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WWII German Surrender Documents

Instrument of Surrender of

All German armed forces in HOLLAND, in northwest Germany including all islands, and in DENMARK.

1. The German Command agrees to the surrender of all armed forces in HOLLAND, in northwest GERMANY including the FRISLIAN ISLANDS and HELIGOLAND and all islands, in SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN, and in DENMARK, to the C.-in-C. 21 Army Group.

=This to include all naval ships in these areas=

These forces to lay down their arms and to surrender unconditionally.

2. All hostilities on land, on sea, or in the air by German forces in the above areas to cease at 0800 hrs. British Double Summer Time on Saturday 5 May 1945.
3. The German command to carry out at once, and without argument or comment, all further orders that will be issued by the Allied Powers on any subject.
4. Disobedience of orders, or failure to comply with them, will be regarded as a breach of these surrender terms and will be dealt with by the Allied Powers in accordance with the laws and usages of war.
5. This instrument of surrender is independent of, without prejudice to, and will be superseded by any general instrument of surrender imposed by or on behalf of the Allied Powers and applicable to Germany and the German armed forces as a whole.

6. This instrument of surrender is written in English and in German.

The English version is the authentic text.

7. The decision of the Allied Powers will be final if any doubt or dispute arise as to the meaning or interpretation of the surrender terms.

=HANS GEORG von FRIEDBERG=

=KINZEL=

=G. WAGNER=

=B. L. MONTGOMERY=

=Field - Marshal=

=POLECK=

=FRIEDEL=

=4 May 1945=

=1830 hrs.=

{Reichspräsident Donitz's authorization to Colonel General Jodl}
{to conclude a general surrender:}

Hauptquartier, den 6. Mai 1945

Ich bevollmichtige Generaloberst J o d l ,

Chef des Wehrmachtführungsstabes in Oberkommando
der Wehrmacht, zum Abschluss eines Waffenstill-
standsabkommens mit dem Hauptquartier des Generals
E i s e n h o w e r .



=DONITZ=

GroBadmiral.

Only this text in English is authoritative

**Note: Seal for illustration purposes only
- Not an accurate facsimile**

ACT OF MILITARY SURRENDER

1. We the undersigned, acting by authority of the German High Command, hereby surrender unconditionally to the Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary Forces and simultaneously to the Soviet High Command all forces on land, sea and in the air who are at this date under German control.

2. The German High Command will at once issue orders to all German military, naval and air authorities and to all forces under German

control to cease active operations at 2301 hours Central European time on 8 May and to remain in the positions occupied at that time. No ship, vessel, or aircraft is to be scuttled, or any damage done to their hull, machinery or equipment.

3. The German High Command will at once issue to the appropriate commander, and ensure the carrying out of any further orders issued by the Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary Force and by the Soviet High Command.

4. This act of military surrender is without

prejudice to, and will be superseded by any general instrument of surrender imposed by, or on behalf of the United Nations and applicable to GERMANY and the German armed forces as a whole.

5. In the event of the German High Command or any of the forces under their control failing to act in accordance with this Act of Surrender, the Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary Force and the Soviet High Command will take such punitive or other action as they deem appropriate.

Signed at =RHEIMS at 0241= on the =7th= day of May, 1945.
=France=

On behalf of the German High Command.

=JODL=

IN THE PRESENCE OF

On behalf of the Supreme Commander,
Allied Expeditionary Force.

On behalf of the Soviet
High Command

=W. B. SMITH=

=SOUSLOPAROV=

=F SEVEZ=
Major General, French Army
(Witness)

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

SERIAL 1

ORDERS BY THE SUPREME COMMANDER,
ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE RELATING TO
ARMY AND AIR FORCES UNDER GERMAN CONTROL

1. Local commanders of the Army and Air Force
under German control on the Western Front, in
NORWAY and in the CHANNEL ISLANDS will hold themselves
in readiness to receive detailed orders for the

surrender of their forces from the Supreme Commander's subordinate commanders opposite their front.

2. In the case of NORWAY the Supreme Commander's representatives will be the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Scottish Command and Air Officer Commanding 13 Group RAF.

