

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY  
APC 464 US ARMY

TO: All Officers and Men of the Fifth Army.

For nearly two years you have fought your way in Italy under the worst conditions of weather and terrain against a fanatical enemy. You have defeated the enemy's finest armies and have broken through his strongest defenses. You have liberated most of Italy from the tyrant's heel. You have held before you enemy forces urgently needed to oppose our comrades on other fronts. Your campaign stands a monument to the training, fighting spirit, boldness, aggressiveness, determination, willingness to undergo hardships of Allied soldiers, and to the leadership of officers and of all ranks.

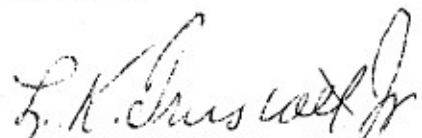
Today we are on the eve of our last great battle. In the East and West, our comrades are driving the enemy before them. It remains for us to destroy this last great enemy force in Italy and complete the victory. By destroying them we shall: (a) prevent withdrawal to oppose our forces on other fronts; (b) prevent the enemy from continuing the struggle elsewhere; (c) complete the liberation of Italy and prevent further ruin and destruction in this unhappy country; (d) deny the enemy resources for prolonging further this destructive struggle; (e) provide the shock which, in connection with attacks on other fronts, will bring about the collapse of enemy resistance.

We are in better condition than ever before in Italy. We face an enemy weakened by successive defeats, almost without air power, and critically short in essential supplies. Our units are at full strength, completely equipped with the finest equipment in the world; our supplies are more than adequate; we have the full support of overwhelming air power. Our plans are carefully prepared and are sound. Our leaders are battle-tested veterans, our troops the finest the world has ever seen.

Success depends upon execution, and the success of this operation is in your hands. The eyes of the world are upon us. Let every officer and man do his full duty. Be courageous, be confident of yourself, your comrades, your leaders, your superiority over the enemy. Use your weapons, employ all available means to overwhelm the enemy. Speed is vital - use your splendid legs. Be aggressive - be tough - when you strike the enemy, aim to kill and destroy, and to take your objective at all costs. Finally, be alert - use your initiative - take advantage of every opportunity - give the enemy no pause. Destroy him.

With full and complete confidence in you and in your loyalty, I look to this operation with supreme confidence in a glorious victory. I am proud to be your Commander.

We shall merit once again the thanks of our countries.



L. K. TRUSCOTT, JR.,  
Lieutenant General, U. S. Army,  
Commanding.

April, 1945