is taking place on Friday 15 August.

Following Victory in Europe (VE Day) in May 1945, British and Commonwealth troops continued the fight against Japanese forces in Asia and the Pacific.

The dropping of two atomic bombs on Japanese cities - one in Hiroshima on 6 August and the other three days later on Nagasaki - resulted in enormous devastation, bringing the six year global conflict to a rapid end and introduced the ever-present threat of nuclear war.

The human cost of the Second World War was overwhelming, leading to death and destruction for millions of people on both sides.

80 years on, we will come together as a nation to pay tribute to the British and Commonwealth veterans, the Second World War generation and those who paid the ultimate sacrifice to secure freedom and peace.

National two-minute silence to mark VJ Day 80

Members of the public are encouraged to participate in a national two-minute silence at noon on Friday 15 August to mark the 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War.

A Service of Remembrance will honour and remember those who fought and died during the Second World War in the Far East at the [National Memorial Arboretum](#) in Staffordshire, which will be broadcast live on BBC1 from midday.

Government buildings and High Commissions across the globe will also be lit up on 15 August to commemorate VJ Day.

[Read about our commemorative plans](#), announced this week.

Watch Culture Minister Stephanie Peacock share her family's Second World War stories



You can also [read her parliamentary statement](#), detailing upcoming VJ Day commemorations.

Learn more about VJ Day



Two arms of the 14th Army, the British and Commonwealth's principal fighting force in the region, meet in Imphal, India, 1944. Photo: Imperial War Museums.

Learn more about the events that led to the end of the Second World War and Britain's involvement in the Far East Campaign. Visit these VJ Day pages:

- [Commonwealth War Graves Commission](#)
- [Imperial War Museums](#)
- [National Army Museum](#)
- [The Royal British Legion](#)

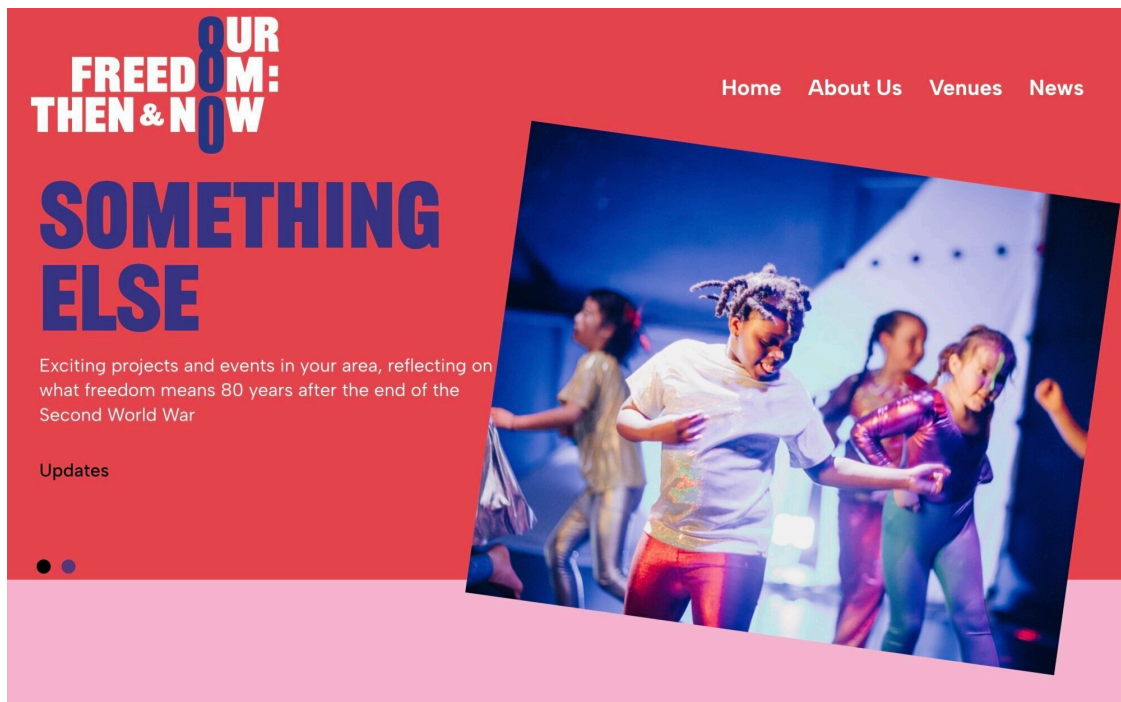
Commonwealth War Graves Commission Every Story, For Evermore Tour