3. In the case of the CHANNEL ISLANDS the Supreme Commander's representatives will be the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Southern Command and Air Officer Commanding 10 Group RAF.

=WALTER B SMITH=
Signed.....
For the Supreme Commander, RAF

Dated =0241 7th= May, 1945
=Rheims France=

SPECIAL ORDERS BY THE SUPREME COMMANDER, ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE TO THE GERMAN HIGH COMMAND RELATING TO NAVAL FORCES

For the purpose of these orders the term "Allied Representatives" shall be deemed to include the Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary Force, and any subordinate commander, staff officer or agent acting pursuant to his orders.

PART I GENERAL

Definition of Naval Forces

1. For the purpose of these orders all formations,

units, and personnel of the German Navy together with the Marine Kusten Polizie shall be referred to as the German Naval Forces.

2. Members of the Marine Kusten Polizie will immediately be placed under the command of the appropriate German Naval Commanders who will be responsible for their maintenance and supply where applicable, to the same extent and degree as for units of the German Navy. German Naval Representatives and information required immediately

3. The German High Command will dispatch within

48 hours after the surrender becomes effective, a responsible Flag Officer to the Allied Naval Commander, Expeditionary Force at his headquarters. This Flag Officer will furnish the Allied Naval Commander, Expeditionary Force, with:-

- a. Corrected copies of charts showing all minefields in Western Europe waters, including the BALTIC as far as LUBECK (inclusive) which have been laid by German and German-controlled vessels or aircraft, positions of all wrecks, booms and other underwater obstructions in this area, details of the German convoy

bring with him the current naval communications Orders, including allocation of frequencies, list of W/T and R/T call signs in force, and a list of all codes and cyphers in use, and intended to be brought into use.

d. Location of all surface warships down to and including "Elbing" class Torpedo Boats, and of all submarines and "E" Boats.

4. The German High Command will also dispatch within 48 hours after the surrender becomes effective a responsible officer, not below the rank of Captain, by coastal craft to report to the Admiral Commanding

at DOVER for onward routing to Commander-in-Chief,
THE NORE, with:-

a. Corrected copies of charts showing all minefields in the NORTH SEA SOUTH of 54 30' NORTH and EAST of 1 30' EAST laid by German and German-controlled vessels or aircraft, positions of all wrecks, booms and all other underwater obstructions; details of all German Convoy routes and searched channels in this area, and of all bouys, lights and other navigational aids which are under German control. Appropriate navigational publications are also required.

b. All available information concerning

the numbers and types of German minesweepers and sperrbrechers in German controlled Dutch ports and German NORTH SEA ports that can be obtained without delaying his departure.

5. Another responsible German Naval Officer, with similar information is to be dispatched by unescorted aircraft painted white to MANSTON Areodrome position 51 20' NORTH, 1 20' EAST for onward routing to Commander-in-Chief, THE NORE.

6. The German High Command will issue instructions to certain German naval commands as indicated

below:-

a. The Naval Commander-in-Chief, NORTH SEA will dispatch by coastal craft within 48 hours after the surrender becomes effective a responsible officer, not below the rank of Captain, to the Admiral Commanding at DOVER for onward routing to Commander-in-Chief, THE NORE, with:-

(1) details of minesweeping operations carried out in the German convoy route between the HOOK OF HOLLAND and HAMBURG and in approaches to harbours between these two ports during the

previous 60 days;

(2) numbers and positions of all British mines swept during these operations;

(3) details of all controlled mine-fields in this area and information whether they have been rendered ineffective;

(4) details of all other mining and types of mines employed in the harbours and harbour approaches of CUXHAVEN,

EMDEN, TERSCHELLING, TEXEL, IJMUIDEN,
AMSTERDAM, SCHEVENINGEN, HOOK OF
HOLLAND and ROTTERDAM;

(5) berthing facilities in the harbours
enumerated in paragraph (6a). (4) above
and the numbers of auxiliary minesweepers
which can be accommodated;

(6) a list of all W/T and R/T call signs
in use by the German Navy.

