

Forces in Europe to the Allied Expeditionary Force and simultaneously to the Soviet High Command. The signature was witnessed by Lieutenant-General W. B. Smith on behalf of the Supreme Commander, General Suslaparoff on behalf of the Russians and General Sevez on behalf of the provisional Government of France. The Allied Naval Commander-in-Chief signed the orders to the German Navy.

38. In Berlin on the 8th May, soon after midnight, Field-Marshal Keitel, Grand Admiral Friedeberg and General Stumph, the plenipotentiaries of the German High Command, signed the unconditional surrender of all the German Land, Sea and Air Forces to the Allied Nations. The Allied Naval Commander-in-Chief was present at the signature which was witnessed by Air Chief Marshal Tedder, Marshal Zukov, General Spaatz and General de Latre de Tassigny.

39. The orders for the surrender of the German Fleet were contained in "Eclipse" Memo. No. 1 originally issued in July, 1944, and revised and brought up to date since. "Eclipse" Memo. No. 1 contained the Supreme Commander's orders to the German armed forces for the conduct of their surrender when it came, and besides instructions in general terms contained specialised orders to the German Navy and Air Force. The naval section gave detailed instructions as to the conduct of the German Fleet after surrender and its initial provisions may be summarised as follows:—

(a) The immediate despatch of a responsible German Flag Officer to A.N.C.X.F. with details of all minefields in North-West European waters, of the location of all departments and branches of the German Admiralty (Ober Kommando der Kriegsmarine) and details of locations of all service warships down to and including Elbing Class torpedo boats as well as minesweepers and Sperrbrechers. This Flag Officer was to bring with him a Communications Officer able to explain all communications matters including particulars of the codes and cyphers in current use in the Germany Navy.

(b) The despatch of responsible officers to the Commanders-in-Chief, The Nore and Rosyth, with charts of all minefields and other navigational information on the North Sea. Certain other German naval officers were also to be detailed for specialised duties with British naval authorities.

(c) Much more detailed information on the current state of the German Navy was to be supplied by the German High Command to A.N.C.X.F. within 14 days of the surrender.

40. Orders for the surrender of the German U-Boat fleet were issued by the Admiralty and the planning and the co-ordination of the operations necessary to receive the surrender of the U-Boats were the responsibility of the Commander-in-Chief, Western Approaches.

41. When the surrender occurred the naval special orders (which embodied the basic special orders which had been agreed between the British, United States, Soviet and French Naval Authorities) were issued to the German Admiralty as they stood, and in addition the Admiralty issued orders by signal to German submarines at sea giving them instructions on

how to proceed to surrender. One small adjustment to the naval special orders had to be made to include German naval garrisons in the Mediterranean, which was outside the Supreme Commander's sphere of responsibility. As the orders to Ober Kommando der Wehrmacht in respect of all three services were not actually issued and as the naval special orders only dealt with matters of naval import, no instructions were in fact issued to the German Admiralty (O.K.M.) on such general matters as orders for prisoners-of-war, German responsibility for maintenance of armed forces and so on.

Use of German Codes and Cyphers.

42. On the 10th May S.H.A.E.F. (Forward) gave instructions to O.K.W.* that no codes or cyphers were to be used except in the case of signals to units of the German Fleet, when codes could be used until 2359 on 11th May. It was then realised that the German naval authorities could not issue instructions in plain language to their U-Boats in the Far Eastern waters to comply with the surrender terms because the U-Boats might not believe the authenticity of the message and the Japanese would probably prevent their leaving. Accordingly instructions were given that codes were to be used for this special purpose of giving orders to U-Boats in Far Eastern waters.

Compliance with naval special orders.

43. The German authorities complied with naval special orders as well as circumstances permitted and O.K.W. broadcast an order against scuttling on the 10th May. The naval representatives arrived at the Headquarters of British naval authorities in England as instructed and in such numbers that both the Commanders-in-Chief concerned asked that the duplicate parties for which provision had been made should not be sent.

44. The naval representatives detailed to proceed to the Headquarters of A.N.C.X.F. arrived at Rheims p.m. on the 10th May and were sent under escort to A.N.C.X.F.'s Headquarters. This delegation consisted of Vice-Admiral Ruge, Rear-Admiral Godt (Submarines) with Commander Koltzer as communications officer. These officers proved most co-operative and gave all the information required by the naval special orders except certain hydrographical information which could only be produced by the various sub-commands and certain information about mines on the western seaboard of the Atlantic. These three German officers left A.N.C.X.F.'s Headquarters a.m. on the 14th May with instructions to provide further information; these instructions were complied with to the best of their ability.

Control of O.K.W. and O.K.M.

45. On the 9th May A.N.C.X.F. nominated Captain G. O. Maund, D.S.O., R.N., and Commander H. C. C. Ainslie, D.S.C., R.N.Z.N., as the naval representatives on General Rook's mission to O.K.W. These officers left for Flensburg by air on the 12th May.

46. Captain Sir John M. Alleyne, D.S.O., O.B.E., R.N., was the senior naval representative on the O.K.M. ministerial control party, and he left Versailles for Flensburg on the 14th May. On the 15th May A.N.C.X.F. placed Captain Alleyne in charge of O.K.M.

* Admiralty footnote: O.K.W.—German High Command Headquarters.