



HEADQUARTERS  
NINTH AIR FORCE

## ORDER OF THE DAY

9 MAY 1945

THE UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER OF ALL GERMAN FORCES MARKS THE ATTAINMENT OF OUR OBJECTIVE IN EUROPE. IT FOLLOWS THE COMPLETE DEFEAT OF THE ENEMY ON LAND, SEA AND IN THE AIR. FROM FRIENDS AND ENEMIES ALIKE HAS COME ABUNDANT EVIDENCE OF THE TREMENDOUS ROLE OF AIR POWER IN ACCOMPLISHING THIS HISTORIC SUCCESS. IN OUR PRIDE, MAY WE GIVE HUMBLE THANKS TO ALMIGHTY GOD FOR THE FAITH AND STRENGTH HE GAVE US IN OUR CAUSE, AND PRAY HIS GRACE FOR THOSE WE HAVE LOST IN BATTLE. EACH MAN WHO FOUGHT AND DIED IS INSEPARABLE FROM THOSE WHO FOUGHT AND LIVED. BY THE STRENGTH OF YOUR FAITH AND YOUR DETERMINATION YOU HAVE COME THOUSANDS OF MILES TO DRIVE A POWERFUL ENEMY FROM THE SKIES, THEN TURN YOUR WEAPONS AGAINST THE FOE ON THE GROUND TO DESTROY HIS ABILITY TO RESIST. TO EACH ONE OF YOU IS DUE THIS CREDIT. OUR FORCE COULD NOT HAVE FOUGHT WITHOUT THE UNTIRING EFFORT OF EVERY INDIVIDUAL. WE MUST GUARD AGAINST AN ILLUSION OF FINAL SUCCESS. WE MUST NOT ONLY DEFEAT OUR REMAINING ENEMY, BUT WE MUST INSURE ALSO FUTURE VIGILANCE AGAINST THE CAUSES OF WAR. THIS SO THAT THE WORLD MAY NOT AGAIN SUFFER FROM A RUTHLESS CONQUEROR. IN THIS ULTIMATE SUCCESS WE SHALL FIND THE JUSTIFICATION FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED AS WELL AS FOR THE WORK THAT HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED BY THOSE WHO HAVE SURVIVED.

HOYT S. VANDENBERG  
LIEUTENANT GENERAL, U.S.A.  
COMMANDING