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WAR DIARY

German Naval Staff
Operations Division

PART B VOLUME 61

SEPTEMBER 1944

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[redacted]

WAR DIARY OF THE GERMAN NAVAL STAFF

(Operations Division)

PART B

September 1944

Chief of Staff, Naval Staff: Admiral Meisel
Chief, Operations Division, Naval Staff: Rear Admiral Meyer

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Items of Political Importance

The Russian terms have supposedly been handed to the Finnish Armistice Delegation in Moscow.

General Wal is now heading the Delegation taking the place of Hackzell who is ill.

Conference on the Situation with the Chief, Naval Staff at 1115.

I. Naval Staff, Chief of Communications Division reports that the chances of the enemy to decypher our messages with the help of the decoding key, which fell into his hands, are slimmer than was at first assumed. Group West has submitted a report giving the reasons for the negligence involved in the case. Group West and the 5th Air Force have started court martial procedure. Further thorough inquiries are necessary.

II. Naval Staff, Chief of Intelligence Division: An increased number of reports about intended enemy landings in Jutland has been collected.

According to a declaration made by General Munos Grande, Spain views Germany's situation as having fundamentally changed due to the happenings in France. But Franco is still hoping to be able to continue his maneuvering.

Numerous reports are at hand about the political consequences which might result from the operation against Hogland; however, it is too early to draw any conclusions.

The Quebec Conference will come to a close today. The conferences of the Chiefs of Staff will be continued.

In a speech Tito has, for the first time, proclaimed the war aims of a Greater Yugoslavia.

Conference in a Restricted Circle.

III. Army Situation.

1. Western Front:

Fighting centered around Aachen. After restoration of the situation in the area east and southeast of Aachen, the

1st American Army again penetrated deep into our defense front in the direction of Stolberg and Mausbach in the afternoon.

Fighting on the other fronts of Army Group B was only of local importance. It evidently was merely preparatory for the decisive attack to be launched by the two enemy army groups on both sides of the Maastricht - Duesseldorf line.

Starting from Luxembourg, the enemy advanced deep into the West Wall near Bitburg and has thus created a serious situation in this area.

In the course of our outflanking attack on the Pont a Mousson bridgehead the two attack groups met; they thereby cut off the supply base of the enemy tank spearhead which had advanced into Lorraine.

The enemy succeeded in achieving several penetrations between Nancy and Belfort.

2. Italian Front:

The battle of Florence is still going on. On the Adriatic coast the enemy again tried to force the break-through into the Po Valley in a narrow space; three armored divisions and five to six infantry divisions participated. Our front withstood the strong enemy pressure.

The casualties of the two German armies in Italy are high due to the large amounts of war materiel thrown into the battle by the enemy.

3. Balkan Peninsula:

The dispersal in the area of the Commanding Admiral, Aegean Sea as well as the evacuation of the Peloponnesos are still being carried out as planned and unhindered by the enemy.

Heavy fighting between our weak combat groups in Macedonia and superior Bulgarian formations is continuing.

All quiet on the east Serbian front.

In eastern and central Bosnia, the Chetniks took up the fight against our troops; they closed several railroad lines and carried out several raids.

The strong points on the western bank of the Danube are still being continuously shelled. Our advance on Orsova was for the

present halted by strong enemy pressure south of Berzasca.

4. Eastern Front:

Enemy attacks in the Southern Carpathian Mountains were repulsed. The evacuation of the Carpathian Mountains' bend is being carried out in accordance with plans.

Yesterday, too, it was possible to prevent enemy break-throughs which were attempted at several places in the Sanok - Krosno area in spite of uninterrupted action by his Air Force; both sides sustained considerable casualties.

Heavier fighting on the front of theCentral Army Group took place only between the Vistula and the Narew north of Warsaw.

Fierce fighting with rebels in Warsaw is still raging.

At the Northern Army Group the Russians continue their massed attacks with even larger numbers of tanks and planes than before. In heavy see-saw fighting it was again possible to prevent an enemy break-through on a large scale. However the enemy gained considerable territory in the Bausk area; the situation there is tense.

IV. Naval Staff, Operations Division, Chief of Operations Branch reports concerning the request made by Naval Shore Commander, South Holland to the Scheldt estuary fortress area, which in the opinion of the Navy commands is too small a sector as established by the 15th Army Command. This matter must be settled by Naval Command North and the local offices.

V. Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division: The Admiral at the Fuehrer Headquarters has again inquired about the significance of the Estonian slate oil. This matter is not so important due to our present comparatively favorable stores of fuel oil. Eight to ten per cent of the fuel oil requirements of the Navy would be lost in case of an evacuation of Estonia.

Special Items.

I. Operation "Tanne Ost".

According to a report by Naval Command Baltic the wounded Commanders of the Naval Artillery Battalion 531 and of the

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7th Gun Carrier Flotilla arrived at Tyters. General Valve has offered by way of Counter Intelligence Finland the return by sea of 200 wounded Germans on Hogland. The tournover is to take place during the coming night.

Commanding Admiral, NavalCommand Baltic issues the following declaration to the forces which participated in operation "Tanne Ost":

"I have learned from the short reports submitted to me that the Naval forces and the troop detachments of all three services ashore fought bravely and tenaciously in the operation on 15 Sept. I hereby express to you my deep appreciation. The task had to be carried out with the available means since very much was at stake. Its failure is neither a reflection on the leaders nor on the men. In proud grief I remember all the brave soldiers who gave their lives for the freedom of our people. The fight will be continued. As heretofore, I trust that the sea and ground forces under the command of Admiral, Eastern Baltic will fulfill their great duties as soldiers, ever faithful to their oath. Long live the Fuehrer!"

As the Finnish Government has instructed Finnish ships to make for Swedish ports, Admiral, Eastern Baltic has in turn ordered the naval forces to stop all Finnish steamers in their sphere of influence and to secure the return of the steamers to German ports.

In the light of the happenings which have occurred up to now, Naval Staff repeats the following order to Naval Command Baltic, North and Norway: "Finnish ships in the German sphere of influence must be retained under suitable pretext. The risk that our intention is felt must be taken."

Furthermore Naval Command Baltic, Admiral, Eastern Baltic, with copy to the 9th Defense Division, are directed not only to safeguard German transports in the Gulf of Bothnia but also to make sure that Finnish ships with German cargos do not enter Swedish territorial waters and to report attempts of that kind.

A report was received in the evening that the Finnish General Valve protested against the "violation of Finnish territorial waters". This action evidently is connected with the appearance of German naval forces in the Kvarken Straits. Warning shots were fired by a Finnish battery on a submarine and a torpedo boat in the southern part of the Straits. On the evening the necessary measures were discussed by telephone with Naval Command Baltic and Admiral, Eastern Baltic in the following way:

a. Passage through Finnish territorial waters does not indicate any violation. The placing of war vessels for special purposes, however, is regarded by the Finns as a violation of their territorial waters.

b. It is the task of Admiral, Eastern Baltic to safeguard our transports. Even if the Finns promise unhindered passage, preparations must be made for the aafeguarding of our interests, if need be by armed forces. The necessary naval forces are at the disposal of Naval Command Baltic.

Admiral, Eastern Baltic reports that wtwo of the Finnish ships in German service have already arrived in Gotland. No confirmation has as yet been received concerning the whereabouts of the others. Since the order to make for Swedish ports was announced over the radio, it is not to be expected that these ships will be apprehended.

Since the loss of these ships is serious, the matter will be taken up with Sweden by the Foreign Office.

II. Naval Command Baltic reports by telephone that an order has been issued by the Northern Army Group that the evacuation of the Army Group must begin on 17 Sept. Since nothing is known about such an intention, an inquiry was directed to the Admiral for Special Duties at Armed Forces High Command and the following was learned:

The Army General Staff has not yet issued any orders that the evacuation of the Northern Army Group is to take place. It was solely ordered to start preparations in the rear area. The decision will presumably be reached within two days at the earliest. However, it is to be taken into consideration that the evacuation of the Army Group will take place.

Naval Command Baltic and Admiral, Eastern Baltic were informed about this as per Chefs. 2972/44.

In this connection, Naval Command Baltic has pointed out the farreaching significance of the withdrawal of our fighters from the area of Liepaja - Ventspils. Naval Staff asks the High Command, Air, Operations Staff as per Gkdos. 28629 to consider, if at all possible, the interests of naval operations and points to the detrimental effects it might have not only on supply and evacuation transports but also on the submarine bases.

The tense situation of the Northern Army Group has caused the Commander in Chief, Navy to put at the disposal of the Army Group at once 6,000 naval personnel out of the total of 20,000 men offered to Armed Forces High Command, Navy, Bureau

of Naval Administration will ussue the necessary orders under code word "Hansa". The place of destination is Riga.

III. In connection with advance considerations for the reinforcement of PT boats stationed in the Gulf of Finland and for the transfer of a flotilla into the Polar area, the Commander, PT Boats was ordered to report by 17 Sept. the distribution and action readiness of the front flotillas; he was likewise asked to submit proposals for the transfer of one flotilla each into the Gulf of Finland and to the Polar coast.

IV. The Armed Forces High Command is considering - according to a report by Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff, Navy - the construction of a new defense line along the entire length of the Rhine. A request was made to check what measures the Navy could undertake in order to prevent the enemy from crossing the Rhine. Naval Staff replies as per Chefs. 2915 as follows:

"1. The Navy has neither river nor drifting mines.

2. The Army has develpped the "Spherical Drifting Mine 41";

3. The Navy can provide 1,000 UMA mines. Charge 30kg (66 lbs), horn fuses, essential minimum depth of water 3.3 meters (10'9") plus depth-setting, ready set anchor rope, which means no automatic depth-setting. Total weight of each mine with anchor 810 kg. (1780 lbs), therefore the laying is not easy without a proper minecarrier and cannot be executed on short notice.

4. Depth-charge throwers do not exist in large numbers; largest range 60 meters. The new rocket bomb mortar is not yet ready for front service. Depth-charges are somewhat unsuitable against landing craft and ferries. Their installation is considered to be useless."

Furthermore the Navy has been requested to keep in readiness suitable vessels for the ferrying of locomotives across the Rhine which are being returned from the west area.

Naval Staff, Quartermaster, Fleet Branch is asked to effect that the naval artillery barges which will be ready in the Rhineland in the near future, are to remain there.

V. In the afternoon Admiral for Special Duties reported by telephone that the Fuehrer has ordered that the guns of the heaviest batteries stationed along theChannel are not to be blown up provided their dismounting cannot be carried out by

the enemy within a short time. Group West and Naval Shore Commander Pas de Calais received a corresponding order, Gkdos. 28609.

VI. The front commands of the Navy are instructed with Gkdos. 28591 about the following order of the Fuehrer:

"1. The fight in the west has spread to German home territory over wide areas. German towns and villages have been turned into combat areas. This realization must awaken our fanaticism, our will to resist. Every able man must play his part in the combat zone. Every shelter, every block in German towns, every village must become a fortress which either annihilates the enemy or buries its garrison under its ruins. The time of elaborate operations is past. Holding of our position or annihilation, between these two we have to choose. The leaders of all ranks are responsible that the proper fanaticism is awakened in the troops and in the population, that this fanaticism is steadily increased and used against the invaders of German territory. Whosoever, be he leader or soldier, is not aware of the sublime and decisive obligation of the hour and does not fulfill his task at the risk of his life must be removed and be called to account. It is the duty of the Commanding General, West to see to it that the moraleof the troops be restored and maintained, if necessary by using draconic measures.

2. The western battalions and the fortress battalions composed of stragglers are, as far as equipment and steadfastness are concerned, unsuited for independent action. The battalions are to be distributed as much as possible among the divisions arriving or are to be used for replacement battalions of divisions tried in active combat."

VII. Naval Staff decide with Gkdos. 28242 the complaints respectively requests received up to now concerning the further employment of the 15th and 18th Patrol Flotilla.

VIII. The damage caused in yesterday's raid on the battleship TIRPITZ is very heavy according to reports received in the meantime. The ship will not be ready for sailing in the near future; the ship was heavily hit. All forward captains and hydrophone installations are inactivated, about 2,000 cubic meters of water are in the ship. The foreship is almost completely destroyed from the hawse-pipe to the first turret. Concussions also caused damage to the driving installations by the cracking of foundations bolts. A thorough examination of the turbines is essential. Damage to the guns is only slight. The repair time will be extremely long and large

expenditures will be necessary according to information by the competent authority.

Casualties; Five men missing, fifteen wounded.

Naval Command Norway requests that in view of the situation - enemy surface may attempt a break-through - the defense power of the Alta Fjord be reinforced as quickly as possible. It is intended to have a 7.5 cm anti-aircraft battery transferred from Loedingen.

The following requests are made:

a. One hundred EMC mines with chains and 400 meters anchor rope, and forth-four EMC mines with chains and 100 meters of anchor rope; they are being allocated immediately as per Gkdos. 28646.

b. Immediate assignment of four submarines to the Alta area. (Will be taken care of by Naval Staff, Submarine Division).

c. Assignment of a PT Boat Flotilla as quickly as possible. (Will be decided after receipt of the report by Commander, PT Boats.)

IX. The report submitted by Admiral, Aegean Sea in regard to the aggravated situation in the Aegean Sea is being relayed to the Admiral at the Fuehrer Headquarters.

According to a report by Group South, Army Group E, on the basis of its dictatorial powers and in agreement with Admiral, Aegean Sea, has ordered that the additional troop transports necessary for the evacuation of the islands, can be carried out with ships loaded with fuel and ammunition; otherwise the task cannot be solved. Group South asks that the approval for this deviation from the Fuehrer order is secured.

Naval Staff takes the appropriate steps with Armed Forces High Command as per Chefs. 2969.

Situation 16 Sept.

I. Situation West Area.

1. EnemySituation:

Enemy air reconnaissance within the usual scope; no special occurrence.

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At 1156 a war vessel reports intention of following the German steamer ROSTOCK which departed from Lorient.

Enemy vessels were located in AM 5240, BE 1214, ED 3243 and CE 7969.

2. Own Situation:

A. Encircled Fortresses:

Brest: Since morning no contact with Command Post 803 according to a report by the Naval Shore Commander. By night a fire started in the submarine shelter; cause unknown. It was extenguished after several hours. Casualties are considerable. Strong enemy pressure on the last defense line in front of the Command Post of the Naval Shore Commander.

Continuous attacks involving large forces and many planes were not able to break the obstinate resistance and the blazing ruins today, too. The defenders equipped only with light arms caused the enemy many casualties in bitter fighting.

Superior enemy attacks on the Crozon Peninsula caused high casualties on both sides and penetrations into the main defense line which, however, were sealed off in the evening.

Lorient: Usual enemy artillery shelling. The hospital ship ROSTOCK departed for Santander at 0730. At noon the signal station Ile de Croix sighted two enemy PT boats probably coming from Concarneau; they were following the ROSTOCK.

During the night of 16 Sept. two patrol boats will carry out a supply mission from Lorient to Belle Ile.

St. Nazaire: At noon the Battery Prefailles shelled seven unknown vessels which retreated in westerly direction.

The Commander and the 1st Staff Officer of the 3rd Defense Division departed aboard the submarine U "673" on 14 Sept.

La Rochelle: Supply mission with three He 111 planes is contemplated for the coming night.

Gironde-North: Yesterday enemy entrenchment work and construction of emplacements for heavy guns were observed on the northern bank of the Seudre. Both Seudre ferries were sunk, the buildings on the northern bank of the river were destroyed by artillery. So far twelve men in the service of the Navy have deserted. (Almost all of them German nationals of Group 3).

Gironde-South: Armored reconnaissance cars which entered the fortress area were repulsed by artillery and mortar fire.

B. Withdrawal Movements:

By evening of 15 Sept. 13,000 men belonging to the Navy arrived in the Doubs Valley respectively were sent on according to a report by Group West. The Commander of the 26th Minesweeper Flotilla arrived in Tuebingen with 450 men. Returning personnel report about heavy fighting with partisans and Americans in the Dkjon area. Contact with the Group Commander of the 2nd Minesweeper Flotilla was lost.

C. Channel Waters:

Boulogne: Entrance of the PT Boat shelters were blocked effectively. Supply by air was carried out in the two foregone nights as planned and is again contemplated for the coming night with two He 111 planes.

Calais: On 15 Sept. enemy artillery shelled Blac Nez. The enemy is being supplied by sailing vessels. Our artillery was effectively active.

Dunkirk: Enemy artillery fire and fighter-bomber attacks increased on 15 Sept. Twice an attack against the southern front was repulsed; a penetration was sealed off.

Zeebrugge: According to a report just now received from the harbor captain the city was destroyed as planned.

In the forenoon three enemy destroyers and at noon five destroyers traveling in southeasterly direction were lost from sight off Blankenberghe.

Enemy minesweeping boats were at work off the coast of Flanders between Dunkirk and Blankenberghe. In the Ostend area movements of light enemy forces and unloading ashore were observed.

II. North Sea, Norway, Northern Waters.

1. North Sea:

On 15 Sept. good results were achieved by the ferrying services across the Scheldt. About 70,000 men were ferried across by evening; in addition to 300 guns, 3,000 vehicles, about 2,000 horses, and much equipment.

A harbor patrol vessel, one boat of the Rhine and one of the River Clearance Flotilla, and a motor barge were lost in the course of fighter-bomber attacks.

At noon bombs were dropped near the entrance to the harbor of Hook of Holland without causing damage. The enemy air activity was otherwise very lively. Flights over the Holland area and the Heligoland Bight were fought by naval anti-aircraft guns.

Mines were apparently laid in the shipping channels off the East Frisian Islands and in the Elbe and Weser Estuary.

2. Norway, Northern Waters:

Enemy Situation:

British air reconnaissance was normal. (Thirty planes). Yesterday our air reconnaissance confirmed the presence of a battle ship of the R-Class in the Wajenga Bay. Russian air activity in the Polar area was very lively in the last few days. At noon today sixty planes raided Kirkenes; the steamer WESSUM with ammunitionaaboard was hit by three bombs, caught fire and exploded at 1427.

Yesterday evening a strong enemy air foramtion was detected between Christiansand-South and Egersund. At the same time ten planes were over the Oslo Fjord.

Dropping of mines is suspected.

Own Situation:

Convoy tasks were carried out as planned. The Commander of the 1st Task Force will report in person to Naval Command Norway on the damage caused to TIRPITZ. Thereupon he will report to the Naval Staff.

III. Skagerrak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea.

1. Admiral Skagerrak:

Patrol and minesweeping duty was carried out according to plan. Twenty eight minesweeping boats are on mission in the Baltic Sea Entrances. Three mines were cleared in the northern exit of theSamsoe Belt, one in the Aalborg Bay, and one in the southern exit of the Great Belt.

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Today 198 coastal mines "A" were dropped in the Aalbaeck Bay.

As the result of the arrest of the Danish police, a general strike prevails in the area of Pattburg - Tondern since the afternoon of 15 Sept. Transportation with the exception of German leave-trains is interrupted.

2. Central and Western Baltic:

Last night the city and shipyards of Kiel suffered heavy damage in an air raid executed by 700 to 800 planes. Locks and canal bridges are undamaged. Mines are suspected in the western Baltic Sea up to the Danzig Bay. Three mines were cleared in the Kiel Bay.

3. Admiral, Eastern Baltic:

Lively enemy activity is taking place in the Gulf of Finland according to monitored radio traffic. In the afternoon several groups of enemy vessels were observed in the Narwa Bay; they were probably engaged in minelaying.

At 0530 an air raid took place on one of our convoys ten miles northwest of Baltic Port without causing damage. In the afternoon seventy planes attacked the boats of the Narwa patrol at Loksa. Two planes were brought down; our damage and casualties were slight.

Three destroyers of the 6th Destroyer Flotilla escorted the steamer MONTE ROSA. The 3rd Torpedo Boat Flotilla escorted steamers coming from the Gulf of Bonthnia, The torpedo boat T "17" and T "19" sailed from Liepaja for Soedra Dvarken to relieve submarines.

Since the Finnish lights in the Aaland Sea are no longer being shown, passage at night through the Finnish declared area is impossible.

Further transfer of the 23rd Infantry Division to Ahrensburg and supply shipments to Army Group North were carried out as planned.

At 1500 a naval landing craft on Lake Peipus has a fight with three enemy gun boats in the Emba estuary. A break-through to the north was prevented. No damage was suffered. Five patrol boats are patrolling Lake Peipus and the same number Lake Virts.

On the evening the 2nd Task Force received order from Naval Command Baltic to replenish fuel at Gdynia and to return to the former state of readiness since operation "Tanne Ost" is now a thing of the past.

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IV. Submarine Warfare.

Since little is known about the enemy situation (incidications of convoy movements serveral submarines were assigned to new positions.

Upon the request by Naval Command Norway reported yesterday, a submarine group (three submarines) is being ordered to assist in the defense of the Alta Fjord.

The submarine U "475" while attempting a break-through to the north was twice shelled by the Finnish in the Aaland Narrows. The other two submarines on duty there are being recalled and will be replaced by torpedo boats. The submarine U "1165" is to go to Kemi to escort our steamers south.

In the air raid on Kiel no damage was caused to submarine installations.

The submarine base Liepaja suffered damage during the air raid on 15 Sept. The target ship SALZBURG, TF "2" and submarine U "1263" are ready for sailing; the submarines U "901" and "1014" are unable to dive. Heavy damage to base installations and many casualties.

V. Aerial Warfare.

1. West Area:

By day 430 fighter-bomber missions were flown over Belgium - Holland. On flights over Reich territory, numerous demolition bombs were dropped.

2. Reich Territory:

Lively enemy air activity took place over northern, western, and southern Germany. Damage is slight.

During the night of 16 Sept. about 100 four-engine planes raided the Hopsten airfield. By night a raid was carried out on Brunswick; damage was caused to industrial installations. Sixty Russian planes were active over Hungary.

3. Mediterranean Theater:

The usual enemy air activity took place in the Adriatic

area. Two hundred four-engined enemy planes with fighter escort flew from southern Italy by way of Corfu to Greece, concentrating their raids on airfields in the Athens area. Forty of these planes flew on th Salonika and raided there the ground installations of the Air Force. In all 34 of our planes were destroyed.

Seven hundred and eighty enemy missions were flown in the Italian front area.

4. Eastern Area:

Twelve planes were lost and 86 shot down in 1,226 own and 4,770 enemy missions.

VI. Warfare in the Mediterranean and on the Danube.

1. Area of German Naval Command Italy:

Enemy Situation:

At night enemy reconnaissance of Corsica reported convoy movements and attacks along the western Italian coast. Our radar sets on the Gulf of Liguria detected several groups of enemy PT boats.

Own Situation:

Patrol activity by enemy destroyers took place in the area of Nicem- Ventimiglia. The cutting and firing of four mines by enemy minesweeping boats was observed southeast of Mentone. Two naval landing craft convoys between San Remo and Savona were engaged in a fight with enemy PT boats without suffering damage.

Air reconnaissance over the Adriatic Sea sighted five small vessels off Fano and more light naval forces off Ancona. At noon Rimini and Viterbo were shelled by a destroyer.

Last night two MAS boats (Italian PT boats) with special weapons made a sweep into the Ancona area and observed that Ancona was fully lighted and protected by strong naval and aerial forces. A special weapon launched by one of the MAS boats north of Ancona capsized and sank.

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2 Area Naval Group South:

a. Adriatic Sea: Partisans raided KrK in the forenoon. Two harbor defense boats sialed from Fiume to reinforce the Port Command there.

The Naval Battery Sumarin on Brac was put out of action by enemy gunfire from land and sea. The garrison continues its fight in the Army strong point. Last night coastal infantry reinforced the agarrison of the island. The landing was opposed by enemy gunfire; three engineer landing craft were sunk by enemy naval forces.

The operation of the 24th PT Boat Flotilla had to be stopped last night due to weather conditions. The mining operation "Waschbaer" was carried out by the KIEBITZ and two torpedo boats. Minelaying knaval landing craft laid 39 additional coastal mines "A" south of Cesenatico.

Yesterday the coastal steamer G "102" was inactivated and handed over to the Croatian Navy.

b. Aegean Sea: Activity of the enemy air force by day as well as by night is constantly increasing. Raids were concentrated on Milos and Crete.

Eighteen men of the missing war transporter ERPEL and the submarine chaser UJ "2171" have so far been rescured; 14 men landed near Akrotiri. The rescue attempts are being continued. The evidence learned so far shows that the ships were sunk by either destroyers or light cruisers north of Cape Spatha about 0230 on 15 Sept.

c. Situation Danube: The operation "Dpnaueffe" advanced as far as Svinita; the place was occupied. Enemy barrage fire lies on the channel of the Grebe Canal. Attacks on Milanovac by Tito partisans were repulsed. The Russians are crossing the Danube near Turnu Sevarin since 13 Sept. Tekija is being shelled by enemy artillery. Relief troops are advancing from the south.

The combat Group "Stelter" reported in the forenoon that its forces had joined the Combat Group "Rehe" after scuttling of the vessels; they formed two companies.

The Damube was again mined near km 1794 and 1796. Six mines were swept by vessels and by a minesweeping plane.

Transport traffic on the upper Danube was carried out by 150 vessels.

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VII. Situation Far East.

The Naval Attache, Tokyo reports:

"1. After heavy attacks directed against Palau, Halmahera, Mindanao and Cefu over a period of several days by a task force and the air force stationed on Biak, a landing took place on the northern point of Halmahera, where a Japanese airfield is situated, and on the nearby island of Morotai. A simultaneous landing attempt on the island of Peliliou of the Palau Group was repulsed.

2. Halmahera is especially suited for a starting point for further operations. The Kaoe Bay is a large natural harbor; nearby there are four large airfields recently completed.

3. The landing on Halmahera came as a surprise. It was expected that it would be skipped and that a landing would take place on Mindanao or Luzon. The Americans prefer to follow a safe course.

4. At the same time, many more enemy submarines have been noticed in the South China Sea. Losses during the last three days amounted to twenty ships."

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Items of Political Importance.

The U.S. Secretary of War Stimson warned against excessive optimism. The present speed of the advance could not be kept up. The indifferent behavior of the Germans in Eupen reveals that we cannot reckon with cooperation as in France.

The declaration made at the conclusion of the Quebec Conference states that decisions were reached in a short time concerning the termination of the war in Europe and the conquest of Japan.

According to the Associated Press, apprehension is felt in London about conflicts arising from spheres of interest in Europe. Great Britain and America are said to have offered security to the Russians in regard to their western border in the form of a military pact.

The Polish Cabinet in exile has made an urgent appeal to General Sosnkowski to resign from his post.

The Finnish Foreign Minister Enckell departed for Moscow on 16 Sept. in order to preside over the Finnish Armistice Delegation replacing the ill Prime Minister Hackzell.

According to a reliable source the armistice terms are:

1. Return to the border of 1940

2. Reparation payment of 300 million dollars

3. Finland is to cede to the Soviet Union the islands of Hogland and Lavansaari and grants to Russia an island base on the southern coast of Finland, probably Porkalla.

4. The use of airfields in Southern Finland until the Germans have been driven from Estonia.

5. Cessions of certain territory in Northern Finland to the Soviet Union.

6. Creation of a political situation in Finland which guarantees amiable future relations between both countries.

7. Maintenance of an armistice delegation in Finland.

Several Bulgarian statesmen of the former regime friendly to Germany committed sucide; others were arrested.

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Conference on the Situation with the Chief, Naval Staff at 1100.

I. The strikingly increased air activity of the enemy over the area of the Arctic coast is emphasized in the report on the situation. Naval Command Norway confirms in the situation report the noticeable enemy pressure in the northern area. The report reads in parts: "The gains of the enemy in the western and southern parts of Europe are making available strong air and naval forces. The effect on the entire Norwegian area is already noticeable in the increase of the enemy activity. The knowledge of the conditions created as the result of the desertion of Finland and of the withdrawal of the 20th Army Command is offering an incentive for warfare on a large scale in the Norwegian area, particularly along the Arctic coast. Anglo-American naval and air operations in connection with outflanking Russian landings are to be expected. The presence of a British battleship in the Wajenga Bay, attack on the task force by a four-engined formation making use of Russian air bases, news about two PQ convoys or enemy formations, extensive reconnaissance and attacks by enemy submarines and air force against our sea communications, together with certain unusual observations made by radio and radar, all these can be considered as signs of a coming major enemy operation."

Naval Staff, Operations Division informs the Admiral at the Fuehrer Headquarters, Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff, High Command, Army and High Command, Air, Operations Staff, adding: "View of the situation is shared by Naval Staff. The report that two PQ convoys are under way was not confirmed."

The Commanding Admiral of the 1st Task Force is going to Oslo to report on the conditions of the TIRPITZ.

II. An attempt to supply Dunkirk with the necessary ammunition will now be made by four PT boats, each carrying five tons. The Commander in Chief, Navy will be informed about this plan. Naval Staff is of the opinion that the risk resulting from enemy blockading forces and mines is very great.

III. Naval Staff, Special Weapons Division: Group South has asked again whether small battle weapons are permitted to be used in the Lissa area.

Admiral, Small Battle Units has been considering this operation for quite a while. It is chiefly a transport problem.

The Chief, Naval Staff orders that an investigation be made.

IV. Naval Staff, Chief of Intelligence Division: Sweeden ostensibly fears that Russia might demand Swedish railroad facilities for transporting troops.

The complete black-out of Great Britain was discontinued on 8 Sept. Pertaining to the Hogland matter, Finnish press reports say that Germany started the fight. Finland would defend her territory against any attacker!

Conference in a Restricted Circle:

V. Army Situation:

1. Western Front:

The heavy fighting in the area surrounding Aachen spread also to the sector west of Aachen, where the northern flank of the 1st American Army was able to achieve deep penetrations into our front; enemy attacks east and southest of Aachen achieved only local penetrations. The 12th Infantry Division, which arrived in the combat area on 16 Sept., is engaged in a successful counterattack near Aachen. The appearance of well organized formations has an encouraging effect on other troops and on the population.

Besides an enemy concentration near Hasselt, a strong enemy attack group is also being gathered in the area around Antwerp.

Bitter fighting at penetration points in the West Wall between Aachen and Metz is being continued. The defense front set up near Pont A Mousson for the purpose of cutting off the supply lines of the enemy broken through into Lorraine, was again penetrated.

See-saw fighting is taking place along the new main defense line between Nancy and Belfort. The 16th Infantry Division was not able to maintain contact in the course of the withdrawal of the front and its greater part must be regarded as lost.

2. Italian Front:

The major enemy attack in the Florence area was again repulsed in bitter fighting. The enemy likewise tried yesterday to force a break-through on the Adriatic coast near Lorenzo with combined infantry and tank forces. In addition to increased artillery concentration, the attack was supported by ship guns and bomber formations. After heaviest see-saw fighting the main defense line remained in our hands in the evening with the exception of one break-through.

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3. Balkan Peninsula:

Compared with previous days, the planned evacuations and withdrawal movements were made very difficult by enemy air and naval forces.

The plan of the enemy in Bulgaria is not clear. According to radio interception, strong Russian forces present there are being moved by railway transports to destinations unknown.

4. Eastern Front:

Strong Russian attacks were repulsed in the southern Carpathian Mountains.

The defensive battle in the Sanok and Krosno area, where the enemy continues his attacks after the arrival of new forces using large amounts of materials, is going on with undiminished force. Enemy spearheads were stopped.

The enemy again tried to force a break-through near Modlin, between the Vistula and the Bug. He was repulsed.

The hard defensive battle of the Northern Army Group is still raging with undiminished severity at the focal points. The situation is particularly critical in the Bauske area, where the enemy penetrated with tanks as far as the Duna, 30 km south-east of Riga.

Special Items.

I. The Naval Liaison Officer at the Army General Staff transmitted a declaration made by the Chief, Army General Staff concerning the military-political situation. It is indicative for the opinion held and the view taken by the present General Staff. It reads as follows: On the basis of a) sudden journey by Eden to Quebec, b) Great Britain's proposal to Russia to internationalize the Dardanelles and the Bosporus plus the counterproposal by Russia to do the same also in the case of Gibraltar and the Suez Canal, Lt. General Guderian pointed to the possibility that the conflicting interests of the two countries in the Balkan and Mediterranean region will lead to friction between Great Britain and Russia. This might influence the continuation of the war. Russia endeavors to have possession of as much territory as possible at the end of the war which she does not intend to

relinquish afterwards. A Russian advance on the Turkish straits is probable, even if it is not noticeable at present. Under the circumstances, the Chief of the General Staff sees possibilities of an improvement as far as the military-political situation of Germany is concerned. Decisive for this is that the eastern and western fronts are to be defended with all available means, even if slight withdrawals of the front are unavoidable. The utmost determination to resist the enemy and an unshakeable fighting spirit will therefore decide Germany's situation. The General Staff is requested and directed to radiate in every way possible the proper fighting spirit and full confidence to all command posts. The Chief of the General Staff is also striving in connection with other matters towards quick and effective measures in his untiring and energetic manner."

II. Situation in the Eastern Baltic:

A. Finland:

Admiral, Eastern Baltic relays a communique issued by General Valve in which he states that the exchange of the wounded cannot take place on Hogland. Admiral, Eastern Baltic assumes political motives. The exchange of the wounded was apparently desired personally by Valve; it may not have been approved by the diplomatic office.

Naval Command, Baltic reports by telephone at 1210:

"1. The steamer ELLEN - one of the Finnish steamers which sailed from Bothnian ports for Germany on 14 Sept. - arrived in Danzig in the evening of 16 Sept. Six other steamers which were due did not arrive. As they were not reported passing the Kvarken Straits it is to be presumed that they already entered Swedish territorial waters in the Gulf of Bothnia.

2. The 3rd Torpedo Boat Flotilla had the task in the Aaland waters and south of Aaland to take Finnish steamers in prize. The boats have been withdrawn since Finnish shipping has stopped according to 1."

Naval Staff issues the following directive to Naval Command Baltic and for information to Admiral, Eastern Baltic.

"The telephoned directive of 16 Sept. is being confirmed as follows: The passage of transports through the Soedra Kvarken and Aaland Sea is to be secured even against Finnish resistance. Naval forces must be held in readiness."

B. As to the movements of the Northern Army Group, Naval Command Baltic, Admiral, Eastern Baltic, Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division, Shipping and Transport Branch and, for information, Admiral at the Fuehrer Headquarters, Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff, General Staff of the Army, High Command, Air, Operations Staff received the following directive from Naval Staff, Operations Division:

"1. The execution rests in the hands of the Commanding General, Northern Army Group. Demands will be made directly to Admiral, Eastern Baltic.

2. Details have not yet been arranged and depend upon the development of the situation ashore. Therefore extent of the transports to be expected cannot be ascertained. It is the intention of the Army Group to carry out the withdrawal movements on land as far as possible. Tyters Island is to be evacuated.

3. All available alarge and small ships in Reval, Riga, and small ports will be made ready as precautionary measure as was planned by Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division, Shipping and Transport Branch, Naval forces for defensive or speedy transport purposes will be held ready according to directives by Naval Command, Baltic."

As to the directive by Naval Staff concerning the evacuation of the Northern Army Group (see War Diary 16 Sept.) Naval Command Baltic reported at 1400 as to the urgent need of:

"1. All available small shipping space of Admiral, Landing Craft.

2. All available tugboats. Tugboats are to transfer engineer ferries from the Danish area to the Baltic Islands according to a report by Captain Gruenert. This operation will further the entire planning in case the matter is started without delay.

3. Information about intended allocation of major shipping space for evacuation purposes is requested in time."

As to 1) Naval Command Baltic was informed by telephone that all vessels of Admiral, Landing Craft have already been put at the disposal of Naval Command.

As to 2) and 3), Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division, Shipping and Transport Branch will attend to it. The Commanding Admiral, Naval Command Baltic transmitted at the same time the following telegram message pertaining to this directive by Naval Staff:

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"Decision concerning Tyters Island is requested. In case the withdrawal of Army Group North is ordered, it will be necessary in my opinion to evacuate Tyters Island. In such a case the timely beginning of preparations for evacuation is important; otherwise valuable material and goods of the armed forces will be lost. A early decision is therefore essential."

A decision was readhed for the evacuation of Tyters Island. The Chief, Naval Staff informed Naval Command Baltic and Admiral, Eastern Baltic by telephone at 1530.

Admiral, Eastern Baltic reports at 1533:

"The task must be accomplished in five to six days; after thattime an interruption is possible at any moment. Transport space is still insufficient at present. The participation of fast seaworthy war vessels appears to be essential. The prospect of strong western winds makes the evacuation with the aid of small vessels more difficult.

2. Immediate decision about Tyters Island is eesential to be able to use the coming night.

3. Admiral, Eastern Baltic, in consideration of the situation will transfer to Liepaja by way of Riga. Quartermaster Staff will transfer from Reval to Liepaja on 18 Sept. The Operations Staff will transfer later depending on the situation with the naval ferry barge F "3"."

At 2050 Naval Command Baltic further proposes the use of the COLANI vessels, that were left at the disposal of the inspectorates and Commanding Admiral, Submarines, for the beforementioned operation. There are the following boats: Three minesweeping vessels (old), two motor minesweepers, four Norwegian torpedo boats, three torpedo boats (old), one naval ferry barge, four vessels of the Communications Experimental Command, four naval landing craft of the Port Commander's anit-aircraft artillery.

A decision is requested.

Naval Staff agrees to the use of the remaining COLANI vessels with the exception of the irreplaceable special vessels (e.g. the Norwegian torpedo boats, experimental vessels of Communications Experimental Command). Naval Command Baltic is to report the numbers of the requisitioned boats.

III. High Command Navy, Bureau of Naval Administration has issued an executive order for the transfer of 6,000 men of naval personnel to the Army. The operation is known by the code word "Hansa". Second Admiral, Naval Command North Sea will

furnish 3,400 men, Second Admiral, Naval Command Baltic 2,600 men. The soldiers will be transferred. The transfer will be without arms. It must be carried out as quickly as possible. Their arrival at the point of destination must be assured to take place between the evening of 19 Sept. and 22 Sept.

IV Supplementary to the order by the Naval Shore Command Pas de Calais about the non-destruction of the heaviest naval batteries on the Channel, the Naval Shore Command Pas de Calais and, for information Group West received the following order from Naval Staff:

"All fire control systems and optics are to be destroyed, all revolving guns must be blown up completely when their abandonment becomes necessary. Receipt of this radiogram must be confirmed."

V. Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division, Shipping and Transport Branch received a directive from Quartermaster Division, Fleet Branch to leave two naval artillery barges available at Goddelau - Erfelden for ferrying of locomotives across the Rhine.

VI. Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division, Organization and Mobilization Branch directed the following instruction to Group West and Naval Command North on 11 Sept.:

"1. It is the intention of the High Command, Navy to disband Group West as soon as it is felt that the most essential tasks have been accomplished. A date will be set in due time.

2. The Group will carry out its present tasks until then. The chief tasks are the naval command in the encircled fortresses and the evacuation of troops and materials from southern and western France as well as the asigning of new duties to evacuated personnel.

3. After discontinuation of Group West, the Chief, Quartermaster Staff must - although under the command of Naval Command North - remain near the western front for the completion of the last tasks. At the same time he will be the Liaison Staff to Commanding General, West as long as the northern French-Belgian and Dutch areas are part of the command of the latter The Staff of the Chief Quartermaster can eventually be reduced or reinforced.

4. The date of disbanding can only be given later.

5. The termination date set for Commanding Admiral, Defenses West and Admiral, Channel Coast must be reported as soon as possible. The order will then be issued by the Group."

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Group West reports in this connection:

"1. Group West, Operations Staff can be dissolved only after the fight in the encircled fortresses has come to a close. The Staff will be reduced in proportion to the remaining tasks.

2. Concerning disbandment of the Quartermaster Staff it is proposed: Disbandment should take place after the flow of returning personnel and the evacuation of materials from western France have ended. In view of the present front situation the latter task will probably be completed in the not too distant future; the personnel experts will then be transferred to Naval Command North. The assignment of liaison duties, to the Chief, Quartermaster Staff appears to be inexpedient. Instead, it is proposed to assign Rear Admiral Hoffmannas Admiral at Commanding General, West after disbandment of the Operations Staff.

3. The disbandment of the Commanding Admiral, Defenses West is contemplated to take place about ten days after the intersepting tasks of Tuebingen have come to an end. The remaining Staff of Admiral Channel Coast will be reassigned within the next few days; officers in charge of personnel will attend to the last duties at Group West. Dates will follow."

VII. Naval Staff, Submarine Division, Chief of Operations informs Naval Staff, Operations Division of directives to Commander, Submarines, Norway concerning the assignment of two submarines for the protection of the TIRPITZ. The original plan of transferring three submarines of Group "Schwefel" to AC 7170 and 7410 becomes thereby void.

Naval Staff, Operations Division reports to the Commander in Chief, Navy by way of Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff, Navy and Admiral at the Fuehrer Headquarters:

"Naval Command Norway reports the opinion of the Command of the TIRPITZ which is shared by Oberbaurat Krux:

1. The transfer to another berth is at present possible only with the assistance of tugs due tok the condition of the foreship, which would break off and tear open futher. The working of the turbines cannot be relied on; their condition is being checked. The weight of the anchor caused compartment 22 to sink one meter.

2. The speediest restoration to a certain degree of maneuverability for transfer under own power can be accomplished by cutting off the foreship at the rear of compartment 20. The time needed is estimated to be four months after the arrival of personnel and material (salvaging firm. However, the restoration of the stability of the foreship would require

even more time. The maneuverability would remain doubtful, and the speed would be limited. Complete repair qould include the new construction of the foreship compartments 20, 21 and 22.

3. The ship rests at present on the port anchor (chain) and middle anchor (hawser). The starboard anchor was up for the turning of chain; it cannot be moved.

Supplement by Naval Staff: The Commander of the Task Force will be in Oslo on 18 Sept. to discuss the futher use of the TIRPITZ. After that a proposal by Naval Command, Norway is to be expected."

VIII. On 11 Sept. the German Naval Command Italy proposed the following reorganization of the 7th Defense Division in view of the losses suffered and in regard to the saving of personnel ordered by the Commander in Chief, Navy:

"1. Discontinuation of the 70th Minesweeper Flotilla and union with the 13th Defense Flotilla.

2. Discontinuation of the 11th Mineclearance Flotilla and its incorporation in the 22nd Submarine Chaser Flotilla.

3. Junction of the 2nd and 4th Training Flotilla.

The planned reorganization appears to be necessary on account of local conditions, since due to losses some flotillas do not justify a spearate staff. Replacements are not to be expected due to the lack of suitable vessels, strong air activity and difficult repair and maintenance conditions. An early approval of this proposal is requested in order to assign additional duties to the personnel not fully employed at present."

Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division approves this proposal.

IX. Naval Staff. Quartermaster Division has ordered on 4 Sept. for the eastern and western areas as well as for the area of Naval Group South that offices, commands and partial staffs, whose tasks have come to a close as the result of the present situation, are to have come to a close as the result of the present situation, are to be disbanded by order of Group South with notification to High Command, Navy. The personnel thus becoming available is to be intercepted in Belgrade. Their reassignment respectively their return home will take place according to orders from the High Command, Navy.

Admiral, Aegean Sea reported on 9 Sept. that this order contradicts the stern order given by the Commanding General, Army Group E, which says that no unit and office is permitted to leave Greek territory under any circumstances. Army Group E made reference to a directive of the Chief, Armed Forces

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High Command issued by order of the Fuehrer on 5 Sept. concerning the extension of the authority of the Commanding General, Army Group E.

Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division has protested to Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff against this order issued by the Commanding General, Army Group E and has asked to point out to the Army Group that orders of that kind are not permissible. The High Command, Navy has reserved for itself the right to use the personnel, necessary for the continuation of naval warfare, as it sees fit.

Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff decided on 13 Sept. that all superfluous personnel in allied, friendly, and occupied countries, which cannot be used for the defense of the territory, are to be removed, Decision about the use of this personnel is to be made solely by the competent branch of the services. However, the decision about the sequence of withdrawal rests with Army Group E in its area. It cannot retain properly transferred offices and military personnel for any other reason.

X. Admiral, Aegean Sea informs Naval Staff, Operations Division about an inquiry directed to Group South, requesting advice if PT boats in addition to torpedo boats should be transferred from the Adriatic to the Aegean Sea in view of the threatening complete interruption of the traffic to Crete due to lack of any defense against enemy surface forces. This request is withdrawn in view of the amount of fuel needed for these PT boats.

XI. Naval Staff, Intelligence Division has transmitted to the higher operations staffs, etc. (usual distribution) the following:

1. Excerpt from evacuation of the enemy situation by Air Force, Operations Staff, Air Force Command West of 16 Sept. Copy with comments by Naval Staff, Intelligence Division as per 1/Skl 28762/44 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part D, Vol. 8a.

2. Agent's report concerning Anglo-American delivery of war materiel to Russia as per 1/Skl 34977/44 geh. in War Diary, Part D, Vol. 8a.

Naval Staff, Intelligence Division has furthermore compiled material which dealt with the demolitions and reconstructions of military installations in Cherbourg.

Copy 1/Skl 35415/44 geh. in War Diary, Part D, Vol. 8a.

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Situation 17 Sept.

I. Situation West Area.

1. Enemy Situation:

Thirty one planes of the 19th Group and 17 planes of the 15th Group were detected on missions. One British vessel was located in AL 9746 at 1930 and one in BE 6584 at 2233.

2. Own Situation:

A. Atlantic Coast Area:

The patrol vessels V "221" and "223" sailed from St. Nazaire bound for Lorient at 2030 on 16 Sept.

Transports of materials from Quiberon to Lorient by the patrol vessels V "231" and "225" is planned for the night of 18 Sept.

B. Western French Fortresses:

Brest: Continuous artillery shelling and simultaneous fighter-bomber attacks were directed against battery emplacements and isolated objectives. Due to the exemplary steadfastness of our troops the main defense line in the eastern sector was held at the railway station in spite of the extravagant use of war materiels on the part of the enemy. Most violent attacks on a wide front against the strong point Portzig and the submarine harbor were repulsed; high casualties were inflicted on the enemy. Naval outposts under the command of 1st Lt. Busch of the 40th Minesweeper Flotilla have repeatedly repulsed enemy attacks of company strength. The enemy was able to make only a few slight penetrations. According to a report by the Naval Shore Commander, all heavy anti-aircraft guns in the northern sector were inactivated. Enemy adtion caused the fire in the submarine boxes previously reported. Wireless traffic on artillery wave lengths is carried on without any disturbances and has proved valuable.

After continuous enemy artillery and mortar shelling, deep penetrations of the main defense line on the Crozon Peninsula could not be prevented. Our forces, greatly reduced by losses, have withdrawn to the switch line Hart, east of Crozon. The enemy suffered severe casualties.

Lorient: Nothing to report.

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Gironde-North: The enemy was pushed back in the course of a largescale reconnaissance operation. A large ammunition and fuel dump of the enemy was annihilated and booty was brought back. High casualties were inflicted on the enemy; our casualties were low.

C. Withdrawal Movements:

The directing centers intercepted 572 men in all on 15 and 16 Sept.

D. Channel Coast:

Five enemy naval vessels were on alternating courses off Dunkirk in the afternoon of 16 Sept. The fortress was subjected to lively fire by enemy ground artillery. Two places were lost in the northeastern sector due to strong enemy pressure. Further attacks were rupulsed by counterthrusts. Withdrawal movements to the new main line of defense in the western and southern sector were carried out as planned. On 17 Sept. our artillery fought enemy concentrations with good results.

Calais: On 16 Sept. the enemy ranged our strong points with guns and mortars. All guns of the Battery "Bastion 2" are again ready for action. On 17 Sept. artillery and reconnaissance activity on both sides was reported. The directed fire by enemy long range guns against the Batteries "Lindemann" and "Sangatte" caused no casualties.

Gris Nez: The Batteries "Todt" and "Grosser Kurfuerst" were shelled by guns and mortars on 16 Sept. The strong points were attacked by fighter-bombers. "Grosser Kurfuerst" returned the fire and annihilated two enemy guns and an ammunition pile. Bombs and gunfire destroyed the fortress cable on 17 Sept.

Boulogne: Gun emplacements and strong points were attacked by enemy fighter- bombers on 16 and 17 Sept. Naval guns shelled enemy concentrations off the southern fortress area.

II. North Sea, Norway, Northern Waters.

1. North Sea:

Enemy Situation:

Daventry reported at 1640:

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"1. Strong forces of the 1st Allied Airborne Army landed in Holland this afternoon.

2. Eisenhower's Headquarters issued a declaration to the Dutch resistance movement south of Lek and Rhine:

a. Operations according to regulations of martial law.

b. Precise adherance to the orders issued by the Dutch Commander in Chief, Prince Bernhard. Avoidance of unorganized violence and actions against superior enemy forces.

c. Sabotage must cease; instead, protection of factories, mines and fuel depots.

d. Allied troops to be assisted in every way possible as soon as contact is made."

2. Own Situation:

Heligoland Bight:

On 16 Sept. beginning at 1932 about forty enemy planes in low level flight were fired at by heavy naval anti-aircraft guns. In the morning of 17 Sept. twenty five enemy planes were again over the shipping lanes north of the East Frisian Islands. Naval anti-aircraft guns on Norderney and Wangerooge fired at them. At 1940, a patrol boat group was attacked by thirty planes south of Heligoland. Both boats sank. Bremen was raided in the evening.

On 16 Sept. eighty one more coastal mines "A" were laid in the barrage K2 off Norderney. On 16 Sept. 31337 BRT were convoyed in the Heligoland Bight.

On account of the air-borne landings in Holland, the state of readiness was ordered for the area west of the Elbe in the afternoon; alert was ordered in the evening.

Dutch Coast:

At 2255 on 16 Sept. 50 to 60 enemy planes attacked the bridges of Moerdijk without success. During the night of 16 Sept. enemy planes were fought in the Helder and Harlingen area by heavy naval anti-aircraft guns. On 16 and 17 Sept. lively enemy air activity took place along the entire Dutch coast. Five planes were shot down. The crash of a freight glider near Schouwen was reported.

The minesweeper M "261" was bombed by a plane off Ijmuiden in the evening of 16 Sept. The boat suffered casualties.

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Enemy air-borne landings by parachutists and freight gliders took place in the Arnheim-Nymwegen-Deden area beginning at 1430. The garrison of Nymwegen has occupied a fortified position. The report about parachute landings at the Wal crossings was not confirmed. The bridge near Grave fell into the hands of the enemy.

A defense commander for Rotterdam was assigned. The demolition of the harbors of Amsterdam and Rotterdam was authorized.

Scheldt:

Bombs were dropped on Veere in the afternoon of 16 Sept. causing little damage. The minesweeper M "3202" burned out after being set afire in the course of continuous fighter-bomber raids on Terneuzen. A damaged naval landing craft capsized after being hit repeatedly by bombs.

In all 3,273 soldiers, 338 vehicles, 13 guns, 157 bicycles, 294 horses, 15 tons of flour, one veterinary park and one medical park were ferried across on16 Sept. Only emergency traffic was carried out by day due to the clear sky and fighter-bomber activity.

Lively enemy air activity took place during the night of 16 Sept. All harbors were photographed with the aid of flashlights and were lighted by flares. Loading operations were thereby disturbed considerably. 4,088 men, 110 wounded 350 vehicles, 57 guns, 246 bicycles, and 618 horses were ferried across the Scgeldt on 17 Sept.

The gates of the "Kreuzschanz" lock were heavily damaged a according to a report by the Commander of Small Battle Units. The water level in the Albert Canal has been falling since 15 Sept. Since that time the enemy has increased the number of sentries and patrols in the lock area; he has also put up searchlights and probably light anti-aircraft guns. The entire harbor area of Antwerp was continuously lighted by searchlights during the night of 15 Sept.

2. Norway, Northern Waters:

Enemy Situation:

Thirty nine planes of the 18th Group were detected on missions. The KING GEORGE V was in the Scapa area on 15 Sept. according to radio interception.

On 17 Sept. six destroyers were observed in the Archangel area; the flotilla leader BAKU and three destroyers at sea in the Murmansk area.

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At 0750 a formation of presumbbly American four-engined Fortresses was detected in AF 84 by radio observation according to a report by the 5th Air Force. It might be a transfer flight to the northern area.

Own Situation:

Several lone enemy planes were reported in the Hammerfest area of the Acrtic Coast area in the forenoon of 15 Sept. The tanker LOEVEREN was only slightly damaged in a bomb and gunfire attack. Berlevaag was bombed by ten planes.

An enemy reconnaissance plane observed cut ship berths in the Alta Fjord on 16 Sept. at 1350. In The afternoon of 15 Sept. medium heavy gunfire was reported from the Petsamo area.

Lively enemy air reconnaissance was reported over the coastal area in the sector of Admiral, West Coast. A raid on two patrol boats in the Sogne Fjord by eight Mosquitoes was repulsed; we suffered no casualties.

Twenty ships were escorted northbound and thirty five ships southbound.

The commander, Submarines, Norway reported that the submarines U "965" will be relieved in time by the Task Force in order to join the operation "Edelweiss" on 23 Sept. The Group "Schwefel" will be formed by two submarines in AC 7547 or 7571 off the Alta Fjord. Their action will be ordered by the Tank Force according to tactical directives by the Commander Submarines, Norway.

III. Skagerrak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea:

1. Enemy Situation:

The Chief of Staff, Fleet, the Chief of Staff, Coastal Defense, a clearance boat brigade, three clearance divisions, and 60 war vessels or command posts were observed in radio traffic in the Gulf of Finland on 16 Sept. The Staff of the Patrol Forces was in the waters between Lovisa and Hamina and the Staff of Mine Vessels in the Kotka waters according to inaccurate locating.

Lively enemy air activity was observed over the entire Gulf of Finland up to west of Baltic Port. The patrol vessel VP "311" was unsuccessfully attacked with bombs and gunfire in Baltic Port in the morning of 16 Sept.

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2 Own Situation:

Admiral Skagerrak:

The strike in Denamrk is spreading to southern Jutland. The evacuation of political internees to Germany is the reason for it. The strike in Esbjerg involves especially large number: Numerous stores in Copenhagen are closed. Strikes have been called in Aalborg on account of the intended blowing-up of harbor installations ordered by the Commanding General. Coercive measures are taken.

Twenty one boats were on minesweeping duty.

Convoys were carried out according to plan.

Western and Central Baltic Sea.

Seventy four boats were on mine clearance duty. Mines were cleared; five in the Mecklenburg Bay, one in the Fehmarn Belt, and eight in the Kiel Bay.

The number of pleanes shot down by naval anti-aircraft guns in the enemy raid on Liepaja in the forenoon of 16 Sept. increased to eight. Liepaja was again raided by about thirty eight Russian planes with fighter escort at 1642 on 16 Sept. The shipyards, barracks submarinesbase, and city area were hit; damage, however, is slight. The dropping of mines in the waters off Liepaja is suspected.

Admiral, Eastern Baltic:

The 3rd Torpedo Boat Flotilla was attacked by two Boston planes northeast of Dagoe at 1708 on 17 Sept. The torpedo boat T "18" was heavily damaged under water by two rocket-bombs with time fuses and sank within eight minutes. All officers and the greater part of the crew were saved. For a short combat report see Telegram 2150.

Three naval landing craft, three motor barges, and one tug sank in the operation against Hoglandl three motor minesweepers, three minesweepers, and one tug were damaged.

Eight assault boats with six officers, six non-commissioned officers, and thirty three men arrived on Tyters from Hogland. The three officers were called for during the night of 16 Sept. by boats of the 5th PT Boat Flotilla. Other transfers were not possible for the time being due to inclement weather.

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Sea-markings and leading line marks along the cleared passagee in the Soedra Kvarken were removed according to a submarine report. The Finns have withdrawn their offer of furnishing tugs and lighters in Kemi.

The torpedo boat T "19" received a live shell before the bow by the Battery Enskaer at 1955 on 16 Sept. The same boat reported on 17 Sept. at 0940 in AO 2822 the escape of a steamer into Swedish territorial waters heading southeast. The torpedo boat T "17" was shelled from the shore while cruising outside of the territorial waters.

The 2nd Task Force started its return to Gdynia at 0500.

Convoys and transports were carried out a planned without incident.

The Northern Army Group was supplied on 16 Sept. to Riga with 1,413 tons and to Reval with 300 tons.

The naval artillery barge MAL "14" sank one enemy gunboat as reported in the fight on Lake Peipus in the afternoon of 16 Sept.; another one was damaged.

IV. Submarine Warfare.

Both Diesel motors of the submarine U "867" in AF 7679 stopped working. The boat is in a condition to dive and will have to be towed in.

The submarines U "965" are on mission in the northern waters for the protection of the TIRPITZ. The submarine U "703" is en route northeast of Iceland respectively to At 1510 to lay one weather buoy each.

The submarine U "563" stationed in the Mediterranean suffered considerable damage in the course of an enemy air raid on Salamis on 15 Sept.; the damage cannot be repaired in the local shipyard.

Nothing to report from the other operational areas.

V. Aerial Warfare.

1. West Area:

By day the enemy put into action numerous fighter-bombers and Mosquitoes in the Dutch and Belgian operational areas. About 700 to 800 planes with fighter escort, operating in two groups, were in the area of Hasselt - Nymwegen and Arnheim - Nymwegen respectively.

Airfields, supply installations, concentrations, and transport objectives in the areas were raided. One hundred Lancaster dropped numerous demolition bombs on the Hague.

In addition several hundred enemy planes with freight gliders flew east over the mouth of the Scheldt into the Breda, Hertogenbosch, Arnheim areas, into the areas south of Nymwegen, Cleve, Xanten, east of Geldern, aswell as near Goch and Eindhoven. Strong fighter protection screened the airfields in the Dutch area.

No reports came in about incursions into the west area during the night of 17 Sept. Reports about our defensive operations have not yet been recieved.

2. Reich Territory:

By day aobut 235 enemy planes were over northern, central and western Germany without attacking. Thirty six Beaufighters were in the Heligoland - Wangerooge area attacking ships as already reported. Two enemy planes coming from Russia advanced into the Bydogoszcz - Rawitsch - Gleiwitz-Zakopane area.

Several hundred enemy planes with fighter escort flying in from the south, raided Budapest during the noon hours. About one hundred planes of the formation flew over the Slovakian area.

Twenty fast planes carried out a raid in the Dortmund area during the night of 17 Sept. Sixty to eighty Mosquitoes entering via the mouth of the Scheldt and flying in the direction of Hanover, raided Bremen. Eight to ten planes after flying over the Heligoland Bight and Kiel, advanced into the Wismar - Schwerin area without attacking. Six lone planes were reported in the Wilhelmshaven, Kiel Bay, Hanover and Osnabrueck areas.

3. Mediterranean Theater:

Enemy action by 840 planes was concentrated on upper Italy, where rialway installations, motor vehicles, and roads were bombed.

Our planes carried out reconnaissance flights over the Genoa Bay.

4. East Area:

From the eastern front 1222 own and 3430 enemy missions were reported on 16 Sept. We lost eleven, the enemy 77 planes.

VI. Situation Mediterranean:

1. Area of Naval Command Italy:

Enemy Situation:

Forty five ships were detected 30 miles southeast of Toulon during the night of 16 Sept. and five to six ships fifteen miles west of Calvi. The usual patrol by enemy destroyers, mine clearance boats and PT boats was observed off the Riviera coast. The coast near Bordighera - Mentone was shelled by enemy destroyers in the evening of 16 Sept.; the harbor of San Remo was also shelled on 17 Sept. at noon. One boat group each was located during the night of 16 Sept. cruising inside of our barrages east of Savona and south of Rapallo respectively.

Own Situation:

Two battle ferries and one naval landing craft were damaged in the shelling of San Remo. One 7.5 cm gun received a direct hit. Three two-men and three one-man assault boats of special weapons were damaged and put out of action. One one-man and two two-men assault boats became a total loss. Casualties did not occur. Five two-men and seven one-man assault boats, eleven "Marder" craft and one MAS (Italian PT boat) remained ready for action.

The Small Battle Weapons Flotilla 213 en route to Verona passed Geottingen at noon.

One of our naval landing craft convoys en route from Spezia to Genoa had combat contact with a PT boat group south of Rapallo during the night of 16 Sept. while another naval landing craft and open sailing vessels en route from Genoa to Sestri Levante, had the same contact off the latter place. Hits were observed on one enemy boat.

No damage was inflicted on us. A naval landing craft convoy en route from Savona to Imperia was unsuccessfully attacked off Cape Noli by four enemy PT boats in the evening

of 16 Sept. after being lighted by an enemy plane. The attackers turned away laying down smoke after fire was returned.

Only one steamer under construction was hit in the fighter-bomber raid on Genoa on 16 Sept. at noon.

2. Area Naval Group South:

a. Adriatic Sea: Five single ships were in the area southeast of Ancona to east of Garibaldi in the evening of 16 Sept. according to detection by instruments. Three medium and four to five small vessels were sighted in the harbor of Ancona in the morning of 17 Sept. East of Fano three vessels, presumably PT boats, were on northwesterly course; two destroyers and three minesweeping boats, were sighted between Rimini and Riccione at noon. Rimini and Visirba were again shelled at noon by destroyers and minesweeping boats; the latter turned away after being shelled by naval 15 cm guns

It is now reported that Naval Battery Sumartin on Brac was taken after tenacious fighting at noon on 14 Sept . The guns were destroyed.

Three boats of the 7th PT Boat Flotilla arrived in Split on 17 Sept. The boats shelled Supetar.

Two naval landing craft as well as an engineer landing boat were sunk in the afternoon in the course of a fighter-bomber raid on Zara. The motor mine sweeper R "4" was slightly damaged. The steamer OTTO LEONHARDT (3,682 BRT(was damaged by a bomb hit off Rovigna. The 10,000 tons steamer AUSONIA capsized in Montfalcone in the evening of 16 Sept., presumably as the result of sabotage. The Italian guards have fled. The Croatian police on Krk was disarmed because of unreliability.

The mining operation "Grizzly Baer" was carried out in the evening of 16 Sept.

Four boats of the 24th PT Boat Flotilla were transferred from Zara to Pola. A report about the transfer of the 21st PT Boat Flotilla from Corfu to the Aegean Sea has already been made.

b. Aegean Sea: An alert was proclaimed in the Central Orient according to a Reich Security Central Office report of 13 Sept. from Istanbul. Operations against Greece and Croatia starting from Italy are expected.

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The air situation has grown more difficult. An aircraft carrier was confirmed with certainty south of Crete and by bearings presumably also north of Herakleia. In addition to normal reconnasisance about 60 carrier based planes were also detected in the southern Aegean Sea. Their attacks were directed against Milos and Santorin, in cooperation with destroyers and light cruisers. Milos was shelled by a destroyer from 0900 to 1600. The following ships were in the harbor; the mineship DRACHE, the steamer NORDMARK, the concrete ship ACHILLES and a coastal defense vessel. Our batteries returned the fire. The DRACHE will try to escape during the night of 18 Sept.

Enemy destroyers shelling Santorin between 1245 and 1330 caused the sinking of a coastal defense boat. The radar station southwest of Milos was continuously raidd by enemy planes. The entire operation evidently is preparatory to the taking over of the islands. This would eliminate the most important starting ports for the traffic to Crete.

Eighteen Russian planes raided the railway station Salonika on the afternoon.

Air raids on Rhodos, Santorin, Milos and Syra are expected according to radio interception. Four enemy planes raided the harbor and city of Porto Lago in the afternoon of 16Sept.

