

May 8, 1945

Act of Military Surrender, Germany

Citation:

"Act of Military Surrender, Germany", May 8, 1945, Wilson Center Digital Archive, Multilateral Agreements, 1931-1945. <https://digitalarchive.umd.edu/document/116177>

Summary:

English text of the official act of military surrender to the Allied and Soviet forces signed by German High Command.

Credits:

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Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan

MILITARY SURRENDER BY GERMANY

*Act signed at Rheims May 7, 1945, and act signed at Berlin May 8, 1945
Entered into force May 8, 1945*

59 Stat. 1857; Executive Agreement Series 502

Only this text in English is authoritative

ACT OF MILITARY SURRENDER

1. We the undersigned, acting by authority of the German High Command, hereby surrender unconditionally to the Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary Force and simultaneously to the Soviet High Command all forces on land, sea, and in the air who are at this date under German control.

2. The German High Command will at once issue orders to all German military, naval and air authorities and to all forces under German control to cease active operations at 2301 hours Central European time on 8 May and to remain in the positions occupied at that time. No ship, vessel, or aircraft is to be scuttled, or any damage done to their hull, machinery or equipment.

3. The German High Command will at once issue to the appropriate commanders, and ensure the carrying out of any further orders issued by the Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary Force and by the Soviet High Command.

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 This act of military surrender is without prejudice to, and will be superseded by any general instrument of surrender imposed by, or on behalf of the United Nations and applicable to Germany and the German armed forces as a whole.

5. In the event of the German High Command or any of the forces under their control failing to act in accordance with this Act of Surrender, the Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary Force and the Soviet High Command will take such punitive or other action as they deem appropriate.

Signed at Rheims, France, at 0241 on the 7th day of May, 1945.

On behalf of the German High Command.

JODL

IN THE PRESENCE OF

On behalf of the Supreme Commander,
Allied Expeditionary Force

W. B. SMITH

F. SEVEZ

Major General, French Army
(Witness)

On behalf of the Soviet
High Command

SUSLOPAROFF

ACT OF MILITARY SURRENDER

1. We the undersigned, acting by authority of the German High Command, hereby surrender unconditionally to the Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary Force and simultaneously to the Supreme High Command of the Red Army all forces on land, at sea, and in the air who are at this date under German control.

2. The German High Command will at once issue orders to all German military, naval and air authorities and to all forces under German control to cease active operations at 2301 hours Central European time on 8th May 1945, to remain in the positions occupied at that time and to disarm completely, handing over their weapons and equipment to the local allied commanders or officers designated by Representatives of the Allied Supreme Commands. No ship, vessel, or aircraft is to be scuttled, or any damage done to their hull, machinery or equipment, and also to machines of all kinds, armament, apparatus, and all the technical means of prosecution of war in general.

3. The German High Command will at once issue to the appropriate commanders, and ensure the carrying out of any further orders issued by the Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary Force and by the Supreme High Command of the Red Army.

4. This act of military surrender is without prejudice to, and will 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.

5. In the event of the German High Command or any of the forces under their control failing to act in accordance with this Act of Surrender, the Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary Force and the Supreme High Command of the Red Army will take such punitive or other action as they deem appropriate.

6. This Act is drawn up in the English, Russian and German languages. The English and Russian are the only authentic texts.

Signed at BERLIN on the 8th day of May, 1945.

VON FRIEDEBURG

KEITEL

STUMPF

On behalf of the German High Command

IN THE PRESENCE OF:

On behalf of the Supreme Commander

Allied Expeditionary Force

A. W. TEDDER

On behalf of the Supreme High Command
of the Red Army

G. ZHUKOV

At the signing also were present as witnesses:

F. DE LATTRE-TASSIGNY

*General Commanding in Chief
First French Army*

CARL SPAATZ

*General, Commanding
United States Strategic Air Forces*