

47. Captain Maund returned to A.N.C.X.F.'s Headquarters on the 16th May and was then given a directive placing him as A.N.C.X.F.'s representative in charge of the naval element at O.K.W. and of O.K.M.

48. After the dissolution of O.K.W. on the 23rd May and the arrest of Admirals Doenitz and Von Friedeberg amongst a number of other German Senior Naval Officers, command of O.K.M. was assumed by Admiral Backenkohler; he was succeeded on the 25th May by Admiral Warzecha.

49. Captain Alleyne was succeeded on 27th May by Captain E. Hale, R.N., who on Captain Maund's withdrawal became the senior naval representative at O.K.M.

50. The policy for the control of O.K.M. was laid down by the Allied Naval Commander-in-Chief in a message to Captain Maund on the 6th June. The complete dissolution of O.K.M. was envisaged in this message, but during the first phase the main structure of the organisation was to be retained until certain investigations had been completed, transfers of German personnel completed and decisions reached on sailings of War and Merchant ships to the United Kingdom or Allied ports; and arrangements made for the use of facilities in German naval dockyards. When this programme had been completed, it was envisaged that the operational side of O.K.M. should be disbanded completely and the administrative side reduced to four or five departments.

51. This phase was achieved on the 12th July, when the dissolution of O.K.M. was started and a new organisation for the administration of the German minesweeping forces employed on mine clearance was established. The new organisation was brought into force on 21st July, a week after the Supreme Commander had laid down his office.

52. It remains to transfer these German minesweeping forces to the Mine Clearance Board which is being established under civil auspices.

53. Apart from the long term tasks of control of the disarmament of the German Navy and the disbandment of its personnel, there were two immediate naval problems to be dealt with after the surrender. One of these was the opening of the sea routes to the North German Ports and the other the collection of intelligence, particularly that which might have a vital bearing on the prosecution of the War against Japan.

The opening of the sea routes to the North German Ports.

54. This problem had to be tackled with energy, as it was essential to open the North German Ports to traffic soon so that warships and merchant ships required by the Allies could be removed, so that British warships could visit German naval ports and so that the import programme could be started. It was clear that unless imports of food were made soon, a large percentage of the German population would starve before long and apart from humanitarian scruples, starvation of the German population would have an immediate effect on the economic life of the lately occupied countries which it was our first aim to rehabilitate, particularly if famine lowered the output of coal from the Ruhr.

55. With this in mind, minesweeping of the North Sea route to Heligoland had begun well before the surrender and by the 9th May a force of 44 ships was based at Cuxhaven for sweeping the Elbe and its approaches.

56. By this time it was clear that the Ems had been mined at Emden and the Weser above Bremerhaven, before the surrender brought about the cessation of the enemy's policy of fouling all ports before abandoning them. The Weser to Bremerhaven, the Elbe, the Kaiser Wilhelm Canal and all the West Baltic Ports were reported clear of enemy mines.

57. It was decided that the risk of enemy mines could be disregarded in order to admit urgent shipping to ports to which reliable intelligence indicated the routes were clear, and urgent traffic was first admitted to Hamburg on the 9th May.

58. British mines had still to be considered but by mid-May, Bremerhaven, Emden and Kiel (via the Canal) were declared open to urgent traffic.

By the 1st June, Hamburg and Kiel (via the Canal) were open to normal traffic and by mid-June Bremerhaven also.

The Collection of Naval Intelligence.

59. Progressively, as the German forces were rolled back, Intelligence objectives were overtaken and exploited until the collapse of the enemy put us in possession of virtually all his naval secrets. The phase was one more of organising the full exploitation of what came into our hands than of seeking the targets themselves, although only the dash and skill of 30 Advance Unit and of the U.S. Naval Technical Mission in Europe saved many of the more important "finds" from destruction. The work of the Royal Naval Field Intelligence Unit also did much to reveal and preserve these targets.

The Removal of A.N.C.X.F.'s Headquarters to German soil.

60. Since late September, 1944, A.N.C.X.F.'s Headquarters had been located at the Chateau d'Hennemont, St. Germain, about six miles from Versailles and thus convenient to the main departments of S.H.A.E.F.

61. It was a natural conclusion that A.N.C.X.F. should move to Frankfurt so as to be alongside the Supreme Commander's Headquarters, and early in May arrangements to this end were well in hand.

62. The intention then was that A.N.C.X.F.'s "Post Hostilities" Staff, under Rear-Admiral W. E. Parry, C.B., should move from London to Minden, where this staff would be best located to put into execution the plans for the control and disarmament of the German Navy. At Minden they would be ten miles from Bad Oeynhausen, where 21st Army Group Headquarters was being established, while Lubbecke to which the British Control Commission was shortly to move is eight miles away.

63. But soon after the surrender it seemed likely that the Supreme Allied Command would terminate somewhat sooner than had been envisaged and with this in mind it seemed preferable for A.N.C.X.F.'s Main