In connection with the concentration in the north, the Navy transported by sea from 23 Aug. to 15 Sept. 11,885 men, 1,125 horses, 3,381 tons of equipment, 1,107 tons of ammunition, 223 trucks and passenger cars, 837 other vehicles, 100 guns, and 860 tons as well as 487 barrels of fuel, This was accomplished principally by "Siebel" ferries, motor sailing vessels and small motorships; no large ships were involved.

With the exception of the sea traffic in the Euboea Channel all other transport tasks came to a halt due to continuous northern winds.

A communist uprising in Athens and Piraeus was annonced for the evening of 17 Sept. The dock workers willing to work are being threatened by armed communists.

The 68th Army Corps and the Combat Commander Piraeus have ordered the necessary precautionary measures.

The Naval Shore Command Peloponnesos will transfer to Megara (25 km east of Corinth) together with the 41st Fortress Division on 18 Sept.

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c. Danube Situation: In the course of operation "Donauelfe" the Army took the Kazan entrance. A naval landing craft transported ammunition for the Army and assault boats from Pancevo to Moldova.

No reports about sea and ground activities in connection with operation "Wassernixe" were received. Milanovac is encircled by Tito partisans. Some ships in the Tekija area were looted by partisans. The ships in Kladovo are being shelled by enemy guns.

New mining of the Danube was not reported. Three mines were swept. One vessel sank in the course of minesweeping operations.

VII. Situation Far East.

Nothing to report.

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Items of Political Importance.

Castran, President of the Finnish Supreme Court, is the successor of the ill Finnish Prime Minister Hackzell.

According to an Associated Press report, the Russian Government will probably demand from Turkey the internationalization and demilitarization of the Straits and free passage for ships of all nations. This demand will be made as soon as the occupation of the Balkans by the Red Army has progressed farther.

According to the Exchange Telegraph, British papers in their comments about Quebec express their satisfaction that Great Britain will now definitely and with large forces partake in the conquest of Japan. "Daily Express" for example calls the aspiration of the Americans. to secure bases in Dakar and in the Far East a policy which will be of advantage to Great Britain too. "daily Mail" writes that the impression prevailed at Quebec that the war in Europe would have to be fought inch by inch; there will be no sudden capitulation by Germany. Churchill had had to fight stubbornly for Great Britain's participation in the Japanese war. A yielding by Great Britain in this matter would have been incompartible with British prestige. Be it as it may, the conference was, in any case, a step forward in preparing an air-naval ground offensive of a kind the world has never seen before.

According to the Associated Press, Soviet Russia is demanding that Spain and Portugal break off relations with Germany.

The election for the Second Chamber of the Swedish Riksdag were a considerable gain for the Communist Party at the expense of the Social Democrats.

Conference on the Situation with the Chief, Naval Staff at 1130.

I. In connection with the air situation: 800 to 1,000 freight gliders landed in the area of Breda - Tiel - Arnheim Nymwegen - Utrecht and Hilversum; 500 parachute jumpers were reported in the Arnheim - Nymwegen area; 650 of our fighters were on defensive missions.

This landing was already announced on 11 Sept. by an agent from

London by way of the Air Force Attache, Stockholm. The corresponding report reads: "Two British armies will have reached the Maas, even the Waal on a wide front by 24 Sept. Thereupon strong air-borne operations in eastern and northern Holland and in the German border area are planned. Immediately after the air-borne landing which aims at rolling up the German river positions in the rear, action by the Fusag in eastern Holland and in the Helgoland Bight will take place. Strength of the Fusag is 29 to 30 divisions. Reports are intentionally spread in the circles of the Norwegian and Danish Governments in Exile that an operation by the Fusag is planned in the north."

II. In connection with the western situation: The resistance in Brest and Boulogne has evidently come to an end. The Fuehrer has sent the following radiogram to the Commander of the fortress Boulogne: "For weeks the propaganda of the enemy has been trying to prove the futility of further resistance. This only shows the anxiety of the enemy to gain the harbor of Boulogne as quickly as possible as a much needed harbor and supply base. Your preseverance is costly to the enemy as far as forces, materiels and, above a all, time are concerned. By your resistance you are delaying the concentration of the enemy forces against your homeland and you are providing the time element needed for the formation of the new German offensive army. I therefore expect that officers and men of the fortress will resist and fight to the bitter end."

III. Naval Staff, Operations Division, Chief, of Operations Branch: According to a report from the Army General Staff, the Ruehrer has ordered that the Northern Army Group be returned to the west. On the basis of the situation at the Northern Army Group - resulting from the Russian break-through near Riga and Dorpat - Army General Staff requests the allocation of all available shipping space in Reval. It was likewise asked that Admiral, Eastern Baltic be directed to cooperate closely with the Northern Army Group as to details. Corresponding steps were taken. A report was received from Admiral, Eastern Baltic, in which the Army Detachment Narwa demands that evacuation must be carried out by 22 Sept. Thereupon the evacuation of the last defense forces is to take place. The allocation of shipping space is very urgent.

The following vessels were put at the disposal of Admiral, Eastern Baltic by aval Command Baltic and are en route to the east respectively will be sailing:

a. The following will in all probability sail in the evening of 18 Sept.: "H 27", one light gun carrier with four naval landing craft of the 1st Training Division from

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Swinemuende: the auxiliary cruiser HANSA with the 2nd Tropedo Boat Flotilla from Gdynia.

b. In all probability sailing early on 19 Sept.: The large minesweepers MRS "11" and "12" without pinnaces from Copenhagen.

c. The 3rd Torpedo Boat Flotilla is already engaged in shuttle traffic between Reval and Liepaja; likewise the torpedo boat T "9", two torpedo boat flotillas and two boats of the 5th Torpedo Boat Flotilla.

The 2nd Task Force with the Prinz Eugen, at present on Three hour alert, with the LUETZOW, at present on a six hour alert, and with the 6th Destroyer Flotilla is intended for operation "Birke"-Kemi. All vessels are in Gdynia. The 6th Destroyer Flotilla with the destroyers Z "25" and Z "28" will be ready to sail in the evening of 18 Sept., the destroyer Z "36" in the afternoon of 19 Sept., while the destroyer Z "35" will be ready on 20 Sept. at noon at the earliest. In case this operation is discontinued, the 6th Destroyer Flotilla will continue to remain at the disposal of Admiral, Eastern Baltic and will be assigned to him as quickly as possible.

The Admiral, Fuehrer Headquarters, Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff, High Command, Air and the Army General Staff will be instructed about this assignment of naval forces.

IV. Naval Staff, Chief of Intelligence Division:
Lemnos was ostensibly occupied by the British and Greeks.

General Eisenhower has issued a proclamation to the population of the Netherlands and to German Armed Forces in the Netherlands. The Dutch Government has called a general strike. Furthermore, General Montgomery has sent a radio message with the parol "Onward to Germany". It says in this message that the number of prisoners captured in France since 6 June amounts to almost 400,000 men.

Conference in a Restricted Circle.

V. Army Situation.

1. Western Front:

The big event of 17 Sept. was the major enemy air-borne landing in the area between Eindhoven and Arnheim. There the enemy tried with at least two air-borne divisions to take possession of all essential crossing points in order to keep open the way across the channels and rivers for the 2nd

British Army which started its northward attack in the afternoon. Countermeasures to be carried out by every training and supply formation of all branches of the services are being put in motion.

The British were able to make considerable gains at the start of their advance on Eindhoven, north of the Albert Canal. The situation here is especially critical.

East of Maastricht, the enemy forced our troops to withdraw to the north.

See-saw fighting on the Eifel front is being continued. The overall situation of the Army Group B is very critical.

The enemy advanced further on Bitburg from Luxembourg.

Enemy penetrations south of Metz were sealed off in heavy fighting; the same happened near Pont a Mousson.

Luneville was retaken.

2, Great Britain:

After the withdrawal of the American divisions which were up to lnow stationed in the area northeast of London, to the Portsmouth area, British formations are now being transferred from southeastern England to the Thames. This could be in preparation for the evacuation of the 4th British Army. According to an agent's report, a landing operation by this Army (about 15 large formations) in Holland and in the Heligoland Bight was announced.

3. Evaluation of the enemy situation:

The first and chief aim of the British army group seems to be the annihilation of the German forces in the Dutch area. The capture of the lower Rhine crossings is for the protection of the eastern flank as well as for the establishment of a key point for future operations in northern Germany.

4. Italian Front:

The enemy continued his major attack at the key point in the Florence and the Adriatic coast area. Although the enemy was able to make several penetrations in very bitter and bloody fighting, decisive gains, however, were denied to him.

5. Balkan Peninsula:

Besides a larger number of enemy planes, greater activity on the part of British naval forces has also become niticeable; the transfers from the islands to the continent are thereby considerably impaired.

Communist gangs have been organized after our withdrawal movements on the Peloponneses. The partisan raids are also increasing in southern Greece.

The enemy remained on the defensive on the Bulgarian border.

Weak enemy attacks were repulsed on the Serbian-Bulgarian border. A nearly completed pontoon bridge was observed near Vidin by air reconnaissance.

More units of the Croatian army deserted.

6. Eastern Front:

Our attack on Temesvar is progressing.

The Hungarian formations are holding their position badly and have to be supported by German forces.

The defensive battle near Sanok and Krosno is going on at undiminishing fury. Penetrations were cut off. German reinforcements are being brought forward.

Heavy fighting is going on north of Warsaw and in the southern sector.

Our counterattack in Courland west of Jelgava is gaining ground steadily. A penetration of the enemy positions to a depth of 10km was made in hard fighting.

In the sector of the Northern Army Group the enemy continued his attacks against previous points using men and materiel unsparingly; he also started his expected attack between Lake Peipus. Deep penetrations made by the enemy in the course of the fighting north of Bauske, south of Lake Virts, and in the Tartu area considerably aggravated the situation.

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A detailed report about the situation in the Aachen area and in the Netherlands is contained in War Diary, Provisional File "Invasion 18 Sept." under 1/Skl 28830/44 Gkdos. The general situation of the extremely taxed Army Group B is again very critical.

Naval Staff, Intelligence Division informed the highest operations staffs of the Navy by distributing excerpts about the enemy situation as analyzed by Army General Staff, Foreign Armies West of 17 Sept. Copy as per 1/Skl 28840/44 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part D, Vol. 8a.

VI. According to information received from Admiral at the Fuehrer Headquarters, further measures of the 20th Mountain Army Command will depend upon a new investigation concerning the importance of the Petsamo nickel for our armament industry.

Sepcial Items.

I. Situation Eastern Baltic:

1. Operation "Tanne Ost":

According to a report by Naval Command, Baltic, telephone connection was established by Commander Cellarius with the Finnish Naval Staff at 1140 on 16 Sept. The appreciation of the Commanding Admiral, Eastern Baltic was conveyed by telephone to General Valve for the proposed transport of the wounded. Particulars about the time and place of the exchange were agreed upon. In that connection the Finnish Naval Staff gave the following information about the naval situation:

"Minesweeping activity was observed in the Viborg Bay on 15 Sept. A patrol vessel was shelled by a Finnish battery near Lavansaari. The vessel tried to communicate with the Finns by semaphoring which was disregarded by the Finns. In the night of 15 Sept. two Russian PT boats made the same vain attempt south of Hogland. According to Commander Cellarius, the communication established with the Finnish Naval Staff could be used for the clarification of other important questions."

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2. Concerning operation "Birke" - Kemi:

The Naval Liaison Officer at the 20th Army Command reports to Admiral, Eastern Baltic that the Finns, after the Hogland affair became known, have withdrawn their promise of furnishing lighters. Finnish ship owners have been induced in the meantime to continue their work. The contemplated sailing of three naval landing craft becomes therefore unnecessary. Four steamers and one tanker will be sailing together from Kemi.

Naval Command, Baltic has directed the Liaison Officer at the 20th Army Command to accelerate the evacuation of goods from Kemi by all available means.

According to a report by General Valve which was relayed by Naval Command, Baltic three Finnish ships each are in the Baltic Sea ports and Bremen and one ship each in Emden and Holtenau. General Valve asks not to retain these ships any longer. In return, eight German ships in Finnish ports will be permitted to sail immediately. Difficulties are said to have arisen pertaining to the exchange of the wounded which General Valve is said to have overlooked. One hundred wounded which General Valve is said to have overlooked. One hundred and thirty German dead are on Hogland. Naval Command, Baltic requests a decision.

Naval Attache, Stockholm reports that the crews of the naval anti-aircraft guns arriving on Finnish ships were not interned; they will be sent home as quickly as possible. The anti-aircraft crews of the various ships will be organized into transports and will be taken care of by the Swedish Army until they depart.

A fifth Finnish steamer arrived in Kalmar according to a telephone report by the Naval Attache, Stockholm.

3. Concerning operation "Aster":

The Air Force, Operations Staff, Operations Branch, Navy informs Naval Staff, Operations Division at 1850 that the Fuehrer has approved the start of the operation "Aster" for the evening of 18 Sept.

Naval Staff, Quartermaster Divsion, Shipping and Transport Branch informs Naval Staff about the following directive issued to the parties involved:

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"1. The following boats will arrive in the harbors of Reval and Baltic Port:

On 18 Sept.	3 transports
" 19 Sept.	7 transports
" 20 Sept.	3 transports
" 21 Sept.	3 transports
" 22 Sept.	5 transports

After 22 Sept. about five transports will sail daily.

2. Three smaller transports of about 5,000 BRT will sail for Parnu. Immediately 25 motor coasters - their number will increase to 42 - will also be available in the harbors of Rohokuela, Werder, Parnu and Hainash. Special attention is called to them All ships are at the disposal of Admiral, Eastern Baltic for evacuation. A report is to be made as soon as possible, how much and where tonnage will be needed after 22 Sept."

Supplementary to this directive Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division, Shipping and Transport Branch emphasizes the following:

"1. The capacity of the harbors of Reval and Baltic Port is limited; the speed of evacuation will be governed thereby. The loading of ammunition in the harbor of Reval appears to be extremely risky under the present circumatances, as air raids could have terrific effects on the evacuation.

2. The necessity of making full use of the harbors in the Gulf of Riga; the possibility of leaving some of the units to be evacuated on Oesel and Dagoe. The later evacuation from there does not involve any difficulties.

3. The 22 Sept., the date fixed by Army Group Narva, naturally sets a limitation as far as the evacuation is concerned; at least five transport steamers daily could be made available after 22 Sept.

4. A check-up is requested whether the evacuated troops could not be disembarked in Ventspils and Liepaja, so that shipping space would immediately be available for Reval and Baltic Port. The time saved compared to Danzig would be about thrity hours for each steamer. A decision from there to this office and to Admiral, Eastern Baltic is urgently needed."

II. The following directive was issued by Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff concerning the <u>food supplies in the fortresses</u> and on the Channel Islands:

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"When the food supply in the western fortresses and on the Channel Islands becomes insufficient in spite of cutting the rations of the population and the Armed Forces, the civilian population, with the exception of able-bodied men, is to be turned over immediately to the enemy in case this has not yet been carried out completely. The enemy is to be informed about the depletion of the food stores for the civilian population. The food rations for the population on the Channel Islands is to be reduced for the present to a mere subsistence level. An order will follow about the complete cessation of food rations to the population and a corresponding report to the British."

III. Naval Staff, Quartermaster Divsion will further reduce the amount of fuel aoil and Diesel oil. In the case of Diesel oil the redution will amount to about 25 per cent. in comparison to September 1944. Consumerw are instructed to adjust their plans accordingly. Thereeexists the possibility of providing a limited balance by increasing the allocation of fuel oil in comparison to September.

This new reduction of 25 per cent. creates a critical situation for the fleet. The present allocation of 3,000 cubic meter of Diesel oil was designated by the Fleet Command as the lowest bearable limite. This amount is absolutely needed for keeping the present number of vessels in proper condition. It must first of all be seen how the Fleet Command is going to react to the changing over to fuel oil as indicated in the foregoing directive. If this change is not workable for any length of time the necessity must be faced of inactivating all Diesel oil consumers in the fleet unless considerable saving can be made in other places. However, at the moment there is no possibility to do so. Diesel oil allocations for the Navy will probably cease completely in October. Then the stores will be depleted rapidly.

IV. As to infantry arms, no weapons became available as the result of the transfer of naval personnel to the Army. The equipment with infantry arms has solely risen from 50 to 62 per cent. of the total strength. The dispersed and evacuated soldiers from the western and southeastern areas are not included in this number. Naval Command has urgently requested that the weppons situation be kept in mind when combat untis are organized and orders issued.

V. Naval Staff, Intelligence Division has distributed in its usual way Report 18 on the enemy situation as of 15 Sept. Copy as per 1/Skl 29001/44 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part D, Vol. 8b.

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For the sake of the clarification of the enemy situation in the England area the accelerated reconnaissance of the harbors of the English coast north of the Humber in regard to the presence of enemy forces, is therein designated as being of greatest importance.

Concerning the Mediterranean it is said that as faraas conclusions can be drawn on the basis of observations in the Gibraltar Straits, an essential withdrawal of forces from the Mediterranean has not taken place. The presence of eight, at the most of ten carriers in the Mediterranean can be assumed. Two of them appeared in the waters off Crete on 17 Sept. In case of no transfer to the Indian Ocean having occurred, the presence of a strong Allied fleet in the Mediterranean can be suspected which would permit the enemy to protect large scale operations at any time.

Naval Staff, Intelligence Division points out that the political transformations which take place in the Mediterranean area effer sufficient incentive to the Allies and especially to Great Britain to maintain strong naval forces in that region.

Naval Staff, Intelligence Division likewise reported about the organizational set up an leadingmen in the Russian Navy based on captured material, statements by prisoners of war and evaluation of news. Copy as per 1/Skl 35065/44 geh. in War Diary, Part D, Vol. 8a.

Situation 18 Sept.

I. Situation West Area.

1. Enemy Situation:

Only light reconnaissance activity - 17 planes - on the part of the 19th Group was observed. No special concentrations. Twenty six planes of the 15th Group were detected on missions. Two British vessels were located in the rendezvous area.

According to an agent's report from Cherbourg dated 12 Sept. the entrance near the sea railway station is in order in spite of major demolitions. Two large ships scuttled near this railway station serve for the mooring of tugs and small vessels. An improvised landing stage for Liberty ships is being constructed of piles and planks.

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2. Own Situation:

Atlantic Coast Area:

Single small naval objectives were sighed in the morning of 17 Sept. south of Lorient and one naval objective northwest of Ile de Croix presumably sailing from Concarneau or Benodet. Six LST's were headin south 18 miles west of Guernsey on 18 Sept. A large vessel was sighted on southerly course. All vessels are heading for St. Malo. Furthermore, northwest of Alderney and northwest of Cherbourg seven, perhaps only five LST's as well as freighter or a passenger ship and a destroyer heading south and southeast respectively were reported.

At 1830 on 17 Sept. a formation of 19 transport vessels and one destroyer were sighted from the Channel Islands north of Cherbourg, heading south.

Situation of the Fortresses:

Brest: Secret matters were destroyed because the enemy is approaching the Naval Communications Officers' shelter. The command post of the Naval Shore Commander was abandoned. Fighting around the strong points in the inner city fortress was stopped in order to save the large number of wounded kept in the tunnels and shelters. The last remaining fighting troops of the three services have fought with bravery to the very end, according to report. The city and harbor of Brest are a heap of rubble. The Fortress Commander crossed over to the Crozon Peninsula with detached parts of the Parachute Infantry Division to continue the resistance there. According to the report of 18 Sept., at 2110 the enemy has penetrated our weak Crozon lines in the forenoon with strong forces and advance d to Cape de la Chevre and to the western part of the Camaret Peninsula. A few groups and isolated remnants here are offering the last resistance.

Lorient: New enemy batteries, among them a heavy one, were observed on 17 Sept. On 18 Sept. our batteries shelled enemy movements and gun positions with good results. Patrol activity on both sides was also reported.

St. Nazaire: Enemy harassing fire lay on the fortress on 18 Sept. Our batteries shelled enemy billets. A strong enemy billets. A strong enemy reconnaissance advance was repulsed.

La Rochelle: Enemy machine gun nests were silenced by our artillery fire. The forces of the enemy are increasing in

the harbor and in Fort Chapus. Our garrison numbers 14,000 men; this number includes our troops on the islands of Re and Oleron. The Navy is represented by 8,118 men. (1,078 - 4th Defense Division, 691 - 3rd Submarine Flotilla, 1,684 - Navy Yard, 2,327 - various commands, 2,675 - on Re and Oleron).

Gironde-North: The emergency loopholes of two cm batteries at Cordoman were removed by blasting. The batteries are now ready for firing in all directions.

Withdrawal Movements:

Sixty-five men were intercepted on 17 Sept.

Channel Coast:

The harbor of Ostend has been mined and the entrance blocked by 16 large vessels according to a report by Admiral, Channel Coast. Group West reported supplementary that the harbor would probably not be usable for about three and a half months in spite of the ommission of some of the planned demolitions.

An ammunition supply mission to Dunkirk was carried out by four PT boats during the night of 19 Sept. A group of the 10th PT Boat Flotilla was on a diverting mission. The PT boats are being expected off Dunkirk by midnight. Particulars have not yet been reported. PT boats were attacked by dive bombers southwest of Ijmuiden according to radio interception.

Calais:

The western sector of the fortress as well as the city and harbor were continuously raided by fighter-bombers and shelled by guns. The Batteries "Lindemann" and "Sangatte" were at the same time shelled by a British long range battery. Our guns were directed against enemy concentrations.

Batteries "Todt" and "Grosser Kurfuerst" were attacked with bombs and gunfire on 18 Septl; only slight damage was caused. The attack took place after the demand for surrender was rejected.

Boulogne:

In the forenoon of 17 Sept. city and defense barrages were subjected to the strongest surprise fire and to continuous air raids. The Battery "Friedrich August" was shelled by

heavy guns. The enemy forced his way into the battery position at noon. The battery was reported again free of the enemy in the forenoon of 18 Sept. The enemy entered the city after heavy street fighting. Single strong points and the harbor area are still in our possession.

II. North Sea, Norway, Northern Waters.

1. North Sea:

Heligoland Bight:

A formation of low flying enemy planes entered the inner Heligoland Bight in the evening of 17 Sept. The crews of the Naval anti-aircraft guns of Norderney observed one crash. Enemy planes returning from the Bremen area by midnight, were fired at by the naval anti-aircraft batteries stationed at Wilhelmshaven, Bremen and Emden. Single planes successfully feigned strong formations by the dropping of aluminum foil strips and by jamming broadcasts.

Entering and returning enemy fighters were shelled by naval anti-aircraft guns stationed on Sylt, Heligoland and near Cuxhaven at noon on 18 Sept.

IN the raid on Bremen in the efening of 17 Sept. the naval barracks at the Deschimag shipyard were slightly damaged. Two motor columns of the Naval Motor Transport Detachment Emden, were attacked by gunfire during the night of 17 Sept. and suffered casualties.

According to reports, fires, especially in the centralpart of the city and in the harbor area resulted from the heavy raid on Wesermuende.

On 18 Sept. at 0315 the state of readiness "Coast" for Hamburg and Bremen was reduced to alert "Coast".

In the Heligoland Bight, altogether 16,663 BRT were convoyed on 17 Sept. and 8,823 BRT on 18 Sept. Minesweeping and convoy traffic will be carried out during the night of 18 Sept. as planned. The torpedo boat T "65" will be towed from the Ems to the Weser River by three minesweeping boats.

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Dutch Coast:

Lively enemy air activity on 17 Sept. was reported. Radar Schouwen was damaged in a low-flying raid at 1900. Radar Walcheren was hit by a bomb in a raid. About 100 bombs were dropped on Battery "Zotlande" on Walcheren on 18 Sept. at 1900. Radar and dwellings were destroyed. The Battery is ready for action. At 2345 the 9th Minesweeper Flotilla was attacked by six fighter-bombers off Ijmuiden with bombs and rockets.

Fishing in the Ijsselmeer was stopped.

The Alarm Anti-Aircraft Battery of the Naval Intercepting Camp Zwolle was withdrawn for action at Arnheim in the evening of 17 Sept.

Scheldt:

The large lock of the harbor of Veere was put out of commission by an enemy fighter-bomber raid on 17 Sept. at noon. Two boats of the Rhine Flotilla sank in the course of a bombing raid. Two more were damaged. Three boats of the Maas Flotilla were also damaged. Two naval landingcraft in the harbor of Memeldingen were hit by bombs. A tugboat burned out.

Enemy fighter-bomber raids were carried out against Breskens, Flushing, and Veere in the afternoon of 18 Sept. 1,500 bombs were dropped on Flushing in the evening of 18 Sept. Damage is unessential.

The 38th Minesweeper Flotilla on the Scheldt was attacked with rocket bombs at 1630. Two planes were downed. The ferry traffic was reduced by the inactivation of several vessels. Only one ferry is ready at present.

The Command of the Combat Formations plans an operation by the Naval Special Operations Unit 60 against ships moored on the Scheldt Quay, which could not be blown up after Antwerp was abandoned. The approach is to be attempted by "Kommandolinsen", (a small battle weapon. Tr. N.), from Bath or Hansweerd and is to be carried out by battle swimmers using blasting cartridges.

During the night of 17 Sept. battle swimmers were to blast the bridge south of Eindhoven. No report has been received so far.

2. Norway, Northern Waters:

Enemy Situation:

Thirty eight planes of the 18th Group were detected on

missions. At 0704 Polyarnoe directed an urgent radio message to all ships in the home area.

The battleship in the Wajenga Bay has a Russian crew, according to statements made by prisoners of war, members of the Russian PT boat which was annihilated by the 21st Minesweeper Flotilla on 15 Sept. The ship was handed over to Russia by the U.S.A. about a month ago. The name is ARCHANGELSK. A former Italian four funnelled cruiser is ostensibly in Murmansk. The name is MURMANSK. The cruiser is ready for sea duty and was at sea ten days forming part of the escort of the last PQ convoy. Six U.S. submarines with American crews are in Polyarnoe. Russian crews for these boats are being trained. For six days land mines as well as rifle and machine gun ammunition have been delivered to the shores of the Pummanki Bay apparently for an intended landing. Other attack preparations have not been observed.

Own Situation:

Enemy air activities from the east were very lively in the area of the Arctic coast between 15 and 17 Sept. Sixty six planes were reported in the Vardoe area, attacking the harbor Gamvik and eighty nine planes in the Kirkenes area, attacking Petsamo. Sixteen enemy reconnaissance planes were in the Hammerfest - Banak area during the night of 16 Sept.

A bomb and gunfire raid was carried out by six planes near Kiberg in the course of which a Norwegian cutter was sunk. A group of submarine chasers in the Brei Sound was attacked by a Boston at 1140 on the same day; it was shot down. A Russian was taken prisoner. An aerial torpedo missed its mark. Heavy firing was heard in the Petsamo area in the afternoon. The Battery Petsamo was simultaneously raided by sixteen planes using bombs and gunfire. One plane was shot down according to a report. Five enemy planes raided two naval landingcraft near Makkauer on 17 Sept. at 0600.

A mine was swept northeast of Eggeroey.

Single planes, presumably on submarine hunt, were over the west coast area between Nord Fjord and Bergen on 17 Sept. Forty enemy planes were reported in the area of Kristiansand-South of Mandel in the afternoon.

Several flights over the sea area of Florce-Bergen were reported during the night of 17 Sept.; there were 13 Mosquitoes among the detected planes. An attack by six Mosquitoes against a convoy in the Sogne Fjord exit, southbound, was repulsed in the afternoon of 13 Sept.

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Twenty six ships were convoyed north and twenty five ships south.

The command of the TIRPITZ reported on the condition of the ship. Copy of the report as per 1/Skl 2992/44 Gkdos., Chefs. in War Diary, Part C, Vol II a.

The command further reports that a well camouflaged observation post set up by unknown persons near our mountain position was removed.

III. Skagerrak, Baltic Sea Entrance, Baltic Sea.

1. Enemy Situation:

According to information by Air Force, Operations Staff, Foreign Affairs Section, an agent reported on 16 Sept. that Swedish Police arrested Norwegian sabotage agents who landed on Swedish territory at the beginning of September. They stated that they were trained in Scotland in courses lasting six months.

A systematic dropping of sabotage groups on a large scale has started since the beginning of September, especially in Denmark.

The Chief of Staff, Fleet, Chief of Staff, Coastal Defense, three clearance formations, six minesweepers, two PT boats and forty four other vessels or command posts were observed in radio traffic in the Gulf of Finland on 17 Sept.; three posts were observed in the Ladoga area.

Fourteen boats were sighted in the Narwa Bay on 18 Sept. at 1001.

2. Own Situation:

Admiral Skagerrak:

Nineteen boats were on minesweeping duty in the Baltic Sea Entrances and three in the Nordmannstief. Two mines were cleared in the Samsoe Belt. The German steamer Kap Guir (1,536 BRT) struck a mine northwest of Anholt and had to be beached.

The equipment of the Small Battle Units Flotilla 261, transferred to Jutland, is being put in readiness in the Oesterhurup area on the east coast of the peninsula.

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Western and Central Baltic:

Fifty eight boats and two mine-exploding vessels were on mine clearance duty. One mine was cleared in the Danzig Bay, three in the Pommeranian Bay and five in the Kiel Bay. At about noon a fire-fighting boat sank in the Strand Bay after striking a mine.

The mine-exploding vessel AMERLAND was unsuccessfully attacked with bombs and torpedoes by three enemy planes and six fighters southwest of Liepaja at 1735. The German steamer PINNAU was unsuccessfully attacked with gunfire by enemy planes northwest of Arcona.

It is now reported that three British air mines of a new type were dropped over the rifle range Holtenau during the night of 15 Sept.; apparently they can be used as either air or sea mines.

Admiral, Eastern Baltic:

The Commander of the 1st Minesweeper Flotilla has taken off the garrison of Vaindle with boats of the Narwa patrol.

Six minesweepers, five motor minesweepers, two anti-aircraft chasers and three groups of naval landingcraft are provided for the withdrawal of the garrison on Tyters. Due to weather conditions this measure, however, has not been carried out.

Convoys were carried out according to plan. The Northern Army Group was supplied on 17 Sept. to Riga with 2,866 and to Reval with 2,140 tons.

Four submarines are patrolling the "Seeigel" barrage while three submarines are engaged in protecting the German transport near the Aaland Islands.

IV. Submarine Warfare.

The disabled submarine '867" lying in AF 76 cannot be towed in due to the distance from the shore, due to very lively enemy air activity and due to bad weather. Three submarines nearby have received orders to take over the crew and to sink the boat. The boat was attacked by planes at 2100 and 2253. No further reports have come in.

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The submarine U "275", the last boat to leave the Channel, arrived in Bergen on 18 Sept.

The submarine U "296" reported slight however heavily escorted sea traffic, increasing defense, continuous shore locating and slight air activity from the operational area of North Minch. Two Zanukoenig torpeodoes and a double "LUT" torpedo fan against destroyers and against a meinsweeping group misfired. The boat was under water thirty four days.

The assembly of Group "Feuer" in the Northern Waters off Drontheim was called off.

In the Mediterranean the submarine U "407" was ordered to the Milos area for action against destroyers.

V. Aerial Warfare.

1. West Area:

Several hundred Liberators with fighter escort operated in the Dutch area in small formations. A report about the landing of freight gliders and of parachute infantry in the Arnheim - Nijmegen area has already been made.

No enemy activity was reported during the night of 18 Sept.

2. Reich Territory:

During the day about 100 planes were reported over northwestern and western Germany. Continuous incursions of fighters - at times in large formations - into the Rhenish-Westphalian industrial area took place apparently without any attacks being launched.

In the forenoon 100 to 150 enemy planes with fighter escort flew via the Heligoland Bight, the Baltic Sea to north of Bromberg and over the Warsaw area. Partisans, east of Bromberg, were supplied by drop containers. Due to strong winds 90 per cent. of the containers fell into our hands. They contained foodstuffs, arms and explosives. Twenty four of our fighters brought down two planes. The American planes flew on to Poltawa.

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The Eggebeck airfield near Flensburg was raided by three Mustangs in low level attacks.

About 450 to 500 enemy bombers with fighter escort entered the Hungarian area from the south in two groups and carried out a medium heavy raid against industrial and transport installations of Budapest.

About 150 planes entering via the Heligoland Bight raided Wesermuende during the night of 18 Sept. Twenty to thirty Mosquitoes raided Rheine, 20 to 30 other Mosquitoes the Leipzig-Wittengerg area and 30 planes the Quakenbruck airfield.

One hundred and forty to 170 planes flew in from the east in two groups for a renewed attack on Budapest.

3. Mediterranean Theater:

Theenemy air activity was concentrated with about 280 twinengined planes on the eastern front sector. The other flights were of the usual nature.

Lissa was reconnoitred by our planes on 18 Sept.

The High Command, Air, Operations Staff informed Naval Staff, Operations Division of a directive to Air Forces Command, Southeast about the change of previous orders concerning reconnaissance over the eastern Mediterranea. Most important is the harbor of Alexandria of which a check must be made every eight to ten days particularly during the time when our troops are being evacuated from the Aegean Islands and southern Greece. Reconnaissance of the other ports in the eastern Mediterranean may be discontinued. Port Said must occasionally be surveyed. Reconnaissance flights over the convoy route Malta - Benghasi and off the African north coast to the Suez Canal can be reduced considerably. Current defense reconnaissance off our coasts in the Aegean, Ionian and Adriatic Sea is to be continued on the former scale. Air Force Command, Southeast cannot hope for additional reconnaissance forces and increase of the fuel allocations.

Naval Staff, Operations Division gave corresponding instructions to Group South and Admiral, Aegean Sea.

4. East Area:

On 17 Sept. 701 own and 3,405 enemy flights were reported from the eastern front. Seven of our planes were lost and 75 enemy planes shot down.

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VI. Warfare in the Mediterranean and on the Danube.

1. Area of German Naval Command, Italy:

Enemy Situation:

Air reconnaissance observed ten ships between Boulogne (must apparently be "Toulon". Tr.N.) and Nice and thirty ships northwest of Cape Corso during the night of 17 Sept. At 1920 on 18 Sept. two PT boats were northeast and five northwest of Cape Corso. PT boat activity was reported from the Genoa Bay and normal patrol activity by destroyers in the Mentone - San Remo area. The rear territory of Bordighera and Imperia was shelled without effect in the evening of 17 Sept. and in the forenoon of 18 Sept. respectively. In the course of the shelling of San Remo a naval landing-craft and three harbor patrol vessels became a total loss. A battle ferry and an open freight sailing vessel were damaged.

Own Situation:

During the night of 17 Sept. convoy and patrol duty were carried out without incident according to plan.

An ammunition dump was hit when enemy fighter-bombers raided Marghrita on 17 Sept. at noon. A motor minesweeper and an open sailing vessel were damaged. A blockship was sunk in a fighter-bomber raid on Imperia in the morning of 18 Sept.

The Command of the Small Battle Unit Formations reported the state of immediate readiness of the 1st Assault Boat Flotilla in San Remo consisting of nine two-men and eleven one-man assault boats. Action with 20 craft of the Small Battle Units Flotilla 411 starting from San Remo is planned in the waters along the southern French coast. Eleven craft of the Small Battle Units Flotilla 364 are in San Remo in the state of immediate readiness. Thirty craft of this flotilla are in Padua. Thirty craft of the Small Battle Units Flotilla 411 will likewise be transferred to that locality. The Small Battle Units Flotilla 213 is being transferred to Verona.

2. Area of Naval Group South:

Adriatic Sea:

Three enemy vessels each were detected off Cesenatico and in the extended waters of ancona during the night of 17 Sept. Two vessels, presumably destroyers, and three minesweeping boats were between Riccione and Rimini at noon of 18 Sept.; they again shelled Rimini.

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In the morning three PT boats were reported west of Lissa on westerly course, three destroyers northwest of Lissa on easterly course and four gunboats east of Lissa on westerly course.

Continuous ship traffic from Lissa to Brac, Hvar and Peljesac took place on 17 Sept. Army coast artillery at Makarska was shelled by enemy artillery from Brac in the afternoon of 17 Sept.

The island of Mljet, Corcula and the western part of Peljesac were evacuated by our troops. Continuous fighting against strong enemy forces, supported by artillery, has been going on around our strong points on the eastern half of Hvar and on Brac. Since the evening of 16 Sept. Americans - among them some Negro troops - and partisans are pressing infrom all sides according to statements made by soldiers of the fortified place of Sumartin, who swam across to Makarska.

In all 770 soldiers with equipment, two guns, eight gun carriages and one radio station were transferred when Corcula was evacuated. About 300 horses had to be left behind due to lack of shipping space.

The naval supply store was destroyed in fighting around Prilep. All supplies as well as 45 tons of 2 cm ammunition were annihilated.

The 7th PT Boat Flotilla lay in ambush near Cape Ploca during the night of 18 Sept. and carried out a short sweep up to Sumartin without sighting the enemy.

In the mining operation "Grizzlybaer" 4,000 mines were dropped by naval forces of Admiral, Adriatic Sea.

The Command of the Defense Formations plans to withdraw the Naval Special Operations Unit 20 from the Aegean Sea since there are no futher operational possibilities in that area. It will be transferred to the Adriatic Sea for the reinforcement of the Naval Special Operations Unit 90; thereby commando operations in the area of the Dalmatian Islands will again become possible.

Aegean Sea:

On 17 Sept. radar stations and batteries on Crete were repeatedly attacked by enemy planes; no essential damage was inflicted.

Group South directed the Admirals, Aegean Sea and Adriatic Sea to carry out the transfer of the 21st PT Boat Flotilla from Corfu to Phaleron.

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In the shelling of Milos by an enemy destroyer, a lighter with 400 tons of fuel oil on board was sunk on 17 Sept. Several hits on the destroyer, followed by intense smoke were observed. The steamer laid down a smoke screen and turned off; at 1645 it appeared again near the coast reinforced by a light cruiser and remained there until darkness.

Destroyers were again seen northwest of Milos on 18 Sept. at 0700. Observation by four artillery reconnaissance planes was prevented by anti-aircraft fire. The enemy opened fire on the island at 0830. Six large ships were southwest of Milos at 1112; they turned off at 1128 laying down smoke screens. At the same time an air raid on the military installations of the island took place without special success. The Port Commander of Milos was reported that up to now three enemy planes were shot down.

The break-through attempt of the mineship DRACHE to Piraeus was successful.

At 1050 our air reconnaissance observed two destroyers and twenty six small war vessels at Kythera; it can be assumed that landings are planned on Milos, perhaps even on Santorin. The landing attempts have evidently not yet been made due to weather conditions.

A large aircraft carrier and two destroyers were sighted south of Crete near Gavdos at 1130, heading east. Ten vessels, among them an aircraft carrier, were observed near Suda by the garrison of the strong point Drapanon at 1540; they kept beyond the range of our artillery. The formation passed at 1654 at a distance of 25 miles.

In addition a destroyer was reported west of Santorin at 1249 heading north.

During the day about 20 to 25 planes carried out fighter-bomber attacks in the southern Aegean Sea concentrating on the Crete convoy beats.

Sea transports had to be suspended on account of storms.

The steamer ZAR FERDINAND, en route from Salonika to Piraeus, ran aground near Eubcea-North. Partisans demanded the surrender of the steamer which, however, became afloat again without aid and continued the journey.

The strike situation in Athens-Piraeus has grown more acute. Shipyard workers willing to work are being hindered by armed

force.

Naval Staff informed Group South with copy to Admiral, Aegean Sea that the Fuehrer has refused permission for personnel to be transported on ships loaded with fuel and ammunition.

Situation Danube:

Nothing to report.

VII. Situation East Asia.

Nothing to report.

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Items of Political Importance.

Further news reports from London confirm that Great Britain had to overcome certain opposition at Quebec, in order to secure participation in the war against Japan. The British were aware of the fact that certain persons in the U.S.A. did not wish British participation in the war in the Far East. Roosevelt was not one of those.

According to Swedish reports the Russian armistice terms were unofficially made known to the Finnish Parliament. A great pessimism is felt by all Finnish politians.

Commander in Chief, Navy retunred from the Fuehrer Headquarters to command post Koralle.

Conference on the Situation with Commander in Chief, Navy at 1130.

I. In regard to the Eastern Situation: Admiral, Eastern Baltic plans to reinforce the "Nashorn" barrage by laying the mines, which are sitll in his area and which cannot be transferred anyway. Codeword "Nilhorn". Commander in Chief, Navy agrees.

Commander in Chief, Navy orders an inquiry to be made at the Foreigh office regarding measures taken in order to secure the cargo of ships which, en route to German ports, escaped to Sweden. Details in War Diary, Part C, Vol. VIII.

II. Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff has issued a directive about the behavior of the party leaders in enemy occupied areas and about the feeding of the population in such areas.

III. Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division reports that for the first time four enemy planes crashed as the result of explosions of our remote controlled mine barrage off Hansweerd on 9 Sept.

IV. Chief, Bureau of Naval Armaments:

a. Discontinuation of the submarine type XXIII can take place after the 80th boat (end of March 1945) has been completed without causing any special disadvantages. Decision must be made not later than 1 Oct. 1944.

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Commander in Chief, Navy: A thorough discussion of this matter is necessary after the main operational areas for this type of submarine - the Black Sea and the Mediterranean - have been lost.

b. Naval engineers who were to be used along the coast of the North Sea are at present being retained by Commanding General, West for the conditioning of the West Wall.

Commander in Chief, Navy: After the airborne landings in Holland, the threat against Jutland and the Heligoland Bight appears to be small. The engineers are more needed by Commanding General, West. Naval Command North will eventually have to go into action for the protection of the flank of the West Wall.

V. Naval Staff, Special Weapons Division: The first fifteen Biber craft will be en route to Jutland today; fifteen more will follow on 20 Sept. In all sixty can be expected by the end of September.

VI. Naval Staff, Chief of Intelligence Division: The sudden departure of Eden for Quebec is said to be influenced by the desire to assume a more forceful attitude toward Russia. Eden, however, is convinced - at least to outsiders - that the tension can be removed.

In regard to the Timor affair, Santos Costa declared that Japan appears to be willing to yield; however she is acting too slowly. Therefore Portugal would eventually have to act independently.

General Eisenhower issued a proclamation to the population of western and southern Germany.

Besides some Rumanian high ranking personalities, the Russians have apparently accused the German Generals Stahel, Gerstenberg, Hansen and Admiral Tillessen as well as Ambassador Clodius of having committed war crimes; they have been taken away.

Conference in a Restricted Circle.

VII. Army Situation.

Western Front:

After a conspicuous lull in air activities during the forenoon, the enemy continued his airborne landings in yesterday's areas in the afternoon. At least three divisions

have been landed up to now. So far our countermeasures have only partially been effective.

The enemy was able to advance across the Dutch border with strong forces, to smash our defense front and to join up with his parachute troops near Eindhoven.

Withdrawal movements of the 15th Army across the lower Schelde were carried out a planned.

The severe and fluctuating fighting in the Maastricht - Aachen area is being continued. The enemy gained territory. Our counterattacks east of Aachen were not successful.

The enemy is trying to widen the gaps in the West Wall between Metz and Aachen.

Enemy attacks launched from the pont a Mousson bridgehead were repulsed by Army Group B. Nancy was lost.

Our attack in the Luneville area is making progress; Luneville was retaken.

The resistance in Brest is coming to an end.

One corps of the Canadian Army started its attack on Boulogne aiming at a decision; it reached the inner city from the north and east.

Italian Front:

Fighting on the Italian-French border flared up. - With undiminished severity the enemy is continuing his attacks on the southern front with concentrations in the well-known areas.

Balkan Peninsula:

All units of the 117th Rifle Division have left the Peloponnesos and are near Athens ready for transport to Belgrade.

An attack by Bulgarian forces supported by numerous tanks on the Macedonian boarder east of Nish was repulsed. This attack confirms the concentrations of Bulgarian forces along the border and shows their endeavor to take possession of important border crossings for the forces which will follow. A concentration of strong enemy formations in the

Serbian - Bulgarian border area is probable in conjunction with the Russian forces assembled south and north of the Danube. The objective of the Russian advance would first of all be southern Serbia and the southern part of the Banat; the Bulgarians will protect the southern flank.

The transfer of Russian forces from the Bulgarian area in a northwesterly direction was again confirmed.

Eastern Front:

West of the southern Carpathians, German and Hungarian forces reached the Temesvar area.

Enemy attacks were repulsed in the southern Carpathians and in the Szekler tip.

The bitter struggle in the areas of Sanok and Krosno is still going on; twenty-seven enemy tanks were destroyed. East of these places a crisis was created when Hungarian troops again gave way to only slight enemy pressure.

The enemy resumed his attacks east of Warsaw which were repulsed.

Our tank attack in Courland in the Dobela area west of Jelgava gained only little territory. This attack has considerably disturbed the enemy in his plans and made him withdraw forces which were destined to support the attack at Bauska.

At the Northern Army Group the enemy was not able to gain the desired break-through in the direction of Riga and in the other focal points The enemy did not gain much territory in any place in spite of his material superiority; fighting on both sides was carried on with extreme doggedness.

Our withdrawal movements (including the Narva front) were started as planned.

VIII. Report by Naval Staff, Operations Division, Meteorology Section about intentions concerning the set-up of weather stations in the Arctic Ocean. The following was taken into consideration as to priority and timing:

a. Weather radio shore set "Erich" on Alexandra Land about 25 Sept.;

b. a station manned by the Air Force on Hope Island on 1 Oct.;

c. a boat to substitute for weather flight to Jan Mayen at the beginning of October;

d. replacement of weather radio shore set Bear Island at the beginning of November;

e. a boat for the relief of point Cesar at the beginning of November;
at the same time if possible;

f. sending of a manned Air Force station to southern Spitsbergen;

g. the manned Air Force station on Bear Island is held to be superfluous.

Chief, Meteorology Section has given order to the 5th Air Force only for remanning of the weather station on Hope Island (see b.). The other manned weather stations on Bear Island and Spitsbergen are the concern of the Reich Security Central Office (Branch Norway); the weather service there is only of secondary importance.

Commander in Chief, Navy agrees to the plans, as far as they concern weather service only. A submarine may be assigned for only one of the three operations intended by Reich Security Central Office after the boat returns from the mining operation.

IX. Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division, Chief, Shipping and Transport Branch reports on the reasons for the chartering of thirteen Finnish steamers.

Commander in Chief, Navy demands control over all shipping, which at present is not supervised by the Navy, as e.g.: Air Force shipments, Transport Flotilla Speer, etc.
Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division will issue further orders.

X. Naval Staff, Operations Division, Chief of Operations Branch:

a. General Valve has asked Admiral, Eastern Baltic whether the Germans are interested in the ferries plying between Turku and Stockholm, i.e. whether they will interfere with this ferry traffic. There are three Finnish and three Swedish ferries in use.

Naval Staff, Operations Division, Chief of Operations Branch transmitted the temporary decision of Naval Staff that there is no intention on the part of the Germans to interfere with

the ferry traffic in any way. The decision was based on the realization that our interest in the withdrawal of our ships from Kemi is so great that a further distrubance of Finnish shipping - partially bound up with German ships - is at present undesirable. The basic order of the Armed Forces High Command is also valid, according to which the Finnish ships (with the exception of those in the German sphere of influence) are to be treated as neutrals. A different decision can still be made whenever it appears to be advisable.

Commander in Chief, Navy does not approve of this lackadaisical attitude; he wishes that this inquiry made by the Finns be used for exerting political pressure.

By way of Admiral, Fuehrer Headquarters the cosent of the Fuehrer was received to the following reply directed to the Finns: "Germany will not touch the Finnish ferries plying between Turku and Stockholm, provided that the demands for undisturbed departure of German ships at Kemi through the Gulf of Bothnia and the return of the cargoes brought to Sweden by Finnish ships are fulfilled."

A corresponding directive to Admiral, Eastern Baltic and for information to Naval Command Baltic is transmitted by telegram as per 1/Skl I a 28933/44 Gkdos. Copy in War Diary, Part C, Vol. III.

b. Group South has rescinded its order prohibiting the transfer of the three TA torpedo boats from the Adriatic to the Aegean Sea. Operation "Odysseus" is now to be carried our at an accelerated pace. The transfer from Trieste to Pola will take place during the night of 19 Sept.; in the following nights in stages to Cattaro, Pagania Bay, Patras (in the night of 22 Sept.). Escort will be provided from Cattaro to Corfu by the 3rd PT Boat Flotilla, from Corfu to Athens by the 21st PT Boat Flotilla which will be transferred to the Aegean Sea at the same time.

c. The PT Boat Training Division will put at the disposal of Naval Command Baltic for operations in the east four boats of the 1st Group (Flotilla Commander, Lieutenant Klose) of the 2nd PT Boat Flotilla, after clarification with the Commander, PT Boats who is expected at Koralle for further personal discussion about future PT boat operations. The Group will for the time being be attached to 5th PT Boat Flotilla, The decision about the assignment of the 2nd Group of the aforementioned Flotilla, consisting of poorly armed and badly protected boats with the training ship TSINGTAU was postponed until after the discussion with

the Commander, PT Boats. Their readiness however must be completed by 23 Sept. as planned. For copy of telegrams exchanged with the Commander, PT Boats see 1/Skl I op. 28802/44 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. d.

XI. Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division, Shipping and Transport Branch again points out the threat to shipping space (in file War Diary 18 Sept.) and asks support of the point of view stated yesterday to the Army General Staff.

Commander in Chief, Navy orders that another request be made for the reinforcement of the anti-aircraft defense of Reval.

Naval Staff, Operations Division directs the following telegram to High Command, Army , Army General Staff:

"1. Transfer of a large number of valuable transporters to Reval and Baltic Port will probably invite heavy Russian air raids on these loading ports, therefore:

2. The demand by High Command, Navy, Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division, Shipping and Transport Branch as per 673/44 Gkdos. of 19 Sept. to refrain from loading ammunition is being supported energetically.

3. Continuous addition of as many batteries of anti-aircraft guns as possible is essential since the local anti-aircraft defense against major raids is insufficient."

XII. Naval Staff, Quartermaster General requests a decision how the question of heavy guns is to be handled.- Commander in Chief, Navy decides that the construction of emplacements for such guns in northern Norway is to be discontinued.

XIII. Chief, Bureau of Naval Armaments: Staatsrat Schieber has asked for an investigation whether or not all orders concerning the construction of heavy coastal guns could not be cancelled in order to relieve the Krupp Works.

Commander in Chief, Navy decides that one heavy battery each for Wangerooge and Zeeland must be completed. All other contracts are to be terminated.

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Special Items.

I. Concerning the Eastern Baltic:

a. Re German and Finnish ships:

Admiral, Fuehrer Headquarters confirms by telegram a previous telephone conversation with Naval Staff, Chief of Operations Division which reads as follows:

"The Fuehrer has decided: the Finns are to be informed that

1. after unmolested return of German tonnage from Kemi, and

2. after transfer of Finnish ships in Swedish ports with German Armed Forces materiel to German ports for unloading, Germany is willing:

aa. to release nine Finnish ships at present retained in German ports in accordance with proposal by General Valve,

bb. to assure safe return of Finnish ships mentioned under 2 to Finland after unloading of German Armed Forces' materiel in German ports."

Naval Staff notifies Admiral, Eastern Baltic and Naval Command, Baltic and sent copies to Naval Commands, Norway and North.

In this connection Naval Command, Norway reports that our intentions are realized by the Finns and that an inconspicuous delay is no longer possible. Naval Command, Norway also requests a decision about the treatment of Finnish tonnage in the Transport Fleet Speer. Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division, Chief of Shipping and Transport Branch confirms that these Finnish vessels come within the scope of the directive by the Armed Forces High Command and notifies Naval Command, Norway to that effect.

Naval Command, Baltic notifies Naval Staff concerning a supplementary directive to the 2nd Task Force and to Admiral, Eastern Baltic about the escorting of German ships from Kemi; they will be met by the 2nd Task Force at the southern exit of the Aaland Sea. Execution of the order as per 1/Skl 3012/44 Gkdos. Chefs, in file I Op/1/Skl.

The ships involved are the German steamers UNDINE, KARIN, BORNHOFEN, ILLER, KOELN, LANDSEE and the Air Force tanker KLARA as well as three naval landing craft. Loading will probably be completed on 21 Sept. All vessels are to depart

at the same time. The 2nd Task Force consists of the PRINZ EUGEN, the LUETZOW, the destroyers Z "35", Z "36", the Minesweeper Flotilla for Special Duties and two Bv. 138 (perhaps a type of aircraft. - Tr.N.) in Pillau.

All ships are to go to Danzig as directed by Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division, Shipping and Transport Branch.

Naval Staff has directed Naval Command, Baltic and Admiral, Eastern Baltic by order of Commander in Chief, Navy that special value is to be placed on the safeguarding of the two Air Force tankers en route in the Gulf of Bothnia. The tanker HANNA departed from Kemi on 17 Sept. according to information in the possession of the Naval Staff.

b. Re evacuation of the Northern Army Group:

High Command, Army, Army General Staff replied to the inquiry made by Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division that the evacuation of troops to Danzig would not be advisable. "The ports Liepaja and Ventspils are acceptable unless Northern Army Group prefers for tactical reasons disembarkation in Riga for at least part of its forces."

Naval Command, Baltic is instructed to arrange appropriate measures in conjunction with the Northern Army Group.

As to the reaction and directive by Naval Staff, Operations Division of 17 Sept. that the Baltic islands be abandoned, High Command, Army, Army General Staff replies as follows:

"The Fuehrer has ordered the defense of Riga. - Therefore the possession of the Baltic islands is a prerequisite. A reinforcing of the present forces on the islands may even be considered under the circumstances. If the development of the situation later demands the abandonment of Riga, then the possibility of further defense of the islands must be re-examined. Supply difficulties especially in winter, could play a decisive role."

Naval Staff therefore supplements its directive of 17 Sept. to Naval Command, Baltic, Admiral, Eastern Baltic and others as follows:

"1. The Baltic islands will during the withdrawal movements of the Northern Army Group be defended until further notice. Reinforcing of the island garrisons may become necessary.

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2. Army General Staff requests that the former garrison of Tyters be used for the reinforcement of the Baltic Islands. Use the Tyters garrison along the same lines. Particulars to be arranged by Admiral, Eastern Baltic in agreement with the Northern Army Group."

II. Concerning the West Area:

A Due to the combat situation in the Holland area, Army General Staff, Quartermaster Staff requests supply facilities by sea of 2,000 tons daily.

In reply Naval Command, North reports to Naval Staff:

"1. Execution of supply transports to the Holland area can successfully be executed in convoys with fighter protection as long as the ground situation does not change substantially. Best suited for this task would be two to four steamers up to 1,000 tons with a speed of ten knots, making a daily run. Smaller vessels are not suitable for they are too slow and the convoy would be too big and clumsy.

2. The start of the demolition of Dutch ports is set for 21 Sept. at 1200 by the Commanding General of Army Group B. The supplying, however, demands the upkeep of ports suitable for unloading. As the ground situation and its development cannto be surveyed from here, the decision whether supply of the Army or harbor demolition is more urgent must be made by a highter officer. Clarification is requested.

3. In the meantime clarification must be attempted with Military Governor, Netherlands and Admiral, Netherlands what harbor seaward of Rotterdam or Amsterdam is best suited for unloading purposes as far as the Navy and the Army are concerned."

Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff likewise requests the use of naval forces in German ports for the supply trips to Holland for Army General Staff and charged Naval Staff with its execution in direct contact with the High Command, Army, Army General Staff.

Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division Shipping and Transport Branch transmits reply to Army General Staff and High Command, Air, Quartermaster General. It reads as follows:

"1. Transport possibilities:

a. Daily convoys by sea to Amsterdam and Rotterdam, etc. at night time are still possible.

b. Pasaage across the flats to Helder and Amsterdam as well as to the inner territory with seagoing motor coasters.

c. Inland shipping on Dutch canals to all places, as far as the enemy situation permits. The insecurity of this way due to the many locks and danger of sabotage is especially emphasized.

2. German ports of loading:

a. In the first place, the ports of Emden, Papenburg and Leer which together can handle at least 2,000 tons daily.

b. Wilhelmshaven and ports on the lower Weser could be substituted after enemy action against ports under a. However, the length of the way with the increased possibilities of enemy action, and the larger tonnage requirements are pointed out.

c. Further shifting by bringing up supply goods from the Ems ports Weener, Meppen and Lingen on inland vessels the cargo of which could be tranferred to seagoing vessels and motor coasters on the lower Ems.

3. Requirements as to 1 a equal to 10,000 tons steamer tonnage; stipulation: speed nine miles, size from 500 to 1,500 BRT.

Requirements to 1 b equal to 30 seagoing motor coasters, 200 to 500 tons.

Requirements as to 1 c 50 to 70 inland vessels of 100 to 250 tons each which would have to be furnished by Supervising Officer of Transport.

Summary: The request can be fulfilled on condition of smooth delivery of the supply goods, of providing the necessary shipping space and of the possibilities for carrying out the sea convoys. Likewise the speedy set-up of Armed Forces Transshipping Staffs and of branches of naval offices in Emden, Leer and Papenburg is necessary.

The technical transport advantages to be derived from the use of inland waterways are emphasized since the combat supplies could be delivered directly to the troops. An efficient organization for the receiving of cargo is also urgently needed."

anding General, West has ordered: "Effective
personnel of the manning detachments
ea of Army Group G are being taken over by
tachments thereby cease to exist."

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C. Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff transmits the following:

"The Fuehrer has ordered that the Anglo-Americans be informed by way of the protective power that they either take over the feeding of the civilian population of the Channel Islands or permit evacuation of the population of the Channel Islands with the exception of the able men.

The Commanding General, West will as soon as possible transmit in cooperation with the Navy proposals about the most expedient way of the execution of this order."

D. The Naval Shore Command, Brest and for information Group West receive the following directive from Naval Staff, Operations Division:
"In case the departure of the Fortress Commander can be arranged, it is suggested to send along the naval officer no longer needed for report."

E. Naval Staff, Intelligence Division informs the higher Operation Staffs of the Navy in excerpts about the views on the situation as held by Army General Staff, Foreign Armies West and AIR Force, Operation Staff on 18 Sept. as follows:

"1. No conspicuous signs on the part of the operational command of the enemy could be observed prior to the airborne landings in the Holland area, which indicated that such an operation (Air Force) was in the offing.

2. Two British and one to two American airborne divisions (according to the Army, two American and one British airborne division) are in action in the Holland area according to incomplete reports. (Air Force).

3. The purpose of the operation is to cut off German forces in the Holland area and to gain a jumping-off base for operations east of the Rhine. (Army).

4. The employment of battle-tried American airborne divisions in the British sector reveals that in all probability the chief strategy lies with the British Army; airborne landings in the American sector are highly improbable. (Army).

5. Any future airborne operations can hardly or not at all be spotted in advance due to the lack of reconnaissance. (Air Force).

6. About 1,500 planes belonging to air transport formations are at present in Great Britain; their reinforcement is possible at any time. About 1,200 transport planes could also be retransferred.

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7. Simultaneous operation involving all airborne formations still present in Great Britain, is therefore possible. (Air Force).

8. Nothing concrete is known about possible operational areas. On the basis of past experiences, independent operational missions seem to be improbable. Further airborne landing operations in close connection with current ground operations must be expected. (Air Force)."

III. Concerning Norway:

In accordance with directive by Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division, Naval Command, Norway reports:

"A. The execution of the transfer of surface forces to the Bogenbucht implies:

1. Transfer of the submarine base ships KAMERUN and KAERNTEN berthed there to the Skjomen Fjord and the setting-up of adequate anti-aircraft defenses there.

2. Reinforcement of the anti-aircraft protection provided for the harbor of Narvik in order to increase the safety of the branch sumbarine base there.

B. The Anti-Aircraft Group Narvik which is part of the Air Force Anti-Aircraft Battalion 725 feels that it is necessary to reinforce the anti-aircraft defense of the Narvik harbor by adding two large batteries of 18 8.8 or 10.5 cm guns or three double batteries of twelve guns each of the same caliber as well as one battery of 2 cm caliber. The following is considered necessary for the protection of the Skjomen Fjord: three double batteries or two large batteries of 36 guns of 8.8 or 10.5 cm caliber as well as one medium and one light battery. Attention is called to the fact that the use of heavy weapons in the southern Skjomen Fjord is made extremely difficult if not impossible due to unfavorable terrain.

C. In addition to the reinforcement of anti-aircraft defense a sufficient number of smoke layers is also needed for the Narvik harbor and the southern Skjomen Fjord. The size of the smoke laying detachment necessary cannot be judged from here.

The Chief, Naval Staff has approved the oral request made by the Commander of the 1st Task Force - independent of the final decision - that the TIRPITZ should relinquish heavy and medium caliber ammunition only to such an extent that defense against air raids with all guns remains assured.

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IV. Concerning Area of Naval Group South:

A. Grpup South reports as follows:

"1. The changed situation and the necessary and ordered concentration in the Istria area, where only light and a small number of medium caliber batteries are engaged, requires a renewed examination of the possibility for using the former Italian battleship CAVOUR as a floating battery in the Trieste area.

2. It is planned to anchor the ship in shallow waters in a position protected as much as possible. At least the guns of one heavy turret and of one secondary battery are to be manned. Heavy and light anti-aircraft guns for self-defense would have to be set up. Increase of the defensive strength against air raids could, if necessary, be effected by concrete armor. Personnel will be billeted ashore; manning only in case of an alert.

3. The question of personnel which in the past led to the rejection of the plan, could now perhaps be solved since personnel from other theaters of war has now become available.

4. Removal of the guns and their setting-up ashore will even in the future be impossible due to the difficulties and the time involved as far as the dismantling, transport and reconstruction are concerned."

B. Commanding Admiral, Aegean Sea reports to Commanding General, Army Group E:.

"After joint examination by the Commanding Admiral, Navy, Group South, Commanding General, 68th Army Corps and Commanding Admiral, Aegean Sea, the incorporation of naval troops into Army formations is held to be advisable up to company strength only. No battalions are to be formed or to be organized into naval brigades. A corresponding directive to general commands is requested."

Situation 19 Sept.

I. West Area.

1. Enemy Situation:

Very lively reconnaissance on the part of the 15th Group

with special concentration in the afternoon; little activity on the part of the 19th Group. Four British vessels and one American vessel were located on the afternoon of 19 Sept. and during the night of 19 Sept.

According to radio monitoring the British Prime Minister has startedon his return trip from Canada on 18 Sept.

2. Own Situation:

Encircled Fortresses:

Brest: On the Crozon Peninsula, the enemy today penetrated our last position making use of immense amounts of materiels; there are no more heavy guns. Only a few pockets are offering resistance.

At 2032 the Fortress Commander made his last report: "After having fired the last cartridge, the 2nd Parachute Infantry Division and the Fortress Commander feel that they have completed their task, ever faithful to their oath. Hail our Fuehrer, Nation and Fatherland!"

The Naval Radio Section destroyed the codes at 1810 and went off the air at 2038.

The attempt to rescue the Fortress Commander, planned for the night of 19 Sept. by a BV 222 plane, had to be abandoned.

Lorient: Lively enemy artillery fire took place with concentration in the north; our guns shelled positions, billets and enemy movements with good results.

Several enemy combat patrol operations were repulsed on 19 Sept.; considerable casualties were inflicted upon the enemy by our well directed artillery fire.

The following personnel is engaged in ground combat according to a report by the Port Commander: 780 men of submarine personnel, 411 men of Commanding Admiral, Defenses, West, 4,891 men of the 4th Naval Anti-Aircraft Artillery Brigade, 1,922 soldiers of the Naval Artillery Battalion, 726 dockyard workers and 321 miscellaneous personnel. (In all 9,051 men of the Navy). Two submarine chasers were off the harbor entrance during the night of 19 Sept. for observation.

