

Edinburgh Branch

VJ Day Memorial

The Chairman of the Edinburgh Branch Eddie Maley attended the VJ Day Memorial in Edinburgh on the 15th August 2020 by very kind invitation of Legion Scotland.

Eddie reported back that he felt more than a bit aggrieved and disappointed with the event for a number of reasons:

- (1) The First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon failed to appear even though the headline below states that 'Nicola Sturgeon leads Scotland's VJ Day memorial 75 years on'. In Eddie's words, if the First Minister was leading Scotland "Where was she on the day??"
- (2) There was no drummer and piper to play Last Post and Flowers of the forest.
- (3) Royal Navy failed to send a representative to the memorial.
- (4) The wrong colours/flags were flying and were in the wrong order.
- (5) The RAF fly past was cancelled due to weather condition without informing the public who had gathered on Calton Hill to watch it.

Eddie's language then became a little colourful when he read in the Sunday National (Scotland) newspaper that the Leader of the Scottish Tory party Douglas Ross was being slammed for attending a football match instead of accepting an invitation to a memorial service in Moray but nothing had been mentioned about Nicola Sturgeon not bothering to turn up in Edinburgh.

I would like to say that that's Eddie's rant over but I suspect we haven't heard the last of this one.

Having said all of the above, Eddie would like to thank and congratulate the Garrison Sergeant Major for his organisation and his leadership throughout the memorial service. He would also like to thank Legion Scotland for their continuing support and commitment to our veteran fraternity. Eddie also added that although he did feel let down by the memorial service, he was filled with pride being able to stand on parade not only representing the Edinburgh Branch but representing the Queens Own Highlanders (Seaforth and Cameron) Regimental Association.

CFGFB

The article below is from the 'Sunday National (Scotland) newspaper dated 16th August 2020.

Nicola Sturgeon leads Scotland's VJ Day memorial 75 years on

By [Nan Spowart](#) Journalist



The First Minister said: 'We remember everyone – the soldiers and civilians on all sides – who paid the ultimate price'

FIRST Minister [Nicola Sturgeon](#) led VJ Day commemorations in Scotland yesterday by paying tribute to all those who lost their lives in World War II.

On the 75th anniversary of the end of the war, Sturgeon thanked those who served, or are currently serving in the armed forces, while also remembering the civilian casualties and those who suffered in prisoner of war camps.

Many commemoration plans were cancelled as a result of the coronavirus pandemic but a national two minute silence was still held at 11am along with an online service led by Sturgeon and Veterans Minister Graeme Day.

The Red Arrows performed a flypast of Edinburgh in one of the few physical events marking the anniversary of Japan's surrender to the Allied Forces, which effectively ended the war.

Sturgeon said: "In marking the 75th anniversary of VJ Day, we remember everyone – the soldiers and civilians on all sides – who paid the ultimate price during the conflict.

"We think of those who served in the armed forces – from across Scotland, the UK, the Commonwealth and the other allied nations.

"We remember the pain and suffering of those who spent years in prisoner of war camps.

"And we reflect on all those who contributed to the war effort on the home front and the sacrifices they made.

READ MORE: [Red Arrows meet Scottish veterans to mark 75 years since VJ Day](#)

"Together they ensured the freedoms that we enjoy today and all of us should be inspired by their service, resilience and bravery – as well as by their idealism – their determination to create a better world in the aftermath of the war."

She added: "On this 75th anniversary, let us pay tribute to our World War II generation.

"Let us thank all those who have served – or are serving – in our armed forces. And let's commit ourselves – once again – to helping create a better, fairer and more peaceful world."

Day said it was a time for the nation to come together to remember the sacrifices that "ensured the peace and freedoms we enjoy today".

"All households were impacted in some way by the Second World War and it is important that we learn from those experiences so that the awful events that cost so many lives during the Second World War are never repeated," he said.

"The whole country owes our current and ex-service personnel an immense debt of gratitude for their service and sacrifice."

Claire Armstrong, chief executive of Legion Scotland, pointed out that while VE Day marked the end of the war in [Europe](#) in May 1945, many thousands of Armed Forces personnel were still engaged in bitter fighting in the Far East.

READ MORE: [VJ Day: This is how Japan surrendered to save its emperor](#)

"This campaign saw some of the fiercest fighting of the Second World War and in some of the harshest conditions with many thousands of British and Commonwealth forces and civilians being taken as prisoners of war, enduring terrible mental and physical trauma," she said. "Victory over Japan came at a heavy price."

In Edinburgh, the Royal Scots held a wreath-laying ceremony at Laurieston Castle to remember their 496 servicemen who died in prisoner of war camps, while in Dumfries, a virtual service was held online to mark the day. In Motherwell, a planned commemoration was scaled back in accordance with Scottish Government guidance on public gatherings. Wreaths were laid by at the war memorial to pay tribute to those involved in the conflict.

Lone pipers played the Battle's O'er at dawn in India, Australia, New Zealand, Nepal, Belfast and London. A two-minute silence at 11am was led by the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire, followed by an RAF flyover.