Message begins -To: - Lt. Gen. N.M. Richie. From: C.I.C.

After ten days at your Advanced H.Q., where I have been closely to follow operations directed by you, I wish to tell you how greatly impressed I am by the skill and vigour with which they have been conducted, and by the great success achieved by them. Such succ -ess would never have been achieved without the whole hearted and unceasing cooperation of our Air-Force whose work has been magnificent throughout. During this period the enemy has been out-manouvered and fought at all points and has been forced back over 60 miles and forced to abandon the sæege of TOBRUK.

I cannot tell you how much I admire the way in which your sub-ordinate Cmmdrs - Lt. Generals Willoughby Norrie and Goodwin Austin Commanding 30'th and 13'th Gorps, and Maj.General Scobie Commanding the TOBRUK Garrisson have carried out your orders and maintained a relentless pressure on the enemy. As for the Officers and men under thesex Commanders, whether British, New Zealanders, Indians, Sth Africans, Australians, or Polish, no praise can be too high for their splendid spirit and unshaken determination to win in the face of danger, hardships and more than one set-back. They have shown that when it comes to sticking it, they can outlast the German every time.

The enemy is not yet destroyed, and must be given no rest. I leave this task to you with the greatest until he is wiped out. confidence. Goodluck to the 8'th Army and all in it:

May I add in forwarding this tribute, my thanks to you all and I will be glad if the Chief's remarks can be given the widest publicity, amongst the troops under your command.

N.W. Ritchie. Lieut. General. (Sgd) Cmmdg 8'th Army.

lo Dec 41.

To:- 5. INF BDE, I have great pleasure in forwarding the above

massages from the C.I.C., and Army Cmmdr. The success already won by the steadfastness and gallantry of all will., I know, be crownwed by completevictory over the whole of

I wish to express my personal thanks tomall who have so loyally enemy forces. and eagerly performed the arduous tasks which I have called the upon (Sgd) Godwin Austin. Lieut.General. them to perform.

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Coys please circulate to all troops under your command.

C. Sorensen. Copt. (Sgd) Adjutant. 28 (Maori) BN.

Commanding.