

Headquarters to go to Minden. It was still necessary, however, for a strong liaison staff to be maintained at Supreme Headquarters and Rear-Admiral Parry was accordingly made head of this staff, which was established at Frankfurt early in June. A.N.C.X.F.'s Main Headquarters opened at Minden on 15th June.

EXCHANGE OF MESSAGES ON THE TERMINATION OF THE SUPREME COMMAND.

The following messages were exchanged on the termination of the Supreme Command:—

From: Admiral Sir H. M. Burrough, K.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., Allied Naval Commander-in-Chief, Expeditionary Force.

To: General of the Armies D. D. Eisenhower, Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary Force.

Tomorrow, for the first time, the United States Ensign will not be flown over my Headquarters, and the hauling down of "Old Glory" tonight will mark the end of one of the happiest associations in a Combined Command which has probably ever existed.

2. It is with great and sincere regret that I myself and the officers and men of the Royal Navy who have had the privilege of serving under your inspiring leadership realise that our association has drawn to a close. For the rest of our lives we shall remember this association with great pride in the fine achievements of the United Team which you have led to Victory in Europe.

3. On behalf of all my Command, and all members of the Royal Navy who have had the privilege of serving under you as Supreme Commander, I wish you continued success, lasting good health and happiness in your future, which we know will be as brilliant as has been your past.

From: General of the Armies D. D. Eisenhower.

To: Admiral Sir H. M. Burrough, K.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O.

With warm personal regard and appreciation and best wishes for your continued success, I truly appreciate your generous message. While I have already sent out a general expression of gratitude to the entire Command, I think it appropriate to record the deep sense of gratification I have felt towards the Royal Navy because of the unvarying efficiency, loyalty and aggressiveness with which its contingents have served under me during the past three years. Both in the Mediterranean and in this theatre I have found nothing among the personnel of the Royal Navy but cheerful co-operation and a determination to see the job through that have made my association with it one of the truly pleasing experiences of this whole war. I regret our separation which, for my part, is a physical one only. In spirit I shall always remain closely associated with all the elements that have worked so effectively together in the tasks assigned us by the Combined Chiefs of Staff.

Combined Command terminates at midnight, 13th July, 1945, and brings to a close one of the greatest and most successful campaigns ever fought.

History alone will judge the Allied Expeditionary Force in its true perspective, but we, who have worked and struggled together, can feel nothing but pride in the achievements of the men we have been honoured to command, and sadness at having to be parted now. Whatever history may relate about the exploits of this Allied Force, and the memory of man is short and fickle, it is only we, at this time, who can fully appreciate the merit and due worth of the accomplishments of this great Allied team.

These accomplishments are not limited to the defeat of the Nazi hordes in battle—a continent has been liberated from all that is an antipathy to the ideal of democracy which is our common heritage. Above all, we have proved to the whole world that the British and American peoples can forever be united in purpose, in deed and in death for the cause of liberty.

This great experiment of integrated command, whose venture was cavilled at by some and doubted by many, has achieved unqualified success, and this has only been made possible by the sympathetic, unselfish and unwavering support which you and all other commanders have wholeheartedly given me. Your own brilliant performance is already a matter of history.

My gratitude to you is a small token for the magnificent service which you have rendered, and my simple expression of thanks sounds totally inadequate. Time and opportunity prohibit the chance I should like to shake you and your men by the hand, and thank each one of you personally for all you have done. I can do nothing more than assure you of my lasting appreciation, which I would ask you to convey to all those under your command for their exemplary devotion to duty and for the most magnificent loyalty which has ever been shown to a commander.

MESSAGES EXCHANGED BETWEEN A.N.C.X.F. AND COMNAVEU ON THE DEPARTURE OF THE LAST U.S. NAVAL FORCES FROM THE EUROPEAN THEATRE OF OPERATIONS.

From: Allied Naval Commander-in-Chief, Expeditionary Force.

To: Commander, U.S. Naval Forces in Europe.

The departure on the 9th July of the remaining United States Landing Ships and Craft from the United Kingdom brings to an end the largest combined amphibious force that has yet been assembled. The work of the L.S.T.s and Landing Craft of both nations during the assault and subsequent build-up has been one long record of harmonious co-operation, the ships of each nation in their turn bearing and being glad to bear as much of the burden as their capacity would allow.

Not only have the L.S.T.s carried immense numbers of vehicles of all sorts and descriptions but they have also carried large numbers of men safely across dangerous waters.