

Beat: News

75th Anniversary of V.E. Day celebrated by British Pakistanis with pride

He will be dearly missed but remembered

London , 10.05.2020, 07:45 Time

USPA NEWS - Britain commemorates the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day, which was the major turning point of the Second World War with Germany. All of the Commonwealth countries including Pakistan, which was then part of India also have a very special reason to celebrate the historic achievement of Victory in Europe. The forefathers of the British Pakistanis fought shoulder to shoulder with the British Armed Forces against Hitler's Nazi Germany.

Shazada Hayat President UICF (UK) and international community welfare activist and also a former British Army Officer is celebrating with immense pride and patriotism the 75th Victory in Europe Day. Shazada Hayat's father served with the British Indian Army and fought jointly with the British 8th Army in The Battle of El Alamein against General Rommel of Germany. He along with other soldiers from the Commonwealth was taken to Germany as a prisoner of war. Muhammad Noor-Hayat with his fellow prisoners of war was liberated once victory in Europe was achieved 75 years ago.

Muhammad Noor-Hayat from what was then The North West Frontier of India and today Pakistan, joined the British Indian Army in order to save Britain from Nazi Germany. This was on the pretext and promise that at the end of the World War Britain would give India independence and a separate independent homeland to the Muslims, what is today Pakistan. Based on this promise and assurance Muhammad Noor-Hayat accepted the challenge and was prepared to lay down his life for three very special causes. One was to defend Britain from Hitler's Germany, the second was to achieve independence for India and the third most dear to his heart was for the creation of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

Muhammad Noor-Hayat gave the best part of his life for these principles. He was well known after the war as Maulana Muhammad Noor-Hayat because he was an Islamic scholar and the fact that he supported with his life the struggle of the founder of Pakistan Quaid-E-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah for the creation of an independent Pakistan. Maulana Muhammad Noor-Hayat had the honour of meeting Quaid-E-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah on many occasions in Karachi Pakistan. He also had the privilege on several occasions to recite the Holy Quran on stage before Quaid-E-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah addressed the public. After the end of the Second World War Maulana Muhammad Noor-Hayat made his home both in Britain and Pakistan. He was a very well-known respected personality for his outstanding service to Islam, Pakistan and Britain and also for his efforts of promoting multifaith, harmony and community cohesion.

Upon his death Maulana Muhammad Noor-Hayat received one of the most outstanding tributes at his graveside, the likes of which have never been seen for a member of the public of the British international community in UK. The service was attended by the Secretary of State Rt. Hon. Paul Flynn MP, Jessica Morden MP, Heads of the British Armed Forces, The Army, The Navy and The British Air Force and also the Gurkhas representative and the police Chief who all saluted the grave of Maulana Muhammad Noor-Hayat. The illustrious gathering also included the Pakistan Acting Foreign Secretary, The Speaker of The National Assembly, The High Sheriff, The Lord Lieutenant, The Lord Mayor, The Chairman of the British Commonwealth Society,

representatives of multifaith community and business religious and community leaders who all joined together to honour and pay tribute to the outstanding achievement and service of Maulana Muhammad Noor-Hayat, a decorated war hero whose medals of honour were displayed on his grave. The Speaker of The National Assembly Dame Rosemary Butler said in her tribute, here lies a man who fought for justice and freedom and worked tirelessly promoting multifaith harmony and community cohesion.

He will be dearly missed but remembered. The Shadow Secretary of State Rt. Hon. Paul Flynn said, I am proud to have known Mr. Hayat for three decades, he was a great man of God who brought together the communities respecting each other's cultures and dedicating his life for the welfare of others. A truly humble and kind man who lived his life for others. The Acting Foreign Secretary from Pakistan said in his tribute, I am proud and overwhelmed to see so many illustrious dignitaries present here today to pay tribute to Maulana Muhammad Noor-Hayat who was born in North West Frontier Pakistan and as well as serving Pakistan also dedicated his time to serving his adopted country Britain. He was truly a courageous war hero and at the same time a humble man who lived an ordinary life and won the hearts and minds of both the people in Pakistan and here in Britain.

The British Pakistani overseas community are a shining example of their dedication and hard work playing their full role not only of their ancestors who fought in the Second World War to protect Britain, but also today they are contributing hugely to help make Britain the great country it is. At the same time the British Pakistanis have not forgotten their ancestral Pakistan. Shazada Hayat said, we the children of those great men like my dear father who gave their yesterday for our today, fighting to defend Britain in the hour of need we will never forget their sacrifice and honour and remember them eternally. Therefore, the British Pakistanis have a very special reason to celebrated the great victory achieved in the Second World War as Britain is our fatherland and Pakistan is our motherland.

Article online:

<https://www.uspa24.com/bericht-16978/75th-anniversary-of-ve-day-celebrated-by-british-pakistanis-with-pride.html>

Editorial office and responsibility:

V.i.S.d.P. & Sect. 6 MDSiV (German Interstate Media Services Agreement): Aurangzeb Akbar

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Editorial program service of General News Agency:

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Official Federal Reg. No. 7442619