

ACTS OF GERMAN MILITARY SURRENDER

Signed April 29 and March 4, 7, and 8, 1945

I

INSTRUMENT OF LOCAL SURRENDER OF GERMAN AND OTHER FORCES UNDER THE COMMAND OR CONTROL OF THE GERMAN COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, SOUTH-WEST, SIGNED AT CASERTA, ITALY, APRIL 29, 1945.

1. The German Commander-in-Chief, South-West, hereby surrenders unconditionally all the forces under his command or control on land, at sea and in the air and places himself and these forces unconditionally at the disposal of the Supreme Allied Commander, Mediterranean Theatre of Operations.

2. All armed forces under the command or control of the German Commander-in-Chief, South-West, will cease all hostilities on land, at sea and in the air at 1200 hours (Greenwich mean time) on the 2nd May, 1945. The German Commander-in-Chief, South-West, undertakes to arrange accordingly.

3. The German Commander-in-Chief, South-West, undertakes to carry out the orders set out in Appendices "A", "B" and "C" and any further orders of the Supreme Allied Commander, Mediterranean Theatre of Operations. Disobedience of such orders or failure to comply with them will be dealt with in accordance with the accepted laws and usages of war.

4. This instrument will enter into force immediately on signature, and the orders in Appendices "A", "B" and "C" will become effective on the date and at the time specified in paragraph 2 above.

5. This instrument and accompanying orders are drawn up in the English and German languages. The English version is the authentic text. If any doubt as to meaning or interpretation arises, the decision of the Supreme Allied Commander is final.

6. This instrument is independent of, without prejudice to, and shall be superseded by any general instrument of surrender imposed by or on behalf of the United Nations and applicable to Germany and the German armed forces as a whole.

SCHWEINITZ

VICTOR VON SCHWEINITZ, Lieutenant-Colonel in the General Staff of Army Group C, for Colonel-General VON VIETINGHOFF-SCHEEL, Commander-in-Chief, South-West, and Commander-in-Chief of Army Group C.

WENNER

FUGEN WENNER, S.S.-STURMBANNFUHRER and Major in the Waffen-SS., for S.S.-OBERGRUPPENFUHRER and General of the Waffen-SS. WOLFF, Supreme Commander of S.S. and Police and plenipotentiary General of the General of the German Wehrmacht in Italy.

Signed at Caserta, Italy,

29th April, 1945,

1400 hours.

MORGAN

W. D. MORGAN, Lieutenant-General, Chief of Staff, for Field-Marshal the Honourable Sir HAROLD R. L. G. ALEXANDER, Supreme Allied Commander of the Mediterranean Theatre of Operations.