



75th Commemoration of VJ Day

In 2020 The Royal British Legion will be asking the nation to remember the impact that leaving, missing and returning home has on service men and women & their loved ones – then and now. The commemorations for both VE and VJ Day will be the central part of our national remembrance and will bring home the scale of service and sacrifice made by men and women of the Second World War generation.

The Legion is therefore pleased to announce that in partnership with the CWGC and RCEL we will be funding the travel and accommodation costs for a series of tours for veterans of the Asia-Pacific campaign, as defined below, to key commemorative, and Commonwealth War Grave Commissions', sites across South and South East Asia.

As part of this package travel and accommodation will also be provided for a nominated companion to accompany each veteran, and a comprehensive Legion care support group will be in place throughout the event programme to support veterans.

This ambitious programme of activity has been developed with the kind support of a broad range of related UK veteran associations.

Eligibility

Those who we define as VJ Day veterans is as follows:

- Service personnel who served under the Crown. This includes Dominion and Empire (now Commonwealth) personnel resident in the UK.
- Service must have been in the Asia-Pacific theatre between 1939 and 1945, this will include the South Asia, South East Asia, the Pacific and Indian Oceans and all the nations, islands and territories there within, Persia (now Iran), and across continental Australasia.
- All those who were interned or imprisoned and treated as combatants by Axis forces across the Asia-Pacific theatre during the war

Spouses and children of veterans while not eligible for the tours (unless attending in the capacity as a companion to a veteran) will of course be very welcome to attend three days of planned commemorations and activities at the National Memorial Arboretum, which will run from the 14-16 August 2020. Further details of the events taking place at the National memorial Arboretum will be released in due course.

Applying

These tours are taking place in countries where there isn't always the same level of medical support as the UK, therefore the Legion will be ensuring that all participants are fit to travel prior to confirming a place.

If you are not able to travel abroad, we can offer you the opportunity to attend three days of VJ Day commemorative events at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire. Accommodation and travel to the Arboretum for a veteran and a companion will also be funded by the Legion in already allocated LIBOR funds.

Tours

We will be offering veterans the chance to attend tours to one of the following destinations;

- [Imphal and Delhi, North East India](#)
- [Myanmar, Burma](#)
- [Singapore/Thailand](#)

When applying for a place please indicate which tour you wish to be part of.