

Exhibit #1....July 1944

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS
NINTH AIR FORCEAPO 696, U S Army,
18 July 1944.

SUBJECT: Congratulatory Messages.

TO : Commanding Generals, All Commands, Ninth Air Force.
Commanding Officers, All Units, Ninth Air Force.

1. It is with extreme pride and satisfaction that I am able to quote to you the following messages:

a. From Air Chief Marshall T. Leigh-Mallory to the Ninth Air Force.

"I attach a letter of congratulation to the Allied Air Forces I have received from General Montgomery. I am forwarding also a copy of my reply to him.

I would like to take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the Ninth Air Force for the enthusiasm and efficiency with which they have carried out the innumerable tasks assigned to them both during the preparatory phase and since the battle has started.

They have already made a tremendous contribution to the winning of the battle in Normandy, and I congratulate them all most heartily on the efficiency, gallantry, and enthusiasm with which they have carried out their operations.

/s/ T. Leigh-Mallory
/t/ T. Leigh-Mallory
Air Chief Marshall,
Air Commander-in-Chief,
Allied Expeditionary Air Force."

b. From General B.L. Montgomery to Air Chief Marshall T. Leigh-Mallory.

"On behalf of the Allied armies now fighting in France I would like to express to you the great appreciation of us all for the splendid work that has been done before, during, and since, D day by the Allied air forces.

We soldiers know very well that if the Allied air forces had not been able to dominate the Luftwaffe, then the armies could have achieved little.

You did dominate the Luftwaffe, and you continue to do so, and we know that this state of affairs will continue to the end - of that we are certain.

We know that much of your effort is best applied far afield; but we also know that in our hour of need you are always very ready to apply the whole might of your power to help us in the tactical battle in Normandy.

For this we are most grateful.

We would like to express our great admiration for the brave and brilliant work of the pilots, and I would be grateful if you will thank them from me, and from every Allied soldier in Normandy.

SECRET

(Signed) B.L. Montgomery,

General, Commander-in-Chief, Allied Armies in France

c. From Air Chief Marshall T. Leigh-Mallory to General B.L. Montgomery.

"The letter which you addressed to me expressing your generous appreciation of the part played by the Air Forces immediately prior to, and during the battle, has been transmitted to all pilots, aircrew and ground personnel of the Allied Air Forces.

On their behalf I am glad to exchange greetings and to congratulate your Armies on their current victories.

Your men have shown by their fortitude and leadership that they are more than equal to the stubbornest defences which the Wehrmacht can place in their path.

I shall continue to throw in the great weight of air attack which has been placed at my disposal, and by battering and destroying the enemy where we find him we shall weaken his armies and paralyse his communication lines.

In this manner the enemy will be softened and prepared for the final coup de grace which you know best how to administer."

/s/ T. Leigh-Mallory
Air Chief Marshall,
Air Commander-in-Chief,
Allied Expeditionary Air Force.

2. The following message, in part, with respect to the above has been received from Lieut General Carl Spaatz, Commanding General U S S T A F.

"I wish to add my own appreciation of the splendid work of the Ninth Air Force to that contained in the two letters attached and desire that you pass these expressions of appreciation on to all concerned."

/s/ Carl Spaatz,
/t/ Carl Spaatz,
Lieutenant General, U.S.A.

3. I need add nothing to what I have said before with regard to your truly splendid efforts and results. The noteworthy aspect of all the above is the appreciation from the forces we are supporting, the expression of which came as a result of your wholehearted and enthusiastic desire to do all in your power to assist in every way our fellow soldiers in a speedy destruction of the foe.

4. I want you to know how much I, your Commanding General, appreciate your work, work that brings about such expressions as are included in the above quotations.

This is a TRUE COPY:

Frank M. Hoppe
FRANK M. HOPPE,
1st Lt., A.G.

/s/ Lewis H. Brereton,
/t/ LEWIS H. BRERETON,
Lieutenant General, U.S.A.
Commanding.