THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958

CONFIDENTIAL

FROM 9TH AIR DIVISION 11/1330B
TO COMMANDING OFFICERS, ALL UNITS, 9TH AIR DIVISION

RESTRICTED 9AR M-469-G. FOLLOWING TWX QUOTED FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND DISSEMINATION "I TAKE PLEASURE IN TRANSMITTING TO YOU THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE RECEIVED FROM THE COMMANDING GENERAL US STRATEGIC AIR FORCES IN EUROPE: "I HAVE RECEIVED THIS MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDING GENERAL AAF: TODAY THE MIGHT OF THE GERMAN ARMY COLLAPSED WHEN ITS LEADERS AGREED TO ALLIED TERMS OF UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER. I AM HAPPY NOW TO BE ABLE TO SEND MY CONGRATULATIONS TO THE ARMY AIR FORCES FOR PRESSING OUR ATTACK TO A SMASHING CLIMAX. WE STAND NOW AT THE PEAK OF OUR OFFENSIVE POWER. AS THIS IS WRITTEN, PLANS ALREADY ARE IN MOTION TO DIVERT AN AVALANCHE OF MILITARY MIGHT AGAINST OUR ONLY REMAINING ENEMY—JAPAN. THE WEAPON THAT STRIKES HOME MODERN WARFARE IS THE AIRPLANE. IN OUR ENSUING OFFENSIVE AGAINST THE JAPANESE, THE ARMY AIR FORCES WILL PLAY A VITAL ROLE. AT THE SAME TIME THEY MUST FURNISH PART TO OCCUPATION FORCES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. FINALLY, THEY MUST MAINTAIN A NETWORK OF SUPPLY AND TRANSPORT LINES TO ALL CORNERS OF THE EARTH. A GIGANTIC JOB REMAINS TO BE DONE, AND UNTIL IT IS DONE, NO LARGE SCALE DEMOBILIZATION CAN TAKE PLACE IN THE AAF. THOSE FEW MEN WHO CAN BE SPARED WILL BE RETURNED TO CIVILIAN LIFE AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE. THEY WILL BE RELEASED FROM THE AAF UNDER THE SAME STANDARDS THAT GOVERN RELEASE FROM THE ARMY GROUND FORCES AND THE ARMY SERVICES FORCES. OUR ROTATION SYSTEM WILL BE ACCELERATED. BUT FOR MOST OF US, LET ME MAKE IT PLAIN: WE ARE FIGHTING MEN IN A FIGHTING ORGANIZATION, AND JUST AS LONG AS A SINGLE JAP SHIP SUBMARINE, AIR SQUADRON, OR COMPANY OF INFANTRY REMAINS TO CHALLENGE US, OUR JOB IS NOT DONE. WE ARE IN THIS FIGHT TO THE FINISH. IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE TO FORWARD THIS MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATION WITH ITS REMINDER OF THE TASK THAT STILL LIES BEFORE US. SPAATZ" SIGNED VANDENBERG.

COMAIRDIV NINE. ANDERSON.

CONFIDENTIAL

Exh #f - May '45.

THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958