**Transcript – Private Peter Hazelhurst, B Company, 9th Battalion, Border Regiment, British Army**

**Warning: This transcript contains derogatory language and descriptions of warfare and death.**

**All narration and voices are provided by actors.**

**NARRATOR**

By 1945, the Japanese were in retreat across the Pacific theatre, as American, Commonwealth, and Chinese forces began seizing land lost three years before. Yet this advance was still coming at significant loss to the Allies, as Japanese resistance stiffened. Private Peter Hazelhurst of B Company, 9th Battalion, the Border Regiment, explains why their response to victory in Europe was muted.

**PETER**

“At Pyawbwe, we lined up on the paddy fields and were told we were going to have to move on foot, there was a big railway embankment about a mile in front of us. We were told we had to take the railway station. They were shelling us.

We fought our way to the embankment and lost a few lads crossing the paddy fields, and we killed about four hundred or five hundred Japs that day. There were big railway sidings in the town. The Japs retreated out of the town and left it to us. That was our last big battle…

We got to Pegu and were all lined up ready to go in and the word came that the war in Europe was over. And we shouted, ‘What the bloody hell use is that to us? When’s our war going to be over?”

Source: Private Peter Hazelhurst, Forgotten Voices of Burma: The Second World War’s Forgotten Conflict by Julian Thompson