

In a special greeting to Britain's merchant sailors and fishermen, the King said:

This second war-time Christmas finds the members of the British merchant navy and fishing fleets pursuing their calling through the seven seas, and I wish to send them a personal greeting.

You were the first of our civil population to suffer the merciless attacks of the enemy. You have carried on undaunted, maintaining the vital supplies of the Empire. Your courage and daring have been an inspiration to your fellow countrymen, who are now facing the same brutal assault.

In their name I thank you, and I send you all best wishes for Christmas and a good landfall.