

HEADQUARTERS NINTH UNITED STATES ARMY

Office of the Commanding General

APO 339

SUBJECT: Order of the Day.

23 April 1945

The following Order of the Day issued by the Supreme Commander is to be delivered to every member of all headquarters and units under your command:

"TO EVERY MEMBER OF THE AEF:

THE BATTLE OF THE RUHR HAS ENDED WITH COMPLETE SUCCESS. FOLLOWING HARD UPON THE FINAL DESTRUCTION OF THE GERMAN FORGES WEST OF THE RHINE, THE TWENTY FIRST ARMY GROUP THRUST POWERFULLY ACROSS THAT RIVER WITH THE U.S. NINTH ARMY UNDER ITS COMMAND. SIMULTANEOUSLY, RAPID DRIVES ACROSS THE RHINE AND FROM THE REMAGEN BRIDGEHEAD BY TWELFTH AND SIXTH ARMY GROUPS PROVIDED THE SOUTHERN ARM OF A GREAT DOUBLE ENVELOPMENT WHICH COMPLETELY ENCIRCLED THE ENTIRE GERMAN ARMY GROUP "B" AND TWO CORPS OF ARMY GROUP "H", WHOSE MOBILITY WAS RENDERED ALMOST ZERO BY OUR MAGNIFICENT AND TIRELESS AIR FORCES. THEREAFTER, IN THE POCKET THUS CREATED THE TWELFTH ARMY GROUP ELIMINATED TWENTY ONE ENEMY DIVISIONS, INCLUDING THREE PANZER, ONE PANZER GRENADIER AND THREE PARACHUTE DIVISIONS. OVER THREE HUNDRED SEVENTEEN THOUSAND PRISONERS OF WAR WERE CAPTURED INCLUDING TWENTY FOUR GENERALS AND ONE ADMIRAL. MANY TANKS AND MORE THAN SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY GUNS WERE DESTROYED OR TAKEN. BOOTY IS IMMENSE AND STILL BEING COUNTED. THE ENEMY'S TOTAL LOSSES IN KILLED AND WOUNDED WILL NEVER BE ACCURATELY KNOWN.

THE RAPIDITY AND DETERMINATION WITH WHICH THIS BRILLIANT ACTION WAS EXECUTED TORE ASUNDER THE DIVISIONS OF FIELD MARSHAL MODEL, AND ENABLED ALL ARMY GROUPS WITHOUT PAUSE TO CONTINUE THEIR DRIVE EASTWARDS INTO THE HEART OF GERMANY.

THIS VICTORY OF ALLIED ARMS IS A FITTING PRELUDE TO THE FINAL BATTLES TO CRUSH THE RAGGED REMNANTS OF HITLER'S ARMIES OF THE WEST, NOW TOTTERING ON THE THRESHOLD OF DEFEAT.

(SIGNED) DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER" 20 April 1945.

By command of Lieutenant General SIMPSON:

JOHN B. WILLIAMS,
Lt Col, AGD,
Asst Adjutant General.