St. Nazaire: Increasing enemy activity along the entire front; an attack by American infantry west of Temple was

repulsed.

No reports came in from La Rochelle and Gironde.

Dunkirk: Enemy artillery fire lay on the entire fortress area; attacks in the northeast and in the west were repulsed. The demand to surrender was rejected.

Last night the supply mission of four PT boats succeeded in spite of very poor visibility and strong opposition by enemy destroyers and motor gunboat groups. Its success must be credited to the diverting action carried out by the 10th PT Boat Flotilla, The supplies were unloaded by 0245 and the severely wounded and Lieutenant General von Kluge with staff were taken aboard for the return trip. The return trip was successful in spite of interception attempts made by several enemy groups and continuous chase by destroyers. The four PT boats turned over to the Fortress Command their own twelve light machine guns and ammunition.

No reports have been received about the engagement of the 10th PT Boat Flotilla; the group took on two enemy groups according to intercepting service. The loss of the three boats of the 10th PT Boat Flotilla must be expected; this loss occurred 23 miles north of Dunkirk according to an enemy radio report.

Calais: Strong enemy reconnaissance, supported by tanks, was repulsed; the enemy suffered very severe casualties. An attack on the airfield Mark was cut off; our infantry made a counterattack. Heavy damage was inflicted upon enemy infantry concentrations near Waldan by the combined fire of all batteries at 1020. The transmitter Rumpembert was blown up.

Gris Nez: Two enemy planes were shot down in a fighter-bomber raid on the Battery "Grosser Kurfuerst". The Batteries "Todt" and "Grosser Kurfuerst" were shelled from land and sea; enemy vessels were driven off by the fire of the Battery "Lindemann".

Boulogne: Severe street fighting is still going on in the city area especially aroung the citadel. The Battery "Friedrich August" was taken by the enemy after bitter fighting and after changing hands repeatedly.

The Battery "Mt. de Couple" repulsed several attacks some of which were supported by tanks. The harbor is still free of the enemy.

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II. North Sea, Norway, Northern Waters.

1. North Sea.

Enemy Situation:

Agent Josefine reports that the opinion is prevailing in London that the operations of the formations led by Eisenhower will bring the war in Europe to a close by the end of October. The launching of attacks against other advanced German positions, e.g. Denmark and Norway, appears to be unlikely, since, above all, the necessary air force is lacking.

Normal flight activity on the part of the 18th and 19th Group; British vessels were located in An 3790 and 5660. The destroyer "MONTROSE" was detected in the Tynemouth area in the afternoon.

Own Situation:

Lively enemy air activity along the Holland coast with raid on a battery near Hook of Holland and on patrol positions off the harbor, took place on 18 and 19 Sept.

The minesweeper M "3663" sank after several fighter-bomber raids on boats of the 36th Minesweeper Flotilla; the minesweeper M "3667" had to be beached.

The demolition in the harbors of Rotterdam and Amsterdam has begun at noon on 21 Sept.

The Operations Staff of Commander, PT Boats transferred to Helder during the night of 20 Sept.; four PT boats ready for action are still in Rotterdam and five in Ijmuiden.

The Dockyard Control Staff, Netherlands transferred to Groningen and has taken up duties there.

The transports planned for 18 Sept. were again carried out in the Schelde estuary, according to plan. In spite of strong enemy air activity over the entire Schelde the losses remained slight. Still to be ferried across are a large number of guns, parts of the 112th Infantry Division and some anti-aircraft artillery formations.

The heavy air raid on Wesermuende (Bremerhaven) involved the use of an exceptionally high number on incendiary bombs and of occasional demolition bombs; the material losses are great. The shipyard Deschimag as well as Seebeck and

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Rickmers were severely hit; production at Deschimeg was reduced by 90 per cent. The harbor installations, the fishing harbor and several naval installations were also heavily damaged and partially destroyed. The principal damage was caused in the residential areas and in the city.

The Weser River between Nordenham and Hoheweg was closed owing to suspicion of mines.

2. Norway, Northern Waters:

Enemy Situation:

Russian air reconnaissance reported a German westbound convoy in AC 8480 at 1750. Five PT boats were observed in the Pummanki area and one destroyer in the Archangel area.

Hammerfest located a British vessel in 240° at 0222 and 0730 as well as in 253° at 2117.

The 5th Air Force reported that the air raid on the TIRPITZ was carried out by the 617th Special Staffel of the RAF, which was transferred to Archangel for thispurpose. The Staffel returned to England during the night of 16 Sept.

Own Situation:

Only slight damage was caused in numerous air raids on supply vessels and the harbor of Vadsoe in the Polar area.

The steamer RADBOD with 7,420 tons of ore ran aground southwest of Bodoe on 18 Sept. at 1900. After the ship was freed by the tide it had to be beached due to shipping of water.

The convoy V "5101" was attacked by 20 twin-motored planes in the exit of the Stavanger Fjord at 1830; the two excorted ships were hit. The steamer LYNX sank after having caught fire; the steamer TYRIFJORD also caught fire and had to be beached. Salvage operations have been started.

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III. Skagerrak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea.

Own Situation

Admiral Skagerrak:

The disarming and arrest of the Danish Police in the Danish major cities started at 1100. Steamers for their evacuation will be made available by the Navy in Copenhagen at 2130. The strike in Aalborg is still going on.

The icebreaker MJOELNER and the ferry boat HOLGERDANSKE broke away from a convoy in the Sound on 18 Sept. and sailed through Swedish territorial waters for Helsingborg. The escort boat "802" did not open fire since firing would have violated Swedish territorial rights.

Twenty-two boats on a minesweeping mission cleared one mine northeast of Anholt.

Another coastal mine "A" barrage consisting of 526 coastal mines "A" was laid south of Frederikshavn.

Western and Central Baltic Sea:

Single planes were continuously over the Danish islands, Kiel Bay and Fehmarn during the last night; there is suspicion of mines. Mine clearance duty was carried out by 66 boats and two barrage breakers; five mines were swept.

The Russian air force was also very active and attacked a convoy ten miles south of Liepaja without results; mines were dropped off Memel.

Admiral, Eastern Baltic:

The island of Tyters was evacuated; the crew is en route to Reval. Odensholm was likewise evacuated. The minesweeping and defense forces are loading the base installations. Four artillery ferries are escorting the floating dock from Reval to the south.

On 18 Sept. 4,092 tons of supplies were transported to Riga and 3,400 tons to Reval.

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IV. Aerail Warfare.

1. West Area:

The Anglo-American airborne army went into action in the Holland area. For the present, parachute troops have apparently been dropped in the Arnheim area by numerous planes and freight gliders. Three hundred of our fighters were engaged in combatting the airborne landings.

2. Reich Territory:

Strong enemy fighter and bomber activity took place in western Germany; Wiesbaden, Koblenz, and other cities in the Rhine and Ruhr areas were subjected to heavy raids.

Three to four hundred bombers with fighter escort from Russia were over Hungarian territory. The enemy air activity was also very lively during the night.

3. Mediterranean Theater:

Enemy air raids were concentrated on the Rimini area and northern Italy; railway bridges and fuel stores were damaged. Anti-aircraft guns brought down seven planes.

Considerable supplies were delivered to the Balkan partisans last night (76 planes, 37 of which came from Russia).

4. East Area:

Four hundred and eighty-four own and 2,170 enemy missions were flown; 10 planes were lost and 23 shot down.

V. Submarine Warfare.

The submarine U "859" reported its arrival in Penang on 24 Sept.; a freighter of 7,000 BRT was sunk by this boat in MQ 6249 on 1 Sept.; the boat sighted a carrier formation in MQ 93 on 2 Sept. heading southeast, out of range.

The submarine U "867" in Northern Waters reported its position at 1721; the search for this boat is being continued.

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VI. Warfare in the Mediterranean.

1. Area of German Naval Command Italy:

A large convoy, including two transport ships with troops aboard, arrived in Gibraltar from the Mediterranean in the afternoon of 17 Sept. The convoy apparently continued on its way to the Atlantic in the afternoon of 18 Sept.

A convoy of 43 freighters and twelve tankers (all loaded) entered the Mediterranean from the Atlantic at 1820 on 18 Sept.

Several of our vessels were damaged in the shelling of Imperia by naval forces in the evening of 18 Sept. Enemy destroyers shelling San Remo, were forced by naval gunfire to turn away.

The usual forceful enemy PT boat activity was observed in the Gulf of Genoa.

Last night a convoy, en route from Genoa to La Spezia, was attacked near Rappalo by enemy PT boats firing four torpedoes; two torpedoes went to the bottom and two detonated ashore.

In the Adriatic Sea, a destroyer and six freighters were located in Ancona this morning; a patrol vessel and four large landing boats were detected on the roads.

2. Area of Naval Group South:

The island of Brac was apparently overpowered by the enemy after long defensive fighting; an enemy attack on Hvar was repulsed. Likewise Peljesac was attacked.

In the evening three boats of the 24th PT Boat Flotilla will sail from Pola for torpedo operations off Ancona.

Last night the radar stations on Cap Spatha and Milos in the Aegean Sea continuously detected enemy surface forces south of Milos. Five large vessels were 20 miles south of the island at 0715. According to a British report the cruiser AURORA participated in the shelling of Milos.

Iraklion was shelled by enemy ship guns at 0235 without suffering essential damage; the enemy remained out of the range of our batteries.

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Eighteen miles south of Stampalia at 0815, our air reconnaissance sighted an enemy formation consisting of four auxiliary carriers, one cruiser and three destroyers heading east.

About 30 planes of these carriers attacked Rhodes in three waves. An old Italian refreigerator ship and two small sailing vessels were sunk in this raid. Additional forces were observed in the neighborhood of Crete.

The assigning of air forces for the combatting of the enemy is not possible.

Salonika was raided in the afternoon by 21 Bostons, apparently Russian planes; no damage was caused.

Shipping had to be stopped south of 27° north and west of 27° east on account of the enemy situation. Shipping is still being hindered by the weather.

It is predicted that the weather situation will improve tomorrow.

No new mines were laid in the Danube; vessels cleared two mines.

Fighting in the "Iron Gate" area is being continued; the strong point Milanovac repulsed twelve heavy attacks in which the Tito partisans suffered severe casualties.

Russian forces are still being assembled on the eastern and northern bank of the Danube.

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Items of Political Importance.

The Deputy Prime Minister of Finland announced over the radio the most important of the Twenty-three armistice terms: Immediate withdrawal of Finnish troops to the boundaries of 1940; cession of the Petsamo area; lease of the Porkala Isthmus and of the surrounding sea and land area to the Soviet Union for fifty years for erection of bases; cession of airfields and air bases in southern and southwestern Finland to the Allies; support of the Allies by delivery of materiel; disarming of the German troops in Finland and turning them over to the Allies; reduction of the Finnish Army to its pre-war number and payment of indemnities of 300 million dollars within six years.

According to Reuter, Secretary of State, Hull declared in a press conference that the U.S.A. was not intimately consulted by the Russians on matters concerning the "Russian-Finnish Peace Treaty".

The Allies directed a formal request to Sweden at the end of August to revise not only her economic but also her political policy towards Germany. A definite uneasiness is being felt in the Swedish press about this step.

According to British press reports, the Russian attitude remains absolutely obscure even after the Quebec conference. It is doubted - apparently rightfully - that Stalin was not invited at all.

According to reports by American news agencies, the British and Americans disagree on the post-war treatment of Italy and likewise of France.

The world security conference at Dumbarton Oaks is said to have reached a deadlock, according to a declaration by Cordell Hull.

Conference on the Situation with Commander in Chief, Navy at1135.

I. Four air-borne divisions have now been landed in Holland. Six in all were established in Great Britain.

II. Naval Staff, Operations Division, Chief of Operations Branch North reports in connection with the eastern situation

a. about evacuation measures by Admiral, Eastern Baltic as follows:

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"1. Narva front on 19 Sept. till 1800 along the Jeohvi line.

2. Up to Loksa all immobile batteries were blown up. Crews put into action in the main defense line Haljalus. The Aseri mole was blown up. From Aseri three 10 cm and four 8.8 cm batteries and from Kuennadu four 8.8 cm batteries were evacuated.

3. The Commander of the 1st Minesweeper Flotilla was assigned to assist the Naval Shore Commander in organizing the last transports. Motor minesweepers for special duties were also transferred from Riga for this purpose.

4. Submarines are requested to report landings immediately. Minesweeping boats are the backbone of the Narva patrol. PT boats in Baltic Port are ready for action.

5. Tonight, operation "Hilhorn" will take place. The net barrage patrol will be discontinued. After operation "Hilborn II", the LINZ and BRUMMER will load the remaining mines and sail for Liepaja with troops. The 9th Defense Division will at the same time sail for Parnu to assist in the transfer of the Moon Sound transports, then it will proceed to Ventspils. WISSMANN after bringing up the necessary Diesel oil will sail with troops for Liepaja.

6. Besides ferries and Army engineer landing boats the following vessels are engaged between Parnu and Hapsal: 6 naval landing craft, 21 armed fishing vessels, 6 drifters, and - for air defense - 7 artillery ferry boarges; additional naval landing craft are to follow, likewise motor coasters after the unloading of barrage equipment in Ventspils.

7. All superfluous motor vehicles will be moved west by way of Riga; other vehicles to Moon Sound.

8. Till evening on 17 Sept. embarked: 300 men; on 18 Sept.: 3,973 men; on 19 Sept. till 1800: 6,500 men, among them 1,500 wounded. The entire garrison of Tyters is evacuated; however, no heavy infantry weapons could be taken along. Everything was destroyed.

9. The Special Operations Unit was put intoaction by the SS Armored Corps in spite of the promised release by the Army."

b. There is no communication with General Valve at present. Anew attempt to establish communication will be made on 22 Sept. The difficulties will increase after the termination of the armistice.

Naval Command, Baltic plans to send the 2nd Task Force to the northern Aaland Sea to convoy the steamers coming from the Gulf of Bothnia.

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Commander in Chief, Navy warns that no premature hostile acts must be taken against the Finns due to the political angle involved.

III. The Chief, Naval Staff reports about negotiations going on between the French Commander Mayer and the Fortress Commander of La Rochelle. They evidently serve the purpose of saving the ports of La Pallice, and La Rochelle from being demolished. The advantage we may derive from these negotiations is the gaining of time for the improvement of the defense preparations. The Commanding General, West who is competent in this matter has effected the following decision of the Armed Forces High Command on 14 Sept.:

"The fortress La Rochelle must be defended as long as possible. All useful means are justified."

Commander in Chief, Navy decides that nothing more is to be undertaken directly by Naval Staff. The Chief, Naval Staff points out to Commanding Admiral, Naval Group West by telephone that Commander in Chief, Navy sees danger in these negotiations.

Telegram exchange and supporting data are contained in War Diary, Provisional File Invasion 20 Sept. 1/Skl 2971/44 Gkdos. Chefs.

IV. Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division, Chief of Organization and Mobilization Branch reports on the order of Armed Forces High Command concerning the taking over of the Reich defenses along the coast by the Commander of the Replacement Army.

According to this order the Navy retains even at home only the authority similar in scope it had in the occupied areas.

Commander in Chief, Navy: The measure does not have my approval. The Armed Forces High Command must be informed that the Commander in Chief, Navy after thorough investigation withdraws his oral consent given to the beforementioned ruling at headquarters. The plan previously submitted to Armed Forces High Command must be adhered to, i.e. the Commanding Admirals, Naval Command North and Baltic must retain to the fullest extent their Armed Forces authorities according to Fuehrer Directive 40; they are at the same time to be held responsible for the defense of the coastal areas of the Reich. In the performance of these tasks they are, as to operations, under the command of the Chief, Army Equipment and Commander, Replacement Army who has at his disposal for this purpose the Operations Staff, North Sea Coast according to Fuehrer Directive 40.

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V. Naval Staff, Chief of Intelligence Division: The Russian-Finnish armistice treaty was sighed.

VI. The Bureau of Naval Administration reports that the Armed Forces High Command agrees to the transfer of 14,000 naval soldiers at this time.

In a Restricted Circle:

VII. Army Situation:

Western Front:

According to a radio announcement by the Commander in Chief of the American Army, more than 60 American divisions are at present in action . This statement confirms on the whole the picture of the American forces as it is known to us.

The possibility of a new landing operation, to be carried out by the 4th British Army at present in England in connection with the airborne landings, is being reported by counter-intelligence service.

The 1st Canadian Army started an attack with strong forces and with about 200 tanks against the Schelde bridgehead of the 15th Army. Due to several penetrations our forces had to withdraw to a smaller bridgehead.

The enemy airborne troops in Holland did not receive reinforcement from the air on a large scale on 19 Sept. However, the British succeeded in effecting a conjunction with the 101st American Airborne Division north of Eindhoven. Now the enemy is in a position to advance to the Maas west of Nijmegen. Countermeasures against a possible break-through are going on from the east and west. The elimination of the enemy landing forces west of Arnheim is progressing satisfactorily in well planned attacks: 1,700 prisoners were taken; several hundred freight gliders loaded with materiel and 50 small motor vehicles were shot down.

The situation southeast of Nijmegen has hardly changed.

The attacks launched by our troops newly brought to the front in the Maastricht - Aachen area met with serious counterattacks. In some places the enemy was able to push back our lines.

Fluctuating fighting in the penetrations of the West Wall along the Eifel Front is sitll going on.

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Particularly severe fighting is taking place in the Salzburgen-Luneville area. The attack of the 6th Armored Corps partially pushed into massed counterattacks and was dispersed. The enemy again forced his way into Luneville. The 12th American Army is concentrating at this point, probably for a break-through in the direction of Saarbruecken.

Heavy defensive fighting is likewise taking place south of Luneville. The enemy is moving up colser to Epinal.

The enemy is assembling superior forces west of Belfort for a push towards the Doubs Valley.

Italian Front:

The enemy once more made fullest use of his material superiority in the Florence area and along the Adriatic coast. Some additional heights and places were lost in spite of heroic fighting. Our losses as faraas personnel, artillery and anti-tank weapons are concerned, are very high. Thi situation is extremely serious especially south of Rimini. Last night again, the enemy lighted the German combat zone with searchlights to the width of three division sectors and thereby prevented the supply of the combat zone. Consequently the psychological depression, from which our troops suffer as the result of the material superiority of the enemy, was increased.

Balkan Peninsula:

Enemy air and naval forces hamper the transfer from the islands.

Ebemy attacks along the Serbian- Bulgarian border were repulsed.

The attack on Prilep met with strong enemy resistance.

Successful combat activities took place on the Danube and north thereof.

Eastern Front:

The enemy did not continue his attacks in the combat area of Turda.

Enemy attacks in the southern Carpathians and in the Szekler Tip were repulsed.

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The Russians are continuing their attacks with new forces in the Sanok - Krosno area and achieved penetrations; they suffered high casualties.

The enemy pressure in and north of Warsaw was being continued. The enemy attempted to cross the Vistula in the city area of Warsaw on a wide front under cover of smoke screens; artillery and battle planes rendered strong support. With the exception of one small bridgehead which was established these attacks were unsuccessful. All attacks north of Warsaw were also repulsed.

The attack by the 39th Armored Corps in Courland against tenacious enemy resistance achieved only local gains. Likewise on the sixth day of the defensive battle, the Northern Army Group succeeded in repulsing the heavy attacks carried out with strong forces from the area west of Madone, south of Lake Virts, and north of Tartu. Again numerous tanks were destroyed. Deep penetrations by the enemy could not be prevented in the focal points.

The withdrawal movements on the northern flank were carried out as planned; the vanguards of the withdrawing troops crossed the Tartu - Reval railway. West of Lake Peipus the enemy attempted to overtake our troops. In spite of high casualties his motorized forces are on the same line with our withdrawing troops.

High Command, Army, Army General Staff has transmitted the offensive plan for the 3rd Armored Army from the Siruliai area in northerly direction within the set-up of the Northern Army Group. The objective of the operation is the annihilation of the enemy forces in the area southwest of Mitau and the attempt to establish the shortest possible connection between the Siauliai and the Sigulda position.

The Baltic Islands are to be defended. Installations in the rear of the Northern Army Group which are being evacuated by land and sea are to be set up in the Courland - Memel area.

Naval Staff, Operations Staff will inform Naval Command Baltic and Admiral, Eastern Baltic, Copy as per 1/Skl I op 3025/44 Gkdos. Chefs. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. III.

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Special Items.

I. Concerning the Baltic Sea Situation.

a. Operation "Tanne Ost":

Admiral, Eastern Baltic reports: 1,200 Germans are on Hogland; 180 of them are wounded, 132 dead. Captain (Navy) Mecke was taken prisoner.

Naval Staff, Operations Division informs the Admiral, Fuehrer Headquarters, Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff, Navy, Naval Liaison Officer, Armed Forces High Command, Army General Staff and High Command, Air, Operations Staff TAKM (Designation not clear, obviously a Navy Liaison Section. - Tr.N.)

b. Finnish and Danish Ships:

Naval Staff, Operations Division issued to Naval Command, Baltic, North and Norway, and for information to Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division, Shipping and Transport Branch, Admiral, Fuehrer Headquarters the following directions:

1. After the Russian armistice terms for Finland have been published, a change in the attitude of the crews on the Finnish ships in the German sphere of influence is possible.

Sabotage acts must be prevented by proper security measures.

2. Military seizure of Finnish ships must be carried out where ever necessary for the prevention of sabotage. Going ashore of the Finnish crew is to be refused. This measure is to be explained to the Finns to be of short duration and to be necessary for the safeguarding and maintenance of the ships in the Finnish interest during the present unsettled political situation.

After the incident on the Finnish steamer ZILOS, about which a German captain (Army) who happened to be on board reported (Copy 35294/44 geh. in War Diary, Part C. Vol. III), it is to be assumed that besides the ZILOS the Finnish steamers KASTE, FINNLANDIA, URSA and GRETA have also arrived in Finnish or Swedish ports. The 20th Army Command has demanded from the Finnish Government the return of the goods aboard these ships destined for the Armed Forces, An answer has not yet been received.

Naval Staff considers it to be possible in view of the aggravation of the situation in the Danish area that the Danish merchant ships will suddenly attempt to sail for

Swedish ports. Naval Command, Baltic and for information Admiral, Skagerrak receive instruction to report the measures which have been taken respectively are proposed to prevent their escape.

c. German ships at Kemi:

Naval Command, Baltic proposes to have the ships leave Kemi as quickly as possible since our relations with Valve are to insecure; likewise an aggravation of the situation is to be reckoned with on account of the Russian peace terms. According to unconfirmed reports the Russians are said to have landed at Malmi.

By telephone at 1230 Naval Staff instructed Naval Command, Baltic to issue orders that all vessels at Kemi shall sail at once. The confirmation by telegram followed immediately.

Naval Command, Baltic informed Naval Staff, Operations Division about a directive to the Commanding Admiral, 2nd Task Force and Admiral, Eastern Baltic that Admiral, Eastern Baltic is to order all steamers and naval landing craft at Kemi to discontinue leading and to leave in a group. The time of departure and the speed of the convoy are to be reported.

Admiral, Eastern Baltic issued a corresponding order at 1848.

Naval Liaison Officer at the 20th Army Command reported at 2308 that the steamers ILLER, UNDINE, KOELN, LANDSEE, K. BORNHOFEN, tanker CLARA and three Naval landing craft - the latter to Reval - will depart about 1200 on 21 Sept. The ILLER is the nautical convoy leader. Cruising speed eight miles.

Naval Command, Baltic reported by telephone at 1530 that the tanker HANNA which departed on 17 Sept. was detained by Sweden while trying to go through the OERE Grund. Sweden is said to have objected to the passage through this channel; they however, did not object to a return into the Gulf of Bothnia. Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division, Shipping and Transport Branch proposed to issue the new order for departure to the effect that the ship is to meet and join the transporter group leaving Kemi.

Naval Staff issued a corresponding directive to Naval Command, Baltic and informed Admiral, Eastern Baltic, and Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division, Shipping and Transport Branch. Naval Attache will be informed for Attache, Stockholm.

d. Withdrawal of the Northern Army Group by Sea:

The Northern Army Group thanked Naval Staff Quartermaster

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Division, Shipping and Transport Branch for information (see War Diary 18 Sept.) and reported that the use of the islands of Oesel and Dagoe has been taken into consideration. Reval will be used, provided the ground situation permits; troops to be evacuated even after 22 Sept. are to disembark in Liepaja and Ventspils.

Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division, Shipping and Transport Branch has made the necessary arrangements.

High Command, Army, Army General Staff has transmitted an executive directive concerning the evacuation of supplies of the Northern Army Group by sea to the Northern Army Group, the Central Army Group, the 20th Armored Command, Reich Commissioner for Maritime Shipping, Home Staff Skandinavia and Naval Staff. Copy of the corresponding telegram as per 1/Skl 29024/44 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. III.

At 1640 Naval Staff relayed the following directive to Naval Command, Baltic, Admiral, Eastern Baltic and for information to Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division, Shipping and Transport Branch:

"High Command, Army, Army General Staff, Operation Division wired:

Rearward installations of the Northern Army Group to be evacuated and to be shipped across the land bridge of Tuckum respectively by sea to the ports Memel, Liepaja and Ventspils are - if not otherwise directed by High Command, Army Quartermaster - to be assembled in the Courland - Memel area, north of the line Raseinen - Tilsit. In this are parts of the 18th Army including the Army Detachment Narva are to be stationed south of the railroad line Siauliai - Liepaja and parts of the 16th Army north thereof. High Command, Air and High Command, Navy are requested to issue the necessary orders for the return of their forces at present in action in the area of the Northern Army Group in closest cooperation with this Army Group respecitvely with the Central Army Group.

Supplement by Naval Staff: Concerning the former garrison of Tyters, attention is called to the directive 1/Skl I op 3000/44 Gkdos. Chefs."

II. Concerning the Western Situation:

The Commanding Admiral, Netherlands reports on the demolition of harbor installations in Amsterdam and Rotterdam as follows:

1. The development of the ground situation in the Holland area - as far as can be judged from here - apparently permits the postponement of the demolition of both harbors.

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2. The postponement is urgently desired, as

a. by demolition of both harbors important bases for our naval warfare would be fully eliminated;

b. the present strong defense of the coastal waters would not be possible thereafter;

c. further evacuation of numerous ships under construction would be interrupted immediately;

d. repair of damaged vessels of all kind which are at present in the dockyards, would likewise become impossible immediately. Vessels in repair would also have to be blasted and destroyed at once.

e. Elimination of repair bases would result at once in the decline to a minimum if not to zero of the repair of ships and vessels still ready for action. As a consequence, the present defense, supply and ferrying tasks - especially on the West Schelde and in the Zeeland Waters - would be endangered and would probably become impossible within a short time.

f. The supply task - transport of 2,000 tons of goods daily by sea and on canals - newly requested by the Army would be difficult to carry out after the destruction of the harbors due to the lack of efficient, respectively easily accessible harbors and would probably come to a standstill as the result of thediscontinuation of repairs in shipyards.

g. The attitude of the Dutch shipyard personnel, still working for us in the yards in a rather satisfactory way would turn against us at once.

3. Therefore, it is urgently proposed that, if the situation at all warrants it, the orders for the destruction set for 21 Sept. at 1200 either be cancelled at once or given a new date.

Naval Staff thereupon sends the followingtelegram to Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff, with copy to Naval Command, North, Commanding General, Netherlands and Commanding Admiral, Netherlands:

"The supply situation in the Holland area demands that the ports suitable for unloading remain intact. Army Group Bruno respectively Commanding General, Netherlands when issuing orders for the demolition of harbors must give careful consideration to the unloading facilities.

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Moreover, the order ofor demolition must be postponed as long as possible. According to a report by Admiral, Netherlands of 20 Sept. noon, the ground situation apparently permits the postponement of the harbor demolition in Rotterdam and Amsterdam set for 21 Sept. noon.

The destruction of both harbors will

1. interrupt further transfer of numerous valuable ships under construction;

2. eliminate all possibilities for repair of damaged vessels, thereby endangering current defense, supply and ferrying tasks especially on the West Schelde and in the Zeeland Waters.

Close cooperation between Army Group Bruno and Commanding General, Netherlands and Admiral, Netherlands respectively is necessary in establishing the date when harbor demolitions should begin. A corresponding directive from Armed Forces High Command is requested."

Therupon Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff decided at 2130: "Harbor demolitions in the Holland area are to be directed so that the supply of the troops in Holland can be carried out by sea as long as possible. Close cooperation between Army and Navy is essential."

The Commanding Admiral, North Sea objects to the statements made by the local representative for Maritime Shipping Netherlands concerning poor tug service for ships to be towed from Holland. According to a report by the 1st Defense Division, charged with the organization of the convoys from the Holland area, these statements do not correspond to the facts. The 1st Defense Division is daily urging the Oberwerftstab (Chief, Administration Office of the Shipyards.- Tr.N.) and the Port Commander to make ready the vessels which repeatedly could not depart, in spite of being reported ready by the Oberwerftstab, due to deficiency in equipment, personnel or due to engine trouble. The number of tugs sent by the Commanding Admiral, North Sea was absolutely sufficient for the pending task. So far the departure of any ship reported ready was not delayed due to the lack of tugs.

High Command, Air Operations Staff states with regret that fighter protection for repair ships en route from Holland to Borkum cannot be furnished. All fighter forces of the 1st and 2nd Fighter Corps are engaged from dust to dawn in combatting the air-borne landings in the Holland area and

in the defense of the Western Front. Operations Staff points out that air-borne landing difficulties can be expected at noon on 21 Sept. due to poor visibility and perhaps likewise due to fog.

Naval Staff, Operations Division informs the higher operation staffs of the Navy about a supplementary agent report of 17 Sept. Therein it is stated that the FUSAG air-borne landings will, without doubt, take place in Holland and in the Heligoland Bight areas. This, however, does not exclude the possibility that small forces - at present stationed in northern England and Scotland - be used for the support of the resistance movements in Denmark and Norway. Such assignments would have no connection with the planned FUSAG operation.

The opinion held by the Naval Staff, Intelligence Division is that, in case the enemy is planning further landings in the Heligoland Bight area in connection with the push into northern Germany already started by the air-borne troops landed in Holland, the area of the Ems estuary would rather be chosen than the inner Heligoland Bight.

III. Concerning the Area of Naval Command, Norway.

The following picture was gained about the raid on the TIRPITZ on 15 Sept. from captured material found in a British bomber, which crashed in the Oslo area, during the night of 16 Sept.: Flight north of Drontheim via northern Sweden to airfield Archangel I during the night of 11 Sept. On 15 Sept. attack on the Alta Fjord with bombs each weighing 2.4 tons (new type of bombs). Return during the nights of 16 and 17 Sept. by way of northern Sweden and Oslo.

Naval Command, Norway reports:

1. Restoration of the cruising readiness of the TIRPITZ is impossible within a reasonable length of time. It is essential that the present fire power be maintained.

2. The removal of the heavy and secondary guns for use in the Norwegian area will not be possible before a year has passed due to personnel, transport, and fuel conditions. Protection by anti-aircraft artillery, smoke and defense vessels would nevertheless have to be maintained during the dismantling work. Therefore the advantage exists solely in the saving of personnel. Disadvantage: loss of the still remaining fighting power.

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3. Proposal: Accelerate the restoration of mobility by cutting off the damage foreship. Then transfer of the TIRPITZ to the area west of the Lyngen position to be used as floating battery, if necessary by beaching the ship. Preservation of the fighting power of all the heavy and anti-aircraft guns. Removal of some madium heavy turrets for the reinforcement of the area west of the Lyngen Fjord, as it is doubtful that the planned transfer of batteries from the eastern area can be effected in time. The setting up of the ship's anti-aircraft guns - if necessary in a dispersed manner ashore - for the protection of the TIRPITZ. Simutaneously with the transfer of the TIRPITZ, reassignment of the anti-aircraft defense unit and the smoke detachment as well as of the defense vessels and remaining protective installations.

Naval Staff replies thereto:

1. So far only a temporary decision has been made which basically corresponds to the proposal made in 3. A final decision will follow in a few days.

2. To prevent loss of time carry out immediately

a. Survey of several suitable positions west of the Lyngen position in connection with the 1st Task Force and report findings; the positions must permit beaching of the ship;

b. other preparations for the transfer of the ship.

Furthermore Naval Staff sends the following directive to Naval Command, Norway:

"Report immediately what measures are being taken in order to increase the capacity of the ferry service across the Lyngen Fjord beginning 1. Oct. 1944. A report about this matter as well as proposals regarding reduction of time required reduction of time required for the crossing must be received by Naval Staff, Operations Division at 0800 on 22 Sept."

On 15 Sept., Naval Command, Norway requested permission for the laying of a submarine barrage in the Boemmelen Fjord.

Naval Staff agrees to the laying of the barrage. Naval Staff is of the opinion that submarine barrages should, as a rule, be laid at a depth of from 11 to 13 meters in places which are not crossed by large ships, as submarines at periscope depth will not be stopped. In the skerries area where the use of the periscope is essential as a

navigational aid - where the submarines will probably cruise at periscope depth - barrages set at 15 meters will be crossed without danger. Copy of order as per 1/Skl 28534/44 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. II a.

Naval Staff, Submarine Division, Commanding Admiral, Submarine Operation informs Naval Staff, Operations Division of a directive sent to Commander, Submarines, Norway concerning the use of submarines for weather operations. "Edelweiss II" is to be carried out as planned. Additional submarines are to be assigned for weather operations only after completion of the operation "Jan Mayen" by the submarine U "292" and North Coast Spitsbergen by the submarine U"307". In addition one boat is to be assigned for the weather radio ground station "Erich" on Alexander Land and for the manned station of the Air Force on Hope Island at the beginning of October, and one boat for the weather radio ground station Bear Island and the manned station of the Air Force in southern Spitsbergen in the middle of November. For these two tasks not more than one boat at a time is required. No submarines are to be furnished for other weather tasks, especially not for substitution of weather planes.

Naval Command, Norway has precautionarily called attention to the fact that, independent of the decision concerning the TIRPITZ, the 4th Destroyer Flotilla must remain in the Alta Fjord area for combat expected in the Arctic Ocean. Naval Command, Norway considers it essential that additional combat forces be supplied. Naval Staff decided that the withdrawal of the 4th Destroyer Flotilla is not contemplated at the present time. A decision concerning the request for the transfer of a PT Boat Flotilla to the Arctic Ocean will be reached later.

IV. The Commanding General, Southwest directed the following telegram to Commander in Chief, Navy:

"The military situation demands a competent handling of the supply transports on the Po, which was not competently handled by Transport Fleet "Speer". With the approval of the High Command, Navy, the German Naval Command, Italy has taken over the responsibility for these most important transports up the Po to Ferrara and has immediately started the necessary measures in an energetic manner. For the excellent support received I wish to express to you, Grand Admiral, and to the offices involved my sincere appreciation."

V. Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division ordered upon request made by Naval Command, North the immediate establishment of a Naval Fortress Engineer Command at the 10th Army Corps to be headed by the former Chief of Staff, Fortress Engineer,

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Group Southas an independent office likewise the establishment of Naval Fortress Engineer Staffs, Schleswig-Holstein and Ostfriesland by the former Naval Fortress Engineer Staff, Black Sea and southern France respectively. The present Naval Fortress Engineer Staff, Heligoland Bight will be renamed Naval Fortress Engineer Staff, Cuxhaven.

The Naval Fortress Engineer Commander will be placed in respect to personnel directly under Chief, Naval Command, North; regarding operations under Headquarters of the 10th Army Corps.

Naval Fortress Engineer Staffs are under the command of the Commanding Admiral, Heligoland Bight.

VI. Naval Staff, Intelligence Division made a supplementary report about the constructions on the Azores erected by the Anglo-Americans. Copy as per 1/Skl 35346/44 Geh. in War Diary, Part D. Vol. 8c.

Situation 20 Sept.

I. Situation West Area.

1. Enemy Situation:

Twenty planes of the 19th Group were detected on mission, 36 planes of the 15th Group carried out lively reconnaissance action.

A suspicious oil patch was observed in the waters of the northern Channel from 0950 to 1250.

Three British vessels were located in the rendezvous area.

2. Own Situation:

A. Atlantic Coast:

Patrol positions off Lorient were occupied during the night of 20 Sept. by two patrol boats. Two harbor defense boats and one other vessel are en route from Lorient to Belle Ile.

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B. Fortress Situation:

Lorient: Lively enemy harassing fire lay on the fortress foreground on 20 Sept. Naval anti-aircraft guns effectively shelled enemy batteries, concentrations, attacking infantry and observers.

The 25th Army Corps plans to set up a radio service between home and front in agreement with the Naval Shore Command for the transmittance of personal messages from soldiers and shipyard workers (so-called Soldiers' Broadcast) in the encircled fortresses.

Brest: Regarding the evacuation of the Fortress Commander, Lieutenant General Ramke, originally planned to be carried out by the PT boat S "112" from the Channel Islands on 19 Sept., the following was ascertained from Naval Group, West: The PT boat operation was originally to take place in the evening of 19 Sept. at a speed limit of 22 miles. The speed is insufficient to carry out the operation during the hours of darkness. The location of Lieutenant General Ramke was not known. Inquiries by Group West failed due to the fact that the wave lengths were blocked by private radiograms of the General. The General himself considered the evacuation prospect to be hopeless. Group West feels that a repetition of the operation during the coming night would likewise hold no promises of success. Commander in Chief, Navy decided that nothing further be attempted by Naval Staff.

St Nazaire: Five containers with spare parts for tanks and batteries, with flashlights, mail and newspapers were dropped during the night of 19 Sept. The blowing-up of the bridges and railway station of Blain was attempted with a pushed off railway car loaded with 3,000 kilo. of explosives and a clockwork fuse. A strong detonation and fires were observed. A strong thrust aimed at the disruption of the enemy road traffic was also carried out.

Gironde North; Reconnaissance in the Talmont area confirmed a further reinforcement of the enemy.

Gironde South: Delivery of supplies by two He 111 planes is intended for the night of 20 Sept.

C. Withdrawal Movements:

Fifteen men were intercepted by directing centers on 19 Sept. 51th Manning Division transferred from Nancy to Leitersweiler; the 11th Manning Division from Metz to Silzheim.

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D. Channel Coast:

Three fishing smacks are convoyed from Guernsey to Alderney without incident.

The Army Coastal Battery "Dollmann" shot afire a slow LST standing west of Guernsey; the target went out of range and sight.

Boulogne: Bitter fighting took place in the harbor area. The naval batteries with the exception of the Battery "Freidrich-August" are securely inour hands. The contact with Naval Liaison Officer Boulogne came to an end on 19 Sept. at 1150 according to a report by the Naval Shore Commander, Pas de Calais. The radio communication is being kept up by way of Naval Artillery B ttalion 240.

Two He 111 planes will take supplies to Boulogne during the night of 20 Sept.; one He 111 plane will supply the Battery "Lindemann".

Gris Nez: Battery "Grosser Kurfuerst" assisted Boulogne with harassing fire.

Calais: No special combat activities were reported; 9,000 civilians were evacuated. The evacuation of the remaining 10,000 is proceeding very slowly due to the small foreground area.

Dunkirk: Two renewed enemy attacks of company strength were repulsed on 19 Sept. Slight enemy harassing fire was reported on 20 Sept. Our artillery disturbed successfully enemy concentrations in the northeastern sector. The radar station Fort de Dunes was blown up.

II. North Sea, Norway, Northern Waters.

1. North Sea:

Heligoland Bight:

In the night of 19 Sept. 124 more coastal mines "A" were layed off Terschelling. Sixty-six coastal mines "A" were dropped off Norderney. Naval anti-aircraft guns at Emden shelled single planes passing over the Heligoland Bight. Two planes were shot down in the raid on Weser-muende (Bremerhaven). For extent of damage caused in Wesermuende see telegram sent at 0715. According to this report, ships in drydocks and harbors show on the whole only slight damage. One harbor defense boat and one barracks

ship were damaged by fire.

Dutch Coast:

Three PT boats sailed from Hook of Holland to Wilhelmshaven during the night of 19 Sept. Two patrol positions were occupied. The northern lock of Ijmuiden was made useless by blasting. The lock gates were closed.

Schelde:

The radar station "Ingeborg" on Schouwen was destroyed in a slow flying raid during the night of 20 Sept.

In regard to the fighter-bomber raids on the ferry traffic in the Zeeland Waters the additional information was received that besides the minesweepers M "3663" and "3667" which were sunk, the artillery ferry barge AF "89" and the infantry landing craft "10" became a total loss. The naval ferry barge F "87" was also heavily damaged by a bomb. Four of the raiders were shot down. At least 15 of the planes were set afire.

On 19 Sept. the ferrying service was impaired by strong mist and by occaisonal fog. Ther service to Breskens was carried out by two large and several small ferries. Results of the day: 3,882 soldiers, 340 vessels, 567 bicycles, 30 guns and 495 horses; 719 soldiers, 190 vehicles, 12 guns 164 horses and 65 bycycles were ferried from Terneuzen. Terneuzen was evacuated as far as possible by using all ferrying means at our disposal.

In Zeebruegge a boat which probably planned running attempts, was sunk between the mole and the lock in the afternoon of 19 Sept.

Naval Combat Special Operations Unit 60 was in action on the Schelde. No report has been received so far.

Naval Combat Special Operations Unit 65 carried out five reconnaissance missions for Admiral, Netherlands.

2. Norway, Northern Waters:

Enemy Situation:

Fifty-one planes of the 18th Group were detected on missions over the North Sea.

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Own Situation:

A medium artillery duel was reported from the Petsamo area at noon on 17 Sept. A bombaand gunfire raid by 15 enemy planes was carried out on Battery 20; no damage was cuased. The artillery duel was continued in the afternoon of 18 Sept. Lively air traffic was observed in the Petsamo - Vardoe area during the night of 18 Sept.; 66 planes were detected.

The catapult ship FRIESENLAND (5,435) was hit in the foreship by an aerial torpedo in the Bille Fjord on 19 Sept. at 1700. The ship was beached.

A small convoy in the Paraanger Fjord was unsuccessfully attacked by an enemy plane with an aerial torpedo in the forenoon of 20 Sept. The first day of fair weather after the 15th Sept. was used by enemy planes for reconnaissance over the Alta Fjord.

The TIRPITZ command assumed that successful observation was probably made in the course of one of the three passings.

One mine was swept in the Stabbene Narrows, in the area of Admiral, North Norwegain Coast on 19 Sept.

Lively enemy reconnaissance and air activity took place in the Stavenes - Lister area on 19 Sept.

A northbound convoy was raided by 20 Mosquitoes near Stavenes in the afternoon. The steamer ALYNX was sunk; the steamer TYRIFJORD was set afire and beached. Two planes were downed.

A southbound convoy was attacked by an enemy submarine southwest of Egersund in the evening of20 Sept.. Steamer VELA (1,184 BRT) and the minesweeper M "132" received two hits each and sank.

Fifty-four coastal mines"A" were laid near Lister on 19 Sept.

Fifteen ships were convoyed north and eleven ships south.

III. Skagerrak, Baltic Sea Entrance, Baltic Sea.

Enemy Situation:

Photographic reconnaissance of the harbor of Leningrad in the afternoon of 19 Sept. revealed the following ships: the aircraft carrier WOROSHILOV under construction, one battleship under construction , the battleship OCTOBER --

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REVOLUTION, two cruisers of the KIROV class, one curiser being fitted out, the cruiser PETRO-PAVLOVSK, one cruiser hull, three destroyers, one torpedo boat in drydock, one curiser of the AURORA class, one mine cruiser of the MARTI class, one minesweeper, three torpedo boat hulls, there auxiliary ships, nine submarines, one vessel, apparently a submarine in drydock, one submarine under construction and 22 frighters.

The following ships were observed in Kronstadt:

The battleship MARAT, damaged, one cruiser, apparently the MAXIM GORKI in drydock, two large destroyers, two destroyers, two torpedo boats, three minesweepers, two net layers, eleven new minesweeping vessels, one gunboat, twelve submarines, six auxiliary vessels, one ice breaker, seven freighters, one tanker, one oil vessel, one special vessel, two anti-aircraft barges and one auxiliary gunboat.

Lavansaari, Seiskari and Peninsaari have conspicuously small occupation forces.

Own Situation:

Admiral Skagerrak:

Due to the disarming of the Danish police, strikes broke out everywhere in Denmark without assuming, however, the extent of a general strike. A propaganda leaflet of the JDanish Liberty Council requests the population to resume work early on 21 Sept. As the result of shooting in Copenhagen, the Naby had eleven dead and sixteen wounded.

Twenty boats were on minesweeping duty according to plan.

The mining operation "Claudius" in the Skagerrak was carried out as planned by the EMDEN, the 5th Destroyer Flotilla and the KAISER in the night of 19 Sept.

The 2nd section of the mine barrage KMA II was laid south of Frederikshavn on 19 Sept. consisting of 80 coastal mines placed in two rows. In this operation the naval ferry barage F '203" was heavily damaged by a coastal mine "A" and had to be towed in.

The transfer of the Engineer Landing Battalion 128 from Kolding to Ventspils is planned for 22 Sept.

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Western and Central Baltic Sea:

Sixty-two boats and two mine exploding vessels were on mine clearance duty. Two mines each were cleared in the Danzig, Pommeranian and Kiel Bay.

Admiral, Eastern Baltic:

At 1800 on 19 Sept. the Commanding Admiral, Eastern Baltic and his Operations Staff boarded the naval ferry barge F "3" at Reval.

The HANSA and four boats of the 2nd Torpedo Boat Flotillas are anchored in the Reval roadstead.

The 6th Destroyer Flotilla consisting of the destroyers Z "25" and Z "28" arrived in Baltic Port by dead reckoning. The LINZ and the BRUMMER are in Baltic Port, the torpedo boats T "23" and T "28" in Reval.

Three large steamers in Reval have taken aboard 14,500 men; the HANSA, destroyers and torpedo boats will accomodate 3,000 men; three other large steamers have arrived. The Batteries Sillamae I and II and the Staff of Naval Artillery Battalion 532 are embarking.

The barrage "Nilhorn I" was laid as planned west of the "Nashorn" barrage during the night of 19 Sept.

The mine ships LINZ and BRUMMER will, after execution of "Nilhorn II", take aboard the remaining mines and troops and transfer to Liepaja. The 1st Defense Division will transfer to Parnu for a checking-up of the Moon Sound. Subsequently it will proceed to Ventspils.

The tanker WISSMANN will be used for transporting troops after bring ing in the necessary Diesel oil.

Bedides ferries and engineer landing boats of the Army, six naval landing craft, 21 armed fishing vessels and six drifters are engaged between Parnu and Hapsal. Seven artillery ferry barges are being used for anti-aircraft defense. Other naval alanding craft and motor coasters which at present are transferring barrage equipment to Liepaja, are to follow.

The entire garrison on Tyters was evacuated; however without infantry arms which were destroyed. The Naval Special Operations Unit remained in action with the SS Armored Corps in spite of the promised release by the Army.

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3,973 men embarked from 17 to 18 Sept.; 6,500 men from 18 to 19 Sept.; 1,500 wounded on 19 Sept.

The armed fishing vessels were withdrawn from net patrol, submarine chase and Narva patrol. The net cage "Hummelskaer" was taken up completely.

The minesweeper M "3133" sank at 1154; details have not yet been received.

The remaining naval artillery barges and coastal mine boats on Lake Peipus were blown up.

Two hundred men of the 4th Artillery Flotilla are in Parnu awaiting transfer, 150 men are on the way to Reval, 120 men were put into action in the front line. The garrison of "Muskvee" was also put into action in the main defense line.

Convoys and transfers were carried out as planned. 7,742 tons of supplies and two guns were transported to Riga on 19 Sept.

IV.- Submarine Warfare.

The submarine U "534" leaving the Bay of Biscay shot down a twin- motored enemy plane in BF 9225.

On 18 Sept. the submarine U "867" was attacked in AF 7962 by an enemy plane with bombs and gunfire and was damaged. A large part of the crew was wounded. The surfaced boat fought off further air raids and arrived in Bergen for repairs. The submarine U "1163" in Northern Waters transferred from Group Center to the area of Commander, Submarines, Norway. In all 29 boats are assigned to this area. Two boats of Group Center are engaged in chasing enemy submarines. A third boat is intended for the same task.

Three submarines will remain in the Gulf of Finland for the Narva patrol, two submarines departed to carry out mining tasks in the area west of Porkalla. Two submarines are stationed in the Aaland Sea.

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V. Aerial Warfare.

West Area:

One hundred to two hundred fighter-bombers were engaged in the Dutch front area in ground fighting. In the afternoon four-motored bombers with fighter protection carried out supply tasks in the Arnheim area. Several bomber formations of four-motored enemy planes entered the area of Arnheim - Emmerich - Nijmegen by way of the Schelde estuary. No reports are on hand about special enemy movements during the night of 20 Sept.

Reich Territory:

About 150 enemy planes were reported over the North Sea, western and southern Germany. Furthermore, continuous incursions by about 250 fighter-bombers and fighters took place, principally in the Gronau - Duisburg area and south of Aachen - Malmedy - Koblenz - Worms down to Zabern.

Fifteen enemy planes entered the Rhenish - Westphalian industrial area by way of Holland during the night of 20 Sept.

About 90 planes entered the area of the Neusidler See (Near the Austrian-Hungarian border. - Tr.N.) by way of Croatia. No attacks have been reported.

At least 150 enemy planes coming from Russia flew over Hungary and carried out raids on Miskolcz - Debreczen.

Several hundred enemy planes with fighter protection entered the Balkans from the south between Split and Sibenic and attacked Budapest, Bratislava, Raab, the oil district of Nagy - Konicza and one airfield after splitting up into two groups. Two railway bridges in Budapest were damaged. For further damage see Situation of the Day.

Mediterranean Theater:

About 100 four-motored enemy planes accompanied by 50 fighters coming from southern Italy, attacked the railway bridge across the Morava south of Belgrade. A formation of about 250 four-motored planes coming from Russia crossed Hungary - Croatia flying in the direction of Italy. With 600 fighter-bombers, fighters and reconnaissance planes, the enemy concentrated his air activities on the Italian front area around Rimini, on the area north of Florence and on the eastern Po Valley near Ferrara.

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Eastern Area:

On 19 Sept. 413 own and 2,475 enemy missions were reported from the eastern front; we lost 4, the enemy 30 planes.

VI. Warfare in the Mediterranean and in the Danube Area.

1.- Area of German Naval Command, Italy:

Enemy Situation:

Our night reconnaissance observed 22 ships between Cannes and Toulon; four more ships were located 52 miles northwest of Ajaccio.

The usual patrol activity by three destroyers was observed off Mentone during the day.

Own Situation:

During the night of 19 Sept. convoy and escort duties were carried out as planned. The Small Battle Weapons Flotilla 213 arrived in Verona and is to proceed to Padua.

2. Area of Naval Group South:

a. Adriatic Sea:

The Naval Battery "Rimini" - West was continuously shelled by ground artillery and raided by fighter-bombers during the night of 19 Sept. and on 20 Sept. The battery is only partly in firing condition.

The torpedo operation by the 24th PT Boat Flotilla against Ancona, scheduled for the night of 19 Sept. was not carried out due to engine trouble. A new operation is now planned for the night of 20 Sept.

In the evening of 19 Sept. the motor minesweepers R "15" and R "16" were shelled by mortars and anti-tank guns in the Pasman Channel. The fire was returned. Baska, on the south-eastern coast of Krk, was raided by partisans in the night of 19 Sept.- On 18 Sept. "Spitztanker 3 " was sunk at the tanking place off the southeast coast of Pag by an enemy plane.

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The PT boats S "61", "58" and "33" were transferred from Dubrovnik to Cattaro. The torpedo boats TA "37" "38" and "39" arrived in Pola from Trieste in the early morning of 20 Sept. At 1900 they put out to sea again together with two other boats from Pola going south.

Admiral, Adriatic Sea reports the final results of the evacuation operations "Eisbaer" and "Circus". The following were transported by sea: 3,997 soldiers, 135 Italians, 1,147 tons of foodstuff, ammunition and equipment, 351 horses, 107 mules, 55 guns 19 motor vehicles, 150 other vehicles, etc. The following losses were suffered: one engineer landing boat, one infantry boat, three landing boats, two assault boats and one motor sailing vessel. Eleven men were killed and fourteen wounded; one man is missing. One naval landing craft capsized at the pier of Zara.

b. Aegean Sea:

Admiral, Aegean Sea assumes that the four aircraft carriers detected in his area were transferring fighters to Turkish airfields; the flight decks were clear of planes according to air reconnaissance.

Destroyer groups appeared again west of Milos on 20 Sept. without repeating their shelling. The whereabouts of the task forces during the day and at night are unknown as our air reconnaissance is insufficient.

Two cruisers heading west, were sighted about 30 miles southwest of Milos at 1910.

The island Commander and the Port Commander of Port Milos are expecting an attack and landing on the island during the night of 20 or 21 Sept. Great activity by carrier-based planes was observed during the day. Attacks on fortified places and installations on Crete were unsuccessful. Two Siebel ferries were dunk in an attack on Syra, another was damaged.

The last war transport ship PELIKAN en route from Portolargo to Piraeus, fully loaded with arms and soldiers, was in distress of Paros. The ship was sunk in shallow water by two enemy planes at 0700. The troops landed in the Neusa Bay. Further reports are lacking.

The 19th Anti-Aircraft Division received orders from Army Group E that light anti-aircraft guns, as many as possible, be withdrawn from Piraeus and Salamis in order

to reinforce the defense of the airfields. The Navy is at present unable to fill the gaps and protested to the Army Group.

With the improvement of the weather the resumption of shipping by small vessels will probably be possible on 21 Sept,

c. Danube Situation:

Twelve heavy attacks have so far been repulsed near Milancvac. The Tito forces suffered heavy casualties. Communication with our troops near Svintia was resumed.

There were no reports about dropping of mines in the river on 19 Sept.- Two mines were removed.

VII. Situation Far East.

Japanese Homeland:

Nothing to report.

Kuriles:

Air raid on Paramushir on 12 Sept.

Marianas:

No reports concerning the ground situation on Tinian and Guam. An air raid on the islands situated north of Saipan was reported by the Americans on 12 Sept. Nothing is known about the results.

Bonin Islands:

Nothing to report except one air raid.

Southwest Pacific:

Beginning 12 Sept. air raids have been made on Halmahera, Mindanao and Cefu for several days by carrier-planes and bombers from the airfields on Biak. On 14 Sept. a landing was attempted on the southern island of the Palau Group which

at first was unsuccessful. Repeated on the following day with stronger forces, it led to the establishment of an American bridgehead.

On 15 Sept. an Allied landing took place on the northern tip of the island of Halmahera and on the island of Morotai near Halmahera. On Halmahera the Japanese succeeded in occupying a large airfield and a large natural port well suited for further operations.

The air raids on the Salomones, Palau, New Britain, New Ireland as well as on Yap and Truk were continued.

New Guinea:

Besides American reports about air raids on the Beran Peninsula, no new reports concerning the fighting on New Guinea have been received.

Indian Ocean:

Allied air raids took place on Celebes on 10 and 14 Sept., directed primarily against airfields; on 18 Sept. on Ambonia and on 19 Sept. on Seram. In addition, Timor was attacked twice.

Ship Losses:

According to an American report, a Japanese convoy of thirty-two freighters and twenty river boats was annihilated by a strong American task force near Mindanao on 8 Sept.

Sixty-eight planes on the airfields of the island were also destroyed. Eighteen small freighters were supposedly sunk in Davao on the same day.

The Americans state their own losses in submarines in the Pacific as three sunk, twenty-five missing and one boat blown up by its crew.

Allied submarine activity in the South China Sea has lately increased considerably; details are still not known. The German Naval Attache Tokyo reports that there is at present no communication with the Southern Possessions.

Aircraft Losses:

The Japanese press reports that in the month of August a total of 816 planes was either shot down or destroyed on

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the ground in all theaters of war in the Far East.

Twenty-seven Japanese planes were lost in air combat, thirty-three destroyed on the ground.

Burma:

Bitter fighting is raging in the Japanese positions in Central Burma; no great results were achieved.

China:

The Japanese attack along the North-South Railway is still gaining territory in spite of enemy counterattacks.

The spearheads of the Japanese troops pushing forward to the south are still about 90 km from Canton according to an American report.

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Items of Political Importance.

According to the Exchange Telegraph the British Government has decided to retain compulsory military service even after the conclusion of the war in Europe.

According to the German News Service the Moscow News service has voiced no reaction whatsoever to the Quebec Conference.

A spokesman of the Japanese Government has categorically denied current rumors according to which Japan supposedly acts as mediator between Germany and Russia. He likewise designated as unfounded reports about a possible break in Japanese-Portuguese relations.

Conference on the Situation with Commander in Chief, Navy at 1120

I. Chief, Naval Staff called by telephone the office of Admiral, Skagerrak to hear about the extent and significance of the revolt reported from Denmark in which Danish police fired on a German detachment.

Prior thereto Naval Staff, Operations Division had sent the following telegram to Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff, Navy, Admiral, Fuehrer Headquarters, with copy to Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff, Foreign Agents, Naval Command, Baltic Sea and Admiral, Skagerrak:

"1. The harbor services especially in Aalborg are impaired by strikes in Denmark. Striking Danish laborers cannot be sufficiently replaced by soldiers. The Danish ports especially Aalborg are of decisive importance for the upkeep of supply shipments to Norway.

2. It has become known that preparations for the demolition of the harbors were being made; this is given as the reason for the strike in Aalborg. Measures ordered by Commanding General, Denmark, were in conformity with the basic directive given out by Armed forces High Command.

3. According to the opinion held by Naval Staff the importance of Aalborg as port of disembarkation for the enemy in case of a landing is less than the special value of the port for our supply shipments to Norway. A directive

to Commanding General, Denmark is therefore suggested, forbidding all measures which may cause strikes."

II. Naval Staff, Quartermaster General reports about an order by Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff concerning the collecting of soldiers separated from their units and of disorganized commands of the Armed Forces. The purpose of the measures ordered is to gather as quickly as possible all soldiers who at present are inactive in the home area due to orders issued by their former units. These measures are not restricted to the western area but are to be extended to the entire Reich territory.

III. Chief, Bureau of Naval Armaments reports on yesterdays's armament conference. The approach of the enemy in the west has a great effect on the situation. The steel production has been reduced considerably. The removal of heavy industry is not possible. Skilled workers of the armament industry are being used by public draft boards for the construction of defense positions. According to a statement by Director General Merker, the Navy is experiencing difficulties in the execution of the section transports (for submarines). It was ordered to ascertain if these statements are correct or to what extent they are to be accepted. No change in the delivery dates for submarines of type XXI will probably occur till the end of December.

What the situation will be in the new year is too early to say.

The Buna (synthetic rubber) production is heavily ijpaired by enemy action. The deliveries to the Navy are only assured for the months of September and October. An increase in the output of submarines of type XXI is out of the question.

The substitute material Igelith also forms a considerable bottle neck.

IV. Chief, Intelligence Division, Naval Staff reports about the armistice treaty between the USSR, Great Britain and Finland of 19 Sept. Detailed information was conveyed to the higher Operations Staffs of the Navy by Naval /Staff, Intelligence Division. Copy as per 1/Skl 35560/44 geh. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. III.

In a Restricted Circle:

V. Army Situation.

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Western Front:

The 2nd British Army in cooperation with the 30th Army Corps was able to widen considerably its break-through to the north. Strongly supported by tanks and artillery, with smoke and phosphor screens, the enemy was able to overcome the garrison of the Nijmegen bridgehead and to take possession of the bridge across the Waal. Fighting for the road bridge was still going on in the evening. The penetration on the northern bank is to be sealed off with forces to be brought up quickly.

The danger that superior enemy forces will farther advance on Arnheim from this area continues, perhaps in connection with new airborne landings.

The attack on Nijmegen made only slight progress.

The attempts to annihilate the 1st Air-borne Division west of Arnheim are still going on. The number of prisoners has increased; the Division Commander is among them. About 1,000 British soldiers are encircled and are defending themselves with great tenacity.

Our attempts to cut off the enemy supply road north of Eindhoven did not meet with sucdess.

In the bridgehead south of the Schelde estuary, the enemy is in close pursuit. The ferrying traffic is being carried out as planned.

The enemy attacked north of Antwerp and was able to achieve successes.

Defense and small attack gains near Aa chen and on the Eifel front.

The enemy penetration near Bitburg could almost be eliminated. The attacks, progressing satifactorily, have not yet come to an end.

At Army Group G the enemy exerted greatest pressure in the break-through area between Nancy and Luneville. The enemy pushed ahead with motorized forces and tanks from the Chateau Salins to the Dieuze area where he was able to penetrate our line temporarily.

Strong enemy pressure on our front along the Meurthe.

Italian Front:

The Army Liguria repulsed an enemy attack at the Little St. Bernhard Pass.

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Heavy fighting took place in the Florence area along the Futa Pass road as well as on both sides of the GiogionPass road. Penetrations were cut off by putting into action our last reserves. A deep penetration in the direction of Firenzuola was brought to a standstill just in front of this town.

The enemy continued his major attack on the Adriatic coast with undiminished fury using great amounts of materials. In spite of deep penetrations the break-through attempt made by the enemy failed also yesterday due to the heroic resistance of our formations fighting exemplarily in the focal point of the battle. The enemy attacks were again supported by drumfire, by ship guns and by the air force. Fifty-seven tanks were destroyed in a violent tank battle.

Balkan Peninsula:

The enemy is trying to stop completely the evacuation of further troops from the islands by all possible measures. Simultaneously he is making preparations to take possession of islands and parts of the main land.

Combat activities of local importance took place on the Struma front and on the Serbian-Bulgarian border.

The situation in Jugoslavia and Greece has grown more complicated as the result of

a. chaotic conditions in regard to the internal administration

b. strongly increasing signs of demoralization and disbandment of indigenous formations,

c. considerable aggravation of the partisan situation.

Likewise in Albania, the disintegration of the national Albanian units is making further progress after the resignation of the Figri Dini administration.

Tito forces in West Serbia were able to gain territory to the north and northeast; they are engaged in combat with Chetnik formations; the latter are also fighting against German troops.

Eastern Front:

There are increasing indications that the Russians plan to reach the Hungarian plains by advancing from Cluj -

Temesvar to the northwest and by way of the Beskides to the south, thus hoping to encircle the German and Hungarian troops in Transylvania.

The Russians started their attack near Temesvar; strength of their forces is unknown. The situation of the Hungarian formations farther to the north, in the Arad area is still not clear.

The enemy continued his attacks north of the Beskides on a wide front and achieved deep penetrations in the direction of the Lupkow Pass and the Dukla Pass. The situation is tense; additional German divisions are being brought up. Also farther to the east, in the Ustrizyki Dolne area the Russians broke through the German-Hungarian positions. Counter-attacks are being made.

The enemy who on the previous day had entered Warsaw after crossing the Vistula at Central Army Group was annihilated. The southern pocket in Warsaw was mopped up.

The enemy continued his break-through attempts at the Northern Army Group bringing up new forces; special pressure is exerted in the Baldone - Walk area. In spite of materiel superiority and constant and violent attacks, he was only able to make local gains. The number of tanks destroyed during the present defensive battle has risen to a total of 600.

The withdrawal movements between Lake Virts and the Gulf of Finland are geing continued as planned. Our front line runs along the northern point of Lake Virts to 10 km west of Wesenberg.

Plans for further warfare:

The 3rd Armored Army will come under the command of Northern Army Group beginning 21 Sept. The Northern Army Group will carry out the withdrawal movement to the Sagewold position already started.

