



SUPPLEMENT

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THE FINAL STAGES OF THE NAVAL WAR IN NORTH-WEST EUROPE.

The following despatch was submitted to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty on the 4th December, 1945, by Admiral Sir HAROLD M. BURROUGH, K.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., British Naval Commander-in-Chief, Germany.

*British Naval Commander-in-Chief, Germany,
c/o Admiralty.*

4th December, 1945.

Be pleased to lay before Their Lordships the enclosed copy of my report to the Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary Force, on the Final Stages of the Naval War in North-West Europe.

2. As explained in my covering letter to the Supreme Commander, the aim of this report is to supplement the detailed information and statistics in the War Diaries and thus to provide a continuous narrative which is brief, but at the same time contains sufficient detail and references to facilitate research into any particular period or episode.

3. Reports of proceedings were rendered at the time in respect of most of the episodes described in the narrative of this period, but no separate report has been rendered on the naval arrangements for the occupation of Germany.

4. I would bring to Their Lordships' notice, the co-operation and assistance received from the Commanders-in-Chief, The Nore, Portsmouth and Plymouth, in regard to the formation of the Naval Parties destined for Germany which were thus able to move to their destinations with far less delay than had been thought possible. The lion's share of the credit for this must go to the Commander-in-Chief, The Nore, Admiral of the Fleet Sir John C. Tovey, G.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., in whose Command the Parties

for the most vital ports were formed, and who throughout, by his personal interest in the progress of the planning, had done everything possible to make matters go smoothly.

5. The co-operation and assistance received from the Personnel Departments of the Admiralty and from Plans Division (Q), were also notable.

*(Signed) H. M. BURROUGH,
Admiral.*

THE FINAL STAGES OF THE NAVAL WAR IN NORTH-WEST EUROPE.

*Office of Allied Naval Commander-in-Chief,
Expeditionary Force.*

13th July, 1945.

I have the honour to submit the enclosed report, outlining the activities of the Allied Naval Forces under my command from the time of the crossing of the Rhine, to the 13th July, 1945, when your period of command as Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary Force, was terminated.

2. The aim of this report is to supplement the information in the War Diaries, which were rendered periodically from D Day onwards, by a narrative which is of sufficient brevity that a busy man might find time to read it, but which mentions all important events so that the historian may find clues for more detailed research.

3. This was a period of widespread and historical activity for all the Sea, Land and Air Forces under your command. The naval role in these crowning achievements was primarily to ensure the maintenance of the Armies and Air Forces in the field by protecting