Marking the 80th anniversary of VJ day, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) is continuing its *Every Story, For Evermore* campaign through education and community events, new content, and augmented reality tours focused on international sites. These will include CWGC war cemeteries at Nairobi in Kenya, Sai Wan in Hong Kong, Kranji in Singapore, Kanchanaburi in Thailand and Yokohama in Japan.

Learn about the Commonwealth and British contributions in the Far East campaign. [Visit the CWGC website](#) and download the *For Evermore* app.

Our Freedom: Then & Now



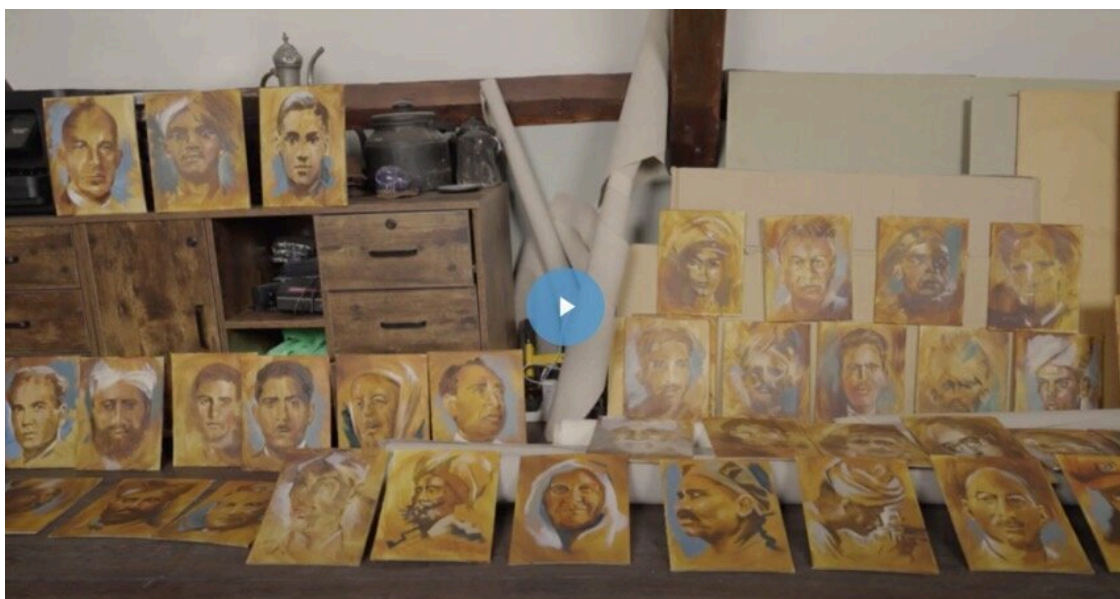
Introducing a new UK-wide, locally-led arts and culture programme [reflecting on what 'Our Freedom' means today](#), 80 years on from the end of the Second World War.

Explore a range of [community events and projects happening at libraries and arts centres in your area](#).