After carrying out the marching movements and several reliefs, strong armored forces are to be concentrated in the Schaulen area and strong infantry forces in the area north of Bauske in order to encircle and to annihilate the strong Russian forces west of the Schaulen - Bauske line by an attack at a later date. Thereby the shortest connection between Schaulen and the Segewold position will be gained.

VI. Chief of Operations Branch, Operations Division, Naval Staf

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a. Report about exchange of telegrams with Naval Command Norway concerning the further stay of the 4th Destroyer Flotilla in the Alta area (see War Diary, 20 Sept.).

Commander in Chief, Navy decides that the measures to be taken will depend on future developments.

b. The possibilities for further use of the TIRPITZ are discussed. All preparations are to be made in case the towing off of the ship is possible in the near future, since the ship could be used in the defense line of the Lyngen position.

c. The Minelaying Experimental Command reported on a British mine observed in the Kiel area with a new type of percussion switch. The British designation is B 234. The percussion switch causes the mine to explode either when no water pressure is present within seven seconds after the impact, or when the water pressure is lowered due to lifting. The enemy evidently plans to prevent mines from falling into our hands by this new type of fuse equipment. They are especially intended for the mining of harbors; mines falling on land cause the destruction of installations near the harbor. In the future our knowledge about enemy mine fuses can be kept up only by bringing down mine-carrying planes over land by reinforced fighter action. Copy of this report as per 1/Skl 28940/44 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. VI.

VII. In answer to the report by Admiral, Small Battle Units about readiness for action of Small Battle Weapons, the Commander in Chief, Navy remarks that the war situation is developing so rapidly that quick decisions are inevitable. The 30 Bibers (Small Battle Weapons) intended for transport to the west are for the first to be transferred to Sassnitz. Eventually they will be shipped to Norway.

Special Items.

I. Concerning the Eastern Baltic:

a. The Fuehrer has agreed to the operation order for the task force PRINZ EUGEN according to the Admiral at the Fuehrer Headquarters. Every attempt must be made to rescue the German ships at Kemi. Naval Command, Baltic was instructed accordingly by Naval Staff, Operations Division.

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b. Naval Command, Baltic advised Naval Staff for information about a directive to the 2nd Task Force concerning the return of the transport group from Kemi. The departure is planned for 1200 on 21 Sept. according to the Naval Liaison Officer at the 20th Army Command, The convoy leader will be on the steamer ILLER. Speed of convoy eight miles. Communications with General Valve has not yet been established. The tanker HANNA will receive orders from Naval Attache Stockholm to join the Kemi group at the meeting point in 6025 North 19079 East. Naval Staff Operations Division has informed High Command, Air, Operations Staff.

c. High Command, Army, Army General Staff informs Naval Staff of a directive that Naval Staff has ordered the transfer of all Naval forces formerly in action on Tyters to the Baltic Islands in compliance with the request by the Northern Army Group for the reinforcement of its garrisons. Details must be arranged directly between Northern Army Group and Admiral, Eastern Baltic.

d. Naval Command, Baltic receives instructions from Naval Staff, Operations Division to report immediately what measures have been taken concerning the Baltic Islands and what other proposals will be made. The measures to be proposed must not require long periods of preparations.

Information was requested from Naval Staff, Quartermaster General as to what measures are planned for the defense of the coast and for the security of the Moon Sound and the Irben Straits. These measures, too, must be applicable within a short space of time.

According to the Finnish armistice terms the Russians plan to construct a naval base on the Porkalla peninsula; therefore it is of special importance to mine the waters northwest of "Nilhorn 1" as completely as possible. Naval Command, Baltic receives orders to check whether besides "Ladenschluss" other mining operations in this area are possible.

e. In answer to an inquiry made by one of our submarines whether or not Finnish vessels may be attacked, Naval Command, Baltic, Admiral, Eastern Baltic and the 9th Defense Division received the directive that the present military-political situation calls for restrain. The liberty to attack will be given as soon as hostile act is committed by Finnish vessels.

II. Northern Area.

a. Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff wired to

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Naval Staff, Commanding General, Norway, 20th Army Command and High Command, Air, Operations Staff:

"1. If and when the 20th Army is to be withdrawn to the reconnoitred Lyngen position will be decided within the next days after clarification of all enconomic and supply questions. However in the case of unfavorable events, the occupation of this position might be necessary in the course of the coming winter.

2. It is the task of the Commanding General, Norway to see to it that the 20th Army will in the case of withdrawal find a position fully equipped for defense. The Fuehrer therefore ordered the immediate completion of the Lyngen position. The Commanding General, Norway will be charged with its construction according to plans submitted on 19 June. The entire defenee task covers the construction of

a. the border crossings between Narvik and the three countries(boundary point,
b. the Lyngen flank position (land and sea front), and
c. the reinforcement of the sea flank (coast and islands between Lyngen Fjord and the Western Lofotes).

For the present, special efforts must be concentrated on the fortification of the land front. Thereby the possible by-passing of the Lyngen position by way of Swedish territory is to be taken into consideration. Preparations must be made in agreement with 20th Army Command for the shifting of the Naval and Army coastal batteries in action north of the Lyngen Fjord thus reinforcing the northern flank.

3. Purpose of the fortifications: Complete defensive readiness of the Lyngen position by 1 June 1945 against enemy attacks from land and sea; limited defense readiness as a winter position as soon as possible.

4. Commanding General, Norway must use all available means in order to achieve this aim in spite of the advanced season. A limited staff of the Inspector of Land Fortifications North, to be headed by the Inspector himself, is to be transferred to northern Norway immediately. - The most necessary roads, shelters, andobservation posts must be constructed first. - Furghermore the construction of obstacles and barrages as well as the marking of snow positions must be begun at once for possible occupancy during the winter.

5. Construction crews must be drawn from the area of Commanding General, Norway especially from fortification and airfield crews.

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Submarine constructions must be continued without interruption. To what extent use may be made of prisoners of war engaged in railway construction work will be ordered. The forces intended for the construction are to be reported to Armed Forces, Operations Staff. Rearward services of the 20th (Mountain) Army are to be put at disposal.

6. Materials for the construction of positions and obstacles - as far as they are not obtainable in the area - are to be requested at once. They must be limited to actual needs. 20th (Mountain) Army Command will assign at once a Liaison Command to Army Command, Norway for the transmittance of its demands.

7. Reports to be made on the 1st of each month to Armed Forces, Operations Staff and for information also to 20th (Mountain) Army Command. The first report is due on 1 Nov."

Naval Staff, Operations Division issued a corresponding directive to Naval Command Norway. For copy of telegram see 1/Skl I op 3020/44 Gkdos. Chefs. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. IIa.

b. Naval Command, Norway reported on the present condition of Battery "Suomi"". Two emplacements have been completed. The completion date of the remaining two emplacements cannot be predicted. The guns 1 and 2 cannot arrive in Petsamo before December. The installation time is six to eight weeks under most favorable circumstance. Naval Command, Norway requests a decision whether the construction work should be halted and the transport of the guns to Petsamo stopped considering the present situation in JFinland and the possible withdrawal of our front to behind the Lyngen position by March. Likewise it wishes to know whether preparations should be made for installation of the guns at a more important and more favorable place in Norway.

Naval Staff, Operations Division issues the directive that the installation of Battery "Suomi" be abandoned.

c. Naval Cpmmand, Norway reports: On the basis of the personal report of 18 Sept. made by the Admiral of the First Task Force as well as of reports by the Task Forcesand the Command of the TIRPITZ the following can be said about the TIRPITZ:

"1. The TIRPITZ is at present neither ready to cruise nor in a condition to be transferred. It will therefore have to remain in Kaa Fjord.

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2. The damage caused by the bomb hits in the foreship is of such a nature that the repair would require at least nine months of work undisturbed by enemy action and carried out by a large crew and with enormous amounts of materials.

3. The starboard turbine is able to make 260 revolutions; the port and center turbine will probably be repaired in ten to fourteen days.

4. The foreward capstan is out of order; therefore a transfer of the ship, requiring the use of the anchor gear, will likewise not be possible in the near future.

5. The restoration of improvised transfer readiness under own power will be possible only after about four months, after cutting off the foreship at compartment 20.

The following possibilities present themselves:

a. The ship remains in full readiness and will fight off future attacks by making full use of all weapons. The remaining aboard of almost the entire crew would be essential. As matters stand now, new attacks in the near future and heavy hits must be expected; high losses of valuable personnel resulting from bomb hits will be inevitable.
b. In order to reduce the number of possible casualties by bomb hits the entire ammunition for the heavy and medium guns as well as the unnecessary personnel will be removed. Only the anti-aircraft and the needed skeleton crew will stay aboard.
c. After effecting the condition described in b. removal of valuable arms and equipment important for the defense of the northern area. Thereby more personnel can be spared. The Commander of the Task Force, Rear Admiral Peters will arrive at Naval Staff by a Lufthansa plane for a personal report in the forenoon of 19 Sept."

For the detailed report by the Command of the TIRPITZ about the effects of bomb hits on 15 Sept. see 1/Skl 3018/44 Gkdos. Chefs. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. IIa.

Commander, First Task Force submitted the following to Command of the TIRPITZ with copy to Naval Command, Norway and Fleet after discussion with Commander in Chief, Navy and Naval Staff:

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"1. The Naval Staff is inclined to transfer the TIRPITZ to the Lyngen Fjord-Tromsoe area to be used there as a heavy battery. Naval Command, Norway is responsible for searching out and fixing the place as well as the manner and extent of defense. This is to be done in cooperation with the Task Force.

2. A second discussion with Commander in Chief, Navy after the arrival of the chief consultant, will clear up the question as to whether repair of the bow cannot be carried out within a much shorter space of time and in a considerably simplified manner. Transfer with powerful tugs is intended, aided by the ship's own power.

c. In my opinion the entire personnel must remain aboard until the transfer to a new place has been completed. After that, all personnel not absolutely necessary for the new task can be transferred. Pertaining to this, the following must be borne in mind or be considered:

a. The heavy guns must remain fully ready for action and the medium guns according to the possibilities and necessities for action at the new berth. Anti-aircraft guns to be either set up ashore for the protection of the ship or to be left abdard. It is intended to bring up shore anti-aircraft guns from the Alta area. The setting up of anti-aircraft guns ashore will take some time. It is planned to take along floating anti-aircraft batteries and ferry gun barges; it cannot be seen at the present time whether their later withdrawal will be possible. - The anti-aircraft defense of the new berth will be limited at first.

b. Net and smoke defense should be provided.

c. Ammunition should be left aboard only to the extent necessary for the task on hand so as to minimize the effects of possible hits.-
Replenishment of ammunition at short notice by tugs from a supply ship must be provided. The same will apply to furnace oil.

d. Some tugs and vessels are necessary for maintaining supplies, etc. The repair ship NEUMARK will have to remain in the Alta area for destroyers and can, in an emergency, be transferred for a certain time to carry out important work.

4. The question of reassigning personnel, also officers, must be considered now. It is essential to retain aboard only the personnel absolutely needed for carrying out the necessary tasks. Considerations are not to be submitted to other offices until the arrival of Commander, Task Force.

5. The foregoing considerations are to be viewed solely as a guide for your plans. They will be influenced decisively by the views and considerations of Naval Command, Norway, as the assurance that the Task Force will co-operate in all matters to the greatest extent possible.

The Commanding Officer and the Gunnery Officer of the TIRPITZ are to be present when selecting the place.

6. Commander, Task Force will be at the disposal of Naval Staff until after the conclusion of the second conference. He will fly to Oslo on Monday; his arrival aboard the TIRPITZ will be communicated by telephone.

7. The formation of heavy bombers which attacked the TIRPITZ has transferred back to England."

III. Admiral, Skagerrak reports concerning the disarming of the Danish police. The report was forwarded by Naval Staff to Admiral at the Fuehrer Headquarters, Armed Forces High Command, Army, Army General Staff and High Command, Air, Operations Staff. Copy as per 1/Skl 35451/44 geh. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. III.

IV. Concerning West Area:

a. Commanding Admiral, Netherlands reports that the transfer of the bulk of the 15th Army with all essential arms and equipment across the West Schelde was completed by 21 Sept. Only parts of the 712th Infantry Division and some vehicles remain to be ferried from Breskens. According to the incomplete figures so far available, the following has been accomplished since 5 Sept. in the face of continuous heavy enemy air raids and in the absence of any air defense, under conditions which were not simple either as to navigation, weather or seamanship: more than 82,000 men, more than 530 guns, more than 4,600 vehicles of all kinds, more than 4,000 horses as well as numerous valuable materials of all kinds. This performance must be credited to the willingness to serve on the part of the commanding officers and crews of all the ferries and vessels belonging to Admiral, Netherlands and of the 1st Coast Patrol Division engaged in ferry traffic. Credit must likewise be given to the personnel of the Navy and anti-aircraft units engaged in the ports of embarkation and disembarkation especially those in the Flushing area. Special recognition is due to the Commander of the 1st Coast Patrol, Captain Knuth, who was in full charge of the operation; he was ably supported by Naval Shore Commander, Southern Holland, Captain Aschmann, who organized the commencement of the ferry operation by 7 Sept. The following also deserve special mention: Commander, Motor Boats, Lieutenant

Commander Griesinger, who, until his retirement on 16 Sept. due to illness, controlled particularly the traffic from Breskens to Flushing; last, but not least, the Deputy Commander, Motor Boats and Commander of the Maas Flotilla, Lieutenant Commander Engel, who brought up in convoys from Dordrecht all the ferries and tugboats, etc. - assembled by Admiral, Netherlands in the northern and central area of Holland and manned by military men - through Zeeland Waters, which are particularly heavily raided by the enemy air force, to the southern area including supplies and evacuation of important goods. - The number of ships lost emphasizes the difficulty of the task and the value of the achievement accomplished which is all the more remarkable as only very few casualties were suffered in the course of the ferrying operations. - The following ships were lost on the West Schelde and in Zeeland Waters during this period: two gun carriers one motor minesweeper, six armed fishing trawlers or small minesweepers, four naval landing craft, one motor barge, light vessels of the River Flotilla, one large and one small ferry, two tugs, one motor ship and one hospital barge. - More seriously damaged were about 20 vessels of different kinds. - Vessels and anti-aircraft (shore of the Navy reported 25 planes brought down for certain and further ones are probable. Special Staff Knuth will be withdrawn on 21 Sept.; further ferrying and supply tasks of the bridgehead still remaining will be taken over by Naval Shore Command, Southern Holland.

b. Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division, Shipping, and Transport Branch reported pertaining to supplies for the Army in the Dutch area to Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff, Quartermaster Division, Armed Forces, High Command, Operations Staff, Navy, Admiral, Fuehrer Headquarters, Naval Staff, Operations Division and others in accordance with directive by Armed Forces, High Command, Operations Staff, Quartermaster Division of 20 Sept.

"1. Navy Branch offices in Leer, Papenburg and Emden were set up on the morning of 21 Sept. Beginning today they will carry out the task of Armed Forces Transshipment Staffs, until the latter take over. In Emden 400 workers are available; it is requested that 500 more be transferred. There are sufficient workers in Leer and Papenburg. Sufficient cranes are available in all ports; probable transshipment which can be effected in Emden will amount to about 1,500 tons, in Papenburg to 500 tons and in Leer to 400 tons; an increase is possible with sufficient allocation of labor.

2. Allocation of shipping space for the Reich Commissioner of Maritime Shipping is, of course, at present rendered more difficult owing to tasks in the eastern area, but

is being started. One ship with 1,500 tons capacity sailed from Bremerhaven to Emden on 20 Sept. and two more are to follow today. So far no reports have been received here about the arrival of supply trains in the ports provided."

c. Commanding Admiral, Group West has issued the following instructions to the Fortress Commander at La Rochelle in accordance with the opinion expressed by Commander in Chief, Navy:

"As to the directive by Armed Forces High Command: 'Fortress to be defended as long as possible, all means justified' , I advise the utmost caution as the enemy's objective will always be to take the harbor undemolished. Therefore do not undertake any obligations which could hinder your own freedom of action. The reinforcement of our defensive power alone is decisive. Reckon with the possibility that the enemy, too, only wants to gain time. Do not enter into written undertakings."

d. Concerning supplies to Dunkirk: Naval Command, North reports: Army Command 15 and Naval Shore Commander, Pas de Calais request repitition of ammunition supply by PT boats. Commander, PT Boats reported that the operations succedded during the night of 18 Sept., making use for once of the element of surprise and with successful but costly commitment of the relief group; the enemy without doubt recognizing the character of the operation. Commander, PT Boats points out that a repitition which must be effected with at least the same number of PT boats will in all probability result in the loss of boats, without there being any guarantee of success as the first time. Commander PT Boats considers a decision in favor of a repetition of the operation to be justified only if the task is held to be so important that action at any cost is necessary. Naval Commabd, North agrees with the views of Commander, PT Boats and remarks also that PT boats represent the only weapon in his area, which can be used offensively. Their special importance for combat of enemy landing operations is emphasized. Further losses would be very much felt on account of the small number of combat boats and would exclude any freedom of action against the enemy. The bringing up of 20 tons of ammunition is not valued so highly by Naval Command, North for the fortress as well as for the operations in the Belgian - Dutch area that the risk could be justified.

Naval Staff agrees with the opinion of Commander, PT Boats and Naval Command, North. A telegram to this effect was sent to Naval Command, North. Commander in Chief, Navy agrees.

e. A survey of the forces occupying the fortresses in the west area, on the basis of data available to Naval Staff, was made by Naval Staff, Operations Division as of 21 Sept. Copy in War Diary, File "Invasion 21 Sept.".

V. Area, Naval Command, North.

Naval Command, North ordered on 15 Sept. an alarm arrangement in its area designed to ensure that the troops located at a distance from the coast can, in case of alert, be made ready for combat as quickly as possible and brought forward to the coast. Copy as per 1/Skl 29176/44 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. IIa.

VI. Matters of Organization:

a. Group West reports that the final dissolution of the office of Commanding Admiral, West planned for 30 Sept.

b. Naval Staff has ordered that Admiral, Army Group B be put under the command of Naval Command, North immediately.

c. Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division has postponed the ordered establishment of Light Naval Artillery Battalions 535, 536, 537 and 538 due to lack of personnel and arms.

d. Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division transmitted the decision by Armed Forces High Command concerning the dispersals in occupied areas (see War Diary 17 Sept.) to Group South and others and at the same time issued instructions that the dispersal of complete operations staffs of the Naval Shore Command and upwards is not to be ordered by a ruling. Approval will remain the right of High Command, Navy. On the other hand, use of existing staffs for other tasks can be ordered by a command ruling. Furthermore it is ordered that Group South is to make naval personnel available upon request by the Army Group for temporary duty as alarm units; however not seagoing personnel and engine specialists. These alarm units are to be put under command of the Army as regards operations whereas administration must remain with the Navy if at all possible, as duty with the Army is only temporary. Other personnel, especially officers and specialists, are as far as the situation permits to be reported available for new assignments within the Navy.

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VII. Disposition.

a. Naval Command Baltic Sea reports that the KMA mining operation, Denmark, has come to a standstill on 19 Sept. due to the loss of naval landing craft "203" which struck a mine. The assignment of at least one minelayer is essential for its continuation.

The transfer of three naval landing craft (mines) to the west Baltic area orderedby Naval Staff on 20 Sept. will not be possible until further notice according to a report by Commanding Admiral, North Defenses, since seven of the eight naval landing craft (mines) on hand in the area of Commanding Admiral, Defenses, North are at present engaged, ferrying Army Command 15, on the Schelde.

Naval Staff, Operations Division has decided that the release of naval landing craft (mines) and their assignment to Naval Command, Baltic Sea will be effected just as soon as the situation permits.

b. Discussions with Commander, PT Boats at Naval Staff, Operations Division on 20 Sept. and Commander in Chief, Navy on 21 Sept. again brought out the fact that PT boat operations depend to a large extent on the provision of depot ships:

1. Most of the six depot ships available at present are being used for training. The extent of training depends upon the number of boats to be expected. It is to be anticipated that the delivery of boats will not take place to the extent estimated by Commander, PT Boats when starting the training program. It is, therefore, necessary to reduce the training porgram at an early date to comply with these facts. A necessary condition for this is an answer to the following question: With how many new PT boats must Commander, PT Boats reckon by the end of this year and during the first months of the coming year?

2. Ships with torpedo preparation equipment which can be used as PT boat depot ships are at the disposal of Commanding Admiral, Submarines, Commander in Chief, Naval orders that a surbey be submitted to him showing the present use of these ships.

This matter will be attended to by Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division.

VIII. Concerning use of PT boats against Invasion:

Commander, PT Boats transmitted by way of Commanding Admiral, Defenses, West to Group West a final survey of the situation

based on his War Diary of 1 to 15 June, 1944, which was forwarded to Naval Staff without any comment. Copy as per 1/Skl 29090/44 Gkdos. in War Diary, File "Invasion 21 Sept. 1944". The report deals with the extent of operations, successes and losses and analyzes the conditions during the operations.

IX. The Directive by Armed Forces Operations Staff, Quartermaster Division, concerning conduct of Party leaders in enemy occupied areas - discussed on 19 Sept. - has the following wording:

"1. In the event of a compulsory and complete evacuation of areas (e.g. Red Zone of the West Wall) the Party leaders will accompany the civilian population.

2. In case of a surprise occupation of areas by the enemy the Fuehrer has agreed that Party leaders shall voluntarily report for defense service and join the fighting troops.

In order to guarantee the necessary protection by international law the Fuehrer has ordered that in such an event military uniforms be issued to the Part leaders.

As a precaution the necessary uniforms and equipment are to be delivered to the Gauleiter and Kreisleiter on request, and they will, in turn, see to further distribution."

Naval Staff, Operations Division informs Quartermaster Division and Bureau of Naval Administration for any further action. The instructions do not contain any statements about rank in the case of Party leaders without military training; likewise nothing issaid about whether military identification papers are to be issued, the possession of which is generally presumed according to Article 6 of the Prisoner of War Agreement of 27 July 1929.

X. Naval Staff, Operations Division sent information on the situation as of the evening of 20 Sept. to the highest operational staffs of the Navy. Order as per 1/Skl b 29035/44 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part B, Vol. V.

21 Sept. 1944

Situation 21 Sept.

I. Situation West Area.

1. Enemy Situation:

Only 17 planes of the 19th Group were detected on operation, among which was one weather plane. Thirty planes of the 15th Group were detected. Five vessels were located in the rendezvous area.

Unloading on the Normandy beach is said to amount to 100,000 tons daily according to an agent's report from New York. This statement is held to be possible and feasible as the enemy does not yet have intact harbors in northern France, and supplies for an estimated number of 1,5 million men amount to about 50,000 tons daily, if one reckons with only one ton of supplies per man monthly.

2. Own Situation:.

Atlantic Coast:

Harbor defense boats HS "08" and "12" sailed in convoy from Lorient to Le Palais on 20 Sept. at 2030. The harbor defense boats sailed on to Port Maria and subsequently returned to Lorient. The sighting of enemy PT boats off Quiberon did not lead to any engegement.

Situation of the Fortresses:

Lorient: Lively enemy gunfire especially in the northeastern sector of the fortress was reported on 20 and 21 Sept. Our anti-aircraft guns successfully shelled enemy gun positions and concentrations as well as infantry attacks; one enemy observation post was annihilated. An operation by our assault troops was supported be anti-aircraft fire.

La Rochelle: Our concentrated attack against Ives occupied by the enemy, resulted in the annihilation of the enemy in stubborn house to house fighting. Numerous mines, hand grenades and ammunition fell into our hands.

Audierne: A demand to surrender was rejected on 19 Sept. Strong point lies under heavy gunfire. All heavy weapons were put out of action. Communication with

the strong point has been interrupted since the evening of 19 Sept. after an enemy attack supported by tanks.

Withdrawal Movements:

On 20 Sept. 357 men were intercepted by the directing centers. The directing center Muelhausen was disbanded.

Channel Coast:

South of Guernsey a destroyer was detected in a waiting position. A convoy of two armed fishing vessels between Guernsey and Sarq and return was carried out.

The Commander of Admiral, Channel Coast was disbanded in Groningen on 21 Sept. Its duties have been taken over by Naval Command, North.

Effective 19 Sept., Rear Admiral Frisius was appointed Fortress Commander of Dunkirk. The former fortress Commander was named Chief of Staff.

The enemy shelling of Calais increased considerably on 20 Sept. Battery positions and the entire main defense line were continuously attacked by fighter-bombers and suffered uninterrupted bombing raids by several hundred four-engined enemy planes in the afternoon, concentrating on the Batteries "Lindemann" and "Blanc Nez". One plane was shot down. British long-range batteries opened fire simultaneously. Naval batteries fought strong enemy concentrations southeast of Calais.

On 21 Sept. at 1700, Battery "Lindemann" was without any interruption raided by 400 to 500 enemy bombers. Turrets A and C were damaged. Two anti-aircraft guns were put out of action. The range finder is out of order. Telephone and wireless installations were destroyed. The shelter stood up.

The naval battery of Gris Nez continued the harassing fire on the city of Boulogne. All naval batteries in this fortress area with the exception of "Friedrich August" are still in our hands. The railway station Vimereux was occupied by the enemy in the afternoon. In the evening bitter fighting was still raging in the strong point held by Naval Artillery Battalion 240. The strong points south of Boulogne are still in our hands. No reports were received from the Batteries Chreche 1 and 2. The Navy now b ars the main brunt of the battle.

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II. North Sea, Norway, Northern Waters.

1. North Sea:

Heligoland Bight:

Three mines were cleared off the Columbus Pier in Wesermuende (Bremerhaven) on 20 and 21 Sept. Eighty-two more KMA mines were laid off Juist.

One mine was swept in the Outer Jade. Convoys were carried out during the night of 21 Sept. according to plan.

Dutch Coast:

The harbor barrage of Helder was damaged by a tug in the night of 20 Sept. and by a drifting steamer on 21 Sept. Dropping of mines was observed in the Schulpengat. The remote control minefield Terneuzen was cleared. Convoys were carried out as planned. The demolition of Amsterdam harbor has been started.

Schelde:

Minesweeper M "3662" sank in the course of enemy shelling of the harbor of Terneuzen on the evening of 19 Sept. A naval landing craft ran aground off Terneuzen. About 2377 men, 32 guns, 447 vehicles, 25 horses and 87 bicycles were ferried across on 20 Sept. A report covering the entire operation has already been made. Special Staff "Knuth" will be withdrawn on 21 Sept. Further ferrying and supply duties will be taken over by Naval Shore Commander, South Holland.

On 21 Sept. 1430 soldiers, 419 vehicles, 21 guns, 215 bicycles and 680 horses were ferried across to Breskens.

Naval Special Operations Unit 60 demolished all channel and light buoys from Hansweert to Antwerp. The operation was made difficult by enemy occupation of the southern bank of the Schelde.

A minesweeping boat was destroyed above Fort St. Philippe by "MK Pakete" (apparently a special explosive charge - Tr.N.).

2. Norway, Northern Waters:

Enemy Situation:

Fifty-six planes of the 18th Group were detected on operations.

2. Own Situation:

A medium heavy artillery duel with slight damage for our side was reported from the Petsamo area on 19 Sept. One of our westbound convoys was unsuccessfully attacked with bombs and gunfire by three planes north of Gamvik on 20 Sept. at noon. West Of Mageroey a Boston misfired two aerial torpedoes on minesweeper K "3".

Thirty-four incursions flown by 180 planes were reported from the Petsamo-Kirkenes area on 20 Sept. The harbor and battery of Liinahamari were attacked with bombs and gunfire.

In the area of Admiral, West Coast an enemy submarine attacked the unescorted Norwegian vessel KARIN (750 BRT) by three torpedoes which missed their targets northwest of Egersund. Two Norwegian cutters were attacked by 15 enemy planes south of Lister in the afternoon. One of the objectives was sunk, the other one had to be beached after being set afire.

Twenty-three ships northbound and 20 ships southbound were escorted.

III. Skagerrak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea.

1. Enemy Situation:

No special reports from the Gulf of Finland.

2. Own Situation:

Admiral, Skagerrak:

The strike of the dock workers in Aalborg forces the employment of 50 men of the Nabal Flak Battalion Aalborg and 150 men of the 416th Infantry Division for the handling of cargoes in order to maintain a smooth flow of important war transports. With the exception of Frederikshavn, work in the Danish factories was resumed early on 21 Sept. Railways and ferries are operating again. Fifteen minesweeping boats were on mine clearance duty in the Baltic Sea Entrances.

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The Emden arrived in Oslo Fjord after the mine operation "Claudius" with the 5th Destroyer Flotilla.

Western and Central Baltic:

A motor minesweeper was unsuccessfully attacked by 12 torpedo planes with fighter escort in the eastern exit of the Irben Straits on 20 Sept. at 1650. Shortly before, 20 enemy planes and fighters unsuccessfully attacked the heavy gun carrier TROMPEBURG northeast of Domesnes. The enemy carried out lively air reconnaissance in the Memel - Libau area on 21 Sept. Shortly after noon the southbound convoy MINDEN was attacked with torpedoes, bombs and gunfire west of Libau. Riga was raided by 80 enemy planes on the evening of 20 Sept. Slight material damage was caused to two airfields. Heavy casualties were suffered by the Air Force personnel intercepting camp.

Sixty boats were on minesweeping duty. Two mines each were reported swept in the Danzig Bay and in the Fehmarn Belt and one in the Kiel Bay.

The SCHEER arrived in Swinemuende with 100 Hitler youths aboard from the military training camp Bornholm.

Admiral, Eastern Baltic:

The mole and dockyard of Loksa were blown up and destroyed on the afternoon of 20 Sept. The Blasting Commando Natturi was temporarily encircled and fired at by 300 Estonians.

The mine operation "Nilhorn 2" was carried out in the night of 21 Sept. as planned. The mine ships BRUMMER and LINZ sailed for Baltic Port, torpedo boats T "23", "28", minesweepers M "18" and "19" left for Reval.

The fouling near Porkalla was carried out by two submarines according to plan. The 17th Patrol Flotilla was released for convoy duties.

The 14th Defense Flotilla was transferred to Pernau, Weder and Rohokuela. The remaining boats are carrying out minesweeping in the Reval Bay.

The sinking of M "3133" in the Moon Sound on 20 Sept. was caused by striking a wreck.

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On the evening of 20 Sept. the 9th Defense Division with the RUGARD was transferred to Pernau for the present. The Clearance Commander of the 9th Defense Division, Lieutenant Commander Pinkepank took over the operational command of the remaining naval forces as nautical adviser of Naval Shore Commander, Latvia according to a directive by 9th Defense Division.

From Reval, Baltic Port and Pernau 29,274 persons, 2039 tons of supplies and 12 vehicles were evacuated. No more steamers will be sent to Reval according to Admiral, Eastern Baltic.

The transfer of the 23rd Infantry Division to Oesel and Dagoe was started by the steamer WARTHE from Riga to Ahrensburg.

The Army Group North was supplied with 225 tons of ammunition sent to Reval and with 708 tons of ammunition sent to Riga.

Enemy sweeping operations - protected by planes - in the area 15 miles east oto Aseri and six PT boats heading west were reported by one of our submarines at 1600.

Two officers and 250 men of the 4th Gun Carrier Flotilla arrived in Liepaja. The Flotilla Commander and about 6 70 men were assigned to the main defense line near Mustvee.

According to a report by Naval Liaison Officer at 20th (Mountain) Army Command our ships sailed from Kemi at noon as planned. The tanker HANNA belonged to the Air Force. Loading and unloading took place by direct order of the Air Force. The captain did not communicate the intended departure to Seatransport Control Station, Kemi. This matter requires detailed clarification.

The 2nd Task Force consisting of the PRINZ EUGEN and the LUETZOW will be transferred to Gdynia in the evening. The journey to the north with destroyers Z "36", "35", torpedo boats T "1" and "8" will be started early on 22 Sept. Torpedo boat T "9", destroyers Z "28" and "25" will join the formation off Liepaja.

IV. Merchant Shipping.

Naval Staff, Intelligence Division, Foreign Merchant Marine Branch reported in the brief report No. 17/44 among other things about the shipping of ore from Lulea from 30 July to 12 Aug. The lowest shipping so far was reached with 199,030.4 tons of ore. Five German, 40

Swedish, 10 Finnish and 8 Danish ships were engaged in ore transport. In all 1,210,182.1 tons were transported from Lulea to German ports this year up to 12 Aug.

Since 22 Aug. the possibility of covering war-risk insurence for Swedish ships on runs to German Baltic ports was been eliminated. This has practically resulted in the discontinuation of traffic by Swedish ships to German ports.

On the same day all Finnish shipping along the German and Dutch coast was prohibited according to Finnish law. The Finnish freighters belonging to ice class Ia were withdrawn from traffic.

V. Submarine Warfare.

A submarine returning from the Atlantic to Norway reported the sinking of a corvette by short signal, giving no time or location.

Submarine U "963" started on its return passage to Norway from the north Channel and submarine U "758" from the Briston Channel. Nothing special to report from the other operational areas.

The report about operations in the eastern Baltic has already been made.

VI. Aerial Warfare.

West Area:

Lively fighter-bomber and reconnaissance activity and heavy flights into Reich territory were reported from the Dutch area during the day. A mixed enemy formation dropped supply containers in the Arnheim area. Continuous flights by transport planes were observed in the same area.

Only single enemy planes were over the Dutch area during the night of 21 Sept.

One hundred and seven of our planes were on operation against fighter -bombers in the Nijmegen area and on low-level attacks

in the Dutch operational area. T enty Douglas transports and three fighters were brought down and three freight gliders were destroyed on the ground. Three of our planes were lost.

- Reich Territory:

By day 300 fighter-bombers, fighters and isolated planes flew into western Reich territory in large and small formations. Machine gun attacks were reported from the a areas of Saarburg and Hagenau and bombing attacks in the area south of Grevenbroich. An airfield was also raided.

Five planes entered the areas of Lodz, Maehrisch-Ostrau, Katowice and Budapest from the east without attacking.

The flight of two enemy planes from the south over the St.Poelten - Vienna area without attacking was reported. In the afternoon 700 to 800 bombers with fighter escort entered the area of the lower and the middle Rhine by way of the Schelde estuary and Calais, and carried out raids on Mannheim, Ludwigshafen, Coblenz, Mainz, Wiesbaden as well as on the airfield of Kartause near Coblenz. For damage see "Daily Situation".

About 300 to 400 enemy pleanes with fighter escort entered the Balkan Peninsula from the south by way of the Dalmatian islands and carridd out raids in the Hungarian area, causing heavy damage to traffic installations.

About fifteen enemy planes entered the Hungarian and Serbian area from the east in the night of 21 Sept. Several planes passed over places in Hungary from the south without attacking.

Mediterranean Theater:

Forty-four Russian planes attacked the city and airfield of Nish.

On the Italian front 340 enemy plenes were detected on operations, concentrating on the eastern front area. Twin-engined and four-engined planes were not sent out on account of the weather.

Our planes carried out reconnaissance.

Eastern Front:

21 Sept. 1944

On the eastern front on 20 Sept. 395 of our planes and 1430 enemy planes were reported on operations. We lost two planes and shot down 22.

VII. Warfare in the Mediterranean and on the Danube.

1. Area of German Naval Command, Italy:

Enemy Situation:

Threr are no reports from the Gibraltar area. Our redonnasiasance flights were not carried out over the waters off the south coast of France and over the Ligurian Sea. The usual enemy patrol activity off Mentone was reported during the day.

Own Situation:

Several destroyers shelling Ventimiglia at noon on 20 Sept. were forced to turn away by naval guns.

Escort and patrol duty was carried out during the night of 20 Sept. as planned. A fighter-bomber was brought down north of Corsini.

The Command, Small Battle Units intends to transfer elemen "Marder" of Small Battle Weapons Flotilla "364" from San Remo into the Verona area. The "Marder" personnel is engaged in preparations for operations by "Molche".

The 1st and 2nd Group of Samll Battle Weapons Flotilla "4112 are in San Remo. After the equipment has been put on the water, the gound organization will be sent ot Padua, where the 3rd to 5th Group of this Flotilla are located for operation in the northern Adriatic Sea.

2. Area Naval Group South:

Adriatic Sea:

Enemy Situation:

Due to photographic reconnaissance of Bari early on 20 Sept., in which only a part of the harbor was covered, 7 freighters, 1 transport, 6 landing boats, 1 coastal tanker and 4 motorboats were established.

21 Sept. 1944

Lively enemy shipping was observed in the area of Lissa, Brac and Solta during the night of 19 Sept. LCT's coastal motor ships, transports and destroyers were reported. Two destroyers shelled Drunik on 20 Sept. at 0715.

Bombs and pamphlets were dropped over Ombla Bay near Dubrovnik during the night of 19 Sept. and during the forenoon of 20 Sept. Five small enemy vessels were shelled near Sibenik by Army Coastal Battery Vedic during the forenoon of 20 Sept.

Fifty partisans attacked Baska on the southeast coast of Krk with machine-guns and mortars during the night of 20 Sept. No casualties were incurred by us.

Two naval landing craft were unsuccessfully attacked at their berth in Uljan early on 20 Sept. In Parenzo a Boston attacked the steamer MERCURION on the evening of 20 Sept. and was apparently brought down.

Own Situation:

Torpedo boats TA "37", "38" and "39" and escorting PT boats coming from Pola arrived at Cattaro in the forenoon of 21 Sept. The departure of the boats was postponed for 24 hours owing to a tube burst on TA "37".

Otherwise shipping movements were hindered by the weather.

Aegean Sea:

The carrier formation consisting of our auxiliary aircraft-carriers sailed with destroyer escort from the Amorgos-Stampalia area through the Casos Straits to Alexandria during the night of 20 Sept. The carrier from the area of the island of Gavdos presumably also proceeded to the southeast. On the morning of 21 Sept. our air reconnaissance sighted seventeen small naval vessels in the area of Kythera and five medium sized landing boats south of the island. The following were reported: a submarine on easterly course south of Crete; a cruiser and five destroyers on southerly course 40 miles southeast of Crete.

An enemy submarine entered the Aegean Sea by way of the Skarpanto Strait during the night of 20 Sept.

A coastal defense boatw was attacked by an enemy submarine southwest of Ikaria during the night of 21 Sept.

21 Sept. 1944

The battery on the peninsula of Akrotiri near Suda was shelled by two vessels, presumably enemy cruisers on the evening of 20 Sept. The cruiser AURORA shelled the port of Candia and the airfield of Heraklea, according to a British boradcast report.

An auxiliary sailing vessel was taken in prize on 17 Sept. by an enemy PT boat in the area of Simi and taken off to Tyrkey, according to a report by the Port Commander, Rhodes.

The escape of three auxiliary sailing vessels from Milos is planned for the night of 21 Sept.

Enemy air activity over the Aegean Sea was unusually light on 21 Sept.

Army Group E is of the opinion that the sea from Leros to Piraeus is already so endangered that it appears necessary to transfer allships still in the Dodecanese to Salonka. The employment of further ships between Piraeus and the Dodecanese is only possible for fast ships by dark. Commanding Admiral, Aegean Sea generally supports the view that it is more important to reach the mainland on the shortest possible route, that is to Piraeus, accepting possible losses, in order to reinforce the land fronts than to prolong the time taken for the round tripl So far the southern mine baffle has not been crossed by enemy submarines. The risk of air raids has to be accepted. Commanding Admiral, Aegean Sea therefore intends to transfer the steamer ^BURGAS also to Leros, besides the DRACHE, ZEUS and steamer OLOLA; this can effectively supply additional arms, motor vehicles and ammunition to the mainland. In addition, full use of naval landing craft, naval artillery lighers and combined operations landing boats is planned between the Dodecanese and Piraeus.

Commanding General, Armed Forces, Southeast has approved the evacuationof Corfu according to a further report from C mmanding Admiral, Aegean Sea. Commanding Admiral, Aegean Sea has requested postponement of this until 23 Sept. in view of the transfer of torpedo boats and PT boats into the Aegean Sea.

The evacuation of Monemvasia to start on 22 Sept., was approved by Army Group E on a proposal by Commanding Admiral, Aegean Sea. Thus the Naval Shore Command area of the Peloponnesos is finally dissolved.
C
Communication between Candia and Suda is already unsafe according to a report by Naval Shore Commander, Crete. There are still about 20,000 men on the island, of which

11,000 belong to the Army, 6,000 to the Air Force and 3,000 to the Navy.

The transport delay in Syra was obviated owing to a further improvement in the weather.

Danube Situation:

For daily report by Inspector of Minesweeping, Danube, see Telegram 2215. It contains no special events.

VII. Situation Far East.

Nothing special to report.

22 Sept. 1944

Items of Political Importance.

Eden's sudden trip to Quebec is said to have been instigated by the development in eastern Europe, according to "Svenska Dagbladet". The Russian attitude regarding the Polish question is nckt satisfactory to Londong, In Bulgaria it is felt that one is confronted with a 'fait accompli'. In many places the view is taken that England and the U.S.A. are, in the present military situation, scarcely inclined to accept the Russian moves as readily as before.

Commander in Chief, Navy went to Bremen area to inspect dockyards.

Conference on the Situation with Chief, Naval Staff at 1115.

I. Deputy Chief, Naval Communications Division, (Operations Division, Communications Section) reports that so-called "Soldiers'Radio" (Kameradschaftsfunk) with fortresses in France has started. The measure serves to contact the personnel concerned and, as far as capacity is still available, exchange of most important personal news pertaining to family matters.

II. Chief, Naval Intelligence Division: "Ostroa" reports from separate British and Portuguese sources:

"I. Increasing concentration of heavy and light British and American naval forces in ports of northern England and Scotland, especially on the Tyne and in the Firth of Forth. Transfer of light naval forces from bases in southern England to bases in the north of England.

2. Withdrawal of seagoing landing vessels to the Firth of Forth. On 15 Sept. about 16 transports in Leith.

3. No indication of the concentration of large troop contingents.

4. Present signs indicate with great probability a strong operation by sea and air against northern Jutland Kattegat and Skagerrak not with the intention of using large landing contigents but of closing the bridge Norway-Jutland by fleet and air superiority.in order to cut off Norway.

22 Sept. 1944

For the present only occupation of bases; larger troop formations perhaps being brought up later.

5. It is the opinion of the U.S. and British Air Attaches in Lisbon that an operation by large air-borne formations against Norway-Jutland is impossible in the near future due to the air-borne landings effected in Holland. The intention will rather be to make use of the German weakness noted in Belgium and Holland with all forces for a thrust to western Germany. In case an operation were to take place against the Jutland-Norwegian area, it would have more the character of strongly intensified naval and aerial warfare."

The highest operations staffs of the Navy as well as the naval liaison officers with operations staffs of other branches of the services etc. were instructed by Naval Staff, Intelligence Division with its comments as follows: "Since strong enemy naval forces have become available through the war situation as a whole, the rpported concentration in Harbors of eastern Scotland, which cannot be checked, is quite possible. There are only small Army forces in the same area according to the views of Army General Staff. There are no concrete facts regarding the concentration of sea transports for landing purposes in ports of eastern Scotland as air reconnaissance is lacking. Use of naval forces with the necessary support by air formations first of all for operations in the Norwegian area and in the Skagerrak to cut off the traffic from Norway to Germany is very likely, particularly as the striking power of our Air Force is absolutely nonexistent and the weakness of our naval forces is known to the enemy. The important ore traffic will in a few weeks rely entirely on the Norwegian route. This alone is the strongest incentive for British activity on the entire sea route from Narvik to Kattegat. A penetration of enemy fleet forces into the Skagerrak would be at the same time a strong political demonstration in favor of the economic blockade of Sweden - Germany which has been repeatedly demanded. By an operation of naval forces in Norwegian and Danish waters the possibility of a landing operation in Jutland- Noreay would not be restricted according to the exegencies of the situation as a whole but would be effectively prepared."

In a Restricted Circle.

III. Army Situation:

Western Front:

The enemy pressure in the area northwest of Antwerp against the left flank of the 15th Army is increasing.

22 Sept. 1944

The enemy continued his attacks from the bridgehead of Nijmegen to the north in the deep breach in the area of the 1st Airborne Army, so far without appreciable success. At the same time new air-borne landings took place southwest of Arnheim in the strength of about one regiment.

It was possible finally to break the bitter enemy resistance west of Arnheim.

The attempt to interrupt the advance route of the British 30th Army Corps will be repeated today in the direction of Vechel.

Only local fighting in the Aachen area and on the Eifel front. The resumption of the major attack by the 1st American Army is possible at any time.

Near Bitburg the enemy tried to prevent the narrowing of the West Wall bridgehead by strong attacks supported by tanks and ground-attack planes.

Dunkirk: Slight gunfire; lively activity by our scouting forces.

Calais: Gunfire and mortar fire on the western part of the city. Continuous bombing raids by strong air formations on the western part of the main defense line since afternoon

Boulogne: No radio communication since 1700.

Fighting in the area of Army Group G near Luneville subsided somewhat compared to yesterday. The enemy increased his pressure in the Remiremont area. There the enemy attacked all day long with strong forces and tanks. Positions were maintanined by counter-thrusts with the exception of a few penetrations. Chateau Salins was again cleared of the enemy.

Italian Front:

The fluctuating and costly fighting in the Florence area still continues. Breaches were blocked by putting into action last reserves and alarm units. The enemy closely followed our withdrawals into the obscure mountain territory.

22 Sept. 1944

The enemy did not continue his major attack on the Adriatic coast, owing to the high losses suffered on the foregoing days and to the bad weather situation. The number of tanks destroyed in this area yesterday has risen to 106. In all 661 tanks were destroyed during the period from 26 Aug. to Sept. 20.

Balkans:

The extreme eastern part of the island of Crete was evacuated. Next line of evacuation: Mochos east of Candia, Timbaki.

Prilep in Macedonia was taken. Action by Russian fighters and bombers in Macedonia and Greece is on the increase. Furthermore strong enemy activity on the Dalmatien islands.

Eastern Front:

The development of the situation on the eastern front shows more and more clearly the three focal points of the enemy which have been recognized for some time:

Before the southern flank of the eastern front.
Before Army Group North.
In the area of Warsaw.

The enemy here airs to destroy the outer projecting army flanks of the German eastern front and simultaneously to gain in the middle of the front the area of Warsaw which is important for later continuation of operations to the west and northwest against Reich territory. In the area of Arad and Nagy Varad Russian forces further repulsed Hungarian troops who offered only slight resistance. Thus the Russians have opened an outlet from the mountains for a thrust into the Hungarian plains.

In the Szekler tip the enemy lauched an attack with massed forces in the direction of Szaaz Regen and the Maros valley. The front held in heavy and costly fighting.

The enemy achieved further penetrations on the important mountain passes on the Beskides front. Our troops are exhausted and the enemy is bringing up fresh forces. The situation is serious.

In connection with these attacks the enemy is infiltrating Partisans in the east Slovakian area increasingly with regular troops in order to create fav orable conditions for the continuation of operations on Slovakian territory

and in the direction of Hungary after the Red Army has crossed the mountain ridge.

Another enemy bridgehead was annihilated near Warsaw.

Army Group North was again engaged in heavy defensive fighting against the enemy attacking with superior forces south of Baldone and northwest of Walk. It was impossible to prevent the breads through attempted by him in the direction of Riga with slight loss of territory thanks to the heroic resistance by the troops. Eighty-five enemy tanks were shot up. Thus the total number of tanks destroyed on the eighth day of the defensive battle has risen to more than 700.

The line Oberpahlen - Paide was drawn up as planned in the area of Army BattalionNarva. Oberpahlen itself was lost.

Disturbances by Estonian nationalists and communists were subdued in the city area of Reval.

Finland:

The withdrawals of German forces during the last days were carried out as planned. Attempts by the enemy to cut off the troops from their retreat routes failed.

After crossing the Finnish border southeast of Suomosalmi the enemy gained connection with the better developed road network. Strong pursuit by the enemy is now to be reckoned with. Signs of an active thrust by the Finns against the 20th Mountain Army are not yet apparent.

IV. Chief, Fleet Branch, Quartermaster Division reports on a visit to Special Deputy, Danube, General Admiral Marschall, in Vienna. He makes three demands:

a. Conversion of Inspectorate of Minesweeping, Danube into Defense Commander.
This request which was already made at an earlier date, means concentration of all tasks including those of the River Police within the Navy.

b. Replacement of foreign crews on tugs by naval personnel.

c. Return of at first 15 of the 30 tugs used as minesweeping vessels and their replacement by naval landing craft.

As to request a: Group South is generally against this solution but considers it to be the only one feasible at the moment.- Quartermaster Division, Organization and Mobilization Branch Branch proposes that the request be granted. Special Deputy, Danube on his part must arrange with Armed Forces High Command to take over the River Police. The solution also has the advantage that direct instructions of the Army to parts of the Danube Flotilla will therefore be eliminated.

The request according to b: is also recognized by Quartermaster Division and considered to be practicable although fundamental doubts remain.

The request according to c: is to be refused by Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division. Special Deputy, Danube must bring up the necessary vessels from other inland waterways. The number available is sufficient, according to information from Vice Admiral Stohwasser.

Chief, Naval Staff ordered a Conference on the matter with Commander in Chief, Navy.

V. Chief, Naval Staff opened the question of the second Admiral of the Fleet or Commander, Training Unit, Fleet. It transpired in a detailed discussion with Quartermaster Division and Operations Division, Naval Staff that a second Admiral of the Fleet cannot take over as an additional duty the tasks of Commander, Training Unit. Quartermaster General will on 23 Sept. intimate to Commanding Admiral, Fleet that Vice Admiral Rogge take over control of Training Unit, Fleet.

VI. Chief, Operations Branch, Operations Division reports on the occupation of the Baltic islands in view of yesterday's enquiry by the Naval Liaison Officer at High Command, Army, Army General Staff. (See War Diary 21 Sept.)

Chief, Naval Staff again confirmed that naval forces do not suffice to defend the islands. The necessary defense forces must be ensured by the Army.

Chief, Operations Division then telephoned the following messaged to Admiral, Fuehrer Headquarters:

"Naval Staff views with a certain anxiety the apparently rather weak occupation of the Baltic islands so far, which can only be reinforced through the Navy immediately by the former occupation.

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Special Items .

I. Concerning Eastern Baltic.

As to yesterday's directive concerning attacks on Finnish ships by our submarines (see War Diary 21 Sept.) Naval Staff, Operations Division expressly draws the attention of Naval Command, Baltic Sea and, for information, of Admiral, Eastern Baltic Sea and the 9th Coast Patrol Force to the fact that the Finns must fire the first shot and that special attention is necessary in view of the danger of confusing Finnish and Russian vessels.

Copy of telegram 1/Skl I Nord 29195/44 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. III.

II. Concerning Northern Area (Lyngen Position).

Naval Staff, Operations Division transmitted the following comments to Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff (cf. War Diary 15 Sept. and 20 Sept.):

"A 1. The crossing of Lyngen Fjord can be accomplished by naval landing craft in about one hour according to an estimate by Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division, Shipping and Transport Branch. If naval landing craft are used at least one third of a adivision can be ferried across in 24 hours, that is, the total time required for ferrying one division amounts to about three days, if the vessels are loaded to capacity. Special preparations such as additional landing stages, improvement of bridges etc., provision of fuel, anti-aircraft protection, lifesaving equipment buoys and lights are to be made beforehand.

2. Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division , Shipping and Transport Branch is investigating the provision of some ferries (on the average 700 to 800 BRT) from the Danish area for use on Lyngen Fjord or other ferrying points of highway 50.

3. On an average 40 naval landing craft are ready for action of the available 60 in the entrie Norwegian area. It was planned to use the naval landing craft up to now for evacuating 29 batteries from the eastern Arctic area to the area west of the Lyngen position for operations as well as local transport and landing tasks of the fighting troops. Naval landing craft needed for ferrying would be withdrawn from these tasks, as assignment and transfer from another area is not possible.

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B. 1. The question as in previous subject matter and answer according to A.1 entails only a part of the whole problem of withdrawing the 20th Mountain Army Command behind the Lyngen position. This is considered indispensable here to comprehend and judge the task as a whole as a basis for making a decision.

2. About 300,000 men of all branches of the service including the Todt Organization are to be evacuated on highway 50 according to a report of Naval Command, Norway. Of these 120,000 men will remain in the Lyngen position. The remainder will transfer to central and southern Norway. There are five ferrying services up to the start of the railway including sea route Bjerkvik (Narvik) - Korsnes (Tys Fjord).

3. The entire movement depends upon daily performance accommodation and supply points as well as ferrying points.- Tasks ashore cannot be judged from here. Carrying out of ferry traffic, however, depends decisively on the discharge of ferried troops and the bringing-up of further troops. Attention is drawn to the Arctic night, snow conditions etc. Question: Is temporary accommodation of troops ferried across Lyngen Fjord planned in the area of Tromsoe - Narvik, or must all ferrying points be continuously in intensified operation for the whole duration of the evacuation?

4. Acceleration of the entire movement is possible by using troop transports from Porsanger or Lyngen Fjord. according to the enemy situation and the weather.

C. Commanding General, Norway plans to appoint a Special Staff to work out all plans (according to a report by Naval Command). Naval Staff proposes, in view of the importance of smooth co-ordination of partial tasks as well as the geographical and seasonal conditions that the decision be based upon the judgment of this Special Staff, to which the appointment of a representative of the Naval Command as well as of an officer experienced in ferrying service appears necessary."

III. Coastal Defense Commander, West reported to Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division as follows on the presnet production facilities of Kiel shipyards:

"a. Naval Arsenal: Making use of branch depots and auxiliary points the whole establishemtn is at presnet engaged in active production with 50 per cent of the personnel. Masons are urgently needed for reconstruction

of the establish nt. There is lack of trucks for increased traffic with branch depots.

b. Howaldt Works: Personnel engaged on production c in the entire establishment 50 percent, on subamrine construction 80 percent. Current requirements covered by own generation.

c. Deutsche Werke Kiel: Personnel engaged on production in prefabrication 100 percent, repair 40 percent. Drop in submarine construction will only become noticeable to the full extent in the next few months. Current requirements at present covered by own generation.

d. Germania Dockyard: 60 percent of personnel again working primarily submarine construction; other tasks at present insignificant. The establishment still depends on outside power supply."

Naval Staff, Operations Division informed Admiral, Fuehrer Headquarters, Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff, Navy, High Command, Army, Army General Staff, Naval Liaison Officer and High Command, Air, Chief, Operations Branch, Operations Staff, Navy accordingly.

IV. Concerning Area Admiral, Skagerrak.

Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff, Quartermaster Division cannot approve the request by Naval Staff (compare War Diary 21 Sept.) concerning the strike in Aalborg. In the decision on this it is stated

> "A directive that measures by which harbor strikes can be reduced are not to be taken, would paralyze the initiative of Commanding General, Armed Forces, Denmark, yielding would be interpreted as weakness and new strikes and unrest would probably be the result. The Fuehrer has ordered Commanding General, Armed Forces, Denmark to break the strike by draconic measures."

Naval Command, Baltic Sea and Admiral, Skagerrak were informed.

V. Concerning Area Naval Command, North.

A. Anxiety arose at Naval Command, North from the Combat Instructions by Air Force, General Staff in Denmark, that operations by the Air Force in case of landings in the area

of the German North Sea coast were apparently no longer contemplated. However, a further inquiry made a High Command, Air, Operations Staff, by Naval Staff, Operations Division revealed the following:

"1. Air Force "Reich" is responsible for Jutland - Denmark-Heligoland Bight as a whole. Air Force General in Denmark is responsible for operational command of the Air Force formations in Denmark and northwestern Germany. Uniform command of flying formations which, in case of a landing, will be put at the disposal of General, Denmark is in the hands of the 9th Air Corps.

2. Command posts and operational areas: 3rd Air Force in Mayen, 2nd Fighter Division in Stade, 3rd Fighter Division in Duisburg. Operational area of the 3rd Air Force, entire western front. Operational area of the 3rd Fighter Division, west of the line mouth of the Ems - Fulda - Schwaebisch Hall - Metz."

Naval Command, North was informed accordingly.

B. Commanding Admiral, Defenses, North reported concerning assignment of tugs for Holland:

"1. All seagoing tugs and suitable harbor tugs from North Sea ports with the exception of the SEETEUFEL (salvage tug. T.N.) (on salvage work at Deschimag, Bremen) are being used for the evacuation.

2. All vessels previously assigned to 1st Coast Patrol Division by Admiral, Netherlands, Dockyard Control Staff have been transferred or towed off."

Naval Staff, Operations Division informed Admiral, Netherlands, Dockyard Control Staff Groningen, with copy to Naval Command, North, Commanding Admiral, Defense, North and 1st Coast Patrol Division accordingly.

C. The same offices named under B received the following instructions from Naval Staff, Operations Division:

"1. After completion of ferrying operations Scheldt and dissolution of Special Staff Knuth, patrol forces retained in that area by command ruling and formerly belonging to the 2nd Coast Patrol Division, as well as all naval landing craft (mines) are to be sent to the east as quickly as possible. Report when sent.

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2. In case the retention of some vessels is considered absolutely necessary for other tasks, submit a new request."

VI. Concerning Area Admiral, Norway.

Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division issued instructions to Bureau of Naval Armament, Naval Command, Norway, with copies to Fleet, Commander, Destroyers and Navy Office Horten, in view of bad experiences with new torpedo boat constructions in France and Holland, to ensure under all circumstances that torpedo boats TA "7" and "8" are transferred to our own safe sphere of influence. For this TA "7" is to be provisionally commissioned as quickly as possible. Towing off by the 5th Destroyer Flotilla may possibly be considered.

VII. Concerning Area Group South.

A. Group South reported the intention of Commanding Admiral, Adriatic Sea to postpone the further passage of three torpedo boats from Cattaro to 22 Sept. at 2000.

B. Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff transmitted the following instructions to Commanding General, Armed Forces, Southeast, Naval Staff and High Command, Air, Operations Staff:

"1. The development of the situation in the southeast demands acceleration by all possible means of the evacuation from the Aegean islands to the mainland. High Command, Navy is asked to increase transport on the basis of the fuel a available in the area of Army Group E.

2. The formations and offices, if necessary also the fortress infantry battalions and defense troops which are no longer needed in the southern and central Greek area for the protection of the evacuation of the formations still on the Aegean islands, are to be assembled into units and moved to the north on the land route as quickly as possible. They are, as far as is necessary, to be evacuated from the country.

3. Commanding Genreal, Armed Forces, Southeast will report as soon as possible on intentions and daily situation of movements with the daily report."

C. A survey of the Navy offices on Crete and the shipping space on hand in the Aegean is contained under 22 Sept. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. XIV.

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VIII. Concerning Area German Naval Command, Italy.

Commanding General, Armed Forces, Southwest wired as to the question of harbor demolitions:

"Up to now the demolitions of harbors (quarys and harbor installations) was carried out, besides the demolition of industrial installations and all transport means (railways and roads) in the course of withdrawals. The insufficient supplies of explosives, even if bombs and gun ammunition which can no longer be fired , are fully utailized, and the lack of engineer forces necessitates postponement for the present of the demolition measures in harbors which demand particularly large amounts of blasting ammunition and strong engineer forces. The advantage of these harbor demolitions is only slight, according to previous experience, owing to the numerous technical resources of the enemy for restoration of the harbors and the numerous special vessels for unloading on the open shore. Commanding General, Armed Forces, Southwest therefore intends to refrain from further demolition measures in harbors, in order to have at his disposal the forces and explosives thereby released for lasting destruction of all transport routes (roads and railways) in the rear. Demolition measures will be completed as far as they have already been extensively prepared.-Approval is requested."

IX. Concerning Dispersal in Allied, Friendly and Occupied Countries.

The directives issued by Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff is to be found in Files I op 1/Skl IV 1 (1/Skl i op 34386/44 Geh. of 14 Sept. 1944).

X. Concerning Transfers to the Army.

A. The following is to supplement the decision of Commander in Chief, Navy of 13 Sept.:

"Further restrictions of shipbuilding capacity, especially through the loss of shipyards in formerly occupied territories and by effects of air raids, as well as accumulation of personnel from the west and southeast areas and from fresh economy measures make it possible for me to transfer once more to the Army about 20,000men as follows:

1. Officers in limited numbers.

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2. About 1,500 officers trainees, for the greater part of junior non-commissioned ranks.

3. Men of which some have not had their full basic training.

4. Transfer of junior non-commissioned officers and men in several instalments.

About 8,000 men at once, the rest within the next ten days.

The number of personnel ramaining after this will substantially suffice until the end of January 1945. The condition under which 20,000 men will be transferred, therefore, is confirmation of sufficient replacements beginning October 1944."

B. The alarm units (transfer units) activated according to the Fuehrer directive No. 51 have at present the following strength:

Area Naval Command, Baltic Sea	80,000 men
Area Naval Command, North	40,000 men
in all	120,000 men

These are almost exclusively personnel from schools, replacement and training units. The strength of the alarm units will shortly be reduced considerably by the transfer of 20,000 more men to the Army and provision of a considerable number of men for the arming of the coast which is going on at present.

Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division, Organization and Mobilization Branch informed Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff and Admiral, Fuehrer Headquarters accordingly.

XI., Organization.

A.- Naval Shore Commander, Latvia has been placed under the command of Admiral, Eastern Baltic Sea as to operations and administration.

B. Quartermaster Division, Organization and Mobilization Branch states:

"1. Commander Submarines, West took over com and in Bergen on 18 Sept. at 1200.

2. The 23rd Submarine Flotilla was activated in Flensburg on 15 Sept.

3. The submarine base at Genoa was dissolved on 5 Sept.

4. The Submarine Personnel Office was transferred to Neustadt, Holstein on 10 Sept."

Commander in Chief, Navy gave his approval to the proposal by Commanding Admiral, Adriatic Sea and Group South to carry through the contemplated use of Croation crews on war transports, torpedo boats and coast patrol boats as planned. Group and Commanding Admiral, Adriatic Sea have abandoned their great doubts on account of the unreliability of the Croatian personnel especially in view of political aspects.

XII. Concerning Ship Movement Reporting Service.

Naval Staff, 1st Operations Division requested Reich Commissioner of Maritime Shipping, in view of the requirements of the military situation, to start the Ship Movement Reporting Service for the Baltic Sea area again immediately. Copy of order 1/Skl II 35558/44 Geh. in War Diary, Part C. Vol. XI.

XIII. Concerning German Iron Ore Supplies and Crude Steel Production.

Bureau of Naval Armament War Economy Branch reports on 19 Sept.:

"Following the loss of the occupied western territories and the Southwest district (Alsace-Lorraine and the Saar territory) it will be possible to keep German crude steel production at a level of about two million tons monthly (heretofore three million tons monthly maximum including the occupied areas). The condition for this is, of course, that the Ruhr and Upper Silesia can carry on undistrubed.

Should the ore imports from Sweden come to a complete standstill, it is hoped to keep up this production of crude steel until the middle of next year, making use of stores and German ore mining, above all with increased use of the Salzgitter ores in place of the Minette.

An essential factor is that the greater part of the iron ore stores are in the Ruhr district. This applies to stores of crude iron, crude steel and rolling mill products.

Scrap will be used to the largest possible extent. This will be limited by the capacity of suitable smelting works and by difficulties in collection of scrap such as cutting up and transport."

XIV. Concerning Enemy Intelligence.

A summary of enemy intelligence obtained from 11 Sept. to 17 Sept. by radio decoding and radio intelligence is contained in Radio Monitoring Report No. 38/44.

Attention is drawn to page 6 concerning command station 348 mentioned in Radio Monitoring Repotts Nos. 36 and 37 and the interpretation of the numerous formations designated by cover names.

Attention is further drawn to page 7 concerning British sea reconnaissance by the 15th, 16th, 18th and 19th Groups.

