



# FELIXSTOWE REMEMBERS



## VJ Day - 75 Years

### *and the Centenary of the Felixstowe War Memorial*

Saturday 15 August 2020 - 2pm



# **The Battle of Kohima**

*Kohima was the turning point of the Japanese offensive into India in 1944 during the Second World War. The battle was fought in three stages from 4 April to 22 June 1944 around the town of Kohima, the capital of Nagaland in northeast India. From 3 to 16 April, the Japanese attempted to capture Kohima ridge, a feature which dominated the road by which the besieged British and Indian troops of IV Corps at Imphal were supplied. By mid-April, the small British and Indian force at Kohima was relieved.*

*From 18 April to 13 May, British and Indian reinforcements counter-attacked to drive the Japanese from the positions they had captured. The Japanese abandoned the ridge at this point but continued to block the Kohima–Imphal road. From 16 May to 22 June, the British and Indian troops pursued the retreating Japanese and reopened the road. The battle ended on 22 June when British and Indian troops from Kohima and Imphal met at Milestone 109, ending the Siege of Imphal.*

*The battle is often referred to as the ‘Stalingrad of the East’. In 2013, the British National Army Museum voted the Battle of Imphal and Kohima to be ‘Britain’s Greatest Battle’.*

## **The Kohima Memorial**

*The War Cemetery in Kohima of 1,420 Allied war dead is maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. The cemetery lies on the slopes of Garrison Hill, in what was once the Deputy Commissioner’s tennis court. The epitaph carved on the memorial of the 2nd British Division in the cemetery has become world-famous as the Kohima Epitaph. It reads;*

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

*The verse is attributed to John Maxwell Edmonds (1875–1958), and is thought to have been inspired by the epitaph written by Simonides to honour the Spartans who fell at the Battle of Thermopylae in 480 BC.*

# Gathering of Civic Officials

## **Address**

*The Mayor of Felixstowe – Councillor Mark Jepson*

## **The Bidding Prayer**

*led by Revd. Andrew Dotchin  
Chaplain to the Royal British Legion, Felixstowe*

Dear friends, we have come together on this day to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VJ Day, the day when Japan announced its surrender to the Allies, bringing an end to the Second World War.

We come together to remember those from our town of Felixstowe who, in many wars and conflicts gave up their lives that we might live in peace.

We stand here today thankful for the sacrifices of those whose names were first inscribed on this memorial one hundred years ago, and those whose names have been added since the memorial was first erected.

We come together conscious of our need for God's forgiveness for the sin and the desire to dominate others that leads to conflict between people, and war between nations.

And as we remember the many soldiers, sailors, and airmen who gave their lives restraining evil and opposing tyranny, we also come in thanksgiving for the years of peace that the nations of the world have enjoyed since the Second World War.

We gather joyfully today, as those who gathered on that first VJ Day, glad of each other's company, and grateful for the laughter and love that follows times of sadness and loss.

But above all things, we pray that God's will may be done on earth as it is in heaven, as we join our voices together and say:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

## **Bible Reading**

*Read by a Town Councillor*

A Reading from the Prophet Zechariah

### *Coming Home*

Thus says the Lord: I will return to Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem; Jerusalem shall be called the faithful city, and the mountain of the Lord of hosts shall be called the holy mountain. <sup>4</sup> Thus says the Lord of hosts: Old men and old women shall again sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each with staff in hand because of their great age. <sup>5</sup> And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in its streets. <sup>6</sup> Thus says the Lord of hosts: Even though it seems impossible to the remnant of this people in these days, should it also seem impossible to me, says the Lord of hosts? <sup>7</sup> Thus says the Lord of hosts: I will save my people from the east country and from the west country; <sup>8</sup> and I will bring them to live in Jerusalem. They shall be my people and I will be their God, in faithfulness and in righteousness. (Zechariah 8v3–8)

*At the end the reader says*  
This is the Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

# **The Story of the War in the Far East**

*A recording of the events of the Forgotten Army read by those who were  
unaware of its cost and its impact on the lives of so many.*

*[if you would like to watch this again follow this link <https://rb.gy/zu7u4c> ]*

## **The Act of Remembrance**

*Revd. Andrew Dotchin*

Let us remember before God, and commend to his sure keeping:  
those who have died for their country in war;  
those whom we knew and whose memory we treasure;  
and all who have lived and died in the service of humankind

Last Post

The Silence

Reveille

## **The Kohima Epitaph**

*The Mayor of Felixstowe*

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

*[Kohima was the turning point of the Japanese offensive into India in 1944.  
It claimed the lives of more than 4,000 British soldiers together with 7,000 Japanese forces  
between April and June 1944]*

# Wreath Laying

*Wreaths are laid on behalf of Felixstowe Town Council  
and the Royal British Legion*

## Prayers

*Rev. Andrew Dotchin*

### *The Collect for Peace*

Almighty God,  
from whom all thoughts of truth and peace proceed:  
kindle 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 kingdom may go forward,  
till the earth is filled with the knowledge of thy love  
as the waters cover the sea;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

### *For the Sovereign*

Almighty God, the fountain of all goodness,  
bless our Sovereign Lady, Queen Elizabeth,  
and all who are in authority under her;  
that they may order all things  
in wisdom and equity, righteousness and peace,  
to the honour of your name,  
and the good of your Church and people;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## *For the Armed Forces of the Crown*

Almighty God, stretch forth your mighty arm  
to strengthen and protect the armed forces of the Crown  
serving all around the globe:  
grant that meeting danger with courage  
and all occasions with discipline and loyalty,  
they may truly serve the cause of justice and peace;  
to the honour of your holy name,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **The Blessing**

Go forth into the world in peace;  
be of good courage;  
hold fast to that which is good;  
render to no one evil for evil;  
strengthen the faint-hearted; support the weak;  
help the afflicted; honour everyone;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

## **The National Anthem**

*Please stand still and silent  
The service concludes with the playing of Sir Benjamin Britten's  
arrangement of the National Anthem.*



# The Felixstowe War Memorial

*The aftermath of the First World War saw the biggest single wave of public commemoration ever with tens of thousands of memorials erected across England. This was the result of both the huge impact on communities of the loss of three quarters of a million British lives, and also the official policy of not repatriating the dead. The memorials provided the main focus of the grief felt at this great loss.*

*The Felixstowe memorial was raised as a permanent testament to the sacrifice made by the 163 members of the local community who lost their lives in the First World War. The names of the First World War fallen are listed on tablets affixed to the north-east and south-west faces of the plinth. The memorial was unveiled on Sunday 15 August 1920 by Sir Courtenay Warner.*

*Four reclining stone tablets of dark grey polished granite were subsequently set centrally against the steps on each side of the base. Each tablet is headed with the dates 1939–1945 and lists the 111 names of the Second World War fallen in whitened incised lettering.*

*The Picture below is of the unveiling of the War Memorial and is used with grateful thanks to [roll-of-honour.com](http://roll-of-honour.com)*

