

Sunderland Remembrance Parade

Honorary Patrons

*Lt. Commander John Bridge GC, GM & Bar, RNVR,
General Sir Peter de la Billiere KCB, KBE, DSO, MC & Bar, DL,
Sir Graham Meldrum CBE, OstJ, QFSM, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Fire Services.
Parade Co-ordinator – Arthur C Lockyear, 12 Stockley Court, Broompark, Durham City. DH7 7NS.
Telephone 0191 373 2035 (Home) or 0191 444 1272 (Work)*

Chief Fire Officer A. McGuirk,
Merseyside Fire Brigade Headquarters.

24th May, 2005.

Dear Chief Officer McGuirk,

Thank you for allowing your Brigade Standard to be paraded at the South Shields "VE" and Gallipoli Memorial Service on Sunday 15th May. The event itself was a great success and the number of Fire Service Standards, and personnel present helped to provide our veterans with a great occasion, and certainly strengthened the perception of the Fire Service being their most committed supporters.

May I respectfully ask for your continued support in progressing this renaissance of Remembrance, with particular reference to the organisation of the following parades:

- The memorial parade to mark the 60th anniversary of Victory over Japan, which will take place on Sunday 14th August at the City centre War Memorial, Mowbray Park, Sunderland. I intend to write to all Chief Fire Officers in the hope of having as many Fire Service Standards as possible on parade, as a sincere and positive mark of respect to our holders of the Burma Star and Pacific Star, who are very much the forgotten heroes and victims of the war in the east.
- The City of Sunderland Remembrance Parade, held this year on Sunday 13th November, is not only one of the biggest and most inclusive events of its kind in the UK, it is now perceived as being an unofficial focus for the Fire Service nationally. This year the parade will have as one of its honoured guest Sir Graham Meldrum CBE, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Fire Services, and I hope that we can maximise our contribution to this great parade.

I hope you will permit your Standard and members of personnel to attend the above events. Your support in this work on behalf of our veterans is very much appreciated, not just by me, but more importantly by our "Old Warriors" whose it is. Also, I might add, the presence of Peter O'Donnell and the lads gave much dignity to the parade, and good humour to the social proceedings, and I hope that you will allow their future participation. I would take this opportunity to extend an invitation to you personally to join us on parade if you are able to do so,

Yours sincerely,



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Parade Co-ordinator - Sub Officer Arthur C. Lockyear
12 Stockley Court, Broompark, Durham City. DH7 7NS. Tel: 0191 373 2035.*

A. McGuirk Esq., MSc, MIFireE,
Chief Fire Officer
Merseyside Fire Brigade HQ
Bridle Road
BOOTLE. L30 4YD

1st April, 2005

Dear Mr McGuirk,

As you will be aware this year sees the 60th anniversary of the end of the Second World War, and I have been asked to organise a "VE" Service and parade on Sunday 15th May, 2005, in South Shields, and a "VJ" parade on Sunday 14th August in Sunderland City centre. →

On behalf of our veterans may I extend an invitation to you to have your Brigade Standard paraded with those of the Royal British Legion, and ex-Services' Associations at both of these occasions, as a mark of respect and support for our "Old Warriors" on this very important anniversary.

The "VE" service will be led by the Band of the Tyne Tees Regiment, and Buglers of the Durham Army Cadet Force's Borneo Band, and will commence at 12:30 Hrs, with a parade of Standards through the Nave of the church. Representation from "Allied" Embassies and High Commissions has been invited, and it is expected that a number of local Gallantry Medallists will attend.

The parade from Sunderland Civic Centre to the City's War Memorial on Sunday 14th August to mark "VJ" Day will be led by the Normandy Band of the Queen's Division, and the Pipes and Drums of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. This event is being organised on behalf of local former Far East Prisoners of War, and other holders of the Burma and/or Pacific Stars. This parade is expected to be very well attended indeed, and will "Step Off" at 11:00 Hrs. During the ceremony there will be the dedication of Branch Standards of the Life Guards and Suez Veterans Associations, and weather permitting, a fly-past by a Spitfire and a Douglas Dakota of the RAF Battle of Britain Memorial Flight will take place. It is my intention to invite every Fire Brigade in the UK to send their Standard Bearer to this latter parade.

With your support we can as a service contribute positively to giving our veterans day they will never forget, and a parade worthy of the comrades they seek to honour and remember,

I am,
Sir,

Yours sincerely and fraternally,

