

VJ Day 80 marked with a beacon lighting in Tidworth

16th August 2025



The 80th anniversary of Victory over Japan Day has been marked with a beacon lighting in Tidworth. (Image: Andrea Penna Photography)

Victory over Japan Day, on Friday, August 15, marks the date when Japan surrendered to the Allied forces, bringing an end to the Second World War after nearly six years of conflict.

On Friday, August 15, approximately 100 people gathered at the Civic Centre on Wylve Road in Tidworth to mark the day.

Before the event, children were invited to draw a piece of art to commemorate the end of World War Two, with honoured guest, Deputy Lieutenant of Wiltshire, Michael Hodges, choosing the winner before the ceremony.

Ahead of the beacon lighting, the Mayor of Tidworth Town Council, councillor Carole Webb, spoke about the importance of VJ Day and paid tribute to the sacrifice the soldiers made.

The Deputy Lieutenant of Wiltshire made a short speech and lit the beacon at 8.45 pm, with music from The Wiltshire Caledonian Pipes and Drums marking the moment.

Speaking after the event, Cllr Webb said: "It was beautiful, the Wiltshire Caledonian Pipes and Drums were fabulous."

"It is a garrison town, we have a lot of service personnel and veterans, and we show great respect for the military and for those who gave their lives for the freedoms we have today.

"For VE Day beacons were lit all over the country, but that didn't happen for VJ Day which is why Tidworth had its own dedication.

"Thank you to all the pipers and drummers, and all the people who worked hard to bring this event to the public, especially all the volunteers and their contributions."



The Wiltshire Caledonian Pipes and Drums (*Image: Andrea Penna Photography*)

The Wiltshire Caledonian Pipes and Drums said: "Our band has many members and family who serve or have proudly served in the British Armed Forces. We all have a deep connection to this history and our lives are built on the shoulders of those who served and fought bravely to protect the freedoms which the Western World still, for the moment, continues to enjoy.

"We play to ensure that the sacrifices made, culminating in VJ Day, are never, never forgotten.

"So, as we play, let us remember the men and women who endured the hardships of war, the families who waited, and the world that was delivered peace. Let the notes of our pipes be a call to remember, to respect, and to cherish the peace we all enjoy today."



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