Any of the above information which cannot be obtained without
delaying the departure of this officer will be forwarded
subsequently as soon as it is available.

b. The Naval Commander-in-Chief, NORTH SEA, will also dispatch as soon as possible by coastal craft to DOVER thirteen German Naval Officers who must be familiar with the German swept channels between the HOOK OF HOLLAND and CUXHAVEN. These officers will bring with them all the charts and books required for navigation in this area and will be accompanied by pilots (and interpreters if necessary).

c. The Naval Commander-in-Chief, NORWAY, will dispatch by sea within 48 hours after the surrender becomes effective, a responsible officer, not below the rank of Captain to the Commander-in-Chief, ROSYTH,

with corrected copies of charts showing all German minefields in the NORTH SEA, NORTH of 56 NORTH, all wrecks, booms and other underwater obstructions, details of German convoy routes and searched channels in this area, of the approach channels to the principal Norwegian ports and of all bouys, lights and other navigational aids in this area. This officer will also bring with him the disposition of all "U" Boats and details of all orders affecting their future movements. He will be accompanied by six German Naval Officers with pilots (and interpreters if necessary) who are familiar with the coastal swept channels between OSLO and TROMSO. These officers will bring with them all the charts

and books required for navigation in Norwegian waters, and a list of all W/T and R/T call signs in use by the German Navy.

d. The Naval Commander-in-Chief, NORWAY, will dispatch a duplicate party to the above with similar information by an unescorted aircraft painted white to DREM Airfield 56 02' NORTH 02 48' WEST.

e. The Naval Commander-in-Chief, NORWAY, will report by W/T to the Commander-in-Chief, ROSYTH, within 48 hours after the surrender becomes effective, the following information:-

(1) Berthing facilities at OSLO,
CHRISTIANSAND, STAVANGER, BERGEN, TRONDHEIM,

NARVIK, and TROMSO.

(2) The appropriate quantities of furnace oil fuel, diesel oil fuel, and coal at all the principal Norwegian ports between OSLO and TROMSO.

7. The German Admiral SKGGERAK will dispatch by sea within 48 hours after the surrender becomes effective, a responsible officer not below the rank of Captain, to the Commander-in-Chief, ROSYTH, with corrected copies of charts showing all German minefields, wrecks, booms, and other underwater obstructions, details of German convoy routes

and searched channels, bouys, lights and other navigational aids in the SKAGGERAK, KATTEGAT, THE BEITS AND SOUND, KIEL BAY and BALTIC WATERS WEST of 14 EAST. This officer will also bring with him the disposition of all "U" boats in the above area and details of all orders affecting their future movements. He will be accompanied by three German Naval officers with pilots (and interpreters if necessary) who are familiar with the coastal swept channels, and channels in the Swedish territorial waters, in the waters referred to above. These officers will bring with

them all the charts and books required for navigation in these waters, and a list of all W/T and R/T call signs in use by the German Navy.

The German Admiral SKAGGERAK will dispatch a duplicate party to that specified above, with similar information, by air in unescorted aircraft painted white to DREM Airfield 56 02' NORTH 02 48' WEST.

8. The German Naval Officers who will be dispatched to DOVER and ROSYTH by sea will proceed to positions in latitude 51 19' NORTH longitude 1 43' EAST and latitude 56 47' NORTH longitude 1 13' WEST respectively,

where they will be met by British warships and escorted to their destination. The ships or craft in which they travel are to fly a large white flag at the masthead by day and are to illuminate these white flags by night. These ships are to broadcast their positions hourly by W/T on 500 ks. (600 meters) whilst on passage.

Information required within fourteen days

9. The German High Command will furnish the following information to the Allied Naval Commander, Expeditionary Force, at _____ by _____ within fourteen days of cessation of hostilities.

a. Locations of all warships, auxiliaries and armed

coastal craft operating under the orders of the German Naval Command stating particulars of the operational unit to which they are attached, giving approximate totals of all naval personnel embarked in each vessel, (including naval flak and merchant ship flak).

b. A statement of the organizations of all naval shore Commands, giving location of all naval establishments, including establishments for experiment and research, names of all Commanding Officers and Principal Staff Officers of the rank of Commander in each establishment.

c. A statement of the strength and location of all

naval land forces including naval infantry, naval flak, merchant ship flak and naval personnel manning naval coast artillery and full particulars of all Coastal and port defenses giving nature and locations.

d. Lists of stocks of furnace oil fuels, diesel oil fuel, petrol, and coal of 500 tons or more at, or in the vicinity of, all ports between IJMUIDEN and HAMBURG inclusive.

e. A statement of location of the principal naval armament depots with approximate overall stocks of each major item held.

f. The following communications information:-

(1) location and details concerning all

V/S, W/T (including D/F) and radar stations in use by, and under construction for the German Navy, these details to include types and capabilities of all equipment fitted.

