



How very sad that the late, great Dame Vera Lynn did not live to commemorate VJ Day 2020. She had been a holder of the Burma Star since 1985 and her "Burma Boys" held a special place in her heart. She appeared regularly at the annual reunions at The Royal Albert Hall, held for holders of the Burma Star and their guests, the last being held in 1995. The Burma Star Association was founded in 1951 but, sadly, due to dwindling numbers of members, disbanded as of 15th August 2020 and its Standards laid up.

The end of the Second World War was commemorated in Deeping Gate on 15th August 2020, the 75th anniversary of VJ day. British and Commonwealth Armed Forces were still fighting in Burma, Singapore and Thailand long after the street parties of VE day. The Far East campaign was the longest of the war with continuous fighting raging for three full years. The British Forces over there, unlike their comrades fighting in Europe, had no leave during which they could go home, even if it was for just a few days. They were there for the duration; their only hope of seeing England was in victory. Around 300,000 soldiers in the Far East became POWs; the prison camps became infamous for the harsh treatment administered to their in-mates; only 200,000 would survive to see victory over Japan. The enemy finally surrendered on 15 August 1945 – VJ Day – effectively ending World War 2.