Situation 22 Sept.

I. Situation West Area.

1. Enemy Situation:

Fifteen planes of the 19th Group were spotted on operation. Five British vessels were located in the rendezvous area.

2. Own situation:

Atlantic Coast:

Harbor defense veesels in Lorient on a check sweep were attacked by Mosquitoes and suffered casualties. Patrol positions off the eastern and western entrance were taken up by three armed trawlers.

Atlantic Fortresses:

Lorient: Enemy forces penetrating into the Kervignac area with heavy infantry weapons were repulsed. A loud-speaker which called for surrender before the main defense line was silenced by machine-gunfire. Our guns supported infantry fighting.

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St. Nazaire: A concentration of American infantry was routed by gunfire.

Gironde North: Our reconnaissance thrust was carried out in the strength of a battalion. The personnel of the 1st Battery of Army Coastal Battalion 1282 was exchanged for naval personnel and placed under the command of Naval Artillery Battalion 284.

Gironde South: The ground before the fortress was reinforced by the expansion of a new switch line near Vensac with three 15cm guns. The strong point is occupied by two companies of the Battalion "Narvik" from crews of destroyers Z "24" and torpedo boat T "24". A fresh demand by the enemy to surrender was refused.

La Rochelle: Light patrol engagements were reported south of Yves.

Withdrawal Movements:

On 21 Sept. 187 men were intercepted by control stations.

Channel Coast:

Dunkirk: Enemy harassing fire was directed against the eastern and southern sector of the ground before the fortress. Our guns could only afford very slight support owing to the lack of ammunition for light and heavy field howitzers. Harassing fire was almost impossible.

Calais: Very heavy gunfire and fighter-bomber attacks were directed against position and city. The enemy succeeded in breaking into a strong point at very heavy expenditure. The main defense line was again taken completely by our counter-thrust.

Boulogne: At 1000 Batteries "Creche 1" and "2" were subjected to very heavy enemy air raids by which serious material losses were caused. Vimereux was abandoned after hard street fighting. The Commander of Naval Artillery Battalion 240 forced his way through to Griz Nez with 250 men. At 2130 Daventry reported the capatilation of Boulogne.

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II. North Sea, Norway, Northern Waters.

1. North Sea:

Heligoland Bight:

Four mines were swept off Wesermuende.

Dutch Coast:

The harbor demolition of Amsterdam was carried out.

The harbor barrage Hook of Holland was damaged by coast patrol boat KS "6". Battery "Hamilton" was subjected to continuous enemy gunfire on the afternoon of 21 Sept.

Convoys were carried out during the night of 21 Sept. as planned. The continuation of the convoy from Helder to Borkum, as well as the starting of a new convoy from Ijmuiden to Helder with two new Hansa boats and a new buoy-layer is planned for the night of 22 Sept. The 20th Patrol Flotilla and the 9th Motor Minesweeper Flotilla will be used as escorts.

Scheldt Area:

The railway bridge at Antwerp over the Albert Canal was blown up by a Small Battle Weapons operation.

New airborne landings with about 80 freight gliders were observed in the area Southwest of Arnheim.

Ferry traffic across the Scheldt was stopped on account of fog on 21 Sept. from 2230.

2. Norway, Northern Waters:

1. Enemy Situation:

Twenty- aix planes of the 18th Group were detected on opetation.

2. Own Situation:

In the afternoon of 20 Sept. a fairly heavy gun duel was reported from the Petsamo area. Simultaneously 36 enemy planes attacked Battery "Liinahamari" and the construction

site of Battery "Suomi" with bombs and machine-guns.

At 1305 the hospital ship METEOR was unsuccessfully attacked north of Hammerfest by a Boston with torpedo.

In the area of Admiral, West Norwegian Coast, the steamer TYRIFJORD which was beached after being damaged by an enemy attack on 19 Sept., sank in the outlet of Stav Fjord.

Fifteen ships were escorted north and sixteen south.

III. Skagerrak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea.

1. Enemy Situation:

At 1141 one of our submarines reported nine PT boats heading northwest at high speed 20 miles northwest of Aseri.

2. Own Situation:

Admiral Skagerrak:

One mine was swept in the Samsoe Belt.

On account of the disarmament of the Danish police a state of emergency as regards policing was ordered by higher SS and Police Commanders for the whole of Denmark. No signs of strikes are noted at present. Work is proceeding satisfactorily in the shipyards.

Western and Central Baltic:

During the night of 20 Sept. Riga was raided by about 80 enemy planes. An ammunition train was blown up. Heavy damage was caused to rolling stock.

Fifty-six boats were out on minesweeping duty. One mine each was swept in the Bay of Danzig and in the Irben Straits.

At 0520 minesweeper M "502" was rammed and damaged in the Kilberg area by a steamer while lying at anchor and towed to Stettin.

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Admiral, Eastern Baltic:

On the evening of 22 Sept. our Army front ran along a line about 50 km east of Reval. The situation on the fighting fronts is aggravated by casualties and lack of ammunition.

Naval landing craft F "3" with Commanding Admiral, Eastern Baltic Sea and Operations Staff left Reval roads at 0200. Naval Shore Commander, Estonia will leave Reval with the last remaining troops during the course of the day.

Minesweepers of the Narva patrol were withdrawn. Submarines will be transferred from the inner Gulf of Finland to a new operational area west of the "Nashorn" barrages. The ARUGARD with the Commander, 9th Coast Patrol Division is expected in Windau early on 23 Sept.

Transports have so far evacuated 33,612 persons, 2,039 tons of Armed Forces goods and twelve vehicles. Baltic Port and Parnu were abandoned.

Enemy air activity was extraordinarily lively.

On 21 Sept. at 1530 ships on Reval roads were attacked. The NETTELBECK and patrol boat V "1611" were hit by bombs and suffered casualties. The boats are being escorted to the west.

On 22 Sept. at 0700 eight planes attacked one of our convoys northwest of Baltic Port. War transport RO "22" (4,370 BRT) was hit by a bomb, as was also the INGRID TRABER (1,883 BRT). Casualties occurred on both ships. Men who jumped overboard were picked up by one of our submarines and patrol boats. The convoy was resumed at a speed of five knots. At 1315 a fresh attack north of Dagoe was repulsed by heayy anti-aircraft fire.

At 1100 the convoy of steamer MOERO (6,111 BRT) en route from Reval to the south was attacked west of Windau. BThe steamer MOERO was hit heavily and sank at 1155. Three torpedo boats, one minesweeper and two motor minesweepers as well as naval landing craft F "1" are engaged in rescue work.

At 1332 northwest of Dagoe five Bostons attacked the steamer SUMATRA which was hit by a torpedo. It was possible to extinguish a fire resulting from this. The steamer was escorted to Liepaja by torpedo boat T "196". The remainder of the convoy proceeded to Riga with torpedo boat T "123" Two planes were brough down.

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At 1635 five Bostons attacked the steamer MALAYA (2,146 BRT) north-northwest of Baltic Port and scored a bomb hit. The steamer needs tug assistance on account of engine trouble.

IV. Submarine Warfare.

At 0650 submarine U "1001" reported an air attack in the Gulf of Finland in AO 0266 and subsequently observed an attack on war transport RO "22" at 0700.

The boats in Finnish waters will be newly disposed. Three boats will provide the Narval Patrol and six more are disposed in operational areas off the south coast of Finland up to and including the Aaland Sea.

At 1000 a submarine rammed an Estonian boat carrying refugees, which was stopped 30 miles east of the northern point of Gotland, and subsequently arrived in Windau with eleven persons on board.

V. Aerial Warfare.

West Area:

In the course of the day fighter-bombers and reconnaissance activity was reported in the Dutch area with flights over Reich territory. Enemy planes with freight gliders continuously flew into the Arnheim area.

Ten ME 109's were engaged in free-lance fighting and against fighter-bombers as well as for the protection of the civilian population on defense.

Reich Territory:

About 330 enemy planes were reported by day flying singly or in small groups over northwest, west and south Germany.

In the afternoon about 800 enemy planes with fighter escort passed over the coast at the Schelde estuary for a raid on

Cassel. From there heavy damage to the industrial and city area and to traffic installations is reported.

Several hundred enemy planes with fighter escort approached the northern area of Italy from the south where single points were attacked. 500 to 600 planes penetrated further into Reich territory and carried out a fairly heavy raid between 1300 and 1400 on traffic and industrial targets in Munich. Five of our planes were destroyed on the airfield of Reim.

During the night of 22 Sept. only single flights were reported in the Heligoland Bight and west Reich areas.

Mediterranean Theater:

Enemy air activity in the Balkans area generally increased. Raids were principally directed against railway installations.

Sixty twin-engined and four-engined planes coming from southern Italy carried out an attack on the harbor of Salonika. Affurther report is awaited. Ten enemy planes from southern Italy carried out mining of the Danube in the Hungarian area.

Own planes flew reconnaissance.

Eastern Front:

On the eastern front on 21 Sept. 293 of our own and 2150 enemy planes were reported with 7 losses and 21 shot down.

VI. Warfare in the Mediterranean and on the Danube.

1. Area German Naval Command, Italy:

Enemy Situation:

On 21 Sept. at 1630 an aircraft-carrier of the FORMIDABLE class entered Gibraltar from the Atlantic and subsequently went into dock. In the Straits of Gibraltar itself only single traffic in both directions is reported.

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At 0733 air reconnaissance detected five LCT's, eight patrol vessels and one patrol boat 25 miles southwest of Leghorn. No course was given. In Leghorn there were, according to evaluation of photographic reconnaissance: two small naval vessels, three PT boats (artillery), seven LCT's, 29 LCM's, seven small landing boats, 15 freighters etc. The number of vessels has increased compared to 10 Sept.

Own Situation:

Escort and patrol duty was carried out during the night of 21 Sept. as planned. Battery "Rimini West" was blown up on 21 Sept. Light arms, valuable equipment and the radio station were evacuated. Thus Rimini was evacuated by the Navy.

2. Area Naval Group, South:

Adriatic Sea:

Reconnaissance on the Italian east coast was without results.

During the night of 20 Sept. our strong point at Hvar East was evacuated without incident including all supply goods. A strong enemy attack attempting a landing on the strong point of Solta was repulsed. A platoon was landed for reinforcement on the night of 20 Sept. The remaining parts of the company intended for reinforcement were repulsed by enemy PT boats and gunboats.

A planned evacuation of the strong point is contemplated for the night of 22 Sept. The evacuating formation will be escorted by two PT boats.

The situation in Zara is tense. Our strong point at Rasanac is encircled by partisans. Relief is being prepared.

The hospital ship BONN was attacked by partisan boats and chased south of Molat but arrived undamaged in Sibenik.

At 1930 torpedo boats TA "37", "38", and "39" left Cattaro for Cordu. In the early morning torepdo boat TA "37" was observed en route for Cattaro by air reconnaissance and unsuccessfully attacked with five bombs and machine-guns.

The mining operations southeast of Dubrovnik by a naval artillery fighter and a "Siebel" ferry was cancelled owing

to rough sea and postponed until the night of 23 Sept.

The torpedo battery near Pola was reported temporarily ready for action with a set of twin-tubes.

Aegean Sea:

The enemy situation on Kythera is unchanged. About 600 British have landed on the island. Our barrage near Antikythera is being swept by the enemy.

The steamer PETER was torpedoed by an enemy submarine in the Skiatos passage and sunk.

The minelayer DRACHE was detected and attacked in Vathi (Samos) by enemy air forces.

On 21 Sept. at 2047 there was an enemy air raid on Salonika. A naval victualling store was burned out. The machine construction shop in the submarine dockyard were damaged. No damage was cuased in the base. Two planes were shot down.

The evacuation of Monemvasia was approved by Army Group E on a proposal by Commanding Admiral, Aegean Sea. The evacuation of Corfu is set for 23 Sept. by Commanding General, Armed Forces, Southeast in view of the passage of the torpedo boats into the Aegean Sea.

Danube Situation:

A column with 426 wounded and women arrived in Belgrade from Prahovo. The ammunition situation of the Navy has become more serious.

On the Danube no dropping of mines and minesweeping successes are reported. The river is considered dangerous in view of mines between km 1174 and km 1851.

VII. Situation Far East.

According to a report from the Military Attache in Bangkok, the present strength of the British Fleet in the Indian

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Ocean is estimated at 5 battleships, 5 aircraft-carriers, 12 cruisers and 30 destroyers. Mos of the vessels have just arrived. In the imminent large scale operation, a British thrust against the west coast of Sumatra to tie down Japanese forces is expected. A landing on the west coast of the Malay Peninsula as well as an advance into the narrow south China Sea is considered improbable in view of defense facilities.

In the southern Pacific a main American thrust against the southern part of the Philippines (Mindanao) is expected. The Japanese Army Group on the Philippines, which at present consists of 15 divisions, is being reinforced continuously. The Japanese Navy will apparently not expend itself in the battles in the Philippine waters, as it is striving for a decisive battle against the U.S.Fleet in the area of the main Japanese islands. The Japanese regard the coming large scale enemy operations with confidence, as they reckon with enemy difficulties of supply and as they can depend on the determined attitude of their own population in spite of technical inferiority.

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Items of Political Importance.

Nothing special to report.

Commander in Chief, Navy retruned to Headquarters "Koralle".

Conference on the Situation with Commander in Chief, Navy at 1125.

I. Commander in Chief, Navy ordered, in the course of the conference on the situation about the Channel coast that an attempt be made to carry supplies as quickly as possible to Dunkirk by a naval landing craft or naval artillery lighter from Flushing or another harbor near the front with men experienced in the Channel. Naval Command, North, Admiral, Netherlands with copy to Commander. PT boats received instructions to arrange without delay delivery of ammunition necessary for supply and to report intentions.

Commander in Chief, Navy directed the following radio message to the Fortress Commandant, Dunkirk, Rear Admiral Frisius, with copy to Group West:

"I have brought about your appointment as Fortress Commander Dunkirk knowing that you will exhaust all means with the utmost energy in order to make defense of the fortress as effective as possible. I trust that your fortress will be held to the last in accordance with the Fuehrer's order and that the harbor will only be abandoned to the enemy in a completely demolished condition. I am sure that you and your men will add a new leaf to the history of the Navy."

II. Chief, Operations Branch, Operations Division reported on the firective by armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff concerning speeding up of the evacuation of the Aegean islands (see War Diary 22 Sept.) and that the whereabouts of the hospital ship ROSTOCK is unknown. A diplomatic inquiry was instigated.

Commander in Chief, Navy ordered that dispatch of further hospital ships to the fortresses in western France is to wait for the present until the fate of the ROSTOCK has been clarified.

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Commander in Chief, Navy took note of the intention of Commanding General, Armed Forces, Southwest not to demolish harbor installations (see War Diary 22 Sept.) but is not able to agree fully with the views of Field Marshal Kesselring.

III. Quartermaster General:

a. A conference between Quartermaster Division, Shipping and Transport Branch and a representative of the Air Force on control of ships belonging to the Air Force is planned for 26 Sept.

Commander in Chief, Navy ordered immediate measures to ensure that the case of the tanker HANNA is not repeated.

b. Report on the transport situation:

One hundred tons of mercury were transferred from Paris to Kiel and arrived there.

The shortage of locomotives and railway cars is becoming more and more serious in the home area.

c. Commanding General, Armed Forces, West ordered the transfer to the Army of personnel of the manning division in the west area.

d. The allocation of infantry arms to the Navy is stopped until 31 December 1944. However, equipment of the Small Battle Units is approved and will be carried out. It has also been possible to meet other most urgent requirements so far. The request by Naval Command, North for 65,000 rifles and 7,000 pistols can, however, be met only to a slight extent.

e. The report on the conference between Chief, Fleet Branch, Quartermaster Division and the Special Deputy, Danube, Admiral Marschall, as per copy in War Diary 22 Sept.

Commander in Chief, Navy approves the proposal by Naval Staff.

IV. Chief, Bureau of Naval Armament:

About 70 new vessels were transferred from Holland to home shipyards, according to a statement by Director Merker.

V. Chief, Naval Intelligence Division repeated the report on yesterday's intelligence from Ostrov. (See War Diary 22 Sept.).

High Command, Air, Operations Staff stated: "As landings of planes of the 5th British Bomber Division (probably including also the 617th British Bomber Group) in northern Scotland, Lossie Mouth on the Firth of Moray were again ascertained by a reliable source (Gruen Report), a continuation of the British shuttle flights between northern Scotland and Archangel can possibly be reckoned with."

An agent (dependable but as yet untested) reports from Stockholm to Reich Security Central Office on 20 Sept.:

"1. Learned from an Englishman that the British plan an invasion of Denmark aroung 30 Sept. - A simultaneous attack on Norway is not planned as the Allies assume Norway will take care of herself when Denmark has been occupied.

2. At present three planes are transporting the leading Danish politicians who are in Sweden to London; these are to play their part in setting up a Danish Government in London after a successful invasion."

The Russian radio announces the capture of Reval.

A change in the Finnish cabinet took place.

General Eisenhower issued and published an order for occupied German territory.

In a Restricted Circle.

VI. Army Situation.

Western Front:

The transfer of the bulk of the 15th Army across the lower Scheldt was completed on 21 Sept. From 5 Sept. on more than 82,000 men, 530 guns, 4,600 vehicles as well as 4,000 horses and numerous valuable materiel of all kinds were transferred under difficult conditions.

The 1st Parachute Army succeeded near Vecheln in interrupting the advance and supply road of the British 2nd Army over Eindhoven to Nijmegen, attacking with closely concentrated forces from east and west. In the late evening hours a hard struggle was still going on for the bridge position in Vecheln against tenaciously fighting enemy forces, necessitating a request for reinforcements. The attempted blowing-up of the bridge was not successful so far.

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It was possible to thwart the enemy attempts to extend his breakthrough south of this area to the east and west in hard fighting.

The enemy started his bresk-through attack to the north from the bridgehead of Nijmwegen with strong forces in order to establish connection with the forces of the 1st British Airborne Division which were driven further together in the area west of Arnheim. His attacks were repulsed after hasty assembly of all reserves. The situation here is very tense in view of our weak forces.

The fighting round the pocket west of Arnheim still continues.

The 7th Army was able to throw back the enemy to his initial positions by the evening, after he had advanced in a strong attack east of Stolberg.

The main defense line in the Bitburg area is again firmly in our hands. Our formations succeeded in hard fighting in beating the enemy, who had penetrated into the West Wall to a depth of ten km with about 60 tanks, and in throwing him back over the main defense line, destroying 31 tanks and 10 armored reconnaissance cars.

The heavy, fluctuating fighting in the Lueville area and on the Rhine-Marne Canal continues. In heavy fighting the enemy succeeded in repulsing our attacks.

One hundred and seven Sherman tanks were destroyed since the commencement of fighting in this area.

Heavy street fighting is going on on the south-western edge of Epinal and in Remiremont. The enemy was able to extend his major penetrations. Some of our own troops, who are fighting very bravely, lack heavy weapons and gunfire support.

Italian Front:

Northeast of Florence the enemy extended his penetrations in a bitter struggle and gained territory beyond Firenzuola.

On the Adriatic coast the enemy was comparatively quiet. Rimini was evacuated.

Commanding General, Armed Forces, Southwest is alarmed by a strong convoy entering the Mediterranean, by the reported presence of ships and landing craft in Leghorn as well as by the reported large-scale landing exercises in the area of

Cannes - St.Raffael, and he fears an outflanking landing. The enemy is at any time in a position to undertake such an operation to a tactical degree as regards forces.

Balkan Peninsula:

Further casualties and material losses were caused by continuous, strong, enemy air activity, at sea and on the mainland. Nevertheless it was possible to transfer further sections of Assault Division Rhodes and of the 22nd Infantry Division stationed on Crete to the mainland.

In Thessalia lively partisan activity continues, causing serious losses and transport interruptions.

The Bulgarians are offering bitter resistance north of Prilep.

The enemy is being reinforced continuously on the Serbo-Bulgarian border.

On the Danube north of Orsova our own attack came to a standstill before the enemy defenses.

On Solta the 26th Tito Division is attacking the German combat group there.

Eastern Front:

In the Arad area the enemy pushed on further to the west and northwest after taking the city. On both sides of Thorenburg and southeast of Szasz Reen the enemy started the expected attack with superior forces, supported by heavy artillery and ground-attack planes. At no point did he succeed in breaking through our front.

On the Beskides front the enemy pushed further ahead in the direction of the mountain ridge and the Slovakian border. Our counterattacks made only slow progress.

The fights to mop up the southern pocket in Warsaw were continued and the last block of houses was taken against bitter resistance by the rebels.

The enemy succeeded in extending his break-through in the area of Army Group, North west of Baldone, by close assembly of his forces, some of them newly brought up, and on the

right flank of the 18th Army, as well as west of Walk in breaking through the front which was only occupied at strong points owing to the high casualties of the previous defensive fighting. The deep penetration west of Walk is aggravating the situation of the Army Group and is threatening further movements of Army Detachment Narva.

Strong enemy attacks east of Stackeln and Benzeni were broken within the main defense line.

The 2nd Army Corps withdrew from the northern point of the lake Virts - Fellin line further to the south. No combats took place.

The evacuation of Reval was completed with the embarkation of the group of Major General Gerock; the harbor installations were blown up.

VII Chief, Operations Branch, Operations Division. Conference on the instructions of Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff concerning expansion of the Lyngen position as reported. (See War Diary 22 Sept. and previous data). Commander in Chief, Navy agreed.

Special Items.

I. Concerning Eastern Baltic Sea.

a. Admiral, Eastern Baltic Sea submitted the following breif report on the evacuation of Reval on 22 Sept.:

1. Reval:

a. The Commanding Admiral tried by every means since early on 21 Sept. to have a discussion with General Gerok, which had been arranged for 1800 but he could not be reached until 2300. He requested evacuation as early as 0600 on 22 Sept. Thereby the evacuation period which had already been cut short by several days was further shortened at the last moment by 18 more hours; individual discussions conducted by Admiral, Eastern Baltic Seas still alone guarantee carrying out as planned. The bulk of the troops was embarked at 0400. Blastings were continuously carried out in the evening during a Russian air raid. At

0830 the last combat troops embarked on motor minesweepers and naval landing craft. The naval and the commercial harbors were blown up and mined as planned. Setting fire to the city and destruction of the railway, including rolling stock, were rejected by General Gerok apparently on instructions by Army Group North. Not all submarines on watch for a possible landing in the eastern part of the Gulf of Finland have received the recalling orders, therefore the barrage gap near "Wulf" was kept clear and the fouling was laid further to the south. Merchant ships, tows with cranes and lighters were dispatched continuously and protected by all available forces. The same wind-up took place in Baltic Port according to reports received so far. In Reval at least 10,000 men embarked during the night up to the deadline for evacuation. At least 50,000 men have been transferred since 1800 on 17 Sept.

b. The Russian air force is continuously attacking departing convoys, scoring a bomb hit on RO "22" at 0700, on the steamer "MALAGA" at 1550, in either case northwest of Baltic Port. The MOERO which sank west of Ventspils after a combined raid has so far been the only heavy loss suffered. Exact details on ships in the harbor are not known. About 500 were rescued according to the latest reports. Torpedo boats "T "4" and T "12" assigned to Parnu are used for reinforcing the north-south convoys; torpedo boats T "1" and T "8" withdrawn from the Task Force are ordered to reinforce the remaining MOERO convoy. Torpedo boat T "9" is likewise used as additional escort for the Reval convoy traffic.

c. German merchant shipping to the Gulf of Finland was stopped.

d. The radio traffic is blocked completely. Transmittance of top priority messages takes much too long (twelve hours).

2. The 2nd Task Force consisting of four destroyers is en route to the north. It is requested that the convoy "ILLER" should not be at the place designated 0600 on 24 Sept. and that it be placed at the disposal of the Motor Minesweeper Flotilla for Special Duties for the execution of the operation. The convoy leader "ILLER" was informed about the postponement and the Report Center East is requested to issue the same directive to the Air Force tanker HANNA. The Motor Minesweeper Flotilla is not to be committed under presently prevailing weather conditions.

3. Plans: Assembly and renewed commitment of the units

participating in the evacuation of Reval. All possible measures to be taken at once for the defense of the Baltic islands. Additional small vessels to be assigned to all minor ports from Rohokuela to Hainasch.

4. Submarines are on patrol in the reconnaissance strip from Hango to Baltic Port."

Naval Staff, Operations Division relayed the report to Admiral, Fuehrer Headquarters, Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff, Navy, High Command, Air, Operations Staff, Chief, of Operations Branch, Navy and High Command Army, General Staff of the Army, Naval Liaison Officer with a supplement to 1b reading as follows:

"a. The MOERO carried 1,237 men including the crew. According to latest reports 655 men are missing.

b. Naval Liaison Officer to Army General Staff informed Naval Staff of the following opinion of the General Staff:

"1. In spite of plans and the Fuehrer order to defend Riga the development of the situation might, within a very short time, lead to the loss of Riga owing to strong enemy pressure from the south, and to parts of the Northern Army Group located to the north being cut off. The main defense line would in this case run west of Riga. In view of this development of the situation preparations by the Navy are necessary for

a. making the harbor of Riga in time useless;

b. transporting by sea parts of the Army from Riga, Salismuende, Hainasch andfrom the open shore (eastern side of Riga Bay).

2. The question of the possession of the Baltic islands remains unaffected hereby.

a. due to their value from the point of view of naval strategy,

b. due to the fact that they block the RigaBay and the use of Riga."

II. Concerning Finnish Vessels.

a.- Naval Command, Baltic Sea, Naval Command, North, Naval Command, Norway and for information Reich Commissioner of

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Maritime Shipping and Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff, Navy received the following directive from Naval Staff which was dispatched at 2140:

"Concerning Finnish vessels: Crews are to be taken off the ships immediately and to be held for the present. Treatment to be correct. It is to be considered that a part of them amy possibly want to go to sea for Germany Additional details which will also deal with the question of what should be done with the ships will follow."

b. Naval Staff, Operations Division submitted the following proposal concerning the treatment of Finnish ships and crews in the German sphere of influence to Armed Forces High Command and the Foreign Office and, for information, to Reich Commissioner of Maritime Shipping:

"1. Approval is requested that the Finnish ships in the German sphere of influence be taken as prizes and confiscated, whereby it is planned to have the justification for such action not on Article 10 of the lPrize Regulations governing enemy property but on Article 38 paragraph 3 on account of placing the ships under Russian control. Quick action is necessary in order to establish an incontestable legal title for their use.

2. It is expedient not to treat the crews according to Article 76 and following of the Pirze Regulations but to treat them the same way Germans in Finland are being treated. Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff is being requested to arrive at a decision on this matter. It is planned to intern the Finnish crews for the present until a final decision has been reached as soon as no more considerations are necessary after the arrival of our ships returning from Kemi (presumably on the morning of 24 Sept.)".

III. Concerning Swedish Territorial Waters:

At 1405 the Foreign Office communicated the following by telephone: According to a report by the Swedish Charge d' Affaires at Berlin, the German Minister at Stockholm will be informed today by the Swedish Government that foreign ships, beginning the night of 25 Sept., will probably not be allowed to pass through Swedish territorial waters. This ruling will also apply to the ferry traffic of Sassnitz - Trelleborg. The situation resulting in the Baltic Sea from the signing of the Russian-Finnish armistice is given as a reason for this measure.

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Naval Staff, Operations Division requested Reich Commissioner of Maritime Shipping to recall the merchant ships as far as necessary and informed Naval Commands North, Baltic Sea and Norway as well as the Fleet about this action.

IV. Concerning Harbor Demolitions in Holland.

1. In the evening of 22 Sept. a telephone inquiry at Fortress Inspectorate, Naval Command, North on the state of harbor demolitions and further plans resulted in the following:

In the opinion of Naval Command, North all necessary measures were taken to prevent rash harbor demolitions. The attention of all responsible posts was most emphatically drawn to the importance of maintaining the harbor installations as long as possible for further naval and ground operations Further reference to the postponement of harbor demolitions and the intercession of Naval Staff, or Armed forces High Command are not being held necessary by Naval Command, North as the responsible commands know the importance and the value attached to harbors that are intact and as a decision in every individual case can be made only by local commands according to the development of the situation.

2. A telephone inquiry directed to Captain (Navy) Peters attached to Admiral, Army Group G resulted in the following:

Vice Admiral Rieve very strongly and successfully supports the postponement of demolition measures. Commanding General, Army Group B recognized the importance of delay as long as possible is, however, very strongly urged by Commanding General, West to carry out demolition measures hurridlywould be welcomed by Admiral Rieve.

3 A corresponding directive to Commanding General, West from Armed Forces High Command is requested by telephone. (Attention is to be drawn especially to the harbors of Ijmuiden and Helder and the PT boat installations).

4. For the time being Armed Forces High Command is refraining from issuing a directive to Commanding General, West as Naval Group, West is in touch with Commanding General, West and is trying to prompt the latter to concur in the Navy's opinion. Group West will, if it should become necessary, ask for support by Armed Forces High

Command. (The report by Commander, PT Boats about the allegedly ordered demolition of the PT boat shelters in Ijmuiden and Helder is known to Group West).

V. Concerning imminent Danger from Airborne Troop Landings east of the Rhine.

Chief, Army Equipment and Commander, Replacement Army wired on 21 Sept.:

"1. Commanding General, West requested Air Force Command, Reich to investigate in which areas east of the Rhine behind the entire front of Commanding General, West terrain conditions permit enemy airborne landings for forming a bridgehead.

2. The fight against enemy troops landed in these areas is to be directed by the respective competent Deputy Commanding Generals. In addition to the forces for operation "Bluecher" and "Gneisenau" also all other forces of the various branches of the Armed Forces including the Waffen SS, are for this purpose under their command.

3. The prepared measures likewise must be checked continuously in respect to coordination with the other branches of the Armed Forces in order that speedy action and perfect cooperation is guaranteed at all times.

The commanders in the military areas must keep themselves informed about reconnasisance results through the competent Air Corps District Headquarters according to 1."

Naval Staff, Operations Division directed Naval Command, North, Group West and Admiral, Netherlands that the information obtained through the corresponding Air Corps District Headquarters be submitted to Naval Staff.

VI. Concerning the TIRPITZ.

A report by the command of the TIRPITZ concerning the further use of the ship in accordance with the directive by Naval Staff, Operations Division of 21 Sept. was received. Copy as per 1/Skl 3055/44 Gkdos. Chefs. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. IIa. Commander in Chief, Navy after a final conference in the afternoon of 23 Sept. between Naval Staff and Commander in Chief, Navy decided as follows:

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"Since it is impossible to restore the cruising ability and thereby the complete war readiness of the battleship TIRPITZ for her former task the following orders are issued:

1. The task is to maintain the remaining fighting power of the ship, thereby increasing our defensive strength in the Polar area. For this purpose the TIRPITZ is to be transferred as soon as possible into the area west of the Lyngen Fjord and to be used as a floating battery by beaching her in shallow waters to reinforce the Lyngen position. The ship will remain in service with her flag and pennants flying.

2. Decisive for the time of transfer are the following factors:

a. An early withdrawal of the Polar Sea front to the Lyngen position is to be expected.

b. In her present berth the immobile ship runs the risk of being sunk in a renewed raid which may take place at any time.

3. In her present condition the transfer to the west is to be carried out with the aid of tugs as soon as at all possible. The risks entailed from a military and constructional point of view are to be put up with.

4. The following preparations for the transfer are to be made without delay:

a. Selection of a suitable position offering favorable conditions for action by ship's guns as well as the possibility for a sink-proof beaching of the ship.

b. Assignment of at least eight tugs, four of which must be powerful seagoing tugs.

c. Assignment of the escort forces necessary for the transfer.

d. Preparations for the defense of the new berth (anti-aircraft artillery, smoke and net protection). Particulars in respect to the preparatory as well as constructional work on the ship necessary will be ordered separately.

5. On the whole, the arms and the entire crew have to remain aboard until completion of the transfer. After the transfer it is left to the discretion of Naval Command, Norway to have single secondary artillery turrets removed

for the reinforcement of the Polar area west of the Lyngen Fjord together with the ship's anti-aircraft guns; the latter to be set up ashore for the protection of the new berth.

6. I am fully aware of the difficulty of the given task and I am putting all my trust in the soldierly and seafaring spirit of the crew of the battleship TIRPITZ which repeatedly proved itself in special situations and which will also solve this new task made necessary by the severity of the war."

The corresponding directive as per 1/Skl I ops 3069/44 Gkdos. Chefs. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. II.a.

VII. Concerning Action against the Enemy Battleship in the Kola Bay.

Naval Staff, Submarine Division informed Naval Staff, Operations Division of a request respectively directive sent to the Air Forces, Naval Command, Norway, Commander, Submarines, Norway:

"1. The operation by one of our submarines against the battleship lying at anchor in the Kola Bay failed. The boat reported: Got caught in net barrages at different depths on both sides of Salny; periscope bent, port propeller unclear, remained undetected.

2. It is planned to make another attempts to enter the Bay in order to sink the ship. To this end it is absolutely necessary to know the exact position of the net barrage. The 5th Air Force is requestedto confirm by reconnaissance, if at all possible by aerial photography, the exact position of the net barrage and to submit same directly to Commander, Submarines, Norway and, for information, to Naval Command, Norway and Naval Staff, Submarine Division."

Naval Staff, Operations Division is supporting the request at High Command, Air, Operations Staff. Order as per 1/Skl 3060/44 Gkdos. Chefs. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. IIa.

VIII. Concerning Area Naval Group South.

a. The following opinion by Group South is on hand concerning the evacuation of the Dalmatian islands:

"After the evacuation of Korcula, Peljesac, Mljet etc. the evacuation of Solta is now also planned. In this way the island arc off Split will now be eliminated, besides the southern Dalmatian islands.

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Thus a development is coming to a close which started with the non-occupation of Lissa when its seizure was still possible. The foothold gained by the enemy on Lissa and his reinforcement there has led, as was to be foreseen, to continuous harassing actions in the Dalmatian offshore area, to a pronounced threat and to the loss on the inner island passages. It has also tied up our naval forces and greatly facilitated the supplying of partisans on the mainland, not to mention the islands themselves.

The immediate consequences of the present evacuation are a further increase in the reactions which have taken place already and which consist of complete interruption of the coastal traffic, the supplying by sea of southern Dalmatia and of the extreme difficulty with regard to transferring naval forces. These transfers have to a large extent been interrupted completely.

Split is fully blocked. This PT boat base is eliminated and the possibilities for PT boat operations are reduced accordingly. It is impossible to carry out the planned operations by Small Battle Weapons from Split which would have held promises of success particularly in the Lissa area. Furthermore the supplying of the partisans in the area of Ploca- Dubrovnik will also be facilitated more and more. Split would thereby be threatened immediately and an early evacuation by the ground forces must be expected. As a result the only way leading from the Dalmatian area into the rear territory would be opened. The comparatively limited capacity of the supply line from Split to the rear territory is partly offset by partisans extensively operating in this area assuring them of an undisturbed and abundant supply of materials and forces. Therefore major enemy operations in which the well organized Tito Army in Bosnia and Croatia will be employed has to be reckoned with in future. These operations might then extend across the Save as far as the Drau and even threaten the Istrian area from the rear."

b. Group South reported:

"1. The Fuehrer approved the proposal made by Commanding General, Southeast to occupy only temporarily the "Kaiser" position on the latitude of the southern point of Corfu and then to withdraw the defense line farther to the north to the "Kurfuerst" position on the latitude of Sarande and to evacuate Corfu.

2. Attention is drawn to the fact that

a. the PT boat base there will be lost;
b. the communication between the Adriatic Sea -,Aegean Sea

and, thereby, the traffic facilities and the possibilities for shifting forces will be eliminated.

c. Therefore, from the viewpoint of the Navy the evacuation of Corfu should not take place prior to the evacuation of Piraeus-Canal of Corinth as otherwise the communication with the Adriatic Sea would be eliminated anyway except around the southern Peloponnesos."

The retreat of the Army can no longer be stopped in the opinion of Naval Staff. The evacuation of Corfu is to be postponed until the three torpedo boats will have passed according to a report from Commanding Admiral, Aegean Sea.

c. Group South assigned Naval Shore Commander, Albania, effective at one, to the area of Admiral, Aegean Sea as the measures for the evacuation from this area must be taken together with those from the Greek area, and as Albania can no longer be reached anyway via the Adriatic Sea owing to the Dalmatian islands being occupied by the enemy.

IX. Concerning PT Boat Operations:

On the basis of the discussion with Commander, PT Boats at Naval Staff from 19 to 28 Sept. Naval Staff, Operations Division issued the following directive to Naval Commands, North and Norway, Commander, PT Boats and for information to Fleet:

"1. The small number of PT boats (in front flotillas at present only about 25 to 30 boats, about one third or one half of which is ready for action at one time) calls for the concentration of front flotillas in one operational area. The present operational area, as long as there is no basic charge in the over-all situation, is the area of the Hoofden from bases in the area of Naval Command, North.

2. A change in the over-all situation can, perhaps in connection with changes in the assignments make necessary concentrations in other areas, for example in the Heligoland Bight. Skagerrak area (Jutland, south and western Norway), northern Norway and in the Baltic Sea as well as in the Polar area, in the last case with certain restrictions conditioned by the need for depot ships. These possibilities are to be taken into account by preparing the bases.

3. The transfer of a PT boat flotilla into the Polar area requested by Naval Command, Norway in view of supplies

by sea and possible movements of the 20th Mountain Army Command as well as of the possibility of major enemy operations, is also considered very desirable by Naval Staff. This, however, is not possible at present by reason of facts cited under 1. and due to the great disadvantage for the establishment of the PT boat arm resulting from the withdrawal of a depot ship. The assignment of another depot ship for Commander, PT Boats is being investigated. Commander, PT Boats is making all preaprations necessary for carrying out the transfer as quickly as possible when required.

4. For operations in the eastern Baltic Sea a restriction is necessary for the 5th PT Boat Flotilla and the 1st Group of the 2nd PT Boat Training Flotilla released by the PT Boat Training Division. A futher depot ship and the 2nd Group of the 2nd PT Boat Training Flotilla are considered superfluous."

X. Concerning Small Battle Weapons:

Commander in Chief, Navy decided that all efforts be concentrated on the manufacture of Small Battle Weapons "Hai". The operation "Pudel" was cancelled.

Situation 23 Sept.

I. Situation West Area.

1. Enemy Situation:

Twenty-one planes of the 19th Group were spotted on operations. Three British vessels were located in the rendezvous area. Very lively reconnasisance by the 15th Group was observed. Forth-five planes were detected 35 of which were escort planes in communication with Command Post 348. For particulars see Radio Monitoring Report 38/44, Page 6.

2. Own Situation:

Atlantic Coast:

On 23 Sept. at 2000 three armed fishing vessels put out from St. Nazaire to La Palis on a transport assignment.
No special reports from the Atlantic fortresses.

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Withdrawal Movements:

On 22 Sept. directing centers intercepted 155 men.

After withdrawal of the front of the 19th Army Command from the western Vosges position and setting up an uniterrupted front on both sides, naval regiments from Bordeaux and other units in the western area were found to have failed in their efforts to make connection with forces in our sphere of influence. The last position reports are dated 5 Sept. from the area south of Bourges. Reference is made to about 7,000 to 9,000 naval personnel.

Channel Coast:

The convoys Jersey- Guernsey and Guernsey-Sac and return were carried out. Gun-carriers were engaged as remote escorts.

On 22 Sept. the request for a discussion on the military situation made by a plenipotentiary to the Fortress Commander, Channel Islands was refused.

The supply of Guernsey from the air by two He 111 planes is planned for the night of 23 Sept.

Situation of Channel Fortresses:

Dunkirk: Our artillery effectively fought enemy concentrations and movements. On 22 Sept. the outer defenses of the fortress were under fire from enemy artillery and mortars. The city and the base installations were raided by fighter-bombers causing slight damage.

Calais: On 22 Sept. the southern main defense line as well as the city of Calais and the Battery "Lindemann" were subjected to enemy fighter-bomber raids. Enemy batteries were silenced by a sudden concentration of fire from our naval batteries. City and harbor were subjected to three bombing raids. Damage was slight. The enemy, under cover of a smoke screen succeeded in penetrating into an inner strong point where he was wiped out by a counter-thrust. Battery "Waldam" carried out surprise fire on a target located at sea in line with Battery "Oldenburg".

Gris Nez: Batteries "Todt" and "Grosser Kurfuerst" were subjected to light enemy artillery fire. Enemy occupied places were covered by our harassing fire.

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On 23 Sept. patrol activity on both sides was reported, Battery "Grosser Kurfuerst" was subjected to light harassing fire. Apparently the enemy is making preparations for attack. Batteries "Grosser Kurfuerst" and "Todt" reporte scoring hits on vehicles, troops and command posts. Battery "Todt" shelled Dover and Folkestone. As a result heavy clouds of smoke formed and the targets were covered by a smoke screen.

Boulogne: According to a report from Naval Shore Commander, Pas de Calais at 2000 the destructions caused by the Batteries "Creche 1" and "2" could be advanced from Gris Nez. The houses in Boulogne and Vimereux are destroyed. Combat noise from the Boulogne area can no longer be heard; however lively and undisturbed automobil traffic can be observed on the roads leading to the town. It is assumed that the fortress has fallen into the hands of the enemy.

The supply of Lorient and St. Nazaire from the air by three He 111 planes each is planned for the night of 23 Sept.

II. North Sea, Norway, Northern Waters.

L. North Sea:

Heligoland Bight:

The German steamer CHIOS (1,731 BRT) carrying ore struck a mine and was beached on Brunsbuettel roads. The closing of the Weser was cancelled; additional KMA mines were laid off Juist.

The continuation of the Ems-Elbe convoy with three steamers from the Jade to Cuxhaven and of the Elbe-Ems convoy with one steamer from the Jade to the Ems is planned for the night of 24 Sept.

Dutch Coast:

Minesweeper M "3420" ran aground due to fog in the Molen Gat near Helder; the salvage work is proceeding. Minesweeping off Helder and Ijmuiden was carried out during the night of 22 Sept. as planned.

In Amsterdam 120 cranes of all sizes were destroyed besides many other objectives.

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Furthermore, three floating docks, one of which was of 35,000 tons, as well as dockyard installations and slipways were demolished. The North Sea Canal is blocked.

The continuation of the Helder-Borkum convoy with two Hansa steamers, one newly constructed buoy and pilotage t der is planned for the night of 23 Sept. Strong escort will be provided.

Beginning at 1730 continuous incursion by transport planes with freight gliders has been observed, evidently carrying supplies to the Arnheim area. In the evening minesweepers M "425" and "369" were heavily damaged by gunfire from enemy fighter- bombers; the boats returned to Helder with casualties.

The Batteries "Bergen" and "Egmont" in northern Holland were raided by enemy fighter-bombers; no damage worth mentioning was caused.

Schelde:

The ferrying traffic from Breskens was completed. On 24 Sept. the current traffic will be directed by Port Commander, Flushing. The daily performance on 23 Sept. amounted to 1430 men, 425 horses, 62 guns and 292 vehicles.

Naval Special Operations Unit "65" carried out reconnaissance tasks on 21 Sept., according to a report by the Command of Combat Formation and established the place and strength of the enemy airborne landing in the Arnheim area.

The road bridge near Demmel which fell into the hands of the enemy is being prepared for blasting by Naval Special Operation Unit "65". The operation remained without success.

The Small Battle Weapons Flotilla "214" is to transfer to Groningen for the relief of the Channel fortresses. Operational Commander is Lieutenant (Navy) Bastian.

2. Norway, Northern Waters:

Enemy Situation:

Twenty-eight planes of the 18th Group were detected on operations. At 1042 a British vessel was located by Hammerfest in 238°, another one by Svanvik in 248° at 2325.

At 1728 radio monitoring intercepted a very urgent radiogram from the British radio station Polyarnoe to all ships in the

home area.

The evaluation of radio traffic and comparison with last year's results gives rise to the assumption that a PQ convoy en route must have past the Bear Island area in the evening of 22 Sept.

Own Situation:

In the area of Admiral, Polar Coast the aircraft tender MAX STRINSKY attached to the Air Force struck one of our mines in the Alta Fjord in the evening of 21 Sept. and was beached.

Brisk enemy flight activity by 67 planes in the Petsamo - Kirkenes area was reported from 20 to 22 Sept. Bombs and mines were dropped in the entrance to the Varanger Fjord.

From the area of Admiral, West Coast brisk enemy air activity by 34 planes in all in the Boemmelen and Fedje Fjord was reported on 22 Sept. Fourteen ships were escorted north, 21 ships south.

III Skagerrak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea.

1. Enemy Situation:

At 0840, 15 small vessels were sighted in AO 3652 on westerly courses.

According to a report by one of our submarines three PT boats were off the barrage gap "Nashorn", apparently looking for a gap in the direction of Nargoen, without success.

2. Own Situation:

Thirteen boats were on mine clearance duty. The remaining part of the submarine net barrage Seelandsrev was laid out once more.

Western and Central Baltic:

Sixty-eight boats were on mine clearance duty. One mine was swept in the Irben Straits, one in Danzig Bay and one in Pommeranian Bay.

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Admiral, Eastern Baltic:

On 22 Sept. at 0830 Tallinn and Baltic Port were evacuated and destroyed as planned. The commercial harbor and the naval base were mined. The Tallinn Bay was fouled with TMB and AT mines. The evacuation and demolition of both harbors was a complete success. Tallinn is occupied by the enemy. Parnu has apparently been evacuated in the evening of 22 Sept. Our shipping traffic was on the whole directed to Hainasch. Naval Shore Commander, Estonia is at present stationed in Werder.

Naval landing craft F "3" arrived in Liepaja at 0700 with Admiral, Eastern Baltic and Operations Staff aboard.

The air raid on the steamer AMOERO was carried out by 17 Bostons She had aboard 1,237 men including the crew; 655 were counted missing, about 600 were wounded, according to reports received so far.

The damaged steamer MALAGA was west of Dagoe at 0500 with the convoy LINZ, BRUMMER and minesweeper M "293".

One tug and two torpedo boats left to meet the convoy and to render assistance.

At 0735 three Bostons attacked the tanker RUDOLF ALBRECHT northwest of Dagoe with a misfired torpedo and gunfire. One of the attacking planes was drowned. Seven of our submarines are in the operational area west of "Nashorn" and two in the Aaland Sea.

About 50,000 persons from Tallinn and Baltic Port and about 5,400 from Parnu were transported within the evacuation program for Army Group North during the period from 17 to 23 Sept. In addition more than 3,000 tons of Armed Forces material as well as some horses and vehicles were evacuated while 290 tons more supplies were still transported to Riga on 22 Sept.

IV. Submarine Warfare.

Submarine U "315" on a special assignment in the Kola Bay reported from Northern Waters that the boat got caught in net barrages at different depths on either side of the island of Salmy. The front periscope of the boat was bent, one propeller was damaged. The boat

started on the return trip unnoticed after touching ground. Commanding Admiral, Submarines plans to repeat the attempt at entering Kola Bay after a thorough photographic reconnasisance over the barrage gap. In view of the assumed PQ convoy the submarines of Group Grimm are transferring their operational area to the line AC 52 - 49.

V. Aerial Warfare.

West Area:

In the late afternoon continuous incursions by formations of four-engined planes partly with freight gliders were reported which dropped supplies and containers and landed parachute troops and airborne troops in the Arnheim - Nijmegen area.

During the day 44 planes were on operations against fighter-bombers in the Dutch-Belgian area. Seven enemy planes were downed. One of our planes failed to return.

During the night of 23 Sept. two He 111 planes carried supplies to Guernsey as planned.

Reich Territory:

In addition to isolated planes on missions over north-western and southern Germany about 300 enemy planes with fighter escort approached from the south for raids on the Hydrogenating Plant at Bruex as well as on Wels and on the Pilsen area.

See daily situation for damage caused.

On the night of 23 Sept. several hundred enemy planes entered the Rhenish-Westphalian area by way of Holland-Belgium. Numerous places in this area as well as Muenster and an airfield were raided. Twenty to twenty-five enemy planes approached by way of the Heligoland Bay and northwestern Germany for a gunfire raid against the Hoya airfield.

Mediterranean Theater:

About one hundred planes without fighter escort approaching from southern Italy raided the Otranto Strait crossing, rail and transport installations in the Larissa area.

Twelve enemy planes unsuccessfully attacked the Morava railway bridge near Belgrade with gunfire and bombs. Eight hundred and thirty enemy planes were counted in the Italian front sector, two of which were brought down by anti-aircraft guns. Other enemy operations were on the usual scale.

Eastern Front:

On 22 Sept. 669 of our own and 2,439 enemy planes were counted on missions; 41 enemy planes are downed, five of our own planes failed to return to their base.

Reconnaissance on Kola Bay by the 5th Air Force observed eight large steamers north of Murmansk. The battleship which so far had been berthed in Vayenga was photographed at Cape Pinargori.

VI. Warfare in the Mediterranean and in the Danube Area.

1. Area of German Naval Command, Italy:

Enemy Situation:

In the afternoon of 22 Sept. a convoy consisting of 69 ships among which were on transport, 44 freighters, 13 tankers and 11 corvettes passed Gibraltar Straits on westerly course.

Reconnaissance off the southern French coast and over the Bay of Genoa observed the usual enemy activity.

At 0715 three PT boats heading south, evidently on their return from a sweep against convoy traffic were observed west-southwest of Leghorn.

Own Situation:

During the night of 23 Sept. convoy and escort duties were carried out as planned. A naval landing craft convoy and a barge convoy sailing from Savona to Imperia were unsuccessfully attacked by PT boats and planes. One of the attacking planes was brought down. Enemy vessels, presumably PT boats, detected off Nervi and Portofino, were shelled by naval guns for a short time and turned away.

Additional forty KMA mines were laid north of Cesenatico.

The Command of Small Battle Units ordered the Small Battle Weapons Flotilla "213" to be transferred from Verona to Revenna. 29 "Molche" of the Small Battle Weapons Flotilla "411" will transfer to Padua for operations in the northern Adriatic Sea. Ten "Molche" of the same flotilla will remain in San Remo, likewise the Assault Boat Flotilla consisting of four SMA and five MTM (Italian assault boats).

2. Area Naval Group, South:

Adriatic Sea:

In the evening of 22 Sept. air reconnaissance reported four ships 15 miles east-northeast of Cesenatico and 16 miles north of Ancona. These targets were again detected later on. Harbor and Bay of Ancona were reconnoitred. Nothing unusual was noticed about the ships in the harbor.

During the day on 22 Sept. the coast near Bellaria and Cesenatico was subjected to continuous fighter-bomber attacks, and during the night of 23 Sept. to heavy artillery shelling. Damage in naval installations has not been reported so far.

Torpedo boats TA "37", "38" and "39" had battle contact with three British one-funnel destroyers on 23 Sept. from 0500 to 0620 while breaking through the Otranto Straits, apparently without any effect on either side. Our own unit arrived in Pagania Bay east of Corfu in the forenoon. Four boats of the 21st PT Boat Flotilla arrived in Corfu.

The hospital ship BONN was unsuccessfully fired on by a partisan boat between Zara and Trieste near the island of Scarda. In the evening of 22 Sept. two motor minesweepers were unsuccessfully shelled from the shore north of Pasman while en route from Zara to Sibenic. The fire was returned.

The island of Solta was evacuated during the night of 23 Sept. Withdrawal movements were successful owing to the supporting gunfire from army coastal batteries and naval artillery against enemy gun boats. Only one engineer landing craft was lost. Three PT boats were engaged in schreening the withdrawal operation.

Rasanac was likewise evacuated and occupied by partisans.

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At 0719 Venice repeated an SOS call from the British hospital ship St. ANDREW which struck a mine off Pesaro and was being abandoned by the crew.

An operation by three PT boats of the 3rd PT Boat Flotilla is planned for the night of 23 Sept. in the Monopoli - Bari area.

Aegean Sea:

The report about the landing of planes from a British auxiliary aircraft carrier on Turkish airfields has not been confirmed so far, according to Army Group F.

Our air reconnaissance located eleven naval targets north of the Suda Bay during the noon hours of 22 Sept.

The enemy situation on Kythera is unchanged. Twenty-five to thirty vessels and, in addition, four destroyers are expected to be involved.

During the night of 23 Sept. an enemy submarine was located south of Cape Sunimu and engaged in combat by submarine chaser "2102" near Skiatos after an unsuccessful attack on the latter. An additional submarine was detected east of Simi in the afternoon.

Following an air raid in the afternoon of 22 Sept. the DRACHE exploded at the pier and sank. The captain was killed.

Danube Situation:

The area of Ogradina and the lower Kazan approach have been subjected to heavy Russian artillery fire since the early hours of 21 Sept. The enemy crossed the Danube from Kladovo to Vac in unknown strength during the night of 21 Sept. Local countermeasures were started.

Dropping of mines and mine clearance were not reported.

VII. Situation Far East.

According to press reports the enemy is intensifying his action against the Philippines. Manila was repeatedly raided by enemy planes.

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Items of Political Importance.

The Finnish Parliament ratified unanimously the armistice terms.

The British and the U.S. Ambassador in Moscow informed Stalin on the Quebec resolutions.

The French Foreign Minister Bidault announces the French conditions for participation in settling the post-war issues in Europe.

In his first election braodcast Roosevelt mentioned among other things the capacity of the U.S. armaments industry, the yearly output of which at peak production is said to have been 109,000 planes, 57,000 tanks, 573 war ships, 31,000 landing boats and 19,000,000 tons deadweight freight shipping space as well as 23,000 million rounds of ammunition.

The blocking of Swedish territorial waters to foreign vessels is meant to apply solely to the southern and eastern coast from Falsterbo to the Finnish border according to radio broadcast.

Conference on the Situation with Commander in Chief. Navy at 1110.

I. According to the evaluation of the situation by Foreign Armies West of 23 Sept. two out of three airborne corps of the 1st Allied Airborne Army were committed in Holland, namely one British corps with the exception of one division, and one American corps. The third airborne corps which remained in England may have been earmarked for commitment in the sector of Wesermuende (Bremerhaven) - Emden probably in connection with a landing operation by the 4th British Army. This operation must be expected as soon as it will be possible for the enemy to launch a new operation from a secured bridgehead at Arnheim.

The 6th British Airborne Division which was still left behind in England is said to be earmarked for a surprise operation against northern Jutland.

II. Prompted by a new incident with the Air Force tender STRITZKY, Naval Staff on orders by Commander in Chief, Navy directed the following teletype to Air Force, Operations Staff, for information to the Air Force General for Naval Affairs, Naval Liaison Officer at High Command,

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Air and to Naval Staff, Quartermaster division, Organization and Mobilization Branch:

"Regardless of the results of the conference planned for 27 Sept. a special incident requires the attention of the captians of the ships in question being called to the absolute necessity in each individual case to give notice of departure prior to putting out to sea to the local office of the Navy (port commander, harbor or coastal patrol offices and such) for the purpose of obtaining nautical data and receiving other orders issued by the Navy concerning the naval area about to be covered."

III. With regard to the situation in the Mediterranean theater a report was made on the evaluation of the situation in the Adriatic Sea by Group South. (See War Diary, 23 Sept.).

Commander in Chief, Navy expressly approved and reiterated having repeatedly presented the same standpoint to the Fuehrer who was of the same opinion but did not want to intercede by issuing orders to the Army and the Air Force on this question.

The evaluation of the situation will be submitted with a not of approval by Naval Staff to Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff to Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff, Navy; High Command, Air; Chief of Operations Branch, Navy; High Command, Army; General Staff of the Army, Naval Liaison Officer and Admiral, Fuehrer Headquarters.

IV. Commanding General, West submitted the following radio directive to the fortrees commanders in France:

"The French, by offering favorable terms, tried to inveigle an Atlantic fortress to surrender or to declare itself neutral. In respect to the basic questions involved in negotiations between a fortress commander and the enemy, Armed Forces High Command decided: There is only one decision: that the fortresses should be held as long as possible and defended to the very last. To this end the use of any means is justified."

Commander in Chief, Navy holds this solution to be highly dangerous. Commanding Admiral, Group West has already issued a warning to that effect.

Commanding General, West issued a directive according to which

those parts of the French resistance movement which are cooperating with regular enemy troops are to be regarded as combatants.

V. Chief of Intelligence Division, Naval Staff gave information on the harbor demolitions in Cherbourg and Marseille as recorded in an agent's reports; furthermore on a report by Reich Sedurity Central Office concerning the chances of an enemy landing in the Heligoland Bight, on curtailments in the British armament industry as well as on the situation in Thrace. A further report was made on conditions in Hungary according to a Reich Security Central Office report, and on the declaration of war on Germany by the Republic of San Marino.

Reuter reported at 0300 that Cape Gris Nez is said to have fallen.

According to a Finnish daily report forces are being concentrated to the north to prevent the withdrawal of German troops.

In a Restricted Circle.

VI. Army Situation.

Western Front:

The enemy carried out a new major airborne landing the extent of which cannot yet be foreseen in its details. While the landings near Vechel can be interpreted as a countermove against the successful German attack, the especially strong landings in the area between Maas and Waal south of Nijmegen are of decisive operative importance.

The threat of a heavy enemy attack between Rhine and Maas to the east and southeast is becoming apparent. In view of our own weak forces the general situation is being considered critical, particularly so as the enemy penetration near Astern was also considerably extended to the east.

An additional airborne corps consisting of three to four divisions is still in England. This corps is to participate in landing operations to be made by the 4th British Army supposedly in the Heligoland Bight, in the sector Wessrmuende (Bremerhaven) - Emden.

Fighting in the area between Aachen and Trier was only of local importance in spite of its occasional severity and violence.

Southeast of Luneville, at Army Group G, the enemy secceeded in achieving a deep penetration which was cut off by shortening the front.

On 23 Sept. the great pressure exerted by the enemy on the entire front of 19th Army Command increased as the result of tank formations being brought up into the penetrations. The Epinal and Remiremont bridgeheads had to be withdrawn to the eastern bank of the Moselle. In some places the enemy crossed the upper Moselle and is attempting to roll up the remaining Moselle front from his newly established bridgeheads.

A strong concerntration of enemy forces is becoming noticeable in the area of Luneville - Nancy; the concentric spearhead points at the Rhine - Main plains by way of the Saar territory This American Army will still be reinforced by the American 8th Army Corps at present still in the Bretagne.

Italian Front:

In the Florence area the enemy continued his strong attacks, bringing up new forces. Additional territory was was gained. The bringing up of our own forces is to a great extent being delayed by the enemy airforce.

Strong local fighting along the Adriatic front.

The renewed employment of Polish forces in the San Marino area is probable. The Polish forces which were possibly intended for use in an operation against Istria would thereby lose considerably in importance.

Balkan Peninsula:

After departure of the enemy aircraft carrier force, a let-up in the air activity in the Aegean Sea has become noticeable. The evacuation by air from the islands to the mainland is now being continued. Owing to the lack of ships the evacuation of arms by air has now also been ordered.

The extended bridgehead of Corinth was withdrawn, the protection of the Corinth Canal is further guaranteed.

The enemy crossed the Danube in the Kladovo area in unknown strength.

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Countermeasures were started.

Following negotiations, the Chetniks released German members of the armed forces and of the Organization Todt from captivity.

The strong point Hvar at the Dalmatian front, with all supply goods, was evacuated without incident. A renewed enemy landing in the Rokaca Bay was repulsed.

The situation of the German troops encircled in Banya Luka has been further aggravated. The citadel is still in our hands. The supply by air was carried out. The relief group of the 1st Cossack Division was repulsed.

Eastern Front:

Withdrawal movements of our own troops on the Hungarian-Rumanian border.

Resistance on the Transylvanian front is being kept up by only numerically weak German groups; The Hungarians are showing little fighting spirit.

Strong enemy attacks in the Szekler tip were on the whole repulsed.

In the Beskides the major battle for the passes is still going on in unrelenting severity. The enemy advanced as far as the ridges and reached Slovakian territory. Counterattacks by German armored divisions were started.

The situation of the entire Northern Army Group was aggravated by the enemy penetrating into the Baldone area south of Riga. Forces becoming available on the Narva front are being thrown into action here against the Russian onslaught.

In spite of the large penetration of the enemy on the preceding day and the continuedadvance of the Russina tank spearheads in the Volmar area, the 18th Army Group secceeded in maintaining the local contact along the front thanks to the great support rendered by the Air Force.

The enemy followed our withdrawal movements between Lake Virts and the Riga Bay with reconnaissance only. The harbor of Parnu was evacuated. Our rear guard withdrew along the coastal road as far as Haademester.

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Commander in Chief, Navy ordered that the attention of Chief, Army General Staff be drawn by telephone to the importance of the harbor of Riga for the embarkation of large troop formations of the Northern Army Group, especially after the loss of Parnu.

This notification was subsequently transmitted.

VII. Chief, Operations Branch, Operations Division:

a. Report on the directive concerning PT boat operations (compare War Diary, 23 Sept.)

Commander in Chief, Navy agreed and pointed to the necessity of permitting a special freedom of action on the part of the command.

b. Further statements on the report by Group South concerning the evacuation of Corfu (compare War Diary, 23 Sept.).

In connection with the question whether action by Naval Staff is necessary, Commander in Chief, Navy emphasized the importance inherent in the position of Naval Operations Liaison attached to Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff by the appointment of Captain (Navy) Assmann It was discussed whether the appointment of another naval officer to the inner Staff of the Chief, Armed Forces, Operations Staff is necessary. No decision was reached.

VIII. Naval Staff, Quartermaster General:

Naval Command, Norway reported with reference to the plans for the TIRPITZ that the permanent installation of smoke protection would at best take three months. The net material is probably sufficient; it could be laid on time. Tugs will be supplied from the Norwegian area. The evecution of the major plan contemplated by Naval Staff equals the tasks involved in establishing a naval base. In view of the very great material shortages existing, the coming polar winter, the dependency on road conditions and trucks, the lack of fuel and personnel as well as of local conditions at present still unknown, it must be expected that a considerable amount of time will be required.

For maintaining the operational readiness of the only operative combat forces in the Polar area the all-round expenditure for Alta as a major base was justified and necessary. However, the expenditure of paractically the same amount of money for a floating or a beached battery appears hardly justifiable, partucularly as the demand for anti-aircraft artillery and smoke protection for submarine bases is becoming more and more urgent.

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Concerning the question of making the TIRPITZ serve as a PT boat base Naval Command, Norway takes the following stand:

"The operative commitment of PT boats in the Polar area depends exclusively on the enemy situation. Therefore, a high degree of flexibility is necessary. Should the assignment of a depot ship be impossible, the operations would have to be organized differently. according to the situation, making full use of existing bases and installations. The occasional use of the TIRPITZ as an additional base appears to be highly undesirable for this reason; likewise the danger to the ship would be undoubtedly increased.

Special Items.

I. Concerning Eastern Baltic Sea:

A. Naval Command, Baltic Sea issued the following directive to 2nd Task Force and for information to Admiral, Western Baltic, Naval Staff, Operations Division concerning the meeting of the Kemi group:

"1. An answer from Valve is hardly to be expected, therefore everything is to be based on operation "Bruno".

2. The Minesweeper Flotilla fro Special Duty will probably not be available in time due to engagement in convoy tasks and sea damage. The assignment of two minesweeping boats is planned, however, uncertain, Therefore, only the eastern Finnish passage in the Aaland Sea will eventually come into consideration. It would be expedient to receive the convoy north of the position by a subdivision of destroyers with bow protection gear and protecting paravane sweep."

B. Naval Staff directed the following teletype to Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff, Admiral, Fuehrer Headquarters and to the Foreign Office:

"1. The armistice treaty also obliges the Finns to make the German mine barrages known to the Russians and to sweep them.

