

HEADQUARTERS  
EIGHTH AIR FORCE  
APO 633

12 October 1943.

SUBJECT: Commendations

TO : Commanding General, VIII Bomber Command,  
" " VIII Fighter Command,  
" " VIII Air Support Command.

1. Inclosed herewith are copies of commendations received from the Prime Minister; Air Chief Marshal Portal, Chief of Air Staff, RAF; from the Chief of Staff, U.S. Army, General Marshal; and from the Commanding General, Army Air Forces, General Arnold. In my opinion, every officer and man of the Eighth Air Force who participated in the great air offensive which has been waged during the past ten (10) days should be fully advised of these estimates which the highest Government and Military leaders place on their work. If it is administratively possible, I think that every participating combat crew member should receive a letter from his Commander stating that he participated in these great air battles and that, therefore, he is entitled to a personal copy of these commendations.

2. Last Sunday, October 10th, after seeing the pictures of the effort of the preceding Saturday and particularly the destructive effects on the German fighter factories at Anklam and Marienburg, I sent a cable to General Arnold, from which the following is a quotation:

"Marienburg undoubtedly destroyed. It will be a better example of pinpoint bombing, better concentration even than Regensburg. It looks like a perfect job. Believe you will find October 9th a day to remember in the air war. The Prime Minister is sending message to crews."

Subsequent examination of photographs supports this estimate.

3. Convey to all your officers and men my unbounded admiration for the courage and boldness with which they pushed their attacks into enemy territory and the accuracy and skill with which they disposed of their targets. They have, by their effort, won the respect and admiration of the Air leaders of Britain and that great band of fighting men, the Royal Air Force. They have outfought a tough, experienced and battle-tried enemy. Their success has altered the course of the war and hastened its favorable conclusion.

4 Incls.

/s/ IRA C. EAKER  
Lieut. General, U.S.A.,  
Commanding.