(2) details of the current naval W/T organization, lists of W/T and R/T call signs in force, and allocation of all frequencies for communication and radar purposes.

(3) location and details of all naval

communications (including Infra-Red) and naval radar training and research establishments.

g. Full details of all German minefields in the NORTH SEA, SKAGGERAK, KATTEGAT, BEITS, and SOUND.

h. Full details of the German naval minesweeping organization including the communications organization.

j. Full details of the communications (including Infra-Red) and radar equipment fitted in all German minesweepers and sperrbrechers.

k. Technical details of all types of minesweeping gear used by the German Navy.

I. Details of all mining and types of mines employed and of berthing facilities available for ships of 150 feet in length and 16 feet draught at:-

BREMERHAVEN

WILHELMSHAVEN

SCHIERMONNIKOOG

DELFIJL

10. The German High Command will also furnish the Allied Naval Commander, Expeditionary Force, with two copies of all coding and cyphering systems which have been, are being, or were to be used by the German Navy with the necessary instructions for

their use and the dates between which they have been, or were to have been used.

PART II - CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT

Orders to warships, auxiliaries, merchant ships and other craft

11. The German High Command will forthwith direct all German and German-controlled warships, auxiliaries, merchant ships and other craft to comply with the following instructions:-

a. All warships, auxiliaries, merchant ships and

other craft in harbours are to remain in harbour pending further directions from the Allied Representatives.

b. All warships, auxiliaries, merchant ships and other craft at sea are to report their positions in plain language immediately to the nearest British, US or Soviet Coast Wireless Telegraphy station on 500 kc/s (600 metres), and are to proceed to the nearest German or Allied port or such ports as the Allied Representatives may direct, and remain there pending further directions from the Allied Representatives. At night they are to show lights and to display searchlights with beams held vertically.

c. All warships and merchant ships whether in port or at sea will immediately train all weapons fore and aft. All torpedo tubes will be unloaded and breech blocks will be removed from all guns.

d. All warships and merchant ships in German or German-controlled harbours will immediately land and store in safety all ammunition, warheads and other explosives. They will land all portable weapons but, pending further instructions, warships will retain onboard the fixed armament. Fire control and all other equipment will be maintained on board intact and fully efficient.

e. All minesweeping vessels are to carry out the means of disarmament prescribed in c. and d. above, (except that they will however, retain on board such portable weapons and explosives as are required for minesweeping purposes) and are to be prepared immediately for minesweeping service under the direction of the Allied Representatives. They will complete with fuel where necessary.

f. All German salvage vessels are to carry out the measures of disarmament prescribed in c. and d. above (except that they will retain on board such explosives as are required for salvage purposes.) These vessels, together with all salvage equipment and personnel, are to be prepared for

immediate salvage operations under the direction of the Allied Representatives, completing with fuel where necessary for this purpose.

g. The movement of transport on the inland waterways of GERMANY may continue, subject to orders from the Allied Representatives. No vessels moving on inland waterways will proceed to neutral waters.

Submarines

12. The German High Command will transmit by W/T on appropriate frequencies the two messages in Annexures 'A' and 'B' which contain instructions to submarines at sea.

Naval Aircraft

13. The German High Command will forthwith direct that:-

a. German naval aircraft are not to leave the ground or water or ship pending directions from the Allied Representatives;

b. naval aircraft in the air are to return immediately to their bases.

Neutral shipping

14. The German High Command will forthwith direct that all neutral merchant ships in German and German-controlled ports are to be detained pending further directions from the Allied Representatives.