2. The sweeping of our barrages must be regarded as a hostile act.

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3. It is, therefore, our intention to issue orders to our naval forces to attack Finns who attempt to sweep our mines.

4. Approval to 3. is requested."

II. Concerning Area Naval Command, Norway.

a. Naval Command, Norway reported: The Finnish patrol boat TURJA and the Finnish trawler RUIJA en route from the Arctic Ocean around Norway to Turku will remain in Kirkenes according to an agreement between Naval Liaison Staff, Finland and the Finnish Naval Commander in Kirkenes. The crews were sent home.

It is intended that the useful vessels be taken over by the Navy.

Naval Staff, Operations Division issued a relevant directive to Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division.

b. Naval Command, Norway requested the temporary assignment of two minesweeping planes to accelerate the sweeping of the Oslo Fjord.

Naval Staff, Operations Division directed a relevant request to High Command, Air, Operations Staff and the Inspector of Air Mines.

c. Naval Command, Norway on 17 Sept. requested the assignment of a new mine-exploding vessel for action in the Oslo Fjord as the mine-exploding vessel "185" will probably be out of commission for six months.

Naval Staff decided:

"As long as mine-exploding vessel "185" remains out of commission the task, as far as necessary, is to be taken over by forces of the 8th Defense Division. Replacements are to be requested from Admiral, Skagerrak (8th Defense Division) as the occasion arises."

III. Concerning Area Naval Command, North:

a. Naval Command, North has requested 1,200 EMC mines and 1,200 anti-sweeping devices for planned mining tasks in the areas of Borkum, Heligoland and Sylt. Due to the necessity of reinforcing the Skagerrak barrages and the allocating of mining material for the further extension of the "Seeigel" barrages only 600 EMC mines and 400 anti-sweeping devices from the October output could be promised to Naval Command,

North at present and further allocations from future production.

As the war situation in the Gulf of Finland has changed and as the Naval Command, Baltic, owing to reasons pertaining to the transport of mines and the lack of mine carriers, requested that delivery of the allocated mines not be made until the middle of October, Naval Command, North Sea can now be allocated the requested barrage material. A bottle neck in the production of barrage material existing, however, at present, allocation to the extent requested is not possible. It is also necessary for the Mining Material Department to select the allocated amount of barrage material on a priority basis that will guarantee more favorable production results.

With respect to this allocation, the delivery to Naval Command, Baltic for the Skagerrak remains unchanged; 780 EMC are ready in Peyse to be called for at any time for further mining plans in the Gulf of Finland.

Naval Command, North therefore received the following note upon the renewed request of 21 Sept.

"The following material will be allocated under "Nd 113" to Naval Command, North Sea for mining operations in the Heligoland Bight: 1,200 EMC mines and 700 anti-sweeping devices. The kind of anti-sweeping devices will be designated by High Command, Navy, Mining Material according to production arrivals. Naval Command, North Sea will submit plans for mining operations to Naval Staff as soon as possible."

b. Naval Command, North reported:

"Owing to the reduction in the heavy anti-aircraft ammunition stores in the area of Commanding Admiral, Heligoland Bight to about 60 percent of the required quantities (stores of the batteries and arsenals combined), restrictions in the use of ammunition have been ordered. Curtain and barrage fire restricted to three rounds per gun. In all other cases full use of ammunition only against promising targets." The Ordanance Office will try to comply with any request which, in another area, is based on similar conditions.

c. Naval Staff decided in accordance with the request by Naval command, North:

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"1. The 36th and 38th Minesweeper Flotillas and naval landing craft MFP "829", "840", "841" are to be transferred to Naval Command, Baltic Sea. Naval landing craft MFP "828" "921" will for the present remain in the Heligoland Bight. A later transfer of all naval landing craft to Norway is to be reckoned with.

2. Approval is given that eight boats of the 2nd Artillery Flotilla and five boats of the 8th Artillery Flotilla can remain with Admiral, Netherlands for the time being. These boats are also to be transferred to the east as soon as the situation permits."

IV. Concerning Area Naval Group South.

a. Group South reported: The Commanding General of Army Group E ordered for Crete and the Dodecanese the following:

"A. The post of the Fortress Commander, Crete will be discontinued; the former artillery commander will become commander of the fortified place Crete.

The evacuation of Crete is being continued; owing to the aggravated naval situation it is being primarily carried out by air transports. Ther personnel of special weapons (heavy anti-aircraft guns, tanks) will be evacuated for the present only to the extent to which the simultaneous evacuation of the equipment belonging to them is assured. The bulk of air transports consists at present of infantry and the personnel of blasted coastal guns. It was ordered that, in case the evacuation has to be discontinued, the inner fortress is to be defended as long as possible, to the last cartridge, so as to tie down strong enemy forces, thereby relieving the pressure from operations on the mainland and alleviating the defense of the lhomeland.

B. The Staff of the Assault Division "Rhodos" is being evacuated by air. The Commander of the Fortress Brigade "339", Colonel Wagner, is in command of the Eastern Aegean Sea and at the same time of the fortified place Rhodes. The evacuation pf the Dodecanese is being continued; the tentatively remaining forces will be concentrated on the islands of Rhodes and Leros. In case of an enemy attack on Rhodes the same orders will apply that were issued for Crete.

It is then planned to palce the northern sector (Leros, Coos, Samos) directly under the command of Army Group E. The island

garrison whose evacuation is no longer possible will have to fight to the very end."

b. Group South further reported:

"Contrary to the last report, Army Group E has now ordered an accelerated evacuation of Corfu which is already going on."

c. Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff issued orders on the reconnaissance of a border position in the southeast and the extension of the German protective zone in Slovakia. Copy as per 1/Skl I Op 29075/44 Gkdos. in file I Op 1 Skl IV, 1.

Naval Staff, Operations Division informed Group South, Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division, Chief, Of Bureau of Naval Armaments and Chief of Bureau of Naval Administrations by copies.

Situation 24 Sept.

I. Situation West Area:

1. Enemy Situation:

Twenty-two planes of the 19th Group were spotted on missions. Four British vessels were located in the rendezvous area. The 15th Group showed very lively reconnasissance activity. Thirty-one planes including nineteen escorts were spotted.

According to radio traffic the British Prime Minister is on his return trip and has apparently reached a port situated outside of Great Britain on 23 Sept.

The British destroyer WATCHMANN received tug assistance in BF 3249.

2. Own Situation:

AtlanticCoast:

Submarine U "267" sailed from St. Nazaire on 23 Sept. at 2200. The Commander of the 6th Patrol Boat Flotilla carried out a convoy with three minesweeping boats and three patrol boats and returned to St. Nazaire.

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Atlantic Fortresses:

Lorient: Our artillery shelled enemy infantry and artillery which thereupon changed their positions. A new heavy enemy battery and several medium batteries were brought into position at the eastern sector.

St. Nazaire: An enemy attack supported by heavy arms was repulsed on 23 Sept.; seven casualties were inflicted. On 24 Sept. brisk activity by scouting squads from both sides was reported. Two harbor defense vessels are on position up the river Loire to prevent the enemy from landing on the northern bank.

La Rochelle: Sixty percent of the population has been evacuated.

No special new reports are on hand from the Gironde Fortresses. No supplies were flown to the Atlantic fortresses during the night of 23 Sept. owing to weather conditions. It is planned to have four planes each carry supplies to Lorient and St. Nazaire during the night of 24 Sept.

Channel Coast:

Battery "Todt" shelled Dover and Folkestone and observed heavy clouds of smoke. The targets were covered by a smoke screen.

In the afternoon of 23 Sept. enemy PT boats were sighted off Dunkirk and were forced by coastal guns to turn away. In the Ostend area enemy minesweepers were heading east.

Situation Channel Fortresses:

Dunkirk: On 23 Sept. the entire defense sector was subjected to strong enemy artillery fire. Enemy batteries made out were successfully covered by our harassing fire.

Calais: On 23 Sept. our batteries were subjected to enemy artillery fire; no damage was caused. Heavy vehicle traffic from the direction of Boulogne was effectively fired on by naval guns.

Beginning at 1900 Battery "Lindemann" was bombarded by 100 enemy planes. The results have not yet become known.

Gris Nez: The Artillery Group "Gris Nez" with the Batteries "Todt", "Grosser Kurfuerst" and "Gris Nez" has been without communication with neighboring areas since 23 Sept.

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The Group is to be regarded as a self-contained fortress in which only naval troops are fighting. Medium heavy enemy fire directed against the Group on 23 Sept. caused material damage which could be repaired. Enemy concentrations were covered with harassing fire. An enemy concentration in the Wimereux engineering park was dispersed. The enemy troops are interspersed with Indians. According to an enemy report at 1800 Cape Gris Nez and the long range guns there were taken by the enemy.

II. North Sea, Norway, Northern Waters.

1. North Sea:

Heligoland Bight:

One mine was swept off Brunsbuettel. The Elbe channel is closed from the Ostebank to the Scheelenkuhlen.

Convoy duty was carried out during the night of 24 Sept. as planned.

In the evening a Dutch lighter sank off the Elbe after a collision with a patrol boat.

During the night of 23 Sept. naval anti-aircraft artillery at Wilhelmshaven, Heligoland, Wesermuende (Bremerhaven), Norderney and Emden shelled planes returning from the Baltic area.

Dutch Coast:

Demolitions and blastings in the harbors of Rotterdam and Amsterdam were continued.

During the night of 23 Sept. the convoy Helder-Borkum was repeatedly but unsuccessfully raided by enemy fighter-bombers The 19th Minesweeper Flotilla escorted the convoy to Borkum.

At noon anti-aircraft artillery at Flushing shot down an enemy plane. Battery "1230" was withdrawn.

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Schelde Area:

Naval Command, North reported particulars on the blocking of the Schelde between Antwerp and Flushing. Besides laying two barrages, extensive fouling was carried out. The blocking at Waalsoorden barrage was not possible due to the lack of tugs and on account of the air situation. One hundred and sixty-one mines still on hand will be used for the further fouling of the Schelde channel, the Oost Gat and the Vere Gat. Naval Command, North reported in conclusion that altogether the following were ferried across the Schelde: 84,636 horses, more than 2,695 bicycles, one complete railway battery with 4 guns, and other material in addition to a great deal of equipment. Of these more than 55,000 men were handled by the Special Staff "Knuth" in the course of its commitment from 7 to 21 Sept.

For the night of 25 Sept. the Naval Special Operations Unit "60" is planning a reconnaissance operation with a "K-Linse" at the quay of Antwerp to establish promising targets for "Marder " and "Linsen" operations. Naval Special Operations Unit "6/65" is preparing a renewed operation for blasting the bridge across the Maas near Bemmel. Eight tons of mine blasting material are to be transported there by two "K-Linsen".

2. Norway, Northern Waters:

Enemy Situation:

Twenty-nine planes were detected on missions in the area of the 18th Group.

At 0427 an American warship in radio communication with Reykjavik was intercepted by Hammerfest in 325°.

Sightings by our air reconnasissance established only a small number of ships to be present in Scapa. Observed were one aircraft carrier, one battleship, two light cruisers, four destroyers, and others. On 23 Sept. at 0246 radio monitoring of the Air Force located an American vessel off the Greenland coast between 75° and 76° 20' north.

In the future, too, Naval Command, Norway is expecting strong enemy activity in the entire Norway area, especially of submarines against our shipping and of the enemy air force against our submarines in the immediate naval approaches, particularly to Bergen and Drontheim. Presumptions concerning PQ or QP convoys have not been confirmed for the time being.

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It must be expected that they are under way. Likewise it must be expected that enemy combat groups will suddenly appear off the coast for the purpose of carrying out limited assignments.

According to statements made by prisoners the Anglo-American vessels detected in ports of the Arctic Ocean (one battleship, one cruiser, six submarines) were handed over to Russia and are sailing with Russian crews. While reliable data are missing, Naval Command, Norway is also expecting operations by Russian naval forces or joint operations.

The small number os ships in Scapa Flow as established by radio interception could give rise to the assumption of a PQ convoy being at about the Baar Island on 22 Sept. The presence of combat and carrier groups in Northern Waters is to be presumed. On the basis of experiences made so far attacks against the coast are, therefore, not out of the question.

Own Situation:

On 23 Sept. at 1730 the steamer ILLKIRCH was attacked south of Hammerfest by an enemy plane with two torpedoes which missed their target. The attacker was brought down.

Eighteen ships northbound and thrity-six ships southbound were escorted.

Naval Command, Norway placed the 15th Patrol Boat Flotilla consisting of five submarine chasers, two patrol boats, and one task force under the command of Admiral, Arctic Coast. Seven patrol boats were assigned to Admiral, West Coast.

Five patrol boats were placed under the command of Naval Shore Commander, Oslo Fjord with assignment to the Harbor Difense Flotilla, Oslo Fjord.

III. Skagerrak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea.

1. Enemy Situation:

Nothing to report.

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2. Own Situation:

Admiral, Skagerrak:

In the course of the action taken against the Danish police 2,304 policemen were arrested in Copenhagen on 19 Sept.; 1,698 of them were transferred to Germany aboard the steamer KOMETA, 130 were selected for reassignment. In Odense, Aarhus and Aalborg further 430 officials were arrested.

Eighteen boats were on minesweeping duty in the Baltic Sea entrances and three boats in the Nordmannstief.

Western and Central Baltic:

At 1040 the steamer GOTLAND reported Swedish twin-engined planes circling at a low level northwest of Bruesterort. At 1046 an approaching Marauder was repulsed by the 20th Submarine Flotilla west of Bruesterort.

Forty-seven boats and three mine-exploding vessels were on minesweeping duty. Three mines were swept in the Kiel Bay.

Naval Attache at Stockholm submitted a verbatim excerpt from regulations which were set up by the Commander in Chief, Swedish Navy and handed to the German Legation in the note of 23 Sept.

Admiral, Eastern Baltic:

The harbors of Hapsal and Parnu were evacuated and demolished. The evacuation of Rohokuela was completed at noon. Reconnaissance inshore to a depth of approximately 50 km remained without success; thus further German units and stragglers are no longer to be expected. Estonian refugees are being retained by armed Estonians.

At 0940 the last Kemi convoy consisting of six steamers and three naval landing craft was picked up by the 2nd Task Force in the Aaland Sea without incidents. The naval landing craft were released to Ventspils. The 2nd Task Force started on her return passage to Gdynia at noon. The steamer group passed Bokskaeren at 1800 escorted by destroyer Z "25" and torpedo-boats T "1" and "8".

In the eourse of the evacuation of Northern Army Group 2,310 persons have so far been ferried from Werder to Moon with destination Oesel Dagoe.

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On 23 Sept. 180 tons of supplies were shipped to Riga for the Northern Army Group.

IV. Submarine Warfare.

Submarine U "248" on her return passage from the Atlantic to Norway reported having been continuously driven off course by searching groups in the area AM since 11 Sept. Searching groups interfered when, at night, the boat was making use of the "Schnorchel."

In Northern Waters five more submarines from the operational naval base were launched against the presumed convoy traffic in AC 46 in addition to Group "Grimm" consisting of five submarines in AC 50. More submarines will follow. The assignment of Group "Schweferl" for escort in Alta Fjord was discontinued.

At Group "Center" two submarines for patrolling the Skagerrak barrage were placed west of the barrage between AO 3555 and 3866.

In the Mediterranean and air raid on Salamis caused the total loss of submarine U "596". Thus U "407" is the only submarine of our own forces left in the Mediterranean.

V. Aerial Warfare.

West Area:

No substantial incursions took place either by day or by night.

Reich Territory:

By day isolated reconnaissance planes were reported over the area of Seeland - Borkum, Lingen and Papenburg.

Two hundred and twelve enemy planes carried out bombing and gunfire raids in the Rhenish-Westphalian industrial area and in the Rhenish lowlands.

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Mediterranean Theater:

About 400 four-engined enemy planes with fighter escort coming from southern Italy attacked bridges near Venice. Six hundred and ninety enemy planes of various types were observed over the Italian front sector. The other operations did not exceed the usual scope.

Our planes carried out reconnaissance over the Atlantic and Aegean Sea.

Eastern Front:

On 23 Sept. 762 of our own and 1,970 enemy planes were reported on flights at the eastern front; 32 enemy planes were brought down, while seven of our own failed to return to their bases.

Fifteen Mosquitoes raided ships between Haugesund and Sogne Fhord. During this raid one patrol boat was sunk, one set afire. The fire was extinguished.

VI. Warfare in the Mediterranean and in the Danube Area.

1. Area of German Naval Command, Italy:

Enemy Situation:

On the forenoon of 23 Sept. a cruiser of the JEAN D'ARC class passed the Gibraltar Straits eastbound. At about noon a convoy consisting of 21 freighters and three corvettes were evidently following the scheduled convoy MKMS "63".

On the forenoon of 24 Sept. an auxiliary cruiser of the AMSTERDAM class coming from the Mediterranean arrived in Gibraltar. Shortly afterward nine U.S. destroyers passed the Straits westbound.

During the night of 23 Sept. the usual patrol activity was observed off the French landing coast. On the forenoon of 23 Sept. and at noon destroyers agains helled Ventimiglia and turned away each time; our batteries returned the fire.

Own Situation:

The Small Battle Weapons Flotilla "411" plans an operation with ten "Molche" from San Remo during the night of 25 Sept. against a destroyer group off Ventimiglia.

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2. Area Naval Group, South:

Adriatic Sea:

Air reconnaissance over the harbor and bay of Ancona did not result in any essential new findings.

During the night of 22 Sept. the enemy carried out artillery shelling from Brac to the mainland. The harassing fire was continued during the day. Shipping was observed passing between Brac and Solta and Brac and Lissa.

Three boats of the 3rd PT boat Flotilla put into Cattaro following an operation off the Italian east coast. The boats had to endure twelve bombing raids in all, which caused only slight damage. The 7th PT Boat Flotilla consisting of three boats left Split on northerly course on the evening of 23 Sept. The boats unsuccessfully attacked two LCT's with six torpedoes near Cape Ploca and received shell-fire from coastal guns of various calibers in the northern exit of the Pasman channel. The fire was returned. While passing Zara a further engagement was observed in the Pasman channel in which presumably some of our assault boats participated. The boats put into Pola without damage and casualties. In the same night shore infantry were transferred to Zara under escort of two motor minesweepers.

According to a report by Port Commander, Dubrovnik strong Chetnik formations took possession of the last railway station before Dubrovnik.

The command of the area of Naval Shore Commander, Albania was taken over by Admiral, Aegean Sea. The Operations Staff "Haun" started operational preparations for Small Battle Weapons in the Dalmation area.

Aegean Sea:

North of Cape Spatha a vessel, presumably a destroyer, was sighted from shore in the forenoon. In the evening three destroyers were about 25 miles west of Milos heading towards the island. Air reconnaissance observed 26 vessels, one tanker and one LCT in the Kythera area.

On the night of 23 Sept. the harbor of Carlovasi on Samos was shelled from sea by 10.5 cm guns. No damage was caused.

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Beginning at 1230, airfields in the Athens area and the dockyards of Skaramanga and Salamis were raided by 300 four-engined enemy bombers escorted by 60 fighters. The dockyard of Skaramanga became a total loss. Besides the heavy damage to submarine U "596" a submarine chaser, one water supply ship and a tug sank.

In a raid by 60 four-engined bombers on the harbor and station of Salonika the Navy did not suffer any damage. So far five planes have been reported brought down.

On the afternoon of 23 Sept. an enemy air raid took place on the steamer ORION and two naval artillery lighters which at first was without success. In a repeated raid by 80 planes on the forenoon of 24 Sept. the steamer (707 BRT) was set afire.

A minelayer group engaged in mining the Nauplia Bay was flooded by searchlights from land and shelled, apparently by a coastal battery which was handed over to volunteers., The task was nevertheless carried out as planned.

On 22 Sept. Workers and Soldiers Committees were reported set up in the dockyard of Piraeus. The Defense Commander Piraeus restored peaceful working conditions by suitable measures.

After successfully breaking through the Otranto Straits the torpedo boats TA "37", "38", "39" are now en route from Patras to Piraeus. The evacuation of Corfu is under way. Tge respective demolitions and schuttling measures were ordered. The evacuation of Monemvasia was carried out as planned.

The steamer ZAR FERDINAND (1994 BRT) en route from Chalkis to Piraeus ran aground south of Calvaliani.

The Mandri Straits was closed to shipping owing to observed dropping of mines.

The loaded shipping space from the Dodecanese is being directed to Salonika, effective immediately.

The mining task in the Gulf of Patras is planned for execution during the night of 24 Sept.

The evacuation of Lemnos will take some time yet. Therefore the ZEUS and torpedo boat T "18" were again put at the disposal of Admiral, Aegean Sea. The vessels will transfer to

Piraeus for further naval and equipment transports.

Danube Situation:

According to reports from refugees the Russians entered Tekija on the evening of 23 Sept. Radio communication with the Group "Zieb" and Tekija has been suspended since then.

On the forenoon of 24 Sept. the 1st Group of the Danube Flotilla exchanged gunfire with partisans near kilometers 1275 and 1282.

On the evening of 23 Sept. three mines were observed being dropped between kilometers 1575 and 1576.

Two mines were swept near kilometer 1738 and one mine near kilometer 1548.

In addition to sweeping mines the Sweeping Group "Upper Danube" is also engaged in carrying ammunition supplies from Linz.

VII. Situation Far East:

Nothing to report.

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Items of Political Importance.

Nothing to report.

Conference on the Situation with Commander in Chief, Navy at 11

I. Short report by 2nd Task Force on 24 Sept:

"After receipt of a radiogram at 0300 telling of the unhindered passage of tanker HANNA on the preceding day, a directive was issued to Kemi steamers: Start as soon as visibility permits; at dawn dispatch the ship plane with escort officer and orders to the ILLER. The Task Force is on firing positions. Searchlight calls from "Enskaer" were not answered. Steamers and naval landing barges passed the narrows as planned without escort. The change in the attitude of the Finns is laid to depression resulting from and reaction to Russian measures. Steamers under escort of destroyer Z "25" and torpedo boats T "1" and "8" en route to Danzig; naval landing craft without escort en route to Ventspils. The lights "Bogskaer" and "Floetjan" were lit. One Swedish plane and a destroyer were in the Aaland Sea. The 2nd Task Force is en route to Gdynia."

II. Chief, Operations Branch, Operations Division:

a. Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff has just wired:

"1. In the next days the enemy must be expected to carry out a sea and air landing concentrating in the area of the Ems estuary - western Frisia and besides possibly a sea landing in the Heligoland Bight.

2. The Fuehrer ordered that the Chief, of Bureau of Naval Armaments and the Commander, Replacement Army transfer the Peoples Grenadier Division 256 to the Groningen area, the People's Grenadier Division 361 to the Zwolle - Deventer area and the Subordinate commanders Training School of the Corps Area X to Emden area. High Command, Air and High Command, Air and Hich Command, Navy will transfer all a available armed alarm units and all formations about to be assembled, that can be released in the home area, to the area of the Elbe estuary - eastern shore of Ijsselsee - Zwolle - Osnabrueck - Lueneburg. Intentions and schedule are to be reported as quickly as possible.

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3. High Command, Navy investigates immediate measures with a view o to increasing the forces of the coastal defense and the coastal approaches and will likewise report on the results to ArmedForces High Command, Operations Staff."

Naval Staff, Operations Division for the present informs Naval Commands, North, Baltic Sea and Norway, as well as Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division.

Commanding Admiral, Naval Command, North received authority from Commander in Chief, Navy to take all measures in his area necessitated by the situation that are possible of execution. The question of arms is most urgent.

Chief, Naval Staff does not consider a landing in the Heligoland Bight to be probable; he still believesthat a far greater danger is threatening Jutland.

Commander in Chief, Navy is also of this opinion.

b. According to a decision by Chief, Army General Staff, Memel will not be declared a fortified place. Memel, however, was included in the East Prussian defense position and will be defended just as long.

Naval Command, Baltic Sea and Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff, Navy were informed accordingly.

III. Chief, Intelligence Division, Naval Staff: Information from Foreign Office through Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff, Foreign Countries:

"1. Southern Area - Allied Powers:

a. Intervention by Moscow in Rumania and Bulgaria is contrary to decisions reached at the Teheran conference. Reaction of the Western Powers: blocking of the Russian concentrations on the Turkish border, Aegean coast and from Jugoslav territory. Russian countermeasures: Bulgarian attacks against Serbia, leaving the Bulgarian occupation troops on the Aegean coast; general offensive by Tito from Croatian territory; cooperation of Bulgarians together with Greek communists, etc.

b. The Soviet Union is said to reproach Great Britain

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for not disturbing German withdrawal movements; Great Britain, on the other hand, is waiting for a Russian offensive.

c. Churchill is said to be supporting Tito, while the U.S.A. is taking him to be an out-and-out communist.

d. The Western Powers would like to prevent the bolshevization of Hungary but do not see any possiblity.

e. Political landslide in Albania; Great Britain is said to be supporting the opposition.

2. Greece:

The British activity at sea increased.

3. Exchange of Diplomats:

A German-Turkish exchange by ship is assured; a free escort by Great Britain and U.S.A. is not to be expected for about three weeks. No reports from Bulgaria and Rumania.

4. Italy:

a. The Duce is said to have approved the proposal for transferring the Government to Udine.

b. In southern Italy the Allied are said to have prohibited the persecution of Fascists. The Communists are in ill humor. There are 40 political parties in Rome. The enthusiasm for communism is said to be on the decline.

Great material distress. The supply situation in Florence is extremely serious.

5. Spain:

The tendency of Spain of slowly dissociating herself from Germany is said to be continuing systematically and is evidently being directed by the Government.
Just as "Democracy" is contrasted with the Spanish "Strong Democracy", the press is said to draw a dividing line between Russian Imperialism - Inner Soviet Bolshevism - Export Bolshevism. Solely the uncompromising struggle against Spanish communism is a home security problem.

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According to a Reich Security Central Office report from Swiss economic circles a landing is said to be planned in northern Germany or Denmark, following the airborne landing in Holland, and is to coincide with a major offensive in the west, surpassing everything that has been experienced heretofore. With these operations the end of the war in Europe is to be brought about by force by the end of October. - Copy of the relevant letter as per 1/Skl 35841/44 geh. in War Diary, Part D, Vol. 8 a.

The Russians granted the Finns a respite in respect to demilitarization of the Aaland islands.

IV. Chief, Organization and Mobilization Branch, Quartermaster Division, Naval Staff:

a. The area of Naval Shore Commander, Estonia covers the Lithuanian and Latvian coast from the border of the Reich to the new front line north of Riga.

The former Naval Shore Commander, Estonia is planned to be appointed Naval Shore Commander, B ltic Islands with the priority assignment to complete the coastal defense of the islands as quickly as possible. All naval units on the islands will be placed under the command of Naval Shore Commander, Estonia.

b. Proposal: The Training Unit, Fleet will receive a commander of its own. The 2nd Admiral, Fleet will beoome unnecessary. Commander in Chief, Navy agrees.

c. Further proposal: All defense forces will be included in the Fleet. They will be headed withing the Fleet by Commander of the Defense Forces, whose duties will be similar to those of in inspector. The defense divisions will remain in their former organizational set-up. The naval commands, with the exception of Norway, agree with the planned ruling.

Chief, Naval Staff emphasizes that the proposed organization corresponds, to an old desire for combining all floating surface forces of the Fleet. Attention is drawn to psychological effects. - Commander in Chief, Navy agreed to the proposal.

In a Restricted Circle.

V. Army Situation.

Western Front:

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At Army Group B in Holland the enemy did not yet start the expected major attacks with his newly landed airborne forces on 24 Sept.

The 15th Army repulsed several enemy attacks and again started to attack Vechel successfully with its left flank, annihilating 25 freight gliders.

West of Arnheim our forces succeeded in decisively narrowing the pocket by repulsing the forces which had advanced to the north accoss the lower Rhine. The British are putting up a dogged defense. Eight hundred wounded were captured.

Between Rhine and Maas southeast of Nijmegen the enemy evidently has not yet completed his preparations for an offensive.

East of Eindhoven our forces in their defensive struggle put up a stiff resistance against the imminent danger of encirclement.

Severe battles in the area of Epinal - Remiremont are still being fought. The superior enemy rolled up further sectors of the Mosel and threw back the German forces towards Le Tholy.

In the fortresses La Rochelle as well as Gironde North scout squads were in action and harassing fire took place.

Italian Front:

North of Florence the stiff alternating fighting continued all day long. In general, the enemy was repulsed and penetrations were mopped up. A mountain ridge was lost.

In the combat area of the Adriatic coast the enemy, continuously bringing up new reinforcements, attacked in numerous places.

Balkan Peninsula:

On Crete the eastern part of the island as far as the Cape Chersonissos - Katsellion - Cape Kastri line was evacuated.

The evacuation of Corfu was started.

In the Danube bend south of Turnu Severin the enemy repulsed our forces. Our attack on Orsova was suspended.

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From the islands of Mljet, Corcula, Hvar and Brac, evacuated by our troops, landings of partisans together with allied commando troops were continuously reported.

Eastern Front:

In the Torda area the Russians discontinued their attacks apparently owing to the losses suffered on the preceding day and the successful operations by our Air Force.

On the Szekler Tip front the enemy succeeded in driving a deep wedge into Hungarian-held territory.

On the Beskides front attack and defense followed one another. Some withdrawal movements were carried out as planned.

Yesterday an operation was started in Warsaw for the mopping up of the suburb of Mokotow which is in the hands of the rebels.

Northern Army Group: South of Riga our attack and defense achievements brought about an improvement in the situation.

At the 18th Army the enemy succeeded in taking possession of Volmar and in advancing with his forces supported by tanks further to the southwest. Isolated units of our own forces are defending themselves in every direction. However with effective assistance from our Air Force it was possible on the whole to intercept the enemy thrust and to continue the movements with our forces partially fighting their way back.

Between Lake Virts and the Riga Bay the withdrawal movements took place without any enemy pressure. The harbors of Parnu, Haademeeste, Haynasch and Salismuende were abandoned.

Evaluation of the enemy situation: The Russians are ready for a major attack with strong infantry formations and one thousand tanks in the area south of Mitau; the attack can start at any moment. Their objective will again be an attempt to cut off the Northern Army Group from East Prussia.

The second major Russian concentration lies in the area of Warsaw-Ostrolenka where 90 to 100 large formations are ready to start an offensive. The preparations are completed; the radio traffic has all the earmarks as prior to the major summer offensive against the Central Army Group.

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Special Items.

I. Concerning the Eastern Situation.

a. According to a report by Admiral, Fuehrer Headquarters the Fuehrer approved the proposal made by Commander in Chief, Navy to threat Finnish sweeping forces removing German minefields as hostile ones.

b. Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff, Navy reported on 24 Sept. that Armed Forces, Operations Staff is considering the speedy transfer of one infantry division from southern Norway to Denmark. Naval Staff was requested to report on the number of transports available for this task, on the time needed for the transport by the first group and on the duration of the entire movement.

Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division, Shipping and Transport Branch reported thereon that owing to current transport requirements in Riga and the elimination of transport space due to losses and damage the transport situation is very tense at the moment. It is, therefore, planned to employ only six ships of altogether 20 for transporting the division from southern Norway. Time required by one group is four days; duration of entire operation eleven days. The first group will be ready to take troops aboard in Oslo four days after the order is issued. An acceleration of this operation may be made possible at the expense of the evacuation of Riga, especially of wounded (3,000 cases occurring daily).

c. Naval Staff, Operations Division approves the plan by Naval Command, Baltic Sea to put the PRINZ EUGEN on 48 hours' readiness over a period of five days for urgent repairs,

d. Naval Command, Baltic Sea permits the 2nd and 3rd Torpedo Boat Flotilla to remain at the disposal of Admiral, Eastern Baltic. For terpedo boats T "23" and "28" a five-day-repair-period for each boat in Gdynia was approved by Naval Command, Baltic Sea.

The 6th Destroyer Flotilla is to be transferred to Pillau after the execuation of present tasks. There, two destroyers each are to be on three hours' and six hours' readiness respectively. Naval Command plans to keep the 6th Destroyer Flotilla further at the disposal of Inshore Defense Group 2.

e. Naval Command, Baltic Sea reported:

"1. For the entire Baltic area the following were newly allocated to Admiral, Eastern Baltic and Naval Command, Baltic Sea: 28 8.,8 cm anti-aircraft guns 37; 10 7.5 cm guns; 12 10.5 cmguns. The guns, for the most part, had to be transferred from other projects. High Command, Navy made three 7.5 cm anti-tank guns available. From the October to December production four 15cm batteries were allocated. Thirty 3.7 cm anti-aircraft guns 43 and thirty 2 cm. quardruple guns will also be sent to Liepaja as quickly as possible.

2 From Estonia to Liepaja were taken along: Eight 8.8 cm, three or four 10.5 cm guns. The received data are inaccurate.

3. The following naval personnel is provided for the Baltic Islands: The former island garrison of Tyters consisting of four anti-aircraft batteries, three sea ranging batteries, two companies of Naval Artillery Battalion "531", in all about 2,000 men, half of them have been transferred so far. Furthermore the parts of the Navy which were so far under the command of Army Group "Gerock". Their strength is unknown.

4. Admiral, Eastern Baltic will not be able to report until after the discussion with Commander in Chief, taking place today."

f. Concerning the areal boundaries of Admiral, Eastern Baltic and Commanding Admiral, Center, Naval Command, Baltic Sea requests that in view of the boundary between the Northern and Central Army Group following the course of the river Memel, the area of Admiral, Eastern Baltic Sea be extended to the Memel estuary into the Haff, along the Nehrug as far as Nidden inclusive, Commander of the Memel sector with the corresponding remaining area should be placed under the command of Admiral, Eastern B ltic Sea, the southern part under that of Commander of the Pillau sector. Thus the areas of both commanders would correspond with thoseof Northern and Central Army Group.

Naval Staff, Operations Division agrees to the proposal. Further particulars will be taken care of by Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division, and Organization and Mobilization Branch.

g. High Command, Army notified Naval Staff, for information, of a directive to Deputy Commanding General, 20th Corps area that the coastal defense is to be carried out further according

to the former directives. Responsible for the preparation and execution of the coastal defense in the 20th Corps area is the Deputy Commanding General, 20th Corps area. He has the rights and duties as designated in the Fuehrer directive No. 40 and is under the direct command of Chief, Army General Staff as far as assignments are concerned.

II. Concerning North Area.

a. According to a note by Admiral, Fuehrer Headquarters the Fuehrer gave full approval to the proposal made by Commander in Chief, Navy concerning the further employment of the TIRPITZ and asked Commander in Chief, Navy to investigate whether the efficiency of the ship as a floating battery could be increased by a layer of reinforced concrete and by filling compartments with cement. The place where the ship will be committed is to be determined in agreement with Armed Forces, Operations Staff.

b. At 2013 Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff, Navy made the following detailed report:

"1. Armed Forces High Command considered transferring To Germany on the shortest route possible of two divisions of the 20th Mountain Army.

a. Transport by sea of one division from the harbors of Kirkenes or Porsanger to Drontheim, from Drontheim to Oslo by rail.

b. Transport by sea of the second division from the area of Skibotten - Storsteins or Narvik to Mo-Mosjoen or Drontheim; from there to Oslo by rail.

II. Possibilities of execution.

D.Day = Day of issuance of order.

a. 1. Strength of first division 19,000 men, 3,600 horses, 320 passenger cars, 1,400 trucks, 800 motor cycles, 80 prime mover trucks.

2. Transport by sea: Infantry (13000 men and horses) from area of Skibotten - Storsteines to Drontheim. Spearheads ready for embarkation on D-day plus 25 days, motorized troops (6,000 men and motor vehicles) Narvik to Drontheim, spearheads ready for embarkation D plus 7 days.

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Or: From the same embarkation area sea transport only to Mo-Mosjoen.

b. 1. Strength of 2nd division 16,000 men, 3,000 horses, 350 motorcycles, 300 passenger cars, 1,900 trucks.

2. Transport by sea: Entire division from Kirkenes to Drontheim, embarkation to start on D plus 2 days.

Or: Entire division from Porsanger harbors - Drontheim, embarkation of motorized troops to start on D plus 5 days (5,000 men and trucks), infantry on D plus 20 days.

Or: Motorized troops from Porsanger, infantry from Kirkenes.

III. As a basis for a report to the Fuehrer during the discussion of the evening situation during the night of 25 Sept. it is requested that the opinion be immediately made known in regard to the following points:

1. Has Naval Staff, Operations Division any doubts against the sea transport from Kirkenes around the Varanger peninsula:?

2. Can the sea transport according to 11 a and b. be executed with available shipping space?

3. How many ships can be employed?

4. The urgency demands the employment of all shipping space available in northern Norway. What effects on the supply traffic of northern Norway are to be expected for the duration of the operation?

5. How much time is needed for sea transport according to II a and b?

6. Duration of the transfer from Oslo to Denmark?

7. When will the shipping space again be available for the eventual subsequent execution of the Lyngen movement?

Views on the most important points of this teletype are requested immediately by telephone."

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At 2235 Naval Staff, Operations Division, Operations Branch, North submitted by telephone to Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff, Navy that Naval Staff, Operations Division has serious doubts against a sea transport around the Varanager peninsula from Kirkenes; it considers, however, the transport from Porsanger Fjord to be possible.

Shortly before Armed Forces, Operations Staff was informed to the same effect by Chief, Shipping and Transport Branch, Quartermaster Division, Naval Staff proposing solely to use the steamers present in Kirkenes for carrying back the less important transport goods and to give Drontheim first consideration as port of destination on account of the favorable unloading facilities there. Naval Staff, Operations Division, Operations Branch, North has drawn attention to the fact that in the opinion of Naval Staff, Operations Division preference should be given to the unloading at Mosjoen, so as to avoid the danger from enemy action (submarine danger) on the open route between Mosjoen and Drontheim, provided the capacity of the harbors is adequate.

At 2240 Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division, Shipping and Transport Branch reported that 14 and ten days are to be figured for the transfer of both divisions from the embarkation areas to Drontheim, About 20 large and 20 medium size and smaller ships will be employed. Three months are being estimated as required for the entire movement from the first loading to the last unloading in home ports.

III. Concerning West Area:

Group West submitted the following report from Commanding General, West on the question of the demolition of the harbor of Ostend:

"Army Group B reports on the demolition of the harbor installations at Ostend as follows:

a. Fouling in accordance with the order issued by the Navy: in addition 26 KMA mines were sunk in the tide- and the outer harbors.

b. Blocking of the entrance to the submarine lock.

c. In the harbor entrance 16 vessels were sunk in three rows lying behind each other.

d. All quay platforms were destroyed with the exception of one part of the London quay, the quay at the sea railway station and the Cokarill quay, as some of the fuses could not be found in the darkness and hurry.

e. PT boat pens were not blown up.

2. Reasons for not carrying out the complete demolition of the harbors: Besides being unable to find the cables and fuses it was necessary to withdraw our formations during the night of 8 Sept. from the Zeebruegge-Ostend sector to behind the Zeebruegge-Bruges canal. Thus the temporary interruption of the demolition work was caused.

3. The interrogation proved that Colonel von Hertlein cannot be held responsible for the non-execution of some of the blasting."

Naval Staff, Operations Division relayed this report to Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff, Navy.

IV. Southeast Area:

a. Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff notified Naval Staff, for information, of the following directive to Commanding General, Southeast:

"The narrow Corinth bridgehead as well as strongholds at the entrance to the Gulf of Corinth are to be evacuated as soon as possible after arrival of the torpedo boats under way in agreement with Admiral, Aegean Sea. Intentions are to be reported."

b. Naval Staff, Operations Division informed Group South that, while the opinion of the Group on the situation concerning the Dalmatian islands was relayed to Armed Forces High Command, a fundamental change in the situation is not to be expected. Simultaneously the Group received the following directive:

"Following the discontinuation of shipping on the Dalmatian coast conslusions must be drawn concerning the manning of the Navy offices in the local ports. Special commands like port commanders, etc. will lose their meaning, in case harbors are no longer needed for naval tasks and the Navy will solely have to take over from the Army the defense in exposed

coastal places insufficiently protected by the latter. Therefore a check is to be made on offices becoming superfluous."

- c. Admiral, Aegean Sea proposed to send home the Naval Shore Commander, western Greece and Staff following the evacuation of Corfu and the execuation of the last tasks in the Gulf of Corinth, once the troops and officers, after withdrawal of the specialists, are divided and assigned to the area of the 22nd Alpine Army Corps and the 68th Army Corps.

  Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division transmitted his approval pointing out that the decision is to be made by Group South.

V. Concerning State of Readiness of Fleet:

On the basis of opinions held in the course of contemplations within the Naval Staff concerning the execution of the change of cadets on the ships of the Training Unit and Fleet on 1 Nov. 1944 respectively 1 Feb. 1945 Naval Staff, Operations Division demands that besides the PRINZ EUGEN, HIPPER, LUETZOW, EMDEN also the SCHEER and KOELN should remain in readiness. Reason: The changed situation in the eastern Baltic Sea (loss of the Gulf of Finland as well as political tension with Sweden) may necessitate the employment of the ships for combat and escort tasks.

Beyond that recourse will have to be taken to the light cruisers for mining tasks in the North Sea, in the Skagerrak and in the Baltic Sea.

Copy of letter 1/Skl I op. 28723/44 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part C. Vol. D.

Situation 25 Sept.

I. Situation West Area.

1. Enemy Situation:

Twenty-three planes of the 19th Group were spotted on missions and fifteen planes of the 15th Group, including ten escort planes. One British vessel was located in BN 3183.

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2. Own Situation:

Atlantic Coast:

The submarine chasers "1407" and "1415" as well as one harbor defense boat were put out of commission in Lorient, the crew were put into action on the western front.

Situation Atlantic Fortresses:

Lorient: On 25 Sept. lively reconnaissance activity of our own forces was reported. The superior enemy was engaged in fire duels. The main defense line and three heavy anti-aircraft batteries were subjected by the enemy to harassing fire from three different firing positions. Our own batteries shelled enemy concentrations and observation posts that had been made out.

Supply by air was carried out during the night of 24 Sept. as planned.

St. Nazaire: The enemy increased his forces on the southern shore. His advances supported by tanks and artillery were repulsed.

La. Rochelle: According to a report from the Fortress Commander 22 captured Frenchmen were exchanged against 24 Germans.

Two He 111 planes each will supply St. Nazaire and Gironde North during the night of 25 Sept; La Rochelle will be supplied by four He 111 planes.

Withdrawal Movements:

Nothing to report.

Waters of Channel:

The Naval Shore Commander, Channel Islands reported convoy traffic moving between England and Cherbourg at noon. At 1030 an auxiliary aircraft carrier and one troop transport were sighted. Otherwise there were only small convoys.

Situation of Channel Fortresses:

Dunkirk: No new reports from Dunkirk.

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Calais: On the evening of 24 Sept. four-engined enemy bombers raided the town, the harbor and the Battery "Oldenburg", only slight military damage. Altogether 16 planes were brought down, six of which by naval guns.

On 25 Sept. at noon the enemy launched his attack on the fortress after heavy preparatory artillery fire and uninterrupted air raids. In the east, the main defense line is firmly in our hands; the enemy succeeded in breaching our line in the west. The ridges southeast of Battery "Lindemann" were occupied by the enemy. The main defense line in the west is to be withdrawn as far as three km from the city.

Gris Nez: The Griz Nez stronghold with Batteries "Todt" and Grosser Kurfuerst" are still in our hands. No particulars were received on the engagements in this area.

During the night of 25 Sept. Dunkirk is to be supplied from the air by four He 111 planes.

II. North Sea, Norway, Northern Waters.

L. North Sea:

Heligoland Bight:

At the Columbus quay in Wesermuende (Bremerhaven) a ground mine detonated in the wake of a passing steamer.

During the night of 24 Sept. convoys were carried out between the estuaries as planned.

Dutch Coast:

At 1735 the battery positions and the roads off Helder were raided with bombs, rockets and gunfire from a major enemy formation. Minesweeper M "33" was heavily damaged and was put in drydock. Minesweeper M "369" was slightly damaged. likewise M "3407"; M "471" sank. Further damage was caused to batteries and the mining and barrage command. Casualties are rather extensive. Four planes were positively shot down; their number probably amounts to 8 or 9.

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The demolition of Amsterdam was continued.

At about 1700 eight enemy planes dropped mines near the approach buoy of Hook of Holland.

Schelde:

Boats of the Rhine Flotilla and the 32nd Minesweeper Flotilla brought down two attacking fighter-bombers.

Beginning at noon enemy war vessels were sighted west of Walcheren.

Near Zeebruegge the enemy apparently searched for mines.

Artillery barge AF "102" was raided by four enemy fighters and suffered casualties; one of the attacking planes was shot down.

2. Norway, Northern Waters:

Enemy Situation:

Very brisk air activity was observed in the area of the 18th Group. Forty three planes were detected. In the afternoon one plane of this Group reported sighting three PT boats in AF 7382 on 60°, presumably British boats. Aerial photographic reconnaissance over Murmansk on 23 Sept. revealed four freighters as well as some coastal vessels in drydock. In the Kola Bay one battleship of the R-Class and ten Liberty ships were made out.

Own Situation:

A medium fire duel in the Petsamo area on 23 Sept. was reported from the Arctic coast.

On the afternoon of 24 Sept. an enemy submarine misfired three torpedoes against one of our small convoys steering east. The submarine was probably annihilated in the course of three attacks with depth charges. The same convoy was attacked by PT boats and planes near Ekkeroey on the forenoon of 25 Sept. Patrol vessel VP "6101" was hit by a bomb and sank. Vp "6105" had to be beached. Landing craft F "152" ran aground, while patrol vessel Vp "6110" is being towed to port out of control. The vessels of the 7th and 21st Minesweeper Flotilla, engaged in salvaging, as well as the tug "Ostland" were subjected to continuous raids with bombs and gunfire, whereby motor minesweeper R "309" was heavily damaged and towed to port with casualties; additional two motor minesweepers suffered slight damage.

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In the area of Admiral, West Coast five Mosquitoes and one Sunder land raided a harbor defense boat in Hjelte Fjord with bombs and gunfire on the afternoon of 24 Sept. The boat sank.

Seven Mosquitoes raided two patrol boats in Sogne Fjord; two harbor defense boats were damaged; casualties were suffered.

Twenty-one ships were escorted north and twenty-three ships south.

III. Skagerrak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea.

1. Enemy Situation:

Nothing to report.

2. Own Situation:

Admiral Skagerrak:

Fifteen boats were on minesweeping duty. Among the convoys was the steamer MONTE ROSA with 2,781 persons aboard en route from Oslo to Swinemuende.

Central and Western Baltic:

Fifty-two boats and one mine-exploding vessel were on minesweeping duty. One mine was swept in the Kiel Bay and one near Darsser Ort.

In the afternoon isolated enemy reconnaissance planes approached the Kiel Bay, the Fehmarn Belt and the Mecklenburg Bay.

One Steamer was escorted east and four transports west.

Admiral Eastern Baltic:

Hainasch and Werder were evacuated. Hainasch and Parnu are occupied by the enemy. The Russians are north of Salismuende and are following up with strong forces. Off Hainasch two motor coasters were shelled from the coast and received hits. A motor coaster had to be towed in to Riga. Admiral, Eastern Baltic is planning to shell the coastal road

north of Hainasch with an artillery naval landing craft group of three craft.

At 1158 four Bostons unsuccessfully shelled one of our convoys in the eastern exit of the Irben Straits.

At 1030 the 2nd Task Force consisting of the PRINZ EUGEN, the LUETZOW and the 6th Destroyer Flotilla (Z "28", "35", "36") arrived in Gdynia.

Of the occupation divisions assigned to Oesel the following so far have been transferred from Riga to Ahrensburg: 4,761 men, 1,344 horses and 1, 029 vehicles. In addition 900 men of naval personnel were transported from Liepaja to Ahrensburg. For the supply of Oesel 2,000 tons of foodstuffs and 100 tons of ammunition were transported there on 25 Sept.

Altogether 22,500 prisoners, 1,500 Estonians, 3,440 refugees and 520 head of cattle embarked in Rohukuela and Werder for evacuation.

Naval Command, Baltic Sea plans to evacuate valuable machinery and equipment from Riga as the local shipyard is no longer working.

Admiral, Eastern Baltic notified Naval Staff, Operations Division for information of the directive issued to 9th Defense Division that all operational naval landing craft be dispatched to Duenmuende, since there is danger that the troops stationed north of Riga will be cut off. The boats are to be used if possible for the evacuation of troops from Salismuende. Artillery ferries, minesweepers and PT boats are to be employed as escorts. The tactical transfer will be taken over by the 9th Defense Division, to which two torpedo boats will be assigned. The Commander of the 1st Minesweeper Flotilla will be assigned to the Evacuation Commander in an advisory capacity.

IV. Submarine Warfare.

In the Indian Ocean submarine U "859" was sunk on 23 Sept. by a torpedo from an enemy submarine just before entering Penang; 20 men were rescued, 12 of them by the enemy.

In Northern Waters three submarines tstarted on an operation against a presumed QP convoy; four additional boats are

scheduled to put out on 26 Sept.

Submarine U "778" of the Group "Greif" in the Kara Sea reported her return passage from her position in AF 8388.

Submarine U "362" did not appear for the ordered rendezvous west of the Sari peninsula. The other boats are supplied with fuel and provisions to last to the middle of October. Submarine U "315" on operation in the Kola Bay returned to Hammerfest.

No special reports from the Gulf of Finland and the Mediterranean

V. Aerial Warfare.

1. West Area:

In the forenoon weak enemy bomber formations were reported from the Calais and Dunkirk areas. In the further course of the day the enemy restricted himself to slight reconnaissance and fighter-bomber activity in the Holland area. Supply containers were dropped in the Arnheim area.

Forty-six of our planes were on flights to intercept fighter-bombers in the area and carried out gunfire raids in support of the Army. One hundred and four of our planes were engaged in free-lance fighting and fought freight gliders; ten planes were positively brought down and probably four more. Four of our planes failed to return to their base.

During the night of 26 Sept. five of our planes raided the bridges near Nijmegen. Six planes carried out the supply of the Atlantic fortresses. In the evening our reconnaissance reconnoitred over the harbors of Kingston and Grimsby; no landing boats were detected.

2. Reich Territory:

A number of isolated enemy planes carried out demolition bomb and gunfire raids in northern and northwestern Germany. Beginning at 1030 about 800 bombers with fighter escort entered Reich territory near St. Vith. Three hundred of these raided Frankfurt on the Main, the others Ludwigshafen and Strassburg. Another bomber formation of 250 to 300

bombers with fighter escort raided Coblenz and Trier. The destructions in the transport installations at the target places are considerable. Further damage is reported on in the "Situation of the Day."

During the night of 25 Sept. about 60 Mosquitoes raided Mannheim, while 25 isolated planes were over western and northwestern Germany.

3. Mediterranean Theater:

On 24 Sept. 150 four-engined enemy planes with fighter escort approaching from southern Italy raided Salonika. Two hundred and fifty bombers with fighter escort crossed the coast near Corfu and carried out raids against airfields and ship berths in the Athens area causing heavy damage.

The other operations correspond to those mentioned so far.

4. Eastern Front:

On 24 Sept. 585 of our planes and 1,390 enemy planes were recorded on missions; fifteen enemy planes were brought down and two own planes failed to return.

VI. Warfare in the Mediterranean and in the Danube Area.

1. German Naval Command Italy:

Enemy Situation:

Nothing to report.

Own Situation:

On 24 and 25 Sept. Ventimiglia was shelled from the sea. The same applies to the front sector on the Italian west coast.

During an enemy bombing raid on the boom of the western entrance to la Spezia on the forenoon of 23 Sept. the signal station was destroyed and the block ship provided for the boom gap, the former cruiser STRASSBURG was sunk. The transfer of minesweepers from La Spezia to Genoa was suspended owing to weather conditions.

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2. Area Naval Group South:

Adriatic Sea:

The photographic evaluation revealed no changes in the ships in the harbor of Brindisi.

On the afternoon of 24 Sept. two enemy gun carriers cruising off Drvnik and shelling Solta were fired on by our batteries.

Early on 25 Sept. one of our tankers fired at two enemy PT boats off Rovigno; they turned off the sea without returning the fire. On 24 Sept. Cesenatico and its hinterland were shelled from the sea several times during the day, presumably by destroyers; the demolition measures in Cesenatico were carried out as planned. The batteries south of the Savio river are ordered to be dismantled and transferred to the north.

Off the harbor entrance to Grado a tanker barge was annihilated in a fighter bomber raid. The laying of 40 KMA mines north of Cesenatico on 23 Sept. did not take place as, erroneously, was reported.

Aegean Sea:

On the evening of 24 Sept. a convoy sailing from Skarpanto was attacked by three destroyers and at the same time by enemy planes; one motor sailing vessel caught fire; the whereabouts of the other vessels are unknown.

The transfer of the three torpedo boats to Piraeus was completed as planned.

250 men of the 2nd Replacement Battalion, while on the march to Kalithea were attacked by communists with infantry arms. Eight-seven of the attackers were killed, 30 were captured. Own casualties are slight.

3. Danube Situation:

On the afternoon of 25 Sept. the guardship BECHELAREN was subjected to heavy enemy shelling between kilometers 984 and 987. Group "Hillebrand" repulsed andenemy attack near Veche and Ograndina which was partly supported by tanks. The superior enemy in the strenght of at least one division is in the Danube bend with parts on the advance of the Danube.

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The rest of the Combat Group "Tekija" including the Combat Commander as well as members of the Navy and the Water Police crossed to Plavisevita.

No dropping of mines and mine clearances on the Danube were reported.

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Items of Political Importance.

Nothing to report.

Conference on the Situation with Commander in Chief, Navy at 1120

I. Commander in Chief, Navy ordered to request again of High Command, Air, Operations Staff that measures be taken for the protection of the eastern Baltic against enemy air raids and for the protection against enemy naval forces, especially submarines.

Naval Staff, Operations Division will act accordingly.

II. According to a "Leander" report the enemy situation in the Aegean Sea at present necessitates the closing of the traffic to and from Crete, as the enemy controls the waters of the southern Aegean from his flank position (Kythera) through open raids (attack on the Skarpantos-Rhodes convoy) as well as through massed aerial operations. The route Piraeus-Leros has likewise become unsafe by the loss of the PELIKAN, the DRACHE and the ORION owing to air raids to such an extent that the commitment of major ships unless conditioned by fuel considerations would involve extreme risks. Admiral, Aegean Sea, therefore asked Army Group E to decide whether the remaining large-vessel shipping space (three coal steamers, three Diesel oil ships, altogether about 9,000 tons) is to be employed here or for the evacuation of immobile naval troops and parts of the Army (12,000 men) from the area of Athens-Piraeus with the view to the northern concentration Salonika.

III. Chief, Operations Branch, Operations Division, Naval Staff:

a. The teletype message to High Command, Air, Operations Staff concerning the direction of ships belonging to the Air Force was submitted. (See War Diary 24 Sept.).

Commander in Chief, Navy agreed.

b. Report on the plans of Naval Command, Baltic concerning the Baltic Islands. (See War Diary 25 Sept.).

Commander in Chief, Navy approved.

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c. Concerning the directive by Armed Forces High Command with respect to increasing the defensive strength in the Heligoland Bight (see War Diary 25 Sept.) the following measures were ordered:

"A Alarm Units:

1. Immediate transfer of full authority over the alarm units of the North Sea area from Naval Staff to Naval Command, North. Strength of the alarm units in the northern area: degree of dispensableness B: 8043; degree of dispensableness C: 34,330.

2. Immediate transfer of 6,000 rifles and 200 machine guns with ammunition from the area of Naval Command, Baltic to Naval Command, North. Apart from these only 36,000 rifles and 1,500 machine guns are available in the area of Naval Command, North.

Thus the requirements in fire arms for the soldiers assigned to alarm units are quantitavily covered. The arms, however, represent for their greater part captured material. As a result the arming is not uniform and there is little fighting power, especially as the ammunition stores in some types permit a slight supply only (30 cartridges for each rifle).

3. In addition, about 45,000 soldiers are in the North Sea area, at present employed in routine tasks within their respecitve offices, but, in case of an attack, likewise to be used for local defense. These soldiers have no fire arms at all.

In order to make full use of the available fighting power it is necessary to repeat the demand for fire arms already made by Naval Command, North Sea(see teletype B No. QU IV 6656 Gkdos, of 23 Sept.) comprising

40,000 rifles	as well as the necessary ammunition.
4,200 pistols	
1,100 light machine-guns	
14,700 tommy guns	
10 anti-tank or landing defense guns	
150 secondary mortars	
close combat anti-tank weapons	

There is not a shortage of soldiers but or arms.

Supplement: The transfer of alarm units from area of Naval Command, Baltic to that of Naval Command, North is not contemplated, as after the withdrawal of arms according to 2. only about

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40,000 men will remain ready for action against enemy airborne landings and for defense in special emergencies in addition to the Corps Areas I and XX which must not be touched in respect to material or personnel.

B. Coastal Defense:

1. In addition to the batteries allocated by the Army to Naval Command, North and reported ready, viz.:

2 x 4 - 15 cm K 18
2 x 4 - 15.5 cm K 418
2 - 4 - 11.5 cm LFH
5 x 4 - 7.6 cm JKH 290

the following batteries were assigned in the last four days:

2 x 4 and 1 x 3 - 9.4 cm Vickers Flak
4 x 4 - 10.5 cm SKC/32
5 x 4 - 8.8 cm Flak/37
2 x 4 - 7.5 cm BM 97
2 x 4 - 7.6 cm JKH.

The greater part of the materiel was already delivered; additional guns will be shipped within the next few days.

2. Furthermore were allocated:

6 x 4 - 15 cm SKC/28

of which, however, only 1 battery (on Sylt) will become ready for action in October. The other batteries will follow in the course of the winter.

3. Since due to insufficient ranging facilities (wheeled carriage, panoramic sights) the 7.6 cm guns can be used against objectives at sea to a very limited extent only, it is planned to change the armament of this battery in October to a 7.5 cm anti-tank guns "40" on a ship mounting and to the guns becoming available as anti-landing guns or for the rearward defense in ground operations.

4. 60 - 7.6 cm JHK (put at disposal by High Command, Army) and 15 - 7.5 cm anti-tank guns "40" were allocated and delivered to be used as anti-landing guns.

C. Use of Mines:

1. Continuation of KMA mining operations
2. Alarm barrages for Ems, Jade, Weser, Elbe rivers for immediate laying
3. For the reinforcement of the mine defense Heligoland Bight the following material was allocated immediately:

   1,200 EMC mines, 700 anti-sweeping devices.

   Further allocations are contemplated.

D. Naval Forces:

1. PT boat front flotillas are concentrated in the Dutch area and the Heligoland Bight. Number of front boats: 25 to 30 one half of which on the average are operational.

2. The transfer of torpedo boats and destroyers in case of a landing is subject to a command measure. The boats cannot be spared due to current urgent tasks in the present operations area (eastern Baltic).

E. Small Battle Weapons:

1. One readiness flotilla each - 30 one-man submarines - for Heligoland, Borkum and Norderney or Heligoland are contemplated. The first two flotillas will be loaded on 28 Sept. in Eckernfoerde, the third flotillas will probably be operational and ready for loading on 2 Oct.

2. One flotilla of 60 remote control PT boats for Cuxhaven or Norderney. - Probaboy operational and ready for loading on 4 Oct."

The correspongding teletype was sent to Armed Forces High Command. Copy as per 1/Skl 3105/44 Gkdos. Chefs. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. IIa.

d. From Naval Command, North only the following proposals are on hand:

"a. Coastal Defense: Alarm units of the North Sea area according to the Fuehrer directive 51 to be put at disposal of Naval Command, North for the formation of operations units; for allocating the requested arms, fire arms and ammunition recourse may have to be taken to the stores of Naval Command, Baltic.

b. Coastal Waters:

1. The units or boats provided according to "Wallenstein" are to be brought up. Available destroyers and torpedo boats to be transferred to the Heligoland Bight with due consideration for the shift in the focal points indicated in the preceding order.

2. Submarine operations to be carried out within the range of available and suitable boats and a Submarine and Operations Staff at Naval Command, North to be set up for this purpose.

3. An Air Force Operations Staff should be appointed for commanding the air forces which are to be made available.

Intentions:

a. Coastal Defense:

1. Withdrawal of the naval female auxiliaries from islands and the probable combat area.

2. Replacement of foreigners and naval auxiliaries of the same area as a., as far as they are not suited for combat duty.

b. Coastal Waters:

Preparation in cooperation with Admiral, Small Battle Units for the commitment of Small Battle Weapons. - The PT boats are to remain in the Dutch area for the time being.

3. Use of Esbjerg as a base for North Sea naval forces."

IV. Naval Staff, Quartermaster General:

a. Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff advised Naval Staff of direct agreement with Commander, Replacement Army concerning the objection raised against the command organization for coastal defense in the home areas of Naval Command, North and Baltic.

b. Naval Command, North requested that four light naval artillery battalions be set up. Approval must be withheld due to the shortage in arms.

c. Upon request by Director of Armed Forces Transport

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Service one anti-aircraft artillery company with 2 cm guns will be assigned for action on the Rhine for a period of two months.

V. Chief, Intelligence Division, Naval Staff: The political situation in Hungary is coming to a head. The indications of the Regent entertaining plans to dissociate himself from the Axis are increasing.

On 25 Sept. General Eisenhower directed to all foreign workers in Germany a renewed proclamation in which instructions for action are given.

Churchill returned to London on 25 Sept.

The reconnaissance by sight of the British east coast ports of Dundee, of the ports on the Firth of Tay, Firth of Forth as well as of Blyth, Newcastle, Sunderland, Hull, Grimsby, Kingston carried out on 24 Sept. in the opinion of Air Force, Operations Staff resulted in an almost complete picture of the harbor occupancy and did not find any extraordinary concentration of large shipping space or naval forces. No landing tonnage at all was sighted. Thus there is nothing which might point to preparations being made for imminent landing operations across the sea from these ports at this time.

In a Restricted Circle.

VI. Army Situation.

Western Front:

On 25 Sept., too, the enemy restricted himself to small-scale attacks. At the 15th Army he succeeded in crossing the canal west of Turnhout and in achieving a penetration 6.5 km wide and 2 km deep for the elimination of which fighting is still going on. Our own attack on Vechel was pushed forward close to the bridge position in spite of steadily increasing resistance.

West of Arnheim the fierce close combat with the remnants of the 1st British Airborne Division is being continued. Strong enemy Scout squads upon crossing the lower Rhine were annihilated. The exhausting heavy combats, however, lasting for eight days also decreased the fighting strength of our improvised formations employed here to such an extent that the mopping up of the Arnheim area cannot be expected without bringing up new forces. North of Nijmegen the enemy gained territory in bitter fighting.

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Between Aachen and Luneville only skirmishes of local importance took place.

In the area of the 19th Army the major attack on the Doubs Valley has started on 24 Sept. After heaviest combats, the enemy, using very large amounts of materiels against the formations of the 19th Army, weakened by losses in materiel and personnel, succeeded in pushing back the front still standing on the Moselle between Epinal and south of Remiremont. Counterattacks failed and had to be stopped. The front between Rambervillers and Remiremont must be withdrawn.

East of Lure an enemy attack carried out by 70 tanks was intercepted in the depth of the main defense line.

