

REAR ADMIRAL HERMAN'S
FAREWELL ADDRESS
TO THE
OFFICERS AND MEN
OF THE
LEXINGTON

In giving up my command of the LEXINGTON, I wish to say to you all that you have all given me the finest service you have all given me. Many things have happened to us since I took over command two years ago today. We have been through a great deal together, especially since the 7th of December. In all that time, your conduct has been of the highest order, and an inspiration to me. I can say today, as I did a year ago, that in my opinion, the officers and crew of the LEXINGTON, including the Air Group, are the finest body of fighting men in the world today.

This is an air war, as you all very well know. In manning the world's finest carrier, you have been in the fore front of the fighting in the Pacific since the seventh of December.

You have received the highest commendation it is possible for any group of men to receive. I will not repeat them here. I have recommended that a new carrier be named the LEXINGTON, and it is possible if you may be kept together to man that new carrier and to carry on the traditions and spirit of the old LEXINGTON. Where you will be assigned, I do not know. But I do know, wherever you may go you will carry with you the spirit that inspired us on the LEXINGTON. We have made a grand start at defeating the enemy but there is much left to do. I do not need to tell you what we are fighting for - you know. Our way of life, our freedom from slavery, the sanctity of our homes, are all involved. We are showing our enemies what kind of people we Americans are.

Since the beginning of the war, the LEXINGTON has engaged in three battles, all of the great victories for our forces. The LEXINGTON alone has sunk or damaged 17 enemy ships, has shot down 67 enemy planes, and has killed or drowned an estimated 900 Japanese officers, and 8,000 Japanese men. In doing this, she has traveled a total of 13,531 miles. This is a record of which you can all be proud.

I have loved the LEXINGTON during my period in command, and it is with the deepest regret that I say, "farewell". To each and every one of you, good luck, and may we meet again."
