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# ADMIRALTY FLEET ORDER

## CONQUEST OF SICILY—LETTERS EXCHANGED BETWEEN H.M. THE KING AND THE PRIME MINISTER

ADMIRALTY, S.W.1,  
20th August, 1943.

The following Order having been approved by My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty is hereby promulgated for information and guidance and necessary action.

By Command of Their Lordships,

*J. V. Markham*

To Commanders-in-Chief, Flag Officers, Senior Naval Officers, Captains and Commanding Officers of H.M. Ships and Vessels, Superintendents or Officers in Charge of H.M. Naval Establishments, and Admiralty Overseers concerned.

NOTE:—The scale of distribution is shown in the Admiralty Fleet Order Volume, 1941, Instructions, paragraph 10.

Head of "P" Branch

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\*3888.—Conquest of Sicily—Letters Exchanged between H.M. The King and the Prime Minister

(M. 09078/43.—20 Aug. 1943.)

The following letters which have been exchanged between H.M. The King and the Prime Minister on the conquest of Sicily are promulgated for information.

Buckingham Palace,

18th August, 1943.

My dear Prime Minister,

The invasion of Sicily has proved a model of planning and execution. Though its success is, of course, largely due to the gallantry and efficiency of the sailors, soldiers and airmen engaged in the actual operation, I feel that a very special tribute should be paid to those who, with their American colleagues and comrades, were responsible for its organization. They, for months past, have laboured devotedly and with a skill, of which the fruits of their labour are the most conclusive proof, to ensure that every man, every ship, every aircraft, and every item of equipment arrived at the right place, in the right order and at the right time.

I should therefore be grateful if you, as Minister of Defence, would convey to all who were engaged, directly or indirectly, both at home and overseas, on this immensely important task, my hearty congratulations on the manner in which they discharged it and on the magnificent contribution that they have made towards the supreme end of winning the war.

In saying this, I am, I feel sure, giving expression not only to my own gratitude but to that of all in the British Empire.

I am,

Yours very sincerely,

(Signed) GEORGE R.I.

19th August, 1943.

Sir,

I shall be proud to convey your Majesty's gracious message to all concerned both at home and overseas in the organization and planning of the invasion and conquest of Sicily.

Your Majesty's congratulations will be received by those to whom they are addressed with the liveliest pleasure. They would, I know, wish me to convey to Your Majesty an expression of their gratitude for this gracious message and of their determination to undertake with all possible energy whatever further tasks may lie ahead.

With my humble duty,

I remain,

Your Majesty's most faithful and devoted Servant,

(Signed) WINSTON S. CHURCHILL.

(\* Reprinted for posting on Notice Boards ; and may be communicated to the Press.)