Italian Front:

North of Florence the enemy continued his attacks with locally concentrated forces. The majority of the attacks were repulsed, penetrations were cut off. On the Adriatic coasts, the enemy attacks were concentrated between the Via Emilia and the sea. While all attacks were repulsed on the road, the enemy succeeded to penetrate farther to the east after bitter fighting and in extending the penetrations to the north and west in the course of the day. Thus the British have fought for an gained the entrance into the plains. The bringing up of new forces was recognized and points to the continuation of the heavy attacks on 26 Sept. The enemy for the first time employed ground combat aircraft up to the Swiss border.

Balkan Peninsula:

Our troop movements by sea and on the mainland were further harassed by the enemy air force.

Our marching columns in Greece were attacked by partisans.

In Macedonia the local combats along the main roads are being continued. - The enemy pressure on the Danube is being continued.

In the Dalmatian area our strongholds and the main roads as well as an armored train were handed over to the Chetniks by the Croatian crews without fighting. Reprisal measures have been started.

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Eastern Front:

From the Arad area and east thereof major enemy formations are advancing on Szeged and Nagy Varad. They have reached or crossed the Hungarian border.

South of Cluj and east of Szasz Regen alternating fights of local importance.

In the east Beskides the enemy continued his heavy attacks, On the whole they were repulsed. In the area northwest of the Dukla Pass the enemy succeeded in establishing connection with the assault detechments so far encircled south of the local front and in thus facilitating the retreat to the northeast of the very heavily reduced enemy groups. Countermeasures for the closing of the gap have been started. After a long breathing spell the enemy started his attack in the loop of the Vistula north of Sandomir and broke into the main defense line in several places.

The enemy, remaining quiet on the entire front of the Central Army Group, permitted a breathing spell today, too.

Northern Army Group: South of Riga it was impossible to cut off by concentric attacks the enemy forces advancing north of Baldone towards the Duna.

On the front between Friedrichstadt and southwest of Volmar the enemy kept up his strong pressure with forces quickly brought up.

Arising crises were overcome by our troops fighting courageously. The 31st Infantry Division which was cut off fought its way back to our main defense line.

Without enemy pressure, our withdrawal movements from between Volmar and the Riga Bay were continued southwards to the contemplated positions of Straupe-Jelgovkrogs line.

The island of Worms east of Dagsoe is being evacuated. Further observations confirmed the readiness of the enemy for starting an attack in the area of Doblen-Mitau.

VII. Report by Chief, Operations Branch, Operations Division, Naval Staff on the inquiry made by Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff, Navy concerning the evacuation of two divisions of the 20th Mountain Army Command as stated in War Diary of

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25 Sept. - Commander in Chief, Navy approved.

Special Items:

I. According to an order by Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division of 25 Sept. Rear Admiral Rogge, so far Second Admiral, Baltic Station will take over the command of the Training Unit Fleet. Vice Admiral Thiele, who so far has been simultanecusly Commander of the Training Unit Fleet will be relieved of this position.

Cruisers of the 2nd Task Force will be detached from the Training Unit Fleet and will be fully placed under orders of the Commander of the 2nd Task Force, Vice Admiral Thiele. The other light forces belonging to the 2nd Task Force will be under orders of the Commander as regards operations only.

II. On 19 Sept. the Fleet Command submitted a proposal on the commitment of naval forces for the defense against landings in the Skagerrak area. Copy as per 1/Skl 3066/44 Gkdos. Chefs/ in file "1/Skl I op VIII, 3."

The Fleet holds operations of heavy naval forces in the area east of the Skagerrak Wall to be possible, restricting them, however, to the night hours. The light naval forces which will also be considered for operations west of the Skagerrak Wall will primarily have to do so during the night hours and chiefly as torpedo carriers but also as mine carriers.

The matter is left open for decision.

III. Concerning Eastern Area:

a. Admiral, Eastern Baltic reported upon request of Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division, Shipping and Transport Branch.

"1. According to the evaluation of the situation of the Northern Army Group as of the evening of 25 Sept., the withdrawal movement was a greater success than expected and the front north of the Duena as well as east of Riga south of the Duena has steadied. A new attempt by the enemy to reach the coast by way of Tuckum is being expected. However, after the present concentration our own forces are held to be sufficient for defensive purposes.

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2. The evacuation of Riga is being started with the transport space made available. All that can be spared is being evacuated. The commanding Admiral and Admiral (E) Voss will go to Riga for a discussion on the extent of the transport.

3. The preparation for the demolition of the harbor is the task of the Army. In this respect as well a spot check will be made using the experiences in Reval, where efforts to demolish the harbor were a complete success.

4. In the event that the troops are cut off north of the Duena, their evacuation is being contemplated - as was already ordered early on 25 Sept. due to a premature situation report - by concentrating all available naval landing craft on the coast of Salismuende as far as Duenamuende, Artillery ferries and minesweeping boats will provide the necessary protection. Troops embarked ashore to be disembarked on the west coast of the Riga Bay.

b. Naval Command, Baltic Sea reported on the temporary plans for the positions of allocated guns in the Baltic area. Further particulars will be taken care of by Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division, Coastal Defense Branch. Naval Staff, Operations Division has no comment on this.

IV. Concerning Northern Area:

a. Armed Forces High Command, Operations Branch notified Naval Staff, for information, of the following directive to Military Governor, Noreay concerning the ferry sites on the Reich Road 50:

"Speedy preparations are to be made in cooperation with Naval Command, Norway for increasing the ferrying performance of the ferry sites on the Reich road 50 from Lyngen Fjord to the railway terminal, giving Lyngen Fjord first priority. For the additional employment of naval landing craft and ships, the construction of more improvised landing stages, the improvement of quay installations, the supply of fuel for naval landing craft, anti-aircraft protection, life saving devices, concrete work and navigational lights are necessary.

Principle: Dispersal to be achieved instead of remaining dependent on one loading stage only.

Report to Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff as to which measures can be carried out by 1 Nov."

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Naval Staff, Operations Division notified Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division, Shipping and Transport Branch.

b. In accordance with the directive by Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division (see War Diary 22 Sept.) Naval Command, Norway with one boiler and two engines and proposed towing it to a home base as quickly as possible to safeguard it against probable sabotage. Three boats of the 5th Destroyer Flotilla are to be used for this purpose.

Concerning torpedo boat TA "8" Naval Command, Norway likewise proposed transfer to a home base as soon as a hand rudder with a rudder quadrant has been installed in spite of the early stage of construction.

V. Concerning Southeast Area.

a. Group South reports:

"The evacuation of the Dalmatian islands and the desertion of the 369th (Croatian) Infantry Division prompted the Army Group F, instead of occupying the "Kurfuersten" line (Sarande-Joannina) to establish as main defense line the line Durazzo - Elbasan - south of the Ochrid and Presba Lake and then to turn south to the Pindus ridge until the evacuation of Attica and Thessalonica has been carried out. The troops thus becoming available will be used for reinforcing the Narenta area, regarded as being especially threatened by the enemy."

b. Furthermore the Group requested a decision by Naval Staff whether after the withdrawal of Naval Shore Commander, Crete, the Naval Shore Commander, Dodecanese is also to be withdrawn, as the Leros area is limited. The Group considers the Port Commander, Leros to be sufficient.

c. In a monitored radio telegram Group South issued an order to Admiral, Aegean Sea to report at once:

Intentions and existing orders concerning the Corinth Canal in the event of an evacuation; whether and how demolitions are planned and who is responsible for planning and execution?

A telephone inquiry at Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff, Navy showed thatthis command regards the blocking of the Corinth Canal as a foregone conclusion in view of existing

general rules. An officer of the General Staff has flown to Attica today.

VI. Directives on the Reorganization of the Naval Service of the Air Force may be learned from order 1/Skl I L 29084/44 Gkdos. Copy of War Diary, Part C, Vol. V.

Situation 26 Sept.

I. Situation West Area.

1. Enemy Situation:

Twenty-two planes of the 19th Group and fifty of the 15th Group, 38 of which were escort planes for Formation 348, were detected on missions. Ten British vessels were located in the rendezvous area.

2. Own Situation:

Atlantic Coast:

Three patrol boats and one motor coaster transported personnel and materiel from Lorient to Le Palais and three patrol boats carried out transports from Lorient to Port Maria. Owing to weather conditions only limited supplies could be flown to the Atlantic fortresses during the night of 25 Sept.

An enemy rowing boat with a crew of four men was sunk by harbor defense vessels off Cordenais.

On the evening of 25 Sept. a motor coaster sailed from La Pallice carrying supplies to the Gironde fortresses.

Situation of Channel Fortresses:

Lorient: On the afternoon of 25 Sept. enemy artillery activity on the northern and eastern front increased. An attack on the picket Kervignac was frustrated by naval anti-aircraft fire.

St. Nazaire: On 25 Sept. lively scouting activity on both sides. An enemy attack on a bridge east of St. Omer was

repulsed. A counterthrust was successful. On 26 Sept. the enemy artillery and mortar fire was directed by air observation. During the night the enemy laid some mines before our defense line.

La Rochelle: In La Rochelle 24 captured German nationals were exchanged against 14 Frenchmen and 8 Russians on 25 Sept.

Naval Shore Commander, Bretagne reported that the relaying of combat experiences from Brest by radio is possible to a limited extent only. Coastal artillery could be used for ground combat by widening the embrasures by 20 to 30 degrees and by setting up single guns in open field positions. Batteries without the protection of embrasures are to be used first and to the fullest extent, as they will be destroyed before the last round has been fired. The enemy annihilates first of all the anti-aircraft artillery by continuous single attacks carried out by fighter-bombers which are then followed by strong bombing raids. The communication network stood up better than was to be expected. The signal personnel of all ships out of action was assigned to signal duty in batteries and isolated strongholds. In the course of the demolishing of the harbor installations attention is to be paid to the location of still used cables. The American propaganda is forceful and clever.

Withdrawal Movements:

Nothing to report.

Channel Waters:

On 25 Sept. Battery "Todt " shelled Dover and Folkestone.

On the same day a convoy was carried out between Guernsey and Sarq and back. At 1948 a large tanker, one LST, one troop transport and one large freighter west of Guernsey were heading south.

On the morning of 26 Sept. a destroyer and three other vessels were sighted northwest of Guernsey heading southwest. Incoming and outgoing freighters, LST's and patrol vessels were continuously observed in the area off Cherbourg.

Supplies for Calais are planned to be flown during the night of 26 Sept.

Situation Channel Fortresses:

Dunkirk: On 26 Sept. the entire defense sector and the inner fortress were subjected to heavy surprise fire. Two advancing scout squads were forced to turn back on the southwest front. On 25 Sept. our artillery fired on enemy gun positions with good results. 880 civilians were evacuated from the inner fortress and 9.000 from the suburbs; 15,000 people are still within the main defense line.

Calais: On 25 Sept. isolated field positions were completely buried and made unfit for combat by bombing raid. On 26 Sept. at 1500 uninterrupted bombing raids and heavy artillery fire on harbor, city and batteries were reported. Losses were negligible. The completion of a new main defense line was successful under most difficult conditions. Battery "Sangatte" is engaged in heavy defense combat. Beginning 1100 all heights around the Battery "Lindemann" were occupied by numerous enemy tanks and 360 infantry men. The Battery refused a demand for surrender and opened fire on the English coast with turret "C". Our scout squads inflicted casualties on the enemy and relieved an encircled group. The defense of the Battery is restricted to the turrets.

Gris Nez: On 26 Sept. Battery "Grosser Kurfuerst" was subjected to heavy enemy artillery fire which was successfully returned against enemy concentrations. One enemy battery was destroyed. Enemy harassing fire on the Batteries "Todt" and "Gris Nez" was without effect. Also on 25 Sept. enemy concentrations were dispersed by artillery and mortar fire on Battery "Todt"; one tank was annihilated. Radar, searchlights, and thermal direction finding gear on Gris Nez received hits and became unfit for use. The equipment was blown up.

II. North Sea, Norway, Northern Waters.

1. North Sea:

Heligoland Bight:

During the night of 25 Sept. isolated long distance night fighters entered the Heligoland area and were fired on at an altitude of up to 1,000 m by radar directed fire from anti-aircraft artillery Emden. One mine was swept off the "Kaiser" lock in Wesermuende (Bremerhaven). Concerning the air raid on Bremen on the afternoon of 25 Sept. no reports on damage to naval installations have been received so far.- Altogether 23,486 BRT were escorted in the Heligoland Bight on 26 Sept.

Dutch Coast:

All operations were cancelled owing to stormy northwest winds.

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Schelde:

On 25 Sept. the following were ferried across at Flushing: 165 men, 30 wounded, 28 prisoners, 25 horses and 23 vehicles. By day apparently large minesweeping boats were detected by instruments and sight at work off the Schelde.

2. Norway, Northern Waters:

Enemy Situation:

Thirty-eight planes were detected on missions over the 18th Group area. The enemy radio traffic on 25 Sept. suggests operations presumably in the Kara Sea. On the evening of 26 Sept. the flotilla leader BAKU and five destroyers were detected in the Archangel area.

An aerial picture of the Kola Bay taken in the afternoon showed, after rough evaluation, one "Rodney", one battleship possibly indentical with a reported vessel of the R-Class, two auxiliary carriers, twelve destroyers and 230,000 BRT merchant shipping. Thus the arrival of the PQ convoy so far presumed has been confirmed.

Own Situation:

During the night of 24 Sept. numerous incursions (105 planes) into the area of Petsamo-Kirkenes were reported. In the course of bombing and gunfire raids on Kirkenes a Norwegian smack was sunk. On 25 Sept. at 1350 withdrawing enemy PT boats were shelled by Battery "Sensenhauer". At 1630 a fire duel of medium strength was reported from the Petsamo area.

On 26 Sept. at 1315 minesweeper M "31" on position northeast of Nordkyn was attacked with torpedoes misfired from one, possibly two enemy submarines.

In the west coast area submarine chaser "1106" probably struck a drifting mine; it sank at 0400. Twenty-three ships were escorted north and the same number south.

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III. Skagerrak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea.

1. Enemy Situation:

No special findings.

2. Own Situation:

Admiral, Skagerrak:

Twenty vessels were on minesweeping duty. One troop transport and two tankers were escorted north.

Western and Central Baltic:

Fifty-seven boats were on minesweeping duty. One mine was swept off Pillau, one near Darsser Ort respectively in the Pommeranian Bay. At 0658 the transport MONTE ROSA was slightly damaged by the detonation of a mine in the wake of the ship in AO 7824 and was able to continue on her journey without tug assistance. A ground mine escort was carried out by three sweeping vessels; an unloaded ship was also allocated.

Under the existent danger from mines the use of such large ships in shallow waters necessitates special precautionary measures.

Admiral, Eastern Baltic:

Withdrawal movements of Northern Army Group are taking place as planned. The rear guards are now south of Salismuende. The island of Worms was evacuated.

The evacuation of dispensable goods from Riga has been started. The fouling of the Moon Sound is being prepared.

The steamer WARTHELAND ran aground in the Ahrensburg Bay at 0733 and is taking in water. Attempts at salvaging have been without success so far.

The Kemi convoy was in AO 5904 on 25 Sept. at 2300. Torpedo boat T "8" was released to Gdynia with the fast steamer ILLER owing to lack of fuel. The cruising speed of the remaining convoy was reduced to four miles owing to weather conditions.

All artillery barges and naval landing craft were assigned to Oesel and four naval landing craft to Duenamuende to be at the disposal of the Commander, Minesweepers.

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During the period of 17 to 25 Sept. the following were evacuated from Estonian ports: 37,831 men, 13,049 wounded, 20,417 evacuees, 931 prisoners of war; from the mainland to the Baltic Islands; 2,500 men, 3,440 evacuees and 22,500 prisoners of war, in all 100,668 persons. In these transports the steamer MOERO was sunk, the steamers SUMATRA and ROSS were damaged.

From Finnish ports the following were evacuated within the operation "Birke"; 4,039 soldiers, 3,356 wounded and 332 evacuees; also 746 vehicles and 42,144 tons of Armed Forces materiel. 13,065 tons of Armed Forces cargo were lost as a result of Finnish ships escaping into Swedish or Finnish territorial waters.

The Northern Army Group was supplied with 3,343 tons shipped to Riga on 25 Sept.

IV. Submarine Warfare.

In Northern Waters Group "Grimm" with six boats and Group "Zorn" with seven boats were formed for attacking the expected QP convoy.

Submarines of Group "Greif" in the Kara Sea received separate orders to return. The last boat will leave the KARA Sea on 7 Oct.

No Special reports from the other operational areas.

V. Aerial Warfare.

West Area:

In the afternoon and additional airborne division was landed in the Arnheim area. Further incursions of importance were not reported.

Reich Territory:

In the course of the day about 280 enemy planes were reported over northwestern and western Germany concentrating on the Rhenish-Westphalian industrial area without undertaking raids. In the afternoon 600 to 700 bombers under fighter escort

approaching from Holland raided Hamm and Osnabrueck, while a formation of several hundred four-engined planes with fighter escort approaching from the Heligoland Bight raided Bremen. Fighter formations approached the area north of Hanover; Hamm, Osnabrueck and the air base of Rheine were raided also. The raid on Bremen became a heavy terror raid on the city area, while the damage to industrial installations was slight.

During the night of 26 Sept. Frankfurt on the Main and Karlsruhe were raided.

Mediterranean Theater:

On 25 Sept. berths and dockyards in Piraeus and Salamis as well as Skaramanga were raided by about 127 Liberators.

In the Italian front sector the enemy dispatched about 690 planes on missions. In the area near Ravenna our anti-aircraft artillery shot down four enemy planes.

Our own planes carried out reconnaissance tasks.

Eastern Front:

On 25 Sept. 518 of our own and 1,206 enemy planes were on missions; 38 of the latter were shot down. four of our planes failed to return to their bases.

The reconnaissance over the Kola Bay was reported on.

During the night of 26 Sept. twelve courier planes, ten of which were heading east, were spotted in the Lillehammer area and over the Skagerrak.

VI. Warfare in the Mediterranean and in the Danube Area.

1. Area of German Naval Command, Italy:

Enemy Situation:

According to air reconnaissance of the evening of 25

Sept. 11 to 14 ships in three groups were in the area southeast of Toulon as far as 40 miles southeast of Nizza; 4 to 5 more vessels were detected 62 miles southeast of Toulon.

Fighter-bombers were very active over the Gulf of Genoa, according to air reconnaissance.

Own Situation:

Convoy and escort tasks on the Italian west coast were carried out as planned and without interference.

Demolition measures in Marina di Carrara were carried out as planned. Early on 26 Sept. nine "Molche" (Small Battle Weapons) departed from San Remo for operations against destroyers off Mentone and against Nice.

Eleven "Marder" (Small Battle Weapons) were transferred to Savona to be available against and outflanking landing in the area of Savona-Imperia.

2. Area Naval Group, South:

Adriatic Sea:

The lighthouse of San Giovanni near Rovigno was fired on and put out of commission by enemy PT boats and planes early on 25 Sept. On 26 Sept. at 0500 the enemy landed in unknown strength on Great-Drvnik. Particulars are missing. At 1900 PT boats S "30" and "36" departed from Pola for Cattaro. The 7th PT boat Flotilla consisting of three boats sailed from Pola for a sweep in the waters of Solta-Drvnik-Lissa; the 24th PT Boat Flotilla consisting of three boats is being dispatched from Pola for operations in the area off Ancona.

Aegean Sea:

In the forenoon one aircraft carrier, one DIDO cruiser and two destroyers were east of Levitha. Until 1300 a unit has been standing off and on in the waters of Levitha - Stampalia. Only two fighter planes were observed ondeck. The enemy situation on Kythera is in general unchanged. Minesweeping work south of Dythera was carried out under cover off destroyers. Submarines were sighted and shelled 15 miles west of Levitha and, respectively, 15 miles west of Levitha and, respectively, 15 miles north of Shiatos.

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Reports of 24 Sept. were supplemented to the effect that two motor sailing vessels were sunk east of Cassandra by an enemy submarine sighted near Athos on the afternoon of 25 Sept.

Convoy vessel GA "08" sank in an air raid in the area of Piraeus and Skaramanga in the afternoon of 25 Sept. Sixteen soldiers were killed. One submarine chaser was slightly damaged. On the dockyard of Skaramanga particularly the billeting huts were destroyed.

In an air raid in the Piraeus area on 24 Sept. five planes were shot down, two of them by naval anti-aircraft artillery.

Early on 26 Sept. 14 Spitfire attacked the airfield of Rhodes and carried out raids on roads.

The radio silence for enemy air forces in the Aegean area may point to impending special operations. Admiral, Aegean Sea reported that the expected decision was arrived at by Army Group E. Now the entire large shipping space which also includes the motor sailing vessels of medium size with German crews is being employed on the route between Piraeus and Salonika for the evacuation of naval and Army troops as well as 11,500 tons of materiel of first priority. In the Dodecanese only special vessels and motor ships bound for Salonika can be used. The large shipping space on hand comprises 6,500 tons and is sufficient in theory to transport in six runs 25,000 men and all materiel. Torpedo boats, PT boats, motor minesweepers and coastal defense boats are fully engaged in escort tasks.

The duration of the sea transports will, however, be influenced by the fuel situation. Diesel oil and coal stores do not permit the simultaneous employment of all available consumers. In order to improve the fuel situation it is planned to transfer the supplies stored on the island. In this connection the shipment of coal from Leros to Salonika is of decisive importance in order to be albe to carry out railway transports from there.

As to the land, or island situation Admiral, Aegean Sea reported: In the Dodecanese forces are being concentrated on Rhodes and Leros, where the establishment of fortified places was ordered.

Milos, Paros and Syra of the Cyclades will be occupied as important temporary ports, as their garrisons together with the mine barrage must be presumed to have so far prevented enemy naval forces from approaching the northern Aegean Sea. After completion of the task the personnel is to be evacuated by planes and torpedo boats.

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An inner fortress is being formed on Crete. - In western Greece the destruction of the Corinth Canal is contemplated for the next few days. Patras, Rhien and Antirhion are still being defended. - For the greater area of Athens the transfer to Salonika of the naval base with the exception of the coastal defense was ordered. - The naval personnel in the areas of the Peloponnesos and western Greece was incorporated as far as possible into the Army in individual marching units thus relieving Army coastal artillery and division artillery. Additional personnel will be transferred to the Navy transit camp in Salonika and will primarily be used for protecting railway traffic on the line to Belgrade. Transports home are contemplated for unsuited officers and officials, specialists and skilled workers, soldiers unable to walk as well as individual crews of submarines, torpedo boats PT boats and motor minesweepers. The success of the transports home depends upon the condition of the railway line Salonika - Belgrade - Vienna.

Admiral, Aegean Sea is of the opinion that the naval situation developed as expected after the British decided to attack the evacuation transports from the islands. The northern concentration now under way is under enemy pressure, whereby an outflanking landing by the British in Thrace as well as a Russian attack in the direction of Belgrade - Nish for the purpose of interrupting the north-south communication are probable. Our forces in the area of Salonika - Belgrade are weak. The bulk of our Army forces is still distributed over the areas of Athens - Salonika in order to keep the land communications open.

Danube Situation:

Nothing to report.

VII. Situation Far East.

Nothing to report.

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Items of Political Importance.

In a joint declaration made by Churchill and Roosevelt it is stated that greater independence will be given to the Italian Government. Italy has been requested to appoint diplomatic representatives in London and Washington. The Anglo-Saxon commissionars in Rome will become ambassadors.

The newly formed Belgian Government will for the first time include two Communist members.

Commander in Chief, Navy is absent from "Koralle" (Emergency Headquarters) for discussion with Naval Command, North.

Conference on the Situation with the Chief, Naval Staffat 1125.

I. Naval Staff, Special Weapons Division reported: During the night of 26 Sept. "Molche" (Small Battle Weapons) were for the first time operating against enemy destroyers off Nizza. For operations in the Adriatic Sea difficulties are encountered due to heavy enemy air activities.

II. Chief, Naval Intelligence Division: Traffic between Sweden and Finland is still being kept up by Swedish ships.

Anxiety is felt in northern Italy owing to the front situation. Some of Mussolini's ministers would like to flee to Switzerland.

According to an agent's report from Vienna eight German Communist divisions are said to have been formed in Russia.

In a Restricted Circle.

III. Army Situation:

Western Front:

The enemy penetration near Turnhout was narrowed.

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The 1st British Airborne Division was finally annihilated west of Arnheim on 26 Sept. after almost ten days of hard fighting. Considerable materiel was captured and 6,450 men were taken prisoner. Our losses amountto 3,300 men, thus proving the severity of the combats.

North of Nijmegen the enemy launched a fierce local attack. He was repulsed.

Our attack in the Arnheim-Nijmegen area is being delayed by necessary regroupings. The coordinated attack for the annihilation of the enemy between the lower Rhine and the Waal is planned for 30 Sept.

At Army Group B enemy artillery and reconnaissance activities permit the conclusion that the enemy is reinforcing the Metz area. In the bridgehead of Pont a Mousson the enemy yielded territory.

German advances in the Luneville area gained territory.

The fight west of the Doubs Balley is being continued.

Evaluation of the Enemy:

As all formations of the British Army Group recognized as battle-fit - except one division - were confirmed at present in action an essential reinforcement is not to be expected for the time being unless new formations are sent from England in the very near future. Tenaciously holding on to an defending the Channel ports has consequently had a favorable effect and is time gained for the completion of the West Wall.

Italian Front:

The focal point of yesterday's especially hard combats, high in casualties, was again in the Firenzuola area. The enemy penetrations were brought to a halt or cut off in fierce close combat and repeated counterthrusts.

On the Adriatic coast the enemy, heavily supported by tank forces, resumed his major attack along the entire front of three divisions. The combats are in full swing.

The presence of the 56th British Infantry Division in the Bari area as well as reports on preparations of the enemy air force

are further pointing to plans of landing in the Adriatic area. Concentrations of shipping and air transport space cannot be detected. Although the above-mentioned confirmations again point to an operation in the Adriatic area, the execution of a new major operation having no direct operative connection with the present combats is in the face of the highest concentration of all forces in Italy and the supply needs connected therewith greatly improbable before a decisive success in Italy has been achieved.

Balkan Peninsula:

The marching and withdrawal movements under way are still being considerably delayed by road and railway interruptions.

Measures were taken for the 1st Mountain Division to assume command in the sector south of the Danube and for the concentration of forces to clarify the situation in the Danube bend. According to Foreign Armies West all Allied plans for the Balkans will without doubt be greatly influenced by political considerations, in which connection the retention of British troops for occupying the evacuated parts of Greece and the Aegean islands is especially noteworthy. This can only be explained on the basis of political considerations. The occupation of the island of Dythera by the British can be interpreted only as the first step for the early acquisition of a blocking position along the Rhodes-Crete-Dythera line for the safeguarding of the Mediterranean passage. It is very questionable that the Dardanelles issue, at present entirely uncertain, will be settled in a way favorable to the British.

There are no indications at all of a Russian military operation from Bulgaria against Turkish Thrace. The infiltration of British air force special commandos into western Turkey is making further progress.

In Bulgaria the enemy picture is on the whole unchanged. The Russian 67th Army marching in parts down the Balkans to the south does not yet permit conclusions about the final marching direction.

Eastern Front:

In the western and northwestern Rumanian areas the enemy is being further reinforced. The pressure against the 3rd Hungarian Army east of the Tiza River is being continued. Nagy Varad was lost. The brisk combat activity near Cluj and Szasz Reen is being continued.

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In the Beskides the enemy is further pursuing his plans to breach our lines and push on across the Beskides to the south. At the same time the first indications of a concentration of forces in the area south of Stryj are apparent.

In Warsaw it was possible to clear larger parts of the suburb Mokotow of rebels. After attempts to force the break-through into Warsaw by a frontal attack in cooperation with the rebel centers have failed, the enemy now appears to be preparing an encircling attack.

After a long breathing spell the enemy launched attacks on the East Prussian border north of Sudauen. On the whole he was repulsed. The Northern Army Group moved into the Segevold position. Numerous severe enemy attacks were repulsed. Some penetrations could not be prevented.

South of Riga in the Baldone area the situation became more stable, existing gaps were closed. Our front near Mitau was reinforced to resist the expected Russian major attack.

Special Items.

I. Concerning East Area.

a. According to a report by Admiral, Fuehrer Headquarters, the Fuehrer expressed his special recognition for the transport performance achieved by the Navy incidential to the evacuation of the Northern Army Group.

b. Admiral, Skagerrak once more urgently requested that strong night fighter forces be transferred to the Danish area in order to oppose at this time already enemy intentions of mining the Baltic Sea entrances.

The request was supported by Naval Command, Baltic Sea in spite of the known fuel situation.

Naval Staff, Operations Division informed High Command, Air, Operations Staff, Chief, of Operations Staff, Navy and requested that the distribution of the night fighter formations in the northern German and Jutland area be made known. Chief of Operations Branch, Navy thereupon communicated the following:

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"High Command, Air transferred as a matter of precaution increased night fighter forces to the Jutland and Schleswig-Holstein area; in all: four night fighter groups Ju 88's, one night fighter group Me 110's distributed as follows: two groups in Grove, one group Westerland, one group Schleswig, one group Luebeck. The transfer of a reinforced night fighter squadron from the Reich to Lister was likewise prepared."

Naval Command, Baltic Sea and Admiral, Skagerrak were informed of these concentrations which already took place.

c. Naval Command, North and Admiral, Netherlands, Commanding Admiral, North Sea received the directive to transfer the mine naval landing craft "829", "840", "841" to the western Baltic where they are urgently needed for KMA and other mine tasks. Likewise boats of the 8th Gun Carrier Flotilla released by Admiral, Netherlands are to be dispatched to new areas.

II. Concerning North Area.

a. Naval Command, Norway notified Naval Staff, for information, of its opinion stated to Commanding General, Norway concerning the evacuation of 20th Mountain Army Command. This reads in part as follows:

"After a throughgoing investigation with Organization Todt only the ferries on the Lyngen Fjord and the Soerfolda Fjord come into question as ferrying routes on the Reich road 50. For these corssings Naval Command in all probability cannot make any or only a few naval landing craft available.

The following proposals were made:

1. The existing ferry service to be extended by the employment of

a. provisionally fitted out vessels for the already existing ferry service;

b. additional end-loading ferries for ferry points yet to be established;

c. maintenance and supply stores and repair shops for all ferries and vessels;

d. generator sets for generating electric current for lighting purposes if not available at sea or not in sufficient quantity.

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2. For the relief of the Reich road 50 and the Lyngen ferry additional small transports from Bur Fjord to Tromsdalen (Tromosoe) or Storsteines or Soerreisa are to be employed by Naval Command, Superintending Seatransport Officer, making use of the available piers.

3. Efficient (large) troop transports from Bjerkvik to Drag in the Tys Fjord are to be employed by Naval Command, Superintending Seatransport Officer provided the order for constructing one pier each at these places was carried out.

4. Depending upon the right of control over a sufficiently large number of suitable troop transports and with due regard for the sea and convoy situation existing at the time, the Naval Command can also take into consideration the employment of troop transports, also over longer sea routes, as from Bur Fjord to Mosjoen or Drontheim.

5. It pointed out as a matter of precaution that the necessary anti-aircraft and smoke protection cannot be furnished by the Navy."

b. Naval Command, Norway notified Naval Staff, Operations Division, for information, of the complaint lodged with 5th Air Force respectively General of the Air Force in Finland about the withdrawal of the smoke laying planes stationed in Petsamo, pointing to the supply convoy for 20th Mountain Army Command being endangered which can no longer be risked in fully dark or hazy weather on account of increasing danger from PT boats.

Naval Staff, Operations Division informed High Command, Air, Operations Staff, Operations Branch, Navy requesting to give Naval Staff a chance beforehand to form an opinion in such cases.

III. Concerning Area Naval Command, North.

a. High Command, Army, Chief, Bureau of Army Armaments and Commander, Home Forces informed Naval Staff of an order concerning the formation of an Operations Staff, North Coast in Hamburg by Corps Area X. Naval Staff, Operations Division in turn informed Naval Command, North and Baltic Sea. Copy according to order 1/Skl 29867/44 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. II a.

b. Chief, High Command, Army, Army Armaments and Commander,

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Replacement Army wired:

"The Commanding Admirals, Naval Command, North and Baltic Sea will retain for the defense of the coastal regions within their own areas the authorities of an Armed Forces Command. In respect to these tasks they are under the command of Reichsfuehrer SS (Chief of Army Armaments and Commander, Replacement Army.)".

c. Naval Staff, Operational Division ordered naval landing craft F "10" immediately to be placed under the command of Naval Command, North as to operations.

IV. Concerning South Area.

Commanding General, Southwest, Naval Staff and German Naval Command, Italy received the following directive from Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff in accordance with the opinion which, by Commanding General, Southwest has also been submitted to Commander in Chief, Navy:

"Effective immediately, demolition preparations in Italian ports are to be made only by Naval Command, Italy with its own forces and means. The Army engineers at present engaged in these tasks are to be relieved as quickly as possible by naval forces and returned to Commanding General, South west. Explosives needed for demolition measures already started or being planned are available at Naval Command, Italy, respectively will be furnished by the Navy in the form of live shells."

V. Lt. Commander Kemnade (at Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division, Fleet Branch) was placed on subsidiary duty as PT boat specialist (Chief, PT Boats Branch) at Naval Staff, Operations Division.

Situation 27 Sept.

I. Situation West Area.

1. Enemy Situation:

Thirty planes of the 19th Group and forty planes of the 15th Group - twenty-eight were escort planes of the formation 348- were spotted on missions. Eight British and one American

vessel were located in the rendezvous area.

2. Own Situation:

Atlantic Coast:

A destroyer formation was sighted south of Belle Ile; enemy PT boats were standing south of Ile de Croix.

A transport operation by three patrol boats is planned for the night of 27 Sept. between Le Palais, Port Maria and Lorient, and of additional three boats between Aldebaran, Belle Ile and Lorient.

Situation Atlantic Fortresses:

Lorient: Enemy artillery fire lay on the harbor area as well as on the northern and eastern sector. Our anti-aircraft guns shelled enemy movements in the coastal approaches.

La Rochelle: On 26 Sept. shock troop operations were carried out against the places Veerieres and La Gravelle. The enemy was thrown back, places were occupied and prisoners taken.

Gironde North: On 27 Sept. an assault squad advancing in the direction of Talmont chased the enemy and annihilated enemy outposts including all arms. Prisoners were taken.

Supplies for Gironde South are planned to be flown by two planes during the night of 27 Sept.

Channel Coast:

On the afternoon of 26 Sept. six LST's, one LSJ, two Liberty ships, two freighters, one tanker and one troop transport heading south were observed in the waters west of Cherbourg. Two vessels heading north were west of Guernsey, presumably coming from St.Malo.

Situation Channel Fortresses:

Dunkirk: On 26 Sept. enemy harassing fire lay on the entire defense area. In the evening severe fighter-bomber attacks took place. The movement of 80 enemy trucks with infantry and 15 armored patrol cars was effectively shelled.

An enemy battery was shelled simultaneously. A Liberator was brought down.

Calais: On 26 Sept. at 2200 the Batteries "Lindemann" and "Sangatte" were overpowered by the enemy. Battery "Fort Lapin" was engaged in combat with enemy tanks. In the city, the citadel and the casemates in the harbor area were demolished respectively pierced in the course of bombing raids.

Gris Nez: On 26 Sept. continuous heaviest bombing raids and strong artillery fire were directed against the Batteries "Todt" and "Grosser Kurfuerst". The command post of the artillery group was inactivated. Two bombers were shot down. Battery "Todt" shelled a buoy layer at the Varne Bank, which withdrew laying down smoke.

II. North Sea, Norway, Northern Waters.

1. North Sea:

Heligoland Bight:

On the afternoon of 27 Sept. Naval Battery Wilhelmshaven shot down one enemy plane. During the night of 26 Sept. enemy long distance night fighters, evidently looking for convoys, were cruising over the shipping routes in the Heligoland Bight. Planes have also been over the Ems estuary for a longer period.

Dutch Coast:

The continuous presence of enemy minesweeping boats in the waters west of West Kapelle gives rise to the presumption of the enemy planning to sweep the waters so as to enable heavy naval vessels to shell the Battery Walcheren. In the forenoon and afternoon enemy vessels on alternating courses were detected by instruments west of Walcheren. Seven vessels were shelled northwest of West Kapelle. One of the targets was made out as a destroyer.

In the afternoon and evening of 26 Sept. two four-engined enemy planes were reported shot down by naval anti-aircraft Battery Scheveningen; passing planes were fired upon by naval anti-aircraft Battery Terschelling.

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The demolition of the harbor of Amsterdam was continued. Three ships under construction were blown up.

In Rotterdam the tanker BREISGAU (13,400 BRT) was sunk in the entrance on the western side of Wallhafen.

Schelde:

The ferry traffic wound up as planned. The blocking and mining of Hansweerd was carried out. In the afternoon of 26 Sept. several fighter-bomber raids on Breskens took place.

2. Norway, Northern Waters:

Enemy Sitaution:

Forty-nine planes of the 18th Group were spotted on missions over the central and northern North Sea.

In the Archangel area the flotilla leader BAKU and four mine layers were at sea, according to radio monitoring.

According to a rough evaluation of photographs of 26 Sept. the following vessels were present in Polyarnoe: 9 destroyers, 1 torpedo boat, 4 submarines 1 supply ship, 19 (apparently) PT boats and 1 (apparently) small merchant ship; in the Kola Bay: 1 battleship of the NELSON class, 1 battleship of the R-class, 2 auxiliary aircraft carriers, 3 destroyers 2 (apparently escort boats, 1 submarine, 35 Liberty freighters, 3 other vessels, 1 tanker. A floating dock and a dry dock were unoccupied, the other drydock was occupied by a wreck and 2 torpedo boats.

These findings confirm that a PQ convoy has arrived. Naval Command, Norway holds the early start of a QP convoy to be probable and also reckons with the possibility of attacks by enemy combat groups on Norwegian coastal waters. Combined Russian naval and ground operations in the Arctic Ocean area with Anglo-American naval forces participating, The selection of the Kola Bay as a discharge port for the PQ convoy would indicate the focal point being shifted to the north.

Own Situation:

At about noon 85 enemy planes raided Vadsoe. No damage was caused in the naval sector. Our fighters reported 20 planes

brought down.

Reports of 25 Sept. were supplemented to the effect that in the PT boat and air raids in the Ekkeroey area one PT boat was annihilated and four planes were shot down.

Between 2035 the following vessels out of a convoy consisting of eight submarine chasers and five steamers sank after detonations between Stavanger and Kristiansand-South southwest of Feiestein; the steamer CLAERE HUGO STINNES (5,295 BRT) with an ore cargo, the steamer KNUTHE NELSON (5,748 BRT (without cargo, as well as submarine chaser "1715". Escort boats have so far rescued 35 men; 41 men reached the shore. The rest of the convoy returned to Stavanger. Shipping between Ekkeroey and Feistein was suspended owing to suspected mines.

At 0158 the newly constructed torpedo boat TA "7" lying in Horten sank after an explosion and intake of water caused by an act of sabotage with explosives.

Thus the contemplated transfer of this vessel to a Reich shipyard becomes void.

Twenty-one ships northbound and seventeen ships southbound were escorted.

III. Skagerrak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea.

1. Enemy Situation:

On 26 Sept. the following were detected in the Gulf of Finland while in radio communication: 4 minesweeping divisions, 20 small war vessels and 30 more staffs respectively vessels.

West-northwest of Baltic Port nine PT boats heading southwest were reported in the afternoon by one of our submarines.

2. Own Situation:

Admiral, Skagerrak:

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Patrol positions off the Jutland west coast were not occupied due to the weather conditions. Twenty-four boats were on mine sweeping duty.

A naval landing craft which was damaged by a mine on 20 Sept. sank at the north mole in Frederikshavn presumably owing to a broken bulkhead.

Western and Central Baltic:

Thirty-three boats were on minesweeping duty. Four mines were swept in the Pommeranian Bay and one in the Danzig Bay. The convoy MONTE ROSA arrived in Swinemuende at 1045.

Admiral, Eastern Baltic:

Previous reports were supplemented to the effect that the steamer MEYERLEGDE (868 BRT) sank on 25 Sept. northwest of Hainasch following an air raid.

On the Baltic islands 1,740 marines have been put into action so far.

At 0500 four minesweeping boats left Duenamuende for AO 6612, 6642 to shell the coast between Gutmannstach and Hainasch.

Convoys were executed as planned.

An isolated fire broke out on tanker ELSA ESSBERGER in the Ahrensburg Bay. A minesweeping boat was dispatched alongside for fire fighting.

IV. Submarine Warfare.

Submarine U "979" started her return passage from the operational area off Reykjavik. According to an incompletely deciphered radiogram, the boat torpedoed an incoming freighter of 6,000 BRT in AE 4752 and probably sank another ship on 23 Sept. The boat was rammed by a patrol vessel during the attack.

According to a short report from submarine U "275" the boat torpedoed with a Zaunkoenig-torpedo a passenger ship of more than 12,000 BRT in AM 7249 on 2 Sept. Following the detonation and after repeated stops the ship turned to the coast.

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In Northern Waters submarine U "313" received orders to intercept a QP convoy expected immediately outside the Kola Bay.

Two submarines carried out weather operations in the "Jan Mayen" area and on the northwest coast of Spitsbergen.

As to her penetration into the Kola Bay, submarine U "315" supplemented her report to the effect that the boat struck a new west of Salmy and pierced a new east of the island at high speed; it was caught, however, in the second net. The boat got free again after 103 minutes and returned with a large piece of net in tow and her periscope bent forward. Commander, Submarines, Norway presumes the operation of the boat to have been recognized by the floating parts of the net and gives this as an explanation for the reported transfer of the battleship.

After a thorough air reconnaissance and as soon as the question of a QP convoy is clarified another "Schnorchel" submarine is intended to be dispatched.

No special reports from the other operational areas.

Special Items:

Chief, Naval Staff requested Naval Attache Tokyo to inform the Japanese Navy in a suitable manner about the loss of submarine U "859" off Penang due to enemy submarines. Increased anti-submarine action off the harbor is absolutely necessary in the interest of the exchange of goods vital to both countries and of the continuation of submarine warfare in the Indian Ocean and off the Australian coast for which three boats are contemplated. In case continuous submarine hunt cannot be carried out due to lack of forces, the threat to our own submarines will have to be reduced as much as possible by concentrating the operations.

The same report was handed to Vice Admiral Abe during his visit with Commander in Chief, Navy on 26 Sept.

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V. Aerial Warfare.

West Area:

From the Dutch-Belgian area brisk enemy fighter-bomber and fighter activity concentrating on the combat area was reported. A mixed formation with freight gliders entered the area west of Arnheim by way of the Schelde estuary and landed parachute troops and supply containers. Our operations in the west area were carried out by 471 planes which positively shot down 16 planes.

During the night of 27 Sept. the enemy continuously put into action isolated long distance fighters in the Belgian-Dutch area.

Reich Territory:

By day three isolated planes raided the airfield of Parow with gunfire. Two planes were destroyed.

A formation of 300 planes approached from the west for a raid on the Rhenish-Westphalian industrial area and in the area of Koeln, Koblenz and Strassburg.

One thousand American bombers with fighter escort carried out raids on industrial and transport targets in Kassel, the Mannheim area and Mainz as well as in Koeln and Duisburg while about two hundred British bombers raided industrial targets in the Rhenish-Westphalian industrial area. For the considerable damage caused by these raids see the Daily Situation. The railway line Goettingen-Dransfeld and the Reichsautobahn between Hanover the Kassel were also interrupted.

One hundred and twenty-one of our own fighters were engaged in defense and succeeded in bringing down 69 planes while our losses amounted to 14 planes. Additional three planes were shot down by anti-aircraft guns.

During the night of 27 Sept. Kassel was again raided by 70 to 80 Mosquitoes; so was Kaiserslautern by 80 four-engined planes and Mosquitoes. In addition, individually approaching planes entered the southwestern, western and northern German territory. In the course of these incursions Kaiserslautern was raided. For damage caused see Daily Situation.

Eighty-two night fighters were engaged in defense losing three planes and achieving no success due to weather conditions.

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Mediterranean Theater:

Over the central and rear front area in Italy 840 enemy planes were counted on 26 Sept.; 200 twin-engined enemy planes were on flights in the western Po Valley concentrating on the area west of Milan where damage was caused to bridges and tracks. Three planes were shot down by anti-aircraft guns.

During the night of 26 Sept. a formation of 60 twin- and four-engined planes approached from southern Italy by way of the Adriatic Sea for raids in the areas of Trieste, south of Udine and south of Laibach. Our own planes carried out reconnaissance tasks in the Tyrrhenian Sea and in the southern Aegean Sea.

Eastern Front:

From the eastern front 116 of our own and 476 enemy planes were reported on missions on 26 Sept.; 17 planes were shot down while 5 of our own failed to return to their bases.

From the coastal and off shore area of Kristiansand-South and Bergen 12 Mosquitoes, evidently flying reconnaissance were reported. During the night of 27 Sept. 13 courier planes were detected over the Skagerrak and the Oslo-Bergen-Stavanger area. An additional plane presumably flew supplies to agents in the Bergen-Lillehammer area.

VI. Warfare in the Mediterranean and in the Danube Area.

1. Area of German Naval Command, Italy:

Enemy Situation:

Between 25 and 27 Sept. normal isolated shipping in both directions was observed in the Gibraltar Straits. An auxiliary cruiser arrived in Gibraltar on 26 Sept.

Photographic reconnaissance revealed the following; In the evening of 25 Sept. in harbor and bayof St.Tropez three vessels, apparently small war vessels, and five apparently LCI's; in the harbor and on the roads of St.Raphael one destroyer, five small war vessels and two large, twelve small LCT's and four freighters; in the harbor of Antibes

about 25 small boats and in the harbor and on the roads of Nice one standard freighter and several small boats. Photographic reconnaissance off Leghorn in the morning of 26 Sept. indistinctly identified thirteen medium and four small freighters.

The enemy patrolled the waters from Nice to San Remo with two to four destroyers. On 26 Sept. noon and on 27 Sept. from 0900 to 1550 the hinterland of Ventimiglia and Bordighera was shelled by destroyers in short intervals. The enemy was shelled by naval batteries.

In the evening of 26 Sept. six to eight ships were standing in two groups twenty miles south-southeast of St.Tropez.

During the night of 26 Sept. a group of vessels was detected with instruments south of Chiavari within our barrages.

Own Situation:

Our convoy and escort operations carried out as planned during the night of 25 Sept. did not make contact with the enemy.

During the night of 26 Sept. a naval landing craft and barge convoy en route from Spezia to Genoa was raided by fighter bombers off Levanto. A conical container in tow was sunk.

Margherita and Rapallo were unsuccessfully attacked with gunfire from fighter-bombers on 26 Sept. at noon. Two pilots of the nine "Melche" (Small Battle Weapons) which had departed from San Remo early on 26 Sept. returned by the evening of 27 Sept.; they reported having encountered strong enemy defense. No indications of success were observed.

2. Area Naval Group, South:

Adriatic Sea:

PT boats S "30", "36" returned to Pola in the evening of 26 Sept. The 24th PT boat Flotilla returned from operations near Ancona on account of motor trouble and moored again in Pola on 26 Sept. midnight.

The 7th PT Boat Flotilla entered Sibenic after carrying out the operation in the waters Solta-Lissa. The flotilla is being assigned to escort a northbound convoy from Split to Sibenic in the night of 27 Sept. In the same night three boats of

the 24th PT Boat Flotilla are laying out radar deception devices.

At 0641 three enemy planes attacked the steamer ITALIA with bombs and gunfire in the Bay of Trieste; the ship suffered casualties and had to be beached.

At 0700 a motor sailing vessel was sunk by two Marauders.

Torpedo boats TA "20" and "40" with the mineship KIEBITZ were attacked with bombs by enemy planes while carrying out min - ing operation "Murmel". No damage was reported.

According to an enemy radio report of 1300 allied troop units are said to have landed in Albania. No reports were received from our own commands bearing on this matter. According to radio monitoring the island of Pag is occupied by Tito troops.

Group South reported Admiral, Adriatic Sea to have transferred to the alternative location of Tueffer south of Cilly in agreement with Commanding General, Southeast.

Aegean Sea:

By day an enemy unit consisting of one carrier, two cruisers and two destroyers was again repeatedly detected, as was a mine sweeping group of five to eight vessels working on barrages between Amorgos and Levitha. Additional destroyers and small war vessels were on escort duties.

Ten small war vessels withdrew from Kythera and destroyers were relieved by escort boats. Medium and heavy anti-aircraft guns were brought into position; minesweeping units are further at work. Two war vessels, presumably PT boats were observed by our air reconnaissance to be in Kalamata. Enemy planes flew daylight reconnaissance over the Aegean Sea concentrating on the Cyclades and the Dodecanese. There was increased fighter-bomber activity by presumably carrier-based planes.

In the forenoon of 26 and 27 Sept. the airfield of Rhodes was raided by enemy fighters. In the evening of 26 Sept. the steamer SALOMEA was sunk by an enemy submarine south of Cassandra.

In the afternoon of 27 Sept. the steamer NORDMARK and GD "92" were raided in the harbor of Andros by eight enemy planes flying

at a low level. The NORDMARK caught fire after being hit by a rocket and became a total loss; the GD "92" was heavily damaged.

The enemy evidently plans to open the mine barrage for a breakthrough into the northern Aegean Sea. Admiral, Aegean Sea presumes that Turkish territorial waters are not being used, as the loss of a Swedish Red Cross ship off Koos must have a deterrent effect. It is planned to lay continuously reinforced double row minefields by torpedo boats after a successful break-through. This task is rendered more difficult by the lack of night reconnaissance.

The evacuation of Samos will probably be completed on 29 Sept. Admiral, Aegean Sea has, by a command measure, appointed the present Naval Shore Commander to be Commander of the Naval Transit Camp Salonika.

In the course of the evacuation of the island the following have so far been transported by sea by the Navy from 23 Aug. to 24 Sept.: 15,325 men, 1,432 horses, 5,600 tons of equipment, 3,127 tons of ammunition, 3,322 trucks and passenger cars, 991 vehicles, 185 guns, 23 tanks and prime movers as well as 980 tons and 487 barrels of fuel.

Lost were 1,611 tons of equipment, 1,002 tons of ammunition, 86 passenger cars and trucks, 18 guns, 14 tanks and 120 tons of fuel.

The mine barrage between Methana and Egina was laid as planned.

Army Group E charged 68th Army Corps with the responsibility for destroying the Cornith Canal. The time will be set in agreement with Admiral, Aegean Sea. The operation for the final closing of the Corinth Canal by a minelayer group is in preparation as part of the planned demolitions. Before the blastings will begin Admiral, Aegean Sea plans to transfer all valuable shipping space, to lay the mine barrage Rhion-Antirhion, barrages before and in the Corinth Canal and to block the eastern approach by ships. Four to five days are needed.

Danube Situation:

One mine was swept at km 1448. A towing barge struck a mine at km 1807.

Members of the Combat Group "Tekija" were ferried to Milanovac by eight naval landing craft. Regiment "Brandenburg is defend-

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ing the heights near Milanovac.

The Minesweeping Inspectorate Danube is now located near Hainburg on accomodation ship HELIOS.

VII. Situation Far East.

Nothing to report.

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Items of Political Importance.

A delegation of British and American officers in Sofia was told by the Russian High Command to leave Bulgaria within 24 hours.

Conference on the Situation with the Chief, Naval Staff at 1115.

I. Chief, Operations Branch, Operations Division, Naval Staff: The attaches were ditected by Armed Forces High Command not to discuss the subject of tension existing between Russia and the Anglo-Saxons.

II. Naval Staff, Quartermaster General:

a. The adjusting job in connection with the engine installation aboard the TIRPITZ will take about three to four weeks. The ship will have during this time always two propellers in working condition.

b. The 1st Naval Manning Regiment consisting primarily of high class naval specialists is at present in action in Dutch waters and cannot be realeased, according to the opinion held by Naval Staff. The commissioning of 30 Rhine boats planned by Army Group B can be attended to by this regiment.

III. Chief, Naval Intelligence Division:

According to an agent's report additional French troops were landed near Antibes. It is again reported that convoy vessels up to now engaged in anti-submarine work in the Atlantic are now partly being assembled in Scotch ports.

In a Restricted Circle.

IV. Army Situation:

Western Front:

After bringing up strong tank forces the 1st Canadian Army operating against the 15th Army succeeded in expanding again the Ryckevorsel bridgehead which was narrowed by our counterattack on 26 Sept. Forces brought up from the west were able to prevent a break-through.

North and northeast of Turnhout the attacks of the enemy were only of local importance; on the other hand the enemy carried out strong attacks southeast and east of Hertogenbosch to extend his passage to the west. The attacks resulted in small ground losses. Northwest of Nijmegen it was possible to form a bridgehead across the lower Rhine. Strong enemy attacks from his Nijmegen bridgehead were repulsed.

Our regroupings for the preparation of the contemplated attack operations on Nijmegen as well as between Maas and Rhine could be carried out as planned in spite of brisk enemy air activity.

On the front between Roermond and Metz no major combat activities took place. The enemy is concentrating for an attack on Metz.

In the area of Chateau Salins the attack by the 58th Armored Corps is making good progress and has led to a shortening of the front.

East of Epinal and Remiremont the severe defensive battle is still going on. While several enemy attacks were repulsed with severe losses inflicted on the enemy, penetrations could not be prevented. Also east of Lure the enemy gained further territory.

Italian Front:

Our own withdrawal movements in the area of Pistoia were followed by the enemy only hesitatingly, due to our blocking measures. In the break-through area northeast of Florence the neemy continued his heavy attacks all day long.

After his major attack of the day before yesterday was repulsed in hard fighting, the enemy continued his isolated attacks on the Adriatic coast with locally concentrated forces which were supported by numerous tanks and drumfire. Owing to a penetration the front had to be taken back to the ridge of the Rubicon.

Balkan Peninsula:

Until Attica and Thessalonica will be completely evacuated the Durazzo - Lake Ochrida - Pindus mountains line is to be held. (Former plan: to hold the Edda - Joannina line).

South of the Danube bend the Russian forces are attacking towards the scugh between Negotin and Svinita. Our counter concentration is under way.

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Eastern Front:

In western Rumania the enemy is further advancing on Szeged. Nagy-Varad was again taken by weak German forces without major combat. On the Transylvanian front successful defense and withdrawal of the front to the rear. On the Beskides front enemy attacks against the new defenses were repulsed.

In Warsaw it was possible to take possession of the suburb Mokotow and to take 2,000 prisoners. The early collapse of the revolt in Warsaw is now being expected.

In the Modlin area a major operation of our own was begun against strong partiaan forces in that locality.

On the East-Prussian border north of Sudauen repeated enemy attacks were repulsed and penetrations of the preceding combat day were mopped up.

Northern Army Group, by reaching the Segevold position, completed, under extremely hard fighting and considerable foot marches, the withdrawal movement ordered for its central sector and northern flank. The fights demanded the utmost of both, command and troops. The enemy attempt at a break-through, repeated several times, did not meet with success. His losses are very high; more than 1,000 enemy tanks were annihilated.

Attacks on the Segevold position were repeatedly repulsed; the front south of Riga and near Mitau was further strengthened by forces being brought up.

Finland:

Our withdrawal movements in Finland are being carried out as planned. Russian attempts at interfering were repulsed. The Finns are following by mutual agreement.

Commander in Chief, Navy returned to "Koralle" (Provisional Headquarters) in the afternoon.

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Special Items.

I. As everything has to be avoided in the present political tension that might furnish Sweden with a pretext for siding with the enemy, it is not possible at the present time to lay the net barrage Sund North in Swedish territorial waters. Naval Command, Baltic Sea, Admiral, Skagerrak and the Net Barrage Unit therefore received the directive to investigate and report how far it would be possible and expedient once more to lay a net barrage outside Swedish territorial waters. (Compare War Diary 26 Sept.).

Concerning the protection of the eastern Baltic Sea against enemy air and naval forces, Naval Staff, Operations Division sent the following teletype to Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff, Navy with copy to High Command, Air, Operations Staff, Chief of Operations Branch:

"1. The collapse of Finland and the withdrawal of Northern Army Group brought about a considerable aggravation of the air and naval situation in the eastern Baltic Sea by the enemy advancing into the Estonian area.

a. Air Situation:

An increase in the mine and torpedo planes in the Ponevish area, the further advance of strong Russian forces in the Estonian area and increased combat activity by advancing the bases of long distance air combat formations for commitment against harbors, cities and strong points, are to be expected, according to Number 24 of 23 Sept. in the series of Evaluation of the Air Situation by Foreign Affairs Section Foreign Air Forces, West. With nights becoming longer, further increase in nightly air attacks from England must be expected.

The eastern Baltic Sea is the only training area for the Navy, especially for submarines. A reduction in the production capacity of the shipyards and the bases of Gdynia, Danzig, Pillau, Memel and Liepaja and the interference with the training program are a decisive disadvantage to the establishemnt of the operational readiness of new boats. A well directed enemy attack can delay time of resumption of submarine warfare in a way unbearable to us, if not stop it entirely. Commander in Chief, Navy demanded strongest protection.

Naval Staff, therefore, asked that greater importance be attached

to the protection of submarine training and armament bases in the eastern Baltic Sea against day and night raids and that the operation of stronger fighter forces be brought about by HighCommand, Air.

b. Naval Situation:

The fact that the enemy has gained a foothold on the west coast of Estonia and established Porkalla as a fleet base gives rise to the expectation of operations by enemy naval forces (especially PT boats and submarines) off the Baltic coast against our supply lines by sea. The appearance of Russian PT boats north of Reval heading west of 27 Sept. is the first confirmation of this. The navy alone is not able to build up sufficient protection for the supply traffic. A forceful participation by the Air Force is necessary.

"2. A detailed letter to High Command, Air, Operations Staff, Chief of Operations, Robinson and, for information, to Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff will follow."

This detailed letter was dispatched under 1/Skl I L 29573/44 Gkdos. Copy in War Diary, Part C, Vol. III.

c. Admiral, Fuehrer Headquarters reported:

"General Schoerner is reporting to the Fuehrer today. The final line of the Northern Army Group is the subject of present deliberations. A decision calling for the evacuation of Riga and the withdrawal of the line to the west of Riga is likely. General Schoerner has asked me to submit to Commander in Chief, Navy and the Navy on the whole in this inadequate way his appreciation and that of his Army Group for the examplary assistance rendered by the Navy in the spirit of true comradeship."

II. Concerning North Area.

s. Naval Command, Baltic Sea requested fighter protection for the barrage task XXXII for 29 Sept. Naval Staff is refraining in this case from approaching High Command, Air, Operations Staff and informed Naval Command, Baltic Sea as follows:

"In view of the Reich defense and the aircraft fuel situation the task is to be carried out without escort. Alert readiness of destroyers must be sufficient. It must especially be pointed out to the radar organizations and communications lines

leading to the operational Commander of the destroyers that perfect functioning is absolutely necessary."

- b. According to a report by Admiral, Fuehrer Headquarters the Fuehrer is of the opinion that the concentrations of naval forces in Polyarnoe and in the Wayenga Bay-Murmansk are to be watched attentively, as the possibility of the enemy attempting to interfere from the sea with the withdrawal of our Finnish front must be expected.

III. Concerning Area Naval Command, North:

a. Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff issued the following directive:

"As an opinion was not given by Naval Command, North in spite of repeated reminders the following decision was now arrived at: Naval Command, North alone is responsible for the patrol of the Kaiser Wilhelm Canal (including the railway bridges near Rendsburg and Hockdonn. The police force in the strength of 143 men employed at the two bridges are again at the disposal of Reichsfuehrer SS (higher SS and police commanders in Corps Area X)."

b. By order of Commander in Chief, Navy, Naval Command, North submitted the following teletype message from the Commanding Admiral, Netherlands:

"According to reports on hand here and owing to the lack of corresponding information from the commands concerned, our own inquiries have shown that of the marines units such as the 10th and 14th Manning Detachment, the 1st Battalion of the 1st Fleet Manning Regiment and artillery assembled from the 2nd Battalion of the Training and Intercepting Camp, Admiral, Netherlands in Zwolle were participating to a large extent in the successful fight against the 1st British Airborne Division. The afore mentioned marines were, according to reports on hand here, put into action partially without support from heavy arms which were lacking. Since these units have suffered serious losses I, therefore, request that they be withdrawn as far as the situation permits. It is likewise requested that these commands which consist mainly of recruits and naval soldiers not sufficiently trained in ground combat be paid special tribute for their combat performances."

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c. Naval Staff wired to Naval Command, North and Admiral, Netherlands:

"Due to the decisive importance of having the Schelde river blocked for a long time, Commander in Chief, Navy desires another investigation with regard to further blocking measures of the Schelde in addition to measures already planned and reported to him by Naval Command, North on 27 Sept. Special emphasis to be placed on blocking possibilities. Results and intentions to be reported."

IV. Concerning West Area.

Commander in Chief, Navy sent the following radiogram to Naval Shore Commander, Pas de Calais concerning naval batteries in the area of Gris Nez, with copy to Group West:

"The heavy naval batteries on the Channel coast still let the British islands feel, today as they did for years, the fighting power of the German Armed Forces. They inflicted heavy damage on the enemy on land and at sea. Now they contribute, by defending their positions as a fortress, to battering and tying up the enemy's forces so as to paralyze the onslaught of the enemy against the western border of the homeland. They engrave the names of the Batteries "Grosser Kurfuerst", "Todt", "Lindemann", "Friedrich August, "Sangatte" and "Gris Nez", of their commanders and crews as heroes in the annals of German history. The German nation and its Navy look with pride on you soldiers and expect you to fight to the very end in accordance with the orders of our Fuehrer.- Grand Admiral Doenitz."

V. Concerning Southeast Area.

Naval Staff, Operations Division submitted to Admiral, Aegean Sea with copy to Group West the request of High Command, Air Operations Staff for information on approximately how many soldiers are still to be transported by air from Crete and Rhodes.

VI. Distribution of Naval Forces.

a. Concerning mine exploding vessels Bureau of Naval Armaments proposed to distribute these vessels in such a manner as to avoid as much as possible their employment in shallow waters which means that as many barrage breakers as possible will be allocated to Commanding Admiral, Baltic Sea for the eastern Baltic Sea (submarine training areas) and to the 8th Defense Division for Skagerrak and withdrawal

from the North Sea on account of shallow waters and great danger from the air. The Commanding Admiral, North Sea agreed to the withdrawal provided minesweeping boats will be allocated as replacements."

Naval Staff, Operations Division informed Naval Commands, North, Baltic Sea and Norway as well AS Commanding Admirals, North Sea and Baltic Sea and the 8th Defense Division requesting the beforementioned Naval Commands to state their opinion adding proposals as to how the mine exploding vessels to be withdrawn from the North Sea are to be replaced by mine-sweeping boats of the 8th Defense Division respectively of the Commanding Admiral, Baltic Sea.

b Commanding Admiral, North Sea reported as follows with regard to the directive from Naval Staff, Operations Division (see War Diary 27 Sept.):

1. Remaining units of the 36th and 38th Minesweeper Flotillas not yet transferred departed from the Dutch area for the east on 27 Sept.

2. The 8th Gun Carrier Flotilla was released in Holland on 26 Sept. to sail for Norway.

3. Mine naval landing craft MFP "840", "841" are also en route to the Heligoland Bight since 27 Sept. Mine naval landing craft MFP "829" remained in Flushing not sea-worthy owing to bomb damage. The possibility of transfer is doubtful and its time uncertain."

Situation 28 Sept.

I. Situation West Area.

1. Enemy Situation:

Forty-two planes of the 15th Group and thirty-five planes of the 19th Group were spotted on missions. Five British vessels were located in the rendezvous area.