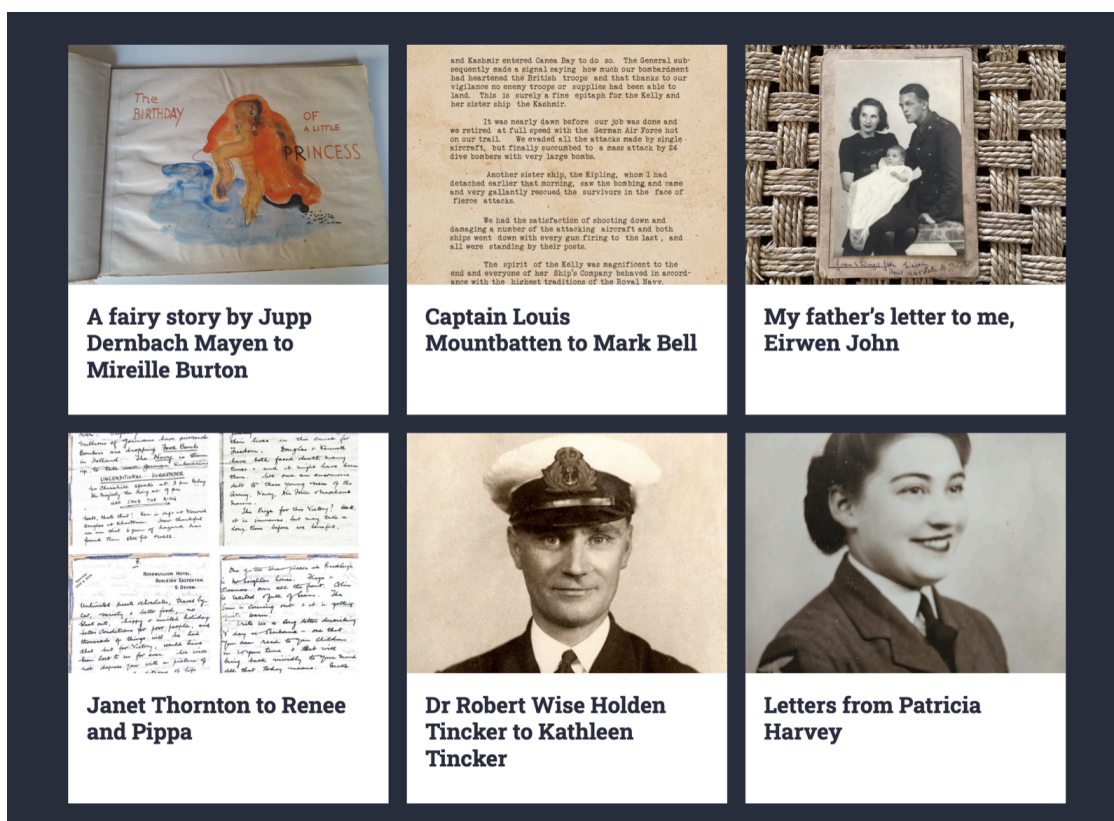
Great Faith: Stories of Sacrifice and Contribution

Discover 80 portraits honouring Muslim servicemen and women who fought for Britain during the First and Second World Wars.

[Watch this short film](#) explaining the collection.



Letters to Loved Ones



We are continuing to encourage members of the public to submit letters from family and loved ones sent during the Second World War, to help people gain a deeper understanding of what it was like during that time.

Share your Letters to Loved Ones and [read those already submitted on the official VE and VJ Day 80 website.](#)

VJ Day 80 commemorative pins



Purchase a [VJ Day 80 commemorative poppy label pin](#). Profits will go towards the Royal British Legion's work in supporting the Armed Forces community.

