

VJ Day – Understandable Confusion about Dates



V-J Day definition. The **day** of victory over Japan for the Allies in World War II; September 2, 1945, the **day** of Japan's formal surrender. (Compare V-E Day.)

Victory over Japan Day (also known as **Victory in the Pacific Day**, **V-J Day**, or **V-P Day**) is a name chosen for the day on which Japan surrendered, in effect ending World War II, and subsequent anniversaries of that event. The term has been applied to both of the days on which the initial announcement of Japan's surrender was made –

1. **to the afternoon of August 15, 1945, in Japan, and, because of time zone differences, to August 14, 1945** (when it was announced in the United States and the rest of the Americas and Eastern Pacific Islands) – as well as to
2. **September 2, 1945**, when the signing of the surrender document occurred, officially ending World War II.

August 15 is the official V-J Day for the UK, while the official U.S. commemoration is September 2.^[1] The name, V-J Day, had been selected by the Allies after they named V-E Day for the victory in Europe.

On September 2, 1945, a formal surrender ceremony was performed in Tokyo Bay, Japan, aboard the battleship USS *Missouri*. In Japan, August 15 usually is known as the "memorial day for the end of the war" the official name for the day, however, is "the day for mourning of war dead and praying for peace".