

NOT FOR PUBLICATION OR BROADCAST OR USE ON CLUB TAPES BEFORE 0030 B. S. T. ON SUNDAY DECEMBER 3, 1944. NOT TO BE TRANSMITTED BEFORE THAT TIME, EXCEPT TO THE COUNTRIES AND DOMINIONS, INDIA, THE U.S.A. AND EGYPT BY CABLE ONLY AND ENDORSED: "UNPUBLISHABLE, UNBROADCASTABLE AND UNTRANSMISSIBLE (EX COUNTRY ADDRESSED) BEFORE 2230 GMT." DECEMBER 2.

THE KING'S MESSAGE TO THE HOME GUARD

A Special Army Order has been issued giving the following message from His Majesty The King, to the Home Guard:

"For more than four years you have borne a heavy burden. Most of you have been engaged for long hours in work necessary to the prosecution of the war or to maintaining the healthful life of the Nation; and you have given a great portion of the time which should have been your own to learning the skilled work of a soldier. By this patient, ungrudging effort you have built and maintained a force able to play an essential part in the defence of our threatened soil and liberty.

I have long wished to see you relieved of this burden; but it would have been a betrayal of all we owe to our fathers and our sons if any step had been taken which might have imperilled our Country's safety. Till very recently, a slackening of our defences might have encouraged the enemy to launch a desperate blow which could grievously have damaged us and weakened the power of our own assault. Now, at last, the splendid resolution and endurance of the Allied Armies have thrust back that danger from our coasts. At last I can say that you have fulfilled your charge.

The Home Guard has reached the end of its long tour of duty under arms. But I know that your devotion to our land, your comradeship, your power to work your hardest at the end of the longest day, will discover new outlets for patriotic service in time of peace.

History will say that your share in the greatest of all our struggles for freedom was a vitally important one. You have given your service without thought of reward. You have earned in full measure your Country's gratitude.

GEORGE R. I.
Colonel-in-Chief".

GENERAL FRANKLYN'S MESSAGE

General Sir Harold E. Franklyn, K.C.B., D.S.O., M.C., Commander-in-Chief, Home Forces, has issued the following Special Order of the Day to the Home Guard:-

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"During the past few years I have had many opportunities of seeing the Home Guard in most parts of the country, including Northern Ireland. A high standard of efficiency has been reached, which has been made possible only by the keenness and devotion to duty of all ranks. I would like to emphasise the very special contribution of those who volunteered in 1940 and whose enthusiasm has never flagged since then; they have been in the backbone of their units.

The Home Guard came into being at a time of acute crisis in our history, and for over four years has stood prepared to repel any invader of our shores. The reliance that has been placed on you during these years has been abundantly justified and it has enabled our Regular troops to go overseas in sufficient numbers to give battle to the enemy with the magnificent results that we have seen.

And now as to the future. I hope that Home Guardsmen will take every opportunity of preserving the friendships and associations that you have formed during these past years. You can continue to be a real source of stability and strength to the country during what may be difficult years ahead. I hope also that you will do all in your power to help the Cadets, even if only by encouragement. Here is a way in which you can continue to render valuable service for many years to come.

I am very proud to have had the Home Guard under my command. I have enjoyed meeting and speaking to thousands of you. Now you can stand down with every right to feel that you have done your duty and contributed very materially to victory.

The best of luck to every one of you.

Well done indeed the Home Guard.

H. E. FRANKLYN.
GENERAL".

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NOT FOR PUBLICATION, BROADCAST IN OVERSEAS BULLETINS OR USE ON CLUB TAPES BEFORE 2330 B.S.T. ON DECEMBER 3, (i.e. FOR MONDAY MORNING PAPERS).

NOT TO BE BROADCAST IN THE MIDNIGHT NEWS OF DECEMBER 3 - 4.

THIS EMBARGO SHOULD BE RESPECTED OVERSEAS BY PREFACING ANY MESSAGES FILED WITH THE EMBARGO

THE HOME GUARD STAND DOWN

Lieut.-General Sir Charles Loyd, K.C.B., D.S.O., M.C., Commanding the London District, has issued the following Order of the Day to the Home Guard of London District:-

" HEADQUARTERS,
LONDON DISTRICT.

4th December, 1944.

The war situation being as it is, the decision has been made to stand down the Home Guard. That does not mean disbandment and it is therefore not an occasion for a farewell message. It does, however, provide me with an opportunity to thank you - men and women of the Home Guard - for all you have done.

Inspired by a grand example set by the original L.D.V's. you have, during the last 4½ years, made a great contribution towards the defence of London, the nerve centre of the Allied war effort. You have assisted in launching the greatest overseas expedition ever undertaken from our shores, and you have rendered the most valuable help to the people of London during attacks from the air. You have also created a spirit of co-operation and goodwill which may well serve as a model during the difficult years ahead.

That is no small achievement, and you can stand down conscious that you have done your duty and done it well.

I hope some of you will feel urged to give your time and your knowledge to the Cadet Movement. There will be much to be done during the coming years for the benefit of the youth of this country, and you of the Home Guard are well fitted to play your part.

To the wives of members of the Home Guard I send a special message of appreciation and thanks. Without their courage and unselfishness, often in conditions of stress and loneliness, it would have been impossible for their menfolk to have given of their best.

Should the Home Guard be wanted again, I know that the response of all in London District will be immediate. Meantime, I hope the prosperity and happiness you so richly deserve will come to each one of you.

H.C. LOYD.

Lieutenant-General."

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