Upcoming events

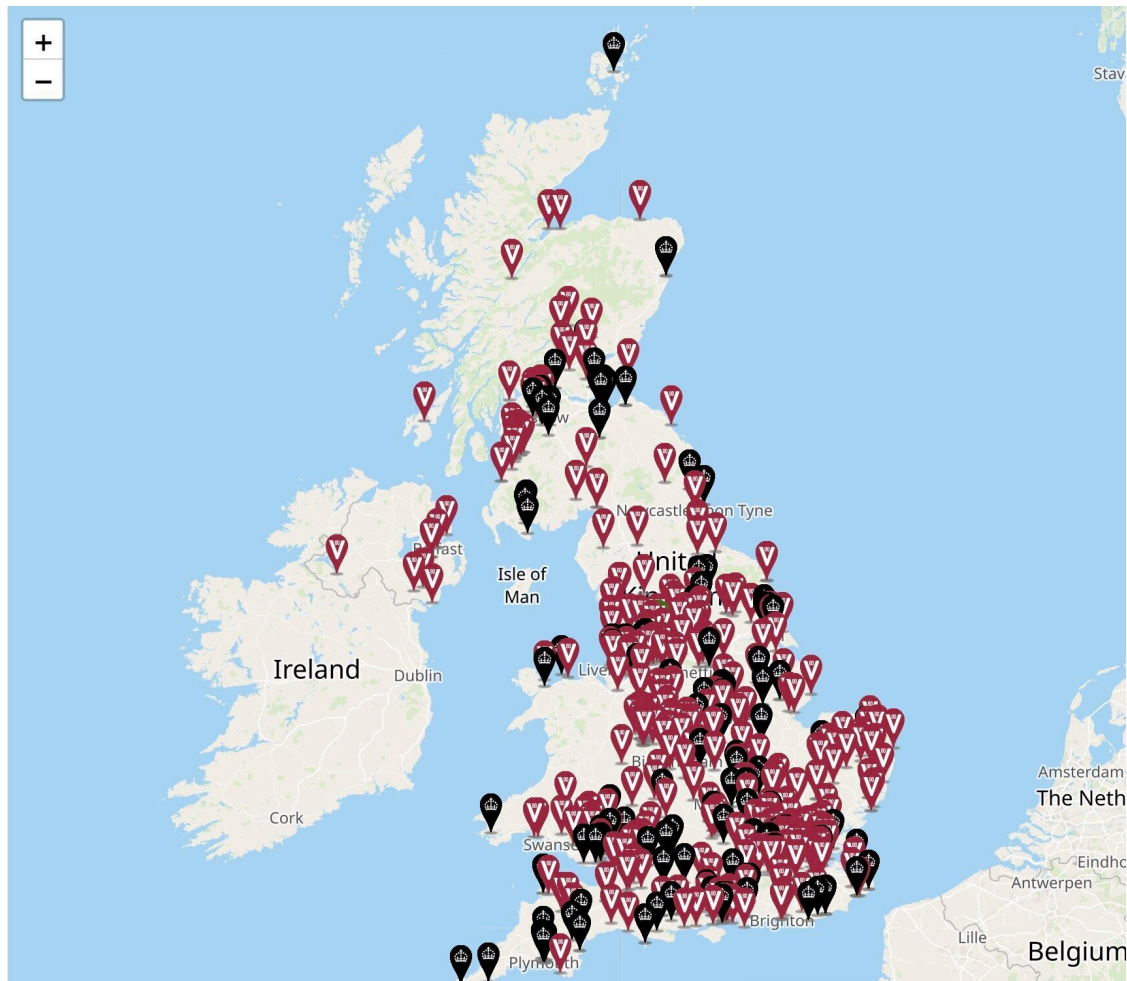


Evacuation of British POWs, Kallang Airport, Singapore. Photo: Imperial War Museums.

- The Royal British Legion's **[Through Their Eyes: 80 Years On exhibition](#)**. National Memorial Arboretum. Staffordshire. Open from 3 May - 16 November. Free.
- London's Ezen Foundation museum presents its **[From Ashes to Blossoms: 80 years after Hiroshima exhibition](#)**, marking the 80th anniversary of the atomic bombing of the Japanese city. London. Open from 16 July - 30 September.
- Experience the **[Marching Orders: VJ Day](#)** family gallery tour at the National Army Museum. London. 13-15 August. Free.
- Mark VJ Day 80 at the **[Royal Airforce Museum Midlands](#)**. Cosford. 15 August. Free
- Attend the **[National Far East Prisoners of War \(FEPOW\) Fellowship Welfare Remembrance Association's commemorative service](#)** at

Norwich Cathedral. 15 August. Norwich.

- The [Children, Families and Friends of Far East Prisoners of War \(COFEPOW\) association service and wreath laying](#). National Memorial Arboretum. Staffordshire. Saturday 16 August.
- Visit [The Tower Remembers](#), a special commemorative poppy installation at the Tower of London, marking the 80th anniversary of VJ Day. London. Open until 22 November.
- Take a guided tour of warship [HMS Belfast](#), which played a pivotal role during the Second World War. London. Open.



Find VJ commemoration events and ongoing
VE and VJ Day 80 events near you on our map

Check out our [official VJ Day 80 website](#) for the latest news, resources and videos.

Share your Second World War stories, family histories and messages of remembrance on social media. Use #VE80, #VJ80 and #Victory80



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