

Air Ministry News Service

Air Ministry Bulletin No.11230

WAR CABINET TRIBUTE TO COASTAL COMMAND

Striking tribute to the work of Coastal Command of the Royal Air Force is paid by the War Cabinet in the following message which has been sent by Sir Archibald Sinclair, Bt., Secretary of State for Air, to the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Coastal Command:

"I am charged by the War Cabinet", states Sir Archibald Sinclair, "to convey to you an expression of their gratitude and admiration on the outstanding success achieved by your Command in the battle against the U-boats. This battle has not paused since the war began, and your air crews have flown in all weathers interminable miles over the seas to search out and destroy the enemy, often driving home their attacks with unsurpassed gallantry at low level in the face of heavy opposition.

"To all members of your Command, in the air and on the ground, their work may at times have appeared unspectacular by comparison with that of other Commands of the Royal Air Force. Their unwearied efforts have, however, brought great success in this most vital task, which earns for them the proud thanks of the nation and the Empire. These thanks are due alike to British, Czech, Norwegian, and Polish squadrons of the Royal Air Force, to the squadrons of the Royal Australian, Canadian and New Zealand Air Forces, and to those of the United States Army and Navy operating with your Command.

"The War Cabinet charge me, therefore, to convey to you and to all ranks under your Command, their admiration of this strenuous endeavour and their thanks and congratulations upon the success with which it has been crowned, especially during the month of July."

The A.O.C.-in-C., Coastal Command, Air Marshal Sir J.C.Slessor, K.C.B., has replied:

"Please accept my sincere thanks on behalf of all ranks in Coastal Command for your signal conveying the appreciation of the War Cabinet, which will be an inspiration to all ranks".

---