2. Own Situation:

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Situation Atlantic Fortresses:

Lorient: Enemy movements were successfully shelled by our artillery. Coastal guns were partially rearranged for firing on ground objectives, they retain, however, their effectiveness towards the sea. During the night of 28 Sept. the supply by air by five He 111 planes as well as a transport fo guns by sea from La Palais was contemplated.

St.Nazaire: Own reconnaissance squads took 19 prisoners. Our successful assault squad activity was concentrated on the southern shore. Harbor defense boats on the Loire repeatedly fired on enemy positions with observed results. An enemy demand for surrender was refused.

La Rochelle: The city was again combed through.

Gironde North: Forced reconnaissance in battalion strength repulsed enemy defnese forces southeast of Saujon. Supplies were seized.

Withdrawal Movements:

On 22 Sept. the directing center Leitersweiler was disbanded. The 7th Manning Detachment in Strassburg was taken over by the Army. The 14th Manning Detachment was transferred from Hastingen to Bitsch to form a personnel reserve for the Army.

Waters of Channel:

Situation Fortresses:

Dunkirk: The enemy reconnaissance before the western sector of the fortress increased. Numerous fighter bomber attacks were carried out. Our batteries put enemy guns and observation posts out of action on 28 Sept. Our assault squad activity was brisk. Several enemy observation post were blown up.

Calais: On 27 Sept. heavy enemy artillery shelling and continuous heavy bombing raids were directed against the harbor area. Heavy damage was caused to the strong points. Battery "Fort Lapin"fell on 28 Sept. The defense of the fortress is being continued on the western outskirts of the city; an active reserve was created by the withdrawal of the eastern main defense line. The battery positions were subjected to

continuous raids. The main formation was raided by fighter bombers. Minor enemy infantry attacks were repulsed, truce officers not received.

Gris Nez: In the afternoon of 27 Sept. "Turret 1" of Battery "Grosser Kurfuerst" was put out of action due to the break of the cradle caused by a heavy bombing raid and artillery shelling. All anti-aircraft arms were also put out of action. In Battery "Gris Nez" an exposed 15cm gun was put out of action. Our harassing fire was directed against enemy concentrations. Previous reports were supplemented to the effect that the shelling of Dover by Battery "Todt" on 26 Sept. caused large fires.

On 28 Sept. Battery "Grosser Kurfuerst" shelled enemy battery positions and relieved Calais. Several enemy guns and ammunition piles were annihilated.

Channel Islands:

A convoy consisting of two boats was carried out as planned between Guernsey and Sarq and back. Supply by air by six He 111 planes is contemplated for the night of 28 Sept.

II. North Sea, Norway, Northern Waters.

1. North Sea:

Heligoland Bight:

In the morning and at noon one enemy reconnaissance plane was over the shipping lanes north fof the East Frisian islands. It was shelled by the heavy anti-aircraft guns stationed at Emden.

Patrol vessel VP "1214" sank immediately after striking a mine off List.

Dutch Coast:

Owing to weather conditions no convoys and minesweeping were carried out during the night of 27 Sept. In the evening of 27 Sept. the 34th Minesweeper Flotilla transferring from Helder to Ijmuiden was unsuccessfully raided by four enemy

planes. Artillery barge AF "48" was damaged in a fighter-bomber raid.

The 8th Gun Carrier Flotilla consisting of five boats transferred from Dordrecht to Amsterdam by the canal routed. Minesweeper M "3247" ran aground west of Dordrecht and was heavily damaged in a fighterbomber raid. Salvaging was started. Demolitions in Amsterdam were continued. The 14th Manning Detachment was again contacted in the strength of three companies in the bridgehead south of Arnheim. The contact with the 5th Company was lost. The 1st Company is in action near Hertogenbosch respectively Rotterdam.

In the evening of 27 Sept. enemy naval targets were reported west of Walcheren. The Batteries "Westkapelle", "Domburg" and "Zuiteland" were unsuccessfully raided by six enemy planes. An anti-aircraft artillery section was transferred from Flusbing to Domburg and is ready for action.

2. Norway, Northern Waters:

Enemy Situation:

Forty-seven planes of the 18th Group were spotted on missions over the northern North Sea. In the evening transmission of urgent radio messages to all naval forces in Northern Waters was intercepted. One British vessel was located near Svanvik at 0907 in 259°, one at 1043 in 257° and one at 1415 in 258°.

On the basis of a new evaluation of the photo of 6 Sept. Air Force, Operations Staff, Foreign Affairs Section holds it to be confirmed that the battleship spotted in Wayenga is the ROYAL SOVEREIGN. The ship is heavily listing to starboard to such an extent as to show a torpedo bulge on port side, evidently for repair. The battleship of the NELSON class observed on 26 Sept. is possibly a replacement for the damaged ROYAL SOVEREIGN.

Own Situation:

In the course of incursions of strong enemy air formations in the Vardoe area artillery barge AF "25" in Vadsoe was hit by a bomb. A cutter was sunk. Escort planes shot down three planes. In the forenoon of 27 Sept. a medium heavy fire duel was reported from the Petsamo area.

In the area of Admiral, West Coast a tugboat was damaged in a Mosquito raid in the souther approach to Kristiansand South.

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In the afternoon of 28 Sept. two formations of 50 to 60 Beaufighters and Mosquitoes were between Mandal and Kristiansand South without undertaking raids. In the evening a harbor patrol boat was sunk in a bombing and gunfire raid by 6 Mosquitoes near Ryvingen.

The rescue of 84 men has so far been reported after the sinking of submarine chaser 1715 and the steamer CLAERE HUGO STINNES and KNUTHE NELSON. Allegedly two torpedo tracks were sighted.

Eighteen ships were escorted north and 24 South.

III. Skagerrak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea.

1. Enemy Situation:

On 27 Sept. radio monitoring detected the usual units and vessels in the Gulf of Finland. Additional seven radio transmitters were detected in the Ladoga area.

2. Own Situation:

Admiral, Skagerrak:

Patrol positions on the west coast of Jutland were not occupied due to the weather. Nineteen boats were on minesweeping duty. On 27 Sept. at 2300 a German suction dredge was sunk by an act of sabotage in the harbor of Svendborg. Patrol vessel V "1214" struck a mine and sank 20 miles southwest of Esbjerg.

Western and Central Baltic:

Fifty-seven minesweepers and three mine exploding vessels were on minesweeping duty.

At 0750 the Danish steamer OSLO (1412 BRT) struck a mine and sank in the Pommeranian Bay; at 0840 armed fishing vessel KFK "507" was damaged by the detonation of the detonator sweeping gear ammunition. At noon the 1st Group of the 2nd PT Boat Training Flotilla departed with four boats from Swinemuende to Ventspils.

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Admiral, Eastern Baltic:

On 27 Sept. from 1030 to 1138 Gutmannsbach, the road from Jagusbris to Kabli, Dremmannsdorf and Hainasch were shelled by four of our minesweeping boats with observed results. A vehicle column was dispersed. The enemy returned the fire uneffectively with medium calibers. From 1601 to 1655 the road from Fischdorf to Adiamuende was covered with 170 rounds of 10.5 cm shells. At about 2400 the Artillery Naval Landing Craft Group "Lindenberg" carried out surprise fire on Salismuende.

The fire on the EBERHARD ESSBERGER was effectively fought. The disembarkation of soldiers and the embarkation of refugees in Ahrensburg were continued.

From 26 to 28 Sept. the following were evacuated from Riga to the west, for the greater part to Danzig-Gdynia, 13 transports with 4,644 soldiers, 13,777 wounded, 2,518 evacuees and 3,822 prisoners a total of 23,761 persons. A number of horses, vehicled and equipment were also transported.

On 27 Sept. 3,507 tons of supplies were carried to Riga for the Northern Army Group. The transfer of the 213th Infantry Division from Riga to Ahrensburg is still going on. So far 5,581 men, 1,764 horses, 1,206 vehicles as well as 1,740 marines were taken aboard for Oesel.

IV. Submarine Warfare.

In Northern Waters additional three submarines were put into action against the QP convoy. Thus seventeen submarines are at sea for this operation.

In the Kara Sea subamrine U "957" liquidated the wireless and signal station Sterlegova, two radio operators and two signalmen were taken prisoner and important records were secured. The submarine sank a destroyer of the GROSNY type.

Submarine U "711" in the Kara Sea reported the failure of five Zaunkoenig torpedoes in attacks on a convoy and escort from a favorable firing position. It is possible that this was caused by the low water temperatures.

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Submarine U "739" sank a submarine chaser of 800 tons in the Kara Sea. In the Gulf of Finland seven submarines are on position at sea. Two submarines are ready for action in Venspils and one in Memel.

In the Mediterranean submarine U "407" received orders to operate south of the Kalymnos-Levitah-Amorgos line. In this area an escort unit for enemy minesweeping work, consisting of an auxiliary carrier with two cruisers and three destroyers was observed.

V. Aerial Warfare.

West Area:

By day brisk enemy fighter-bomber and fighter activity was reported from the Dutch area. During the night of 28 Sept. the enemy long distance fighter activity was lively. For the greater part they were flying missions in the direction of Reich territory.

Reich Territory:

Two hundred and forty-two planes approached northern and western Germany concentrating on the Rhenish-Westphalian industrial area.

A strong bomber formation with fighter escort approached the Braunschweig area by way of the Wiesbaden-Frankfurt area. Four hundred planes of the formation penetrated to Magdeburg, additional three hundred into the Halle-Leipzig area. Several fighter formations were in the Hildesheim area for screening. Between 1230 and 1300 Magdeburg, Kassel, Leuna Merseburg, Dessau, Helmstedt, Giessen, Leipzig and the airfield Magdeburg East were raided. For damage caused see Daily Situation. In addition isolated bombs were dropped in the areas of Sondershausen, Delitzsch and Hersfeld. In the Halle area passenger and freight trains were also with gunfire.

During the night of 28 Sept. 70 Mosquitoes raided Braunschweig. Isolated planes also carried out bombing and gunfire raids in northern, central and southwestern German. Over the Danish islands seven isolated planes were observed, presumably supplying agents.

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Mediterranean Theater:

Four hundred planes were spotted over the eastern and central Italian front area, two of which were shot down by anti-aircraft guns. Seventeen locomotives of our own were damaged in air raids. The other missions were as usual.

Our own planes carried out photographic reconnaissance in the Aegean Sea.

East Area:

On 27 Sept. 278 of our own and 975 enemy planes were reported on missions from the eastern front with 31 shot down and none lost.

The enemy air activity in the Norway area was reported on. Seven of our own destroyer planes brought down one Liberator.

During the night of 29 Sept. nine courier planes were reported, three of which over the Skagerrak and six in the Bergen-Lillehammer area. In the Kristiansand-Oslo area five non-attacking enemy planes were spotted which presumably were engaged in supplying agents.

VI. Warfare in the Mediterranean and in the Danube Area.

1. Area of German Naval Command, Italy:

Enemy Situation:

In the afternoon of 27 Sept. a transport carrying troops coming from the Mediterranean arrived in Gibraltar. Ten freighters, six of which were loaded, one submarine and two corvettes also arrived.

In the forenoon of the same day twelve (apparently) destroyers and three PT boats were on Nice roads according to an Army report. Ten miles south of Ventimiglia two destroyers and two minesweepers were sighted. Ventimiglia and its hinterland were agains shelled by destroyers in the evening of 27 Sept. and in the afternoon of 28 Sept. In the afternoon of 28 Sept. the radar station at Bordighera was shelled.

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During the night of 27 Sept. three apparently destroyers were detected by instruments off Mentone. By day two destroyers were at sea off Mentone.

In the afternoon of 27 Sept. a small war vessel with six boats in tow was sighted eleven miles south of Leghorn. Three large vessels were in the harbor, eight LCT 's off the harbor entrance.

According to air reconnaissance on 26 Sept. at 1130 a unit consisting of one auxiliary aircraft carrier, one light cruiser, one destroyer, one escort boat and five small war vessels was 28 miles northeastof Malta heading northeast. Two destroyers, six minesweeping boats and one small war vessel were reported 29 miles west of Malta heading east and one apparently passenger steamer and one destroyer were reported 105 miles east-southeast of Malta without stating their course.

Own Situation:

Contrary to a previous report the conical container was not sunk by fighter-bombers in the air raid during the night of 26 Sept. off Levanto but was torpedoed by enemy PT boats. The container was towed to Porto Fino in two parts.

On 27 Sept. at 1720 Marina di Carrara was raided by fighter-bombers without essential success being achieved.

During the night of 28 Sept. a barrage section with 84 KMA mines was laid in the Albenga Bay.

2. Area Naval Group, South:

Adriatic Sea:

At 0800 a cruiser and three LCT 's heading towards Himara were sighted seven miles south of the Lagora Pass. On 27 Sept. the island of Drvnik continued to be partially occupied by the enemy. At noon four landing baots and medium-sized warships were sighted from Lissa steering towards Drvnik. On the same day ship traffic was observed between Lissa, Brac and Solta until nightfall.

In the morning of 28 Sept. the enemy directed violent surprise fire from Brac on Omis.

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Own Situation:

The convoy and escort operations on the Italian coast were fully redumed after improvement in the weather. Three batteries of Zervia and the anti-aircraft artillery platoon Cesenatico were withdrawn as planned.

On 26 Sept. at noon one of our tugs with lighters was raided by seven fighter-bombers offf the Tagliamento estuary. One lighter was sunk, one was set afire, the tug was beached. In the evening of the same day the Signal Construction Group "Sibenic" repulsed partisan attacks and suffered casualties.

Ground Situation:

East of Zara and southeast of Benkowac the situation has become aggravated.

In the afternoon of 27 Sept. a convoy of two naval landing craft, four infantry landing boats, one motor sailing vessel and four assault boats sailed from Sibenic for Split. Three PT boats and two minesweepers were put on position near Cape Ploca for the escort of the convoy. The convoy arrived early on 28 Sept. with the exception of three assault boats.

In the evening the light PT boat LS "7" was chased by a destroyer while en route from Corfu to Durazzo. The boat arrived in Durazzo early on 28 Sept. and plans to continue the trip to Cattaro in the night of 28 Sept.

In the evening of 27 Sept. two former Italian PT boats sailed from Venice for a mining task off Zervia. One of the two boats is overdue, the other one dropped the mines as planned.

Three boats of the 24th PT Boat Flotilla returned to Pola.

During the night of 27 Sept. the mining operation "Mumel 16/17 was carried out by the KIEBITZ and two torpedo boats as planned. The execuation of "Murmel 18 to 20" is planned for the night of 28 Sept.

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Aegean Sea:

The enemy unit consiting of an auxiliary carrier with one cruiser and several destroyers was confirmed unchanged for the escort of the enemy sweeping group between Amorgos and Levitha.

At 0627 three torpedo boats shelled Alimnia near Rhodes. The same unit subsequently annihilated a motor sailing vessel off Skarpantos. Siebel ferry SF "121" was damaged by a submarine torpedo near Cassandra.

Three light PT boats have orders while en route from Piraeus to Porto Lago to search the bays of the island of Amorgos to make use of opportunities for attacking an enemy mine-sweeping group that entered there at night.

Submarine chaser "2110" spotted an enemy subamrine south of Poseidon Hoek. Another submarine heading west was reported in the afternoon oabut ten miles northwest of Rhodes harbor.

In the evening Naval Signal Station Mykonos reported a partisan raid. Four infantry boats and one coastal defense boat were put into action. The disbandment of the Naval Signal Station and its transfer to Syra was ordered.

Tanker DRESDEN (120 BRT) en route from Piraeus to Leros has been overdue since 26 Sept.

In the course of the air raid on the convoy ORION on 23 Sept. near Denusa naval artillery barges MAL "5" and "12" shot down three of the seven raiding enemy planes; a fourth was probably shot down too.

Three coastal defense boats of the Coastal Defense Flotilla Attica arrived in Piraeus. Thus this minelaying group has carried out 20 mining operations and dropped 1,335 mines since the beginning of June. All operations were carried out in waters endangered by enemy planes and submarines. The boats repulsed three submarine attacks and shot down four enemy planes. Admiral, Aegean Sea paid special tribute to the operations of this unit.

Admiral Aegean Sea made full use of all countermeasures for combatting the increased submarine danger in the waters of Chalkidiki-Trikeri.

In the Albanian area all naval vessels are being concentrated for evacuation. The coastal defense is being dispersed in

favor of the ground defense.

At present five vessels are en route from Piraeus to Salonika escorted by three torpedo boats, carrying 4,000 soldiers and marines as well as materiel of hightest priority. Thus all available major shipping space with the exception of the ZAR FERDINAND is employed.

Danube Situation:

A towing barge struck a mine and sank near km 1336. One mine was swept near km 1805 and two near km 1557.

The ferry traffic from Svinita to Milanovac is only possible at night due to enemy action.

VII. Situation Far East.

Nothing to report.

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Items of Political Importance.

Churchill gave a comprehensive survey of the war situation, also of foreign affairs. Worth mentioning are the statements made on this occasion about the participation of Great Britain in the war against Japan, according to which Great Britain has already sent the greater part of hermost modern ships to the Pacific in order to play a decisive role in the annihilation of the Japanese fleet. Roosevelt is said to have accepted at once the British offer for participation in the fight; however, he did not wish to make this declaration of willingness on the part of Great Britain the subject of a treaty. The statements made by the Prime Minister with regard to Russia show, in their careful wording, that the speaker is fully aware of the difficulties existing between the Russians and the Anglo-Saxons. It is frankly stated that a discussion with Stalin for the settlement of numerous questions is urgently necessary.

I. With regard to the air situation: The headquarters of the 19th Group of the British Coastal Command were transferred from southern England to Hartlepool. The entire Coastal Command was regrouped, and the intensified measures taken in northeast England point to the intention of attacking German submarines in the North Sea and our shipping along the Norwegian coast.

II. Naval Staff, Quartermaster General:

a. The general transport situation is still tense. The traffic on the Dortmund-Ems Canal was interrupted near Muenster due to bomb damage.

b. The Naval Shore Commander, Estonia was charged with the duties of a Naval Shore Commander, Baltic Islands.

c. A Fuehrer decree deals with the military training within the Reich Labor Service.

d. Report on far-reaching demands submitted to the Navy for economy in the use of hand arms for the benefit of the Army. In view of the Navy's pronounced shortage Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division intends to reject these demands in the requested extent.

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Commander in Chief, Navy agreed.

III. Naval Staff, Special Weapons Division:

The supply of "Molche" (Small Battle Weapons(to Italy was further postponed owing to the lack of fuel.

For the North Sea the following are provided: For Borkum and Heligoland 30 "Molche" each, for Norderney 30 "Biber", for Cuxhaven 60 "Lindsen" and 30 "Biber" for an island not yet designated.

IV. Naval Staff, Operations Division, International Law and Prizes Section:

The legal advisor to Armed Forces High Command asked for information on the consequences of blocking Swedish territorial waters:

"According to international law a change in the neutrality definitions is permissible only if it can be proved to be necessary for the safeguarding of one's own rights.

The blocking of such an extensive area as is now taking place on the part of Sweden is identical with a completely new measure taken on the ground of the Swedes feeling it their duty to protect their territorial waters against Russian threats.

As a matter of fact, however, the Swedish attitude must be taken as a pretext chosen in order to give in to Anglo-Saxon pressure for stopping the ore supply to the Reich."

In a Restricted Circle:

V. Army Situation:

Western Front:

The 15th Army was able to prevent the expansion of the Ryckevorsel bridgehead by putting into action newly brought up forces. The enemy pressure continued in numerous places of the front, especially against the left flank of the Army.

Our regroupings are, on the whole, being carried out as planned, although being delayed owing to strong enemy air activity and the railroad engineering and supply difficulties resulting therefrom.

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In the Nancy area the Americans started a major attack. Their heavy casualties were, however, in no proportion to their only slight gain in territory.

In the approaches to the western Vosges mountains the attacks by the Americans and French were increasing in severity on both sides of Epinal and west of Belfort. In bitter and fluctuatingly successful fighting enemy penetrations caused the withdrawal of the front.

Italian Front:

The enemy limited his attacks to both sides of the Firenzuola-Imola road. Fighting hard, he succeeded in breaching our lines in certain places.

On the Adriatic front the enemy continued his attacks with superior tank and infantry forces in spite of bad weather. In general the main defense line could be held.

Balkan Peninsula:

Further units of the Assault Division Rhodes and the garrison of Crete were flown to the mainland.

In various districts of the city of Athens the fights with communist gangs are still going on.

:Strumica on the Macedonian front was taken.

In Bulgaria the movements of two Russian armies in western direction are being continued.

Eastern Front:

In the combat area of Mako-Arad the enemy advancing to the northwest could be repulsed in some places by counterattacks of Hungarian-German formations. Likewise the advance of enemy spearheads in the area south of Nagy Varad was successfully intercepted. In the Carpathian Forest the enemy followed the withdrawal movements of the Hungarians only hesitatingly.

On the Beskides front enemy attacks were repulsed in several places. Our own attacks were successful.

All quiet at Central Army Group.

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Near Warsaw and north thereof the assembly of two enemy army groups is making further progress. The task of one of them may be to encircle Warsaw from two sides while the other group may advance across the Narew in a generally northwestern direction towards the southern part of East Prussia.

At the Northern Army Group the enemy has attacked the Segewold line all day long in increasing strength after having brought up additional forces and strong army artillery. On the whole, all attacks were repulsed in hard fighting.

VI. Naval Staff, Operations Division issued a directive for warfare in the Baltic Sea. Copy as per 1/Skl I op 3106/44 Gkdos. Chefs. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. III. The directive outlines the basic situation as follows:

1. The naval war situation in the Baltic Sea has undergone fundamental changes due to the withdrawal of Finland from the war, the evacuation of the Estonian north coast and the loss of Swedish territorial waters as a shipping lane. Russian air bases have moved closer to the Baltic Sea. The Russian Baltic Sea Fleet can already now be recognized as striving for free access to the open Baltic Sea.

2. Holding the Baltic Islands and the Riga bridgehead- the latter as a supply port for the Northern Army Group - must, at present, be regarded as the basis for further plannings The development of the situation, however, can also lead to the withdrawal of the army front to the west of Riga and to the abandonment of the Baltic Islands and the Riga Bay. The preliminary considerations are, therefore, to be extended to the situation arising from

a. the abandonment of the Baltic Islands and the Riga Bay,

b. an increase of the tension with Sweden.

Tasks in the eastern Baltic Sea are:

a.. Blocking the Russian naval forces in the Gulf of Finland.

b. Executing and escorting the military supply transports to the Baltic area.

c. Protecting our merchant shippings and the training areas in the Baltic Sea.

d. Supporting the Army by carrying out combat and transport tasks in direct contact with the Army front.

e. Coastal defense in the Baltic area. Protection of the Moon Sound.

Commander in Chief, Navy, in this connection, drew special attention to the threat from Russian PT boats in the Central Baltic Sea.

Chief, Naval Staff holds the increase of our PT boat operations in the Baltic Sea at the expense of the western area to be expedient. Ten PT boats in the Baltic Sea are of greater importance than the same number in the Channel where such a small number carries no decisive weight. The question of dislocation is being investigated.

Special Items:

I. Concerning East Area.

a. High Command, Army, General Staff of the Army notified Naval Staff, for information, of the following teletype to Northern Army Group:

"According to a report from Naval Liaison Officer attached to Army General Staff the support from the sea for the front northeast of Riga as well as for the defense of the Baltic Islands is possible at any time. Making use of this offer appears to be expedient. Northern Army Group is to submit relevant requests directly to Admiral, Eastern Baltic Sea. The result is to be reported to High Command, Army".

Naval Staff, Operations Division informed Naval Command, Baltic Sea and Admiral, Eastern Baltic Sea.

b. Naval Command, E stern Baltic Sea received the following directive from Naval Staff, Operations Division concerning barrage plans in the Riga Bay:

1. The number of mines specified in the plans for mining the Moon Sound appears to be very small. Plans are to be made up for reinforcing these barrages and completely mining the Moon Sound appears to be very small. Plans are to be made up for reinforcing these barrages and completely mining the Moon Sound. UMB mines barrages are also to be planned with snag lines against PT boats.

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2. In case Riga and the Baltic Islands are later on to be abandoned, a massed barrage of the Irben Straits exceeding the present plans is to be prepared also by moored mines with snag lines against PT boats.

In this connection the blocking of the Zerel Reef is also to be planned so as to prevent a break-through of PT boats across the banks. It is also to be examined whether in addition a net or hawser boom would be expedient here. Intentions are to be reported; the necessary material is to be ordered.

II. Concerning North Area.

Concerning the withdrawal of smoke laying planes from Kirkenes (see War Diary 27 Sept.-) it was learned from an opinion held by Air Force General, Finland that the plan was communicated to Admiral, Arctic Coast on 31 Aug. and that no objection was raised by this command. Evidently the communication between Admiral, Arctic Coast and Naval Command, Norway was insufficient in this case.

III. Concerning Naval Command, North.

Naval Shore Commander, Southern Holland replied to the inquiry about the supply of Walcheren with ammunition and victuals respectively as to how long the fortress could be defended after encirclement that the term fortress does not apply to Walcheren. The garrison consists of only one and a half divisions without anti-aircraft artillery instead of the originally planned three divisions and anti-aircraft artillery. The tendency is apparently towards further withdrawals.

IV. Concerning West Area.

Group West transmitted the following:

1. Fortress Commander, Dunkirk reported on 28 Sept.: In the evening of 22 Sept. the commander of the local division, who, at the same time, was artillery commander of the entire fortress area and his first adjutant were killed, the first general staff officer was wounded and will be disabled for weeks. I have immediately taken over the direct command of all forces present here after discussing the matter with my Chief of Staff, Colonel Wittstatt, and the Quartermaster of the Division, no other solution being possible. I Have immediately combined the staffs in order to

eliminate the formerly prevailing duplication of work, thereby saving personnel which partially is already now in action at the front. Due to an oversight on the part of my 1st staff officer this was not reported to 15th Army Command until 26 Sept.
Today the order has been received from 15th Army Command that my Chief of Staff is to take over the command of the division. I hold any intervention in the affairs of the fortress to be no longer supportable especially in the interest of the troops. I, therefore, ask to bring about a confirmation of the present state, now that I am directly commanding all local troops and of Colonel Wittstatt remaining my Chief of Staff, particularly so as the division has, in the meantime, been fused with fortress groups in such a manner as to render a regrouping into a division practically impossible.

2. The report was not immediately dispatehed, as a clarification with Commanding General, West appeared to be expedient beforehand.- For this purpose the Chief of Staff today had a discussion with Chief of Staff of Commanding General, West with the following result: To Army Group B and Group West:

Commander of fortress Dunkirk, Admiral Frisius reported that the 15th Army Command appointed Colonel Wittstatt Commander of the 226th Infantry Division. Admiral Frisius requests to retain Colonel Wittstatt as Chief of Staff as this was also ordered by High Command, Army Personnel Office on 19 Sept. 1944 Therefore, Colonel Wittstatt will remain Chief of Staff to the Fortress Commander, Dunkirk. It may be added that Admiral Frisius has full power of command over all Armed Forces in the fortress area.

V. Concerning Southeast Area.

a. Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff transmitted the Fuehrer directive concerning the border position in the southeast to be advanced in its western sector to the line:

> North of Goerz (Gorizia) - Vipacco sector- Adelsberg (Postumia) - Weixelburg - Reich border north of Littai (border between the provinces of Karinthia and Steiermark).

Copy as per 1/Skl I op 30125/44 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. XIV.

b. Torpedo Trials Command at Inspectorate for Torpedoes reported that according to the opinion of Port Commander, Cattaro, the combat value of the local Torpedo Barrage Batteries

Kobila and Kabala is so small as not to justify the amount of personnel and material presently in use. The batteries have no offensive power in case of an air raid; minor landing groups or partisans can disable the batteries at any time.

Group South was asked by Naval Staff, Operations Division about its opinion on whether the batteries should eventually be dismantled.

c. Group South reported:

Commanding General, Southeast wired:

The Fuehrer decided that the highest possible number of soldiers (without Italians and those unworthy to bear arms) is to be evacuated from Crete and Rhodes; all materiel is to be abandoned. The Fuehrer order reads as follows:

1. Contrary to the present plans only personnel is to be flown so that in the end the entire garrisons of the islands of Crete and Rhodes may reach the mainland.

2. Concerning the equipment with arms, Army Group E has to reach a decision bearing in mind that the evacuated island garrisons proceeding on their way to Belgrade must be able to cover the distance from Athens to Salonika fighting; they are to be furnished with what they need for this fight and what they cannot get from other stores on the mainland.

3. War vessels of the Navy in spite of the fully acknowledged difficulties have to attempt moving in the first place heavy arms. It may be added that the Fuehrer gave his full approval to the freight shipping space still available being used for transports from Athens to Salonika.

4. Command of Army Group E is to report on plans and estimated time.

Supplement: Group: An inquiry by Naval Liaison Officer at Army Group F showed that the term "heavy arms" does not refer to heavy infantry arms only but includes guns up to 8.8 cm, the transport of which (with the exception of anti-tank guns and mortart), in our opinion, can hardly be carried out by the torpedo boats of foreign origin which are the only vessels available for this purpose.

VI. Naval Staff, Operations Division has made up a short memorandum for the Reich Minister for Armaments and War Production about the consequences of the fleet construction

program from the loss of western Europe as a naval base.

Copy as per 1/Skl I b 2 9755/44 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. .. a.

(Tr. N.: Number of volume omitted).

VII. The opinion held by Naval Staff, Operations Division on the question of "Construction of mine exploding vessels belonging to the Navy" was recorded in the order 1/Skl I E 29327/44 Gkdos. Copy in War Diary, Part C, Vol. VI.

VIII. The Fuehrer decrees concerning the command authority as well as the cooperation of the Party and the Armed Forces in the new operational area within the Reich, dated 13 July 1944, were replaced by subsequent decrees of 19 and 20 Sept. 1944. Copy as per 1/Skl 29766/44 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part B, Vol. V.

IX. A compilation of the enemy news gathered by radio deciphering and radio monitoring from 18 to 24 Sept. is contained in the Radio Monitoring Report No. 39/44 of Naval Staff, Naval Communications Division.

Attention is drawn to page 8: The warship that shadowed the German hospital ship ROSTOCK and had her brought to Bendodet. Later on destroyers received the directive to escort the ship to Plymouth.

Situation 29 Sept.

I. Situation West Area.

1. Enemy Situation:

Seventeen planes of the 19th Group, 22 of the 15th Group, 18 of which from command post 348, were spotted on missions. Three British vessels were located in the rendezvous area.

2. Own Situation:

Atlantic Coast:

Nothing to report.

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Situation /Atlantic Fortresses:

Lorient: Enemy Artillery fire lay with numerous short bursts on the northern and western sector of the fortresses. Our artillery shelled enemy batteries and movements. Our reconnaissance and assault squads were successful.

St. Nazaire: On 28 Sept. loading equipment in the fishing harbor was slightly damaged by enemy artillery fire. Naval anti-aircraft guns silenced an enemy battery. On 29 Sept. an enemy attack in the strength of a company was repulsed.

From La Rochelle and Gironde North no new special reports were received.

Gironde South: The Fortress Commander, Major General Meyer is disabled due to illness. The Naval Shore Commander, Captain (Navy) Michahelles has taken over the post as Deputy Commander retaining the duties of a naval shore commander. Commander Drewin was charged with taking care of the local naval interests in Royan. Supplies for Gironde South are planned to be flown by three He 111 planes during the night of 29 Sept.

Channel Coast:

During the night of 28 Sept. a convoy consisting of two fishing smacks was carried out between Guernsey and Sarq and back. A destroyer was observed in waiting position 18 miles southwest of Guernsey.

In the afternoon of 28 Sept. increased shipping from and to Cherbourg was observed northwest of this port. Ten Liberty freighters and one transport were reported incoming.

Channel Fortresses:

Calais: In the afternoon the ramparts around the city were again occupied under great difficulties. Further reports are missing.

Dunkirk: No new reports were received. Supplies are planned to be flown in by four He 111 planes during the night of 29 Sept.

Gris Nez: In the afternoon of 28 Sept. continuous fighter-bomber raids lay on the Battery "Grosser Kurfuerst". Beginning at 1900 the Batteries "Todt" and "Grosser Kurfuerst" were subjected to heavy bombing and artillery fire.

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On 29 Sept. at 0900 uniterrupted bomber raids and heaviest artillery fire were directed against all positions of the strong point. Several light arms were inactivated. At 1000 enemy tanks and infantry forces penetrated into the Batteries "Todt" and "Grosser Kurfuerst". One tank was destroyed. No communications since 1516. Naval shore Commander, Pas de Calais, assumes that fighting has become to an end and reported his general impression that even under unfavorable defense conditions the isolated 242nd Naval Artillery Battalion fought excellently under the command of Lieutenant Commander, Naval Artillery Reserve, Schilling.

II. North Sea, Norway, Northern Waters.

1. North Sea:

Heligoland Bight:

During the night of 28 Sept. convoy and escort were carried out as planned. Heavy seas forced ten boats of the 36th Minesweeper Flotilla en route from Terschelling to Borkum to turn back. In the evening of 28 Sept. approximately 40 enemy planes were patrolling in low level flight the convoy lanes in the Heligoland Bight and were shelled by heavy naval anti-aircraft artillery Norderney. In the late evening hours passing fast units were shelled by the heavy anti-aircraft artillery Wilhelmshaven and Wesermuende (Bremerhaven). Isolated enemy convoy searchers approached as far as north of Norderney.

It can positively be assumed that a drifitng mine was involved in the case of the PT boat"1214" which was reported to have struck a mine on 28 Sept.

Dutch Coast:

Previous reports concerning the air raid by 50 to 60 enemy aircraft on Helder roads in the eveinng of 26 Sept. were supplemented as follows:

Forces of Commanding Admiral, Defenses, North supported by ground anti-aircraft artillery shot down eleven planes. Three more planes were shot down by ground anti-aircraft artillery near Harlingen. Commanding Admiral, Defenses, North presumes additional planes to have been lost on their return flight owing to damage inflicted and that

the raid was not repeated on account of the high losses.

Our casualties amountto 22 killed, 37 seriously and 98 lightly wounded. One minesweeping boat and one harbor defense boat were sunk, one minesweeping boat and one motor minesweeper were heavily damaged, twelve boats and one tug were slightly damaged. The protected objects on the roads were not hit. Minesweeper M "3247" which ran aground near Dintelsass is a total loss.

The harbor démolitions in Rotterdam were continued. The blasting of the quays in the harbors and dockyards was carried out.

The harbor of Hansweert was blocked and mined.

During the night of 28 Sept. the MK blasting operation against the Nijmegen bridge was repeated by Small Battle Weapons. No particulars are known as yet about the execution. At 0639 heavy detonations were heard. The transfer from Helder to Terschelling of the 36th Minesweeper Flotilla consisting of five boats was carried out.

2. Norway, Northern Waters:

Enemy Sitautiôn:

Medium flight activity was observed at the 18th Group with 20 planes detected.

At 1520 one of our submarines in AC 4526 reported a QP convoy consisting of 25 steamers as well as one battleship and one plane carrier at 2300 cruising at 10 miles. The submarine attacked and scored two hits. The requested air reconnaissance could not be carried out.

Own Situation:

Brisk air activity took place in the Arctic Coast area on 27 and 28 Sept. Forty-eight planes were reported in the Petsamo area and26 in the Kirkenes area. The stemaer HORNEY (178 BRT) was unsuccessfully raided in Kirkenes by bombs and gunfire.

The convoy traffic between Tromosoe and Nordkyn was closed from noon till darkness owing to the enemy situation. In a raid by about 18 enemy planes on Jakobselv in the Varanger area one engineer landing boats and at least four Norwegian cutters were sunk, two damaged engineer landing craft were beached. Our fighters brought down six planes.

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From the area of Admiral, West Coast several isolated enemy flights between Kristiansand south and the North Fjord were reported on 28 and 29 Sept. During thenight of 28 Sept. five enemy planes were reported between Toensberg, Horten and Dremmen: they were presumably on sabotage flights.

Twenty-seven ships were escorted north and 19 south.

III. Skagerrak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea.

1. Enemy Situation:

According to an agent's report to Reich Security Central Office, American planes are continuously delivering material to Sweden under the pretext of emergency landings. About five weeks ago 10,000 British uniforms, among other things, were landed in Sweden, destined for the Danish volunteers who were trained there.

In the Gulf of Finland radio monitoring spotted the transfer from Lavansari to the west of a minesweeping division. The last bearing was made along the Reval-Helsinki line.

During the night of 26 Sept. Worms was occupied by the Russians. (Tr.N.; Island of Worms near Reval.)

2. Own Situation:

Admiral, Skagerrak:

Twenty boats were on minesweeping duty. One mine was swept in the southern exit of the sound.

The questioning of three members of the crew of the catapult ship WESTAFLEN who returned to Germany revealed that the ship had received three hits which the crew presumed to have been torpedoes. Torpedo tracks were not observed. The ship's position and all circumstances, however, support the assumption that the ship got into a Swedish minefield inside territorial waters. Three Swedish destroyers which escorted hospital ships carrying exchanged prisoners cruised near the scene of the mishap and picked up 75 men of the ship.

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Western and Central Baltic:

Seventy-one boats were on minesweeping duty. Isolated enemy planes from the east penetrated to the Kurische Nehrung, Courland. A reconnaissance plane was reported from Gdynia.

Admiral, Eastern Batlic:

At 0830 one minesweeping boat and one patrol boat shelled a Russian command post and 30 tanks near Adiamuende with 400 well-aimed rounds. Two patrol boats served as anti-aircraft protection.

On the Vinkova bank four armed fishing vessels were in submarine attacking position in the Irben Straits; six armed fishing vessels were on guard against planes.

At 0940 naval landing craft in the Moon Sound were unsuccessfully fired at by eight enemy bombers. At 1542 minesweeper M "17" was attacked by an aerial torpedo from a Boston in the eastern exit of the Irben Straits. No results.

At about 2000 the enemy landed on Moon. Against it Admiral, Eastern Baltic put into action a North Group under the dewignation of Group "Cordes", consisting of four artillery ferries present in Kassarvik which will be joined by six torpedo boats and minesweepers from Ventspils, and a South Group consisting of four artillery ferries present in Kassarvik which will be joined by six torpedo boats and minesweepers from Ventspils, and a south Group consisting of four artillery ferries from Ahrensburg joined by eleven minesweepers from Bentspils. Six Artillery ferries and four naval alanding craft will transfer from Riga to Ahrensburg.

IV. Submarine Warfare.

Submarine U "310" reported from Northern Waters at 1520 a QP convoy in AC 4526 on course 230° consisting of 25 steamers accompanied by one battleship and one aircraft carrier. The boat attacked with three single torpedoes and scored two hits. One "Zaunkoenig" torpedo was misfired. The contact was subsequently lost. The Groups "Grimm" and "Zorn" received orders to proceed at top speed to operate against this convoy.

The air reconnaissance flown by one Ju 88 did not start until shortly after midgight of 29 Sept.

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In the Gulf of Finland our submarines sighted enemy PT boats west of Nargoen heading southwest and also north of Baltic Port heading west. Another submarine reported at 1500 a Swedish destroyer southeast of the Aaland Islands on alternating course. No special reports from the other operational areas.

V. Aerial Warfare.

West Area:

During the day there was brisk fighter-bomber and fighter activity in the Holland area. In the night of 29 Sept. only isolated long distance night fighters were reported.

A report about our own operations was not received.

Reich Territory:

The Rhenish-Westphalian industrial area and the west areas close to the front were the targets for small fighter and fighter-bombers formations in the course of the day; 465 planes of this type carried out raids in the area of Trier-Bingen-Kaiserslautern-Saarbruecken-Geldern-Euskirchen. A substantial number of passenger and freight railway cars were destroyed. Some locomotive were inactivated.

In the night of 29 Sept. 95 isolated planes approached northwestern, western and southwestern German. Fifteen to twenty planes evidently were on mining operations in the Heligoland Bight. About 50 Mosquitoes were active in the area of Frankfurt onfMain-Mannheim. The planes approached the area of Wiesbaden-Mainz and eight planes approached the Kattegat for mining operations in the Aalborg Bay.

Mediterranean Theater:

The enemy air activity was within the usual scope. Our own planes flew reconnaissance over the Tyrrhenian and Aegean Sea.

East Area:

On 28 Sept. 379 of our own and 1,230 enemy planes were reported from the eastern front to be on missions with 20 enemy planes shot down and none of our own lost.

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VI. Warfare in the Mediterranean and Danube Area.

1. Area of German Naval Command, Italy:

Enemy Situation:

In the Gibraltar Straits slight shipping was observed in both directions.

On 29 Sept. two destroyers were patrolling the waters between Nice and San Remo by day. Radar Bordighera was again shelled by destroyers. The twelve (apparently) destroyers reported by the Army in the waters of Nice evidently were supply ships.

Own Situation:

During the night of 28 Sept. convoy and escort duty was carried out as planned. Demolition measures in Lerici (Bay of Spezia) were undertaken as directed. Mineship WESTMARK was commissioned in Spezia.

2. Area Naval Group, South:

Adriatic Sea:

The island of Ahandel was occupied by the enemy. In the afternoon of 28 Sept. the island of Drvnik received a demand for surrender. Drvnik and Milna were covered by our own harassing fire on 28 Sept. In theStomorska Bay (Solta) three enemy boats were shelled by our naval artillery battalions.

During the night of 28 Sept. the mining operation "Murmel" was carried out by the mineship KIEBITZ Nand two torpedo boats.

The Italian midget submarine CB "16" departed from Pola for the southwest. Our own operations were seriously impeded by the Bora situation.

Aegean Sea:

The aircraft carrier unit was again detected at 1552 30 miles east of Naxos heading south-southeast.

In the forenoon two enemy war vessels attacked and apparenly annihilated a Siebel ferry south of Tinos and shelled the island of Syra. In the northern Aegean Sea the enemy submarines were extremely active.

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In attacks on two convoys one motor sailing vessel was sunk. The tanker ELLI (314 BRT) en route from Syra to Salonika is overdue since 11 Sept.

A mining operation by two torpedo boats of foreign origin is planned between Amorgos and Levitha for the night of 30 Sept.

The evacuation of Samos for Leros was carried out as planned and without losses.

The steamers BURGAS, ZEUS, LANDON and LOLA as well as three torpedo boats of foreign origin with altogether 3,400 men and corresponding cargo put into Salonika, Until 30 Sept. 11,500 tons of materiel of highest priority were shipped.

Danube Situation:

In the afternoon of 28 Sept. the guard ship BECHEBAREN shelled the hills near Milanovac. In the forenoon of 29 Sept. the northern group of the Danube Flotilla reported combat with partisans near km 301 and 309; casualties were not sustained. On 27 Sept. a towing barge struck a mine and sank near km 1807.

No dropping and sweeping of mines was reported on 29 Sept.

VII. Situation Far East.

Nothing to report.

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Items of Political Importance.

In the course of the debate on the progress of the war Eden made a lengthy statement in which, as in the case of statements made by Churchill, the problem of the relations with Russia is distinctly stressed. Pointing to the increasing number of problems arising Eden warned against too much optimism and declared that nobody could foretell how much longer the fight in the west and the east would go on. He particularly referred to the Polish-Russians relations as being the most difficult problem and finally emphasized the absolute necessity for the furture understanding between the Anglo-Saxons and the Russians. The German propaganda machine has at present only one hope left; that it might be able to drive a wedge into Allied unity. "This hope will be made to naught! "

Conference on the Situation with the Chief, Naval Staff at 1125.

I. Chief, Operations Branch, Operations Division, Naval Staff:

Chief, Operations Section in the Army General Staff communicated the following by telephone at 1025:

"The situation on Moon Island is such that the bridgehead on both sides of the dam is still being held. It was intended to transfer reinforcements to the Baltic Islands which, at present, are only insufficiently occupied. The transfer will still take some time. Many things can happen until then. Northern Army Group, therefore, proposes to concentrate on Oesel the forces of the Baltic Islands in order to secure the defense of the Sworbe peninsula in any event.

General Staff asked for information on whether any fundamental doubts exist at Naval Staff about Dagoe being abandoned in favor of Oesel in accordance with the proposal made by Northern Army Group."

Commander in Chief, Navy declared that the Navy considers it necessary for all the Baltic Islands to be held as long as possible. In how far forces of the Army are adequate to that end cannot be judged. Army General Staff is to be requested to try in any case to defend all of Oesel. If this should not prove possible, it will be absolutely imperative to hold the Sworbe peninsula and Ahrensburg.

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A relevant communique telephoned to the Operations Section, Army General Staff by Chief, Operations Branch, Operations Division Naval Staff was confirmed by an indentical teletype which was simultaneously transmitted to High Command, Army, General Staff of the Army, Operations Section; Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff, Navy; Admiral, Fuehrer Headquarters; High Command, Air Operations Staff; Naval Liaison, Naval Command, Baltic Sea and Admiral, Eastern Baltic.

II. With regard to the report from Operations Branch, West, Operations Division, Naval Staff about the information from Naval Shore Commander, Southern Holland concerning the withdrawal of Army Forces from Walcheren and from the Schelde area (see War Diary 29 Sept.), the Commander in Chief, Navy ordered the dispatch of an immediate communique to Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff stating that holding the Schelde estuary is the most important task in France. The area must definitely be declared a fortress and is to be equipped accordingly.

III. Naval Staff, Quartermaster General: Naval Command, North proposed with regard to the area organization to establish a Commanding Admiral, Heligoland Bight and three naval shore commanders.

IV. Chief, Intelligence Division, Naval Staff: British airborne landings are said to have taken place in Kavalla. No confirmation has been received.

Peace demonstrations were reported from Budapest.

Switzerland put an embargo on the export of war materiels.

The highest operations staffs of the Navy were informed about excerpts taken from enemy evaluation made by Army General Staff, Foreign Armies West and from the Air Situation West compiled by Air Force, Operations Staff under date of 29 Sept. as per 1/Skl 29902 respectively 29862/44 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part D, Vol. VIII a.

In a Restricted Circle.

V. Army Situation:

Western Front:

The enemy with superior forces continued his attacks against the southern front of the 15th Army northeast of Antwerp.

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The strong enemy fighter-bomber activities continued to have a delaying effect on all marching and rail movements.

The defensive battle in the outer ranges of the Vosges mountains and northwest of Belfort is still being fought.

Italian Front:

The enemy has for the present not resumed his major attack in central Italy. On the Adriatic front it was possible to relieve the German combat group at Savignano.

Balkan Peninsula:

The further infiltration of only small British and Greek units into the evacuated Greek areas continues to be indicative of the cautious advance of the British which seems to be dictated by political considerations.

In Serbia the enemy is offering fierce resistance south of the Danube bend. An enemy infantry regiment was encircled.

In the area north of Orsova our cut off units, suffering considerable losses, were able to fight their way back to our own positions located farther to the rear.

Eastern Front:

In the area of Arad-Mako the severe and fluctuating fighting against the enemy spearhead which had advanced as far as Mako, is still going on. A German armored division succeeded in mopping up the area of Nagy Varad and in gaining territory to the southwest.

On both sides of Todu and Szasz Reen, though restricted to certain localities only, there was very violent fighting which aired at eliminating enemy penetrations.

On the Beskides front the struggle for the mountain positions is going on. The majority of the attacks was repulsed. In Warsaw it was possible to annihilate the enemy in that part of the city which is situated north of the Vistula. The mopping up operations in the large forest area northwest of Warsaw were continued.

At Northern Army Group there were no essential combat activities on the front between Memel and Duena. In the

evening, however, the enemy landed with superior forces on a wide front along the east coast of the island of Moon after strong artillery preparation.

Attacks on the Segevold position northeast of Riga were repulsed.

VI. Concerning Distribution of PT boats.

According to a report from Commander, PT Boats fifteen boats released from repair shops and perhaps five from new constructions will be available. Commander in Chief, Navy decided that the present state of distribution of forces between east and west be maintained. The 2nd Group of the PT Boat Training Flotilla is to be transferred to the Baltic States area so that two flotillas of eight boats each will be on hand there.

A relevant directive to Commander, PT Boats with copy to Naval Command, Baltic Sea, Fleet was issued as per 1/Skl I ops 29911/44 Gkdos. Copy in War Diary, Part C, Vol. III.

In this connection the Commander, PT boats usubmitted on 27 Sep t. a proposal for operational areas to be considered in the event of an abandonment of the Hoofden as a major operational base for PT boats:

1. Helig oland Bight
2. Skagerrak Area, Jutland
3. Southern and Western Norway
4. Northern Norway and Arctic Area
5. Eastern Baltic Sea

and asked for a decision concerning the proposed selection of bases.

Naval Staff, Operations Division relayed this proposal to Quartermaster Division and agreed in general with the suggestions made. Concerning the Danish area Aarhus is to be given preference overGrenaa, as a Torpedo Command exists in Aarhus. Concerning the strongpoint TIRPITZ the decision has been postponed for the present. With regard to Eastern Baltic Sea Riga is to be eliminated. Order as per Qu A I (1/Skl 3114/44 Gkdos. Chefs.) to be found in File 1/Skl I op IX,2.

Special Items.

I. Concerning East Area

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a. In accordance with Fuehrer orders Chief, Army General Staff issued a directive for further warfare on the eastern front until the beginning of winter.

Copy as per 1/Skl 3125/44 Gkdos. Chefs. in War Diary, Part C. Vol. III.

This directive closes as follows:

"It is of decisive importance that the island group Oesel-Dagoe be held. The reinforcements necessary for the defensive battle are to be brought up in cooperation with the Navy. Commander in Chief, Navy was asked to put into action all available naval forces for the defensive battle of the island garrisons and for the prevention of further enemy reinforcements."

b. The appearance of Russian PT boats west of the "Nashorn" barrage permits the conclusion that an early expansion of enemy operations to the Riga Bay and Irben Straits can be reckoned with. The escort of the Riga transports has to take this threat into consideration. A relevant note was sent by teletype 1/Skl I Nord 29855/44 Gkdos. to Naval Command Baltic Sea and Admiral, Eastern Baltic Sea. Copy in War Diary, Part C, Vol. III.

II. Concerning Area Naval Command, North.

a. Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division ordered with regard to the protection of railway bridges over the Kaiser Wilhelm Canal:

"a. According to order from Armed Forces High Command, Naval Command, North is responsible for the safety of the Kaiser Wilhelm Canal including the Rendsburg and Hochdonn railway bridges.

b. As the boundary between Naval Command, North and Baltic Sea is, as heretofore, at km 45 of the Kaiser Wilhelm Canal, Naval Command, Baltic Sea is responsible for the safety of the Rendsburg rialway bridge contrary to the decision made by Naval Command, Baltic Sea.

c. The safety of the bridges is also a task of the Reich defense. Therefore, further particulars concerning replacements for the police forces which are to be withdrawn according to the aforementioned decision of Armed Forces High Command, are to be arragned with Chief of Army Armaments and Commander, Replacement Army, respectively Operations Staff, North Coast. According to notes on hand 110 men were assigned to the to the Rendsburg high bridge and 162 men to Hochdonn, altogether 272 men of the police force.

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The Navy temporarily put at the disposal of the Army the Naval Anti-Aircraft Artillery School, Wesel to assist in the defense task on the Rhine in the Holland area. Army Group B requested the permanent transfer of the personnel to the Army. Commanding General, West decided on the basis of the opinion held by the Navy that the School, in case of an alarm, can be used by the commander of the Rhine crossings for local protection; the school activities, however, must be continued. Group West proposed the transfer of the school. It rests with Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division further to deal with this matter.

III. Concerning West Area.

Supplement:

a. With reference to order from Commander in Chief, Navy of 23 Sept. concerning supply to Dunkirk, Naval command, North reported on 24 Sept. the following intention:

"1. Supplying to be carried out by one naval landing craft and inaddition two armed fishing vessels, partially loaded, as escorts and navigational boats. In case of weather conditions unsuitable for a naval landing craft this task is to be carried out by four armed fishing vessels in two in - dependent groups.

2. Route: From Flushing to Galgeput, on to Deurloo as far as 51° 29.2' North, 3° 25.7 East, from there across the sands to Ribzand and, at about 3-mile distance from the coast across the roads of Niewport, whereby "Flanders 6" may be passed, as far as the end of the channel, 3 miles northeast of head of Dunkirk breakwater, from there steering for the harbor entrance from which , during the probable time of arrival, light signals will be emitted every five minutes by a searchlight pointing avertically to the sky.

3. Execuation at the earliest on 25 Sept., probably on 26 Sept. at 2000 from Flushing.

4. Codeword for execuation: "Kameraden"."

b. Armed Forces High Command, Operations Staff, Quartermaster Section transmitted an order concerning the boundaries of the command area and arrangement of the authority of command in the west.

Copy as per 1/Skl 29894/44 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part C, Provisional File "Invasion 30 Sept.".

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"Commanding General, West is authorized withing its command area either to disband in agreement with the high commands or to transfer to the Reich, staffs superfluous for combat, offices and other installations of the Armed Forces services, Waffen SS, and auxiliary organizations, in notifying the high command concerned and subsequent to an agreement reached with the Chief of Army Armaments and the Commander, Replacement Army"

c. Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division ordered with regard to the competency of Group West and Naval Command, North:

"The areal boundary so far valid between Naval Command, North and Group West has been canceled effective immediately. All command measures necessary west of this boundary which so far have been taken care of by Group West will henceforth be incumbent upon Naval Command, North with the exception of those applicable to the still fighting fortresses."

d. Naval Shore Commander, Languedoc reported to Commander in Chief, Navy hisppersonal supplementary comments with regard to his report to Group West covering the withdrawal movements.

Copy of the report as per 1/Skl 3130/44 gkdos. Chefs. in War Diary, Part C, Provisional File "Invasion 30 Sept."

IV. Chief of Bureau of Naval Armaments informed Naval Staff of the following order to the offices and office groups in his area:

"1. The development of the situation necessitated a change in the requirements of naval armaments.

A fundamental change did not take place in the ship construction program; the demands of the Navy will in general be maintained with the exception of changes in type necessitated by the war, reductions and transfers, and will be emphatically accelerated.

2. a. However, concerning the tasks on the coasts it must be stated that due to a considerable reduction of the areas, a restriction in the tasks and a decline in the requirements will take place by the loss of long coasts with shipyards, outfitting establishments, armaments commands, communications posts, radio stations, and others.

b. A considerable part of the tasks will fall to the home coasts and the still occupied countries.

30 Sept. 1944

Although this implies at the present time increased special tasks, in some cases of a considerable size, the tasks as a whole cannot remain on such a scale as they were at the time when the coasts of Holland, Belgium, France, Italy, Greece, and the Black Sea were occupied by us.

3. The stores in many places were of a size that was necessary and justified by the inclusion of now lost coasts and areas. Much materiel, depots, and supplies were also lost. Nevertheless, it is necessary to make the storesoon hand, the procurment and the manufacture correspond with the existing situation. Stores without a turnover are warning indications.

4 4. The production of scrap, that is to say of surplus arms, ammunition, equipment and apparatus which will not be used must not under any circumstances occur as a result of negligence in thoroughly examining the situation.

5. I make it the special duty of the heads of the offices and office groups of the area of Naval Armaments to make an accurate examination of the effects of the development of the situation on the production and its requirements, the storekeeping and its personnel matters, and to initiate and energetically follow up the necessary measures in agreement with the competent offices of Naval Staff and the provincial offices."

Naval Staff, at the same time, was asked to check up on its requirements and thus to create the prerequisites for the tasks incumbent upon the offices of the Naval Armaments area.

Situation 30 Sept.

I. Situation West Area.

1. Enemy Situation:

Forty-five planes of the 15th Group, thirty of which in the formation 348 and five planes of the 19th Group were spotted on missions. Seven British vessels and one American ship were located in the rendezvous area.

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2. Own Situation:

Situation Atlantic Fortresses:

Lorient: Our artillery shelled enemy tanks and mortar positions with observed results. Enemy artillery fire lay on the foreground and the main defense line concentrating on the northern and western sectors.

LaRochelle: The supply ship OLERON was fired at with machine guns from a motor boat off Fort Boyrad. The enemy turned away after being shelled. Our 7.5 cm fire annihilated enemy machine gun positions near Champon. The Naval Battalion "Zaap" was put into action for approach defense.

Gironde North: On 29 Sept. the enemy main defense line was penetrated by a reinforced battalion and was mopped up to a width of three km. A company of FFI troopss (French Forcds of the Interior. Tr.N.) and a company of Spanish Reds were beaten. Arms and ammunition as well as cattle, flour and other victuals were captured.

Gironde South: A motor coaster with food supplies arrived and subsequently returned to La Rochelle.

Channel Coast:

Two harbor defense boats sailed from Guernsey to Sarq and return. Slight shipping to St. Malo was observed and brisk traffic to an from Cherbourg.

Situation Channel Fortresses:

Dunkirk: On 28 Sept. our assault squads penetrated into an enemy strong point and inflicted nemerous casualties on the enemy. On 29 Sept. lively enemy harassing fire alay on the entire fortress area. Our artillery shelled motor trucking traffic. Our reconnaissance and assault squad activity was brisk. Supplies are contemplated to be flown by eight He 111 planesin the night of 30 Sept.

Calais: The Naval Shore Commander reported the situation to be unclear in Calais; he expects it to envolve into the fight to the finish.

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II. North Sea, Norway, Northern Waters.

1. North Sea:

Heligoland Bight:

Most of the convoys were not carried out in the night of 30 Sept. due to stormy weather. The Coastal Anti-Submarine Listening Post Heligoland located several impacts in a southerly to southwesterly direction, presumably mines.

Dutch Coast:

In the night of 30 Sept. there were no movements due to the storm. The Naval Shore Commander, Southern Holland reported enemy minesweeping activity off the Ooster Schelde in the evening of 29 Sept. The Battery "Hamilton" was under enemy artillery fire in the evening of 29 Sept. Casualties were not reported.

An aerial photograph showed severe destruction of the large railway bridge near Nijmegen which so far has served for bringing up numerous tanks. Two battle swimmers reported after their return that six tons of explosives were used.

Admiral, Netherlands advised Naval Staff, Operations Division for information of a report to Group West concerning the blocking of the Schelde and mining plans in the Schelde area. Copy of the teletype as per 1/Skl 29865/44 Gkdos. in War Diary, Part C, Vol. II a.

2. Norway, Northern Waters:

Enemy Situation:

Forty planes of the 18th Group were spotted on missions.

At 1045 a British vessel was located in AF 8726. At 1900 a British vessel was located 80 miles west-southwest of Stadlandet.

At 0738 a carrier group was located by Drontheim in 350°. Beginning at 1829 continuous telephone traffic between carriers and aircraft has been observed and at 1945 was located in 293°.

The Air Force reported sighting eight large ships north of Murmansk on 29 Sept. A large warship was stationed at Cape Pinagori.

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Own Situation:

There was brisk enemy air activity in the Arctic Coast area on 29 Sept. Several bombs were reported dropped in the Vardoe area. The harbor of Petsamo and Battery "Liinahamari" were raided.

On 30 Sept. at 0522 seven Bostons unsuccessfully raided the steamer FRIESENLAND in the Bille Fjord with aerial torpedoes.

The convoy traffic between Bodoe and Tromsoe remained suspended until darkness on account of the enemy situation The 4th Destroyer Flotilla received orders to transfer to Tromsoe for the same reason.

In the area of Admiral, West Coast 40 Mosquitoes were reported over the Sogne Fjord at 1500.

Nineteen ships were escorted north and one south.

III. Skagerrak, Baltic Sea Entrances, Baltic Sea.

1. Enemy Situation:

The movements of Russian PT boats in the western Gulf of Finland were reported on in the Submarine Situation 29 Sept.

On 29 Sept. radio monitoring spotted the usual enemy forces in the Gulf of Finland.

On 30 Sept. at 0830 midget vessels were sailing on a western course in AC 3561; at 0945 eight midget vessels in AO 6235 and at 1000 sixteen midget vessels in AO 6291.

According to a report from Group "Cordes" the enemy landing on Moon did not become known until observation of the ground combat.

2. Own Situation:

Admiral, Skagerrak:

Patrol positions on the west coast of Jutland were not occupied due to weather conditions.

Sixteen boats were on mine clearance duty at the Baltic Sea entrances. A mine was cleared east of Anholt.

Western and Central Baltic:

Thirty-three boats and three mine exploding vessels were on minesweeping duty. Three mines were swept in the Pommeranian Bay.

Admiral, Eastern Baltic:

Group "Cordes" sailed on its own initiative with four landing on Moon and shelled Koivasto, Werder, Schildau and enemy traffic with observed good results from 0230 to 0300. The enemy returned the fire with 17 and 8 cm batteries without success. Armed fishing vessels guarded the north coast during the night while the 24th Training Flotilla was guarding the Soela Sound.

Torpedo boats T "8", "23" and four boats of the 2nd Torpedo Boat Flotilla will transfer to Riga for fast troop transports to Ahrensburg and for action against a possible enemy landing on Oesel.

On 29 Sept. at 1600 the harbor of Ahrensburg was raided by enemy planes. The harbor installations remained unchanged. A motor sailing vessel was hit.

So far 1730 marines were transferred to Oesel.

Transports and convoys were carried out as planned and without incidents.

IV. Merchant Shipping.

1. On 28 Sept. a conference took place at Naval Staff, Quartermaster Division, Shipping and Transport Branch to discuss the question of directing merchantmen belonging to the Air Force. On 29 Sept. Naval Staff, Operations Division discussed the question of practical cooperation with the General of the Air Force, Maritime Affairs. It remains to be examined whether the Air Force can be given the means of cooperating with the sea transport organization of the Navy in such a way that the latter takes over for the Air

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Force the following tasks acting on orders of and being responsible to the former:

"1. Issuance of sailing orders and of eventual special directives

2. Information of local commanders about intended departure

3. Reporting for convoy

4. Ship Movement Reporting Service

5. Participation in the direct communication traffic with the ships, if necessary."

2. Naval Staff, Intelligence Division, Foreign Armies, deals in Report No. 16/44 with marking of neutral merchant ships, the Spanish import and export with enemy merchant ships, and in brief Report No. 18, among other things, with the PT boat traffic between Sweden and England, training of Portuguese sailors and maritime officers to handle British detecting gear, and the arming of Portuguese merchant ships and fishing vessels.

V. Submarine Warfare.

In Northern Waters the contact with the QP convoy and the carrier group was kept up by our submarines with short interruptions all day long till 2140. The dispatched submarines of Groups "Zorn" and "Grimm" may reach the enemy in the morning respectively in the afternoon of 1 Oct.

The position was assumed by a listening report from submarine U "310" for 1 Oct. at 0300 to be in AB 8258. The operation will be continued with 15 submarines.

In the Mediterranean the Salamis submarine base will presumably be abandoned on 2 Oct. Submarine U "407" has not reported her position through requested to do so. The boat is to start on her return so that Pola can be reached

Nothing to report from the other operational areas.

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VI. Aerial Warfare.

West Area:

All day long brisk enemy fighter-bomber and fighter activity was observed over the Dutch area. In the night of 30 Sept. single long distance night fighters were over the Dutch area without going into action. No report was received about our own operations.

Reich Territory:

On 30 Sept. 289 fighter-bombers and fighters approached northern, northwestern, western and southern Germany singly and in groups. Raids were primarily directed against airfields.

At noon 200 four-engined bombers of the RAF approached the Rhenish-Westphalian industrial area and raided Bottrop, Hamborn, Oberhausen, and Essen. An hour later several hundred four-engined bombers of American divisions approached Reich territory and raided Bielefeld, Muenster and Hamm. Both