Orders relating to sabotage, scuttling, safety measures, pilotage and personnel

15. The German High Command will forthwith issue categorical directions that:-

a. No ship, vessel or aircraft of any description is to be scuttled, or any damage done to their hull, machinery or equipment.

b. all harbour works and port facilities of whatever nature, including telecommunications and radar stations, are to be preserved and kept free from destruction or damage pending further directions from the

Allied Representatives, and all necessary steps taken and all necessary orders issued to prohibit any act of scuttling, sabotage, or other willful damage.

c. all boom defenses at all ports and harbours are to be opened and kept open at all times; where possible, they are to be removed.

d. all controlled minefields at all ports and harbours are to be disconnected and rendered ineffective.

e. all demolition charges in all ports and harbour works are to be removed or rendered

ineffective and their presence indicated.

f. the existing wartime system of navigational lighting is to be maintained, except that all dimmed lights are to be shown at full brilliancy, and lights only shown by special arrangement are to be exhibited continuously.

In particular:-

(1) HELIGOLAND Light is to be burnt at full brilliancy.

(2) The bouyage of the coastal convoy route from the HOOK OF HOLLAND to HAMBURG is to be commenced, mid-channel light bouys being laid six miles apart.

(3) Two ships are to be anchored as
mark vessels in the following positions:-

54 20' N, 5 00' E.

54 20' N, 6 30' E.

These ships are to fly a large black flag at the mast-head by day and by night are to flash a searchlight vertically every 30 seconds.

g. All pilotage services are to continue to operate and all pilots are to be held at their normal stations ready for service and equipped with their charts.

h. German Naval and other personnel concerned in the operation of ports and administrative services in

ports are to remain at their stations and to continue to carry out their normal duties.

Personnel

16. The German High Command will forthwith direct that except as may be required for the purpose of giving effect to the above special orders:-

a. all personnel in German warships, auxiliaries, merchant ships and other craft, are to remain on board their ships pending further directions from the Allied Representatives.

b. all Naval personnel ashore are to remain

in their establishments.

17. The German High Command will be responsible for the immediate and total disarmament of all naval personnel on shore. The orders issued to the German High Command in respect of the disarmament and war material of land forces will apply also to naval personnel on shore.

=H. M. BURROUGH=
Signed.....
For the Supreme Commander, AEF.

=Dated 0241 7th May 1945=
=Rheims, France=

ANNEXURE 'A'

SURRENDER OF GERMAN "U" BOAT FLEET

To all "U" Boats at sea:

Carry out the following instructions forthwith which have been given by the Allied Representatives

- (A) Surface immediately and remain surfaced.
- (B) Report immediately in P/L your position in latitude and longitude and number of your "U" Boat to nearest British, US, Canadian or Soviet coast W/T station on 500 kc/s (600 metres) and to call sign GZZ 10

on one of the following high frequencies: 16845 - 12685
or 5970 kc/s.

(C) Fly a large black or blue flag by day.

(D) Burn navigation lights by night.

(E) Jettison all ammunition, remove breachblocks from
guns and render torpedos safe by removing pistols.

All mines are to be rendered safe.

(F) Make all signals in P/L.

(G) Follow strictly the instructions for proceeding
to Allied ports from your present area given in
immediately following message.

(H) Observe strictly the orders of Allied Representatives to refrain from scuttling or in any way damaging your "U" Boat.

2. These instructions will be repeated at two-hour intervals until further notice.

ANNEXURE 'B'

To all "U" Boats at sea. Observe strictly the instructions already given to remain fully surfaced. Report your position course and speed every 8 hours. Obey any instructions that may be given to you by any Allied authority.

The following are the areas and routes for "U" Boats surrendering-

(1) Area 'A'.

a. Bound on West by meridian 026 degs West and South by

parallel 043 degs North in Barents Sea by meridian 020 degs East in Baltic Approaches by line joining the Naze and Hantsholm but excludes Irish Sea between 051 degs thirty mins and 055 degs 00 mins North and English Channel between line of Lands End Scilly Islands Ushant and line of Dover-Calais.

b. Join one of following routes at nearest point and proceed along it to Loch Eriboll (058 degs 33 minutes North 004 degs 37 mins West)

Blue route: All positions North and West unless otherwise indicated

049 degs 00 mins	009 degs 00 mins	053 degs 00 mins
012 degs 00 mins	058 degs 00 mins	011 degs 00 mins

059 degs 00 mins 005 degs 30 mins thence to Loch Eriboll.

Red route: 053 degs 45 mins North 003 degs 00 mins East

059 degs 45 mins 001 degs 00 mins 059 degs 45 mins

003 degs 00 mins thence to Loch Eriboll.

c. Arrive at Loch Eriboll between sunrise and 3 hours before sunset.

(2) Area 'B'

a. The Irish Sea between parallel of 051 degs 30 mins and 055 degs 00 mins North.

b. Proceed Beaumaris Bay (053 degs 19 mins North 003 degs 58 mins West) to arrive between sunrise and 3 hours

before sunset.

(3) Area 'C'

a. The English Channel between line of Lands End - Scilly Isles - Ushant and line of Dover - Calais.

b. 'U' Boats in area 'C' are to join one of following routes at nearest point: Green route: position 'A' 049 degs 10 mins North 005 degs 40 mins West position 'B' 050 degs 00 mins North 003 degs 00 mins West thence escorted to Weymouth. Orange route: position 'X' 050 degs 30 mins North 000 degs 50 mins East position 'Y' 050 degs 10 mins North 001 degs 50 mins West thence escorted to Weymouth.

c. Arrive at either 'B' or 'Y' between sunrise and 3 hours

before sunset.

(4) Area 'D'

a. Bound on West by lines joining The Naze and Hantsholm and on East by lines joining Lubeck and Trelleborg.

b. Proceed to Kiel.

(5) Area 'E'

a. Mediterranean Approaches bound on North by 043 degs North on South by 026 degs North and on West by 026 degs West.

b. Proceed to a rendezvous in position 'A' 036 degs 00 mins North 011 degs 00 mins West and await escort reporting expected time of arrival in plain language to Admiral Gibraltar

on 500 kc/s.

c. Arrive in position 'A' between sunrise and noon G.M.T.

(6) Area 'F'

a. The North and South Atlantic West of 026 degs West.

b. Proceed to nearest of one of following points

arriving between sunrise and 3 hours before sunset: W 043 degs 30 mins North 070 degs 00 mins West approach from a point 15 miles due East X 038 degs 20 mins North 074 degs 25 mins West approach from a point 047 degs 18 mins North 051 30 mins West on a course 270 degs Z 043 31 mins North 065 degs 05 mins West approach from point 042 degs 59 mins North 054 degs 28 mins West on a course 320 degs.

UNDERTAKING GIVEN BY CERTAIN GERMAN EMISSARIES TO THE ALLIED HIGH COMMANDS

It is agreed by the German emissaries undersigned that the following German officers will arrive at a place and time designated by the Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary Force, and the Soviet High Command prepared, with planary powers, to execute

a formal ratification on behalf of the German High Command of this act of Unconditional Surrender of the German armed forces.

Chief of the High Command

Commander-in-Chief of the Army

Commander-in-Chief of the Navy

Commander-in-Chief of the Air Forces.

SIGNED

=JODL=

Representing the German High Command.

DATED =0241 7th May 1945=
=Rheims, France=

{Reichspräsident Donitz's authorization to German representatives
to execute ratification}

A b s c h r i f t .

Der Oberste Befehlshaber
Hauptquartier, den 7.5.45.
der Wehrmacht

/Bitte in der Antwort vorstehendes
Geschäftszeichen, das Datum und
kurzen Inhalt anzugehen./

ICH BEVOLLMÄCHTIGTE

GENERALFELDMARSCHALL K E I T E L

ALS CHEF DES OBERKOMMANDOS DER

WEHRMACHT UND ZUGLEICH ALS OBER-

BEFEHLSHABER DES HEERES,

GENERALADMIRAL VON FRIEDBERG

ALS OBERBEFEHLSHABER DER KRIEGSMARINE,
GENERALOBERST S T U M P F

ALS VERTRETER DES OBERBEFEHLSHABERS
DER LUFTWAFFE

ZUR RATIFIZIERUNG DER BEDINGUNGSLOSSEN
KAPITULATION DER DEUTSCHEN STREITKRAFTE GEGEN-
UBER DEM OBERBEFEHLSHABER DER ALLIIERTEN
EXPEDITIONSTREITKRAFTE UND DEM SOWJET-OBER-
KOMMANDO.

DONITZ
GROBADMIRAL.

Siegel.

ACT OF MILITARY SURRENDER

1. We the undersigned, acting by authority of the German High Command, hereby surrender unconditionally to the Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary Force and simultaneously to the Supreme High Command of the Red Army all forces on land, at sea, and in the air who are at this date under German control.

2. The German High Command will at once issue order to all German military, naval and

air authorities and to all forces under German control to cease active operations at 2301 hours Central European time on 8th May 1945, to remain in all positions occupied at that time and to disarm completely, handing over their weapons and equipment to the local allied commanders or officers designated by Representatives of the Allied Supreme Commands. No ship, vessel, or aircraft is to be scuttled, or any damage done to their hull, machinery or equipment, and also to machines of all kinds, armament, apparatus, and all the technical

means of prosecution of war in general.

3. The German High Command will at once issue to the appropriate commanders, and ensure the carrying out of any further orders issued by the Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary Force and by the Supreme Command of the Red Army.

4. This act of military surrender is without prejudice to, and will be superseded by any general instrument of surrender imposed by, or on behalf of the United Nations and applicable to GERMANY and the German armed forces as a whole.

5. In the event of the German High Command

or any of the forces under their control failing to act in accordance with this Act of Surrender, the Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary Force and the Supreme High Command of the Red Army will take such punitive or other action as they deem appropriate.

6. This Act is drawn up in the English, Russian and German languages. The English and Russian are the only authentic texts.

Signed at =Berlin= on the =8 . = day of May, 1945

=Von Friedeburg=

=Keitel=

=Stumpff=

On behalf of the German High Command

IN THE PRESENCE OF:

=A.W.Tedder=

On behalf of the
Supreme Commander
Allied Expeditionary Force

On behalf of the
Supreme High Command of the
Red Army
=Georgi Zhukov=

At the signing also were present as witnesses:

=F. de Lattre-Tassigny=
General Commanding in Chief
First French Army

=Carl Spaatz=
General, Commanding
United States Strategic Air Force

BY THE PRESIDENT
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

The Allied armies, through sacrifice and devotion and with God's help, have wrung from Germany a final and unconditional surrender. The western world has been freed of the evil forces which for five years and longer have imprisoned the bodies and broken the lives of millions upon millions of free-born men. They have violated their churches, destroyed their homes, cor-

rupted their children, and murdered their loved ones. Our Armies of Liberation have restored freedom to these suffering peoples, whose spirit and will the oppressors could never enslave.

Much remains to be done. The victory won in the West must now be won in the East. The whole world must be cleansed of the evil from which half the world has been freed. United, the peace-loving nations have demonstrated in the West that their arms are stronger by far than the might of dictators or the tyranny of military cliques that once called us soft and weak. The power of our peoples to defend themselves against all enemies will be proved in the Pacific as it has been proved in Europe.

For the triumph of spirit and of arms which we have won, and

of its promise to peoples everywhere who join us in the love of freedom, it is fitting that we, as a nation, give thanks to Almighty God, who has strengthened us and given us the victory.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, HARRY S. TRUMAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby appoint Sunday, May 13, 1945 to be a day of prayer.

I call upon the people of the United States, whatever their faith, to unite in offering joyful thanks to God for the victory we have won and to pray that He will support us to the end of our present struggle and guide us into the way of peace.

I also call upon my countrymen to dedicate this day of prayer

to the memory of those who have given their lives to make possible our victory.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States of America to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington this eighth day of May in



the year of our Lord
nineteen hundred
and forty-five
and of the
Independence
of the United
States of America
the one hundred
and sixty-ninth.

By the President:

=Harry S. Truman=

Note: Seal for illustration purposes only - Not an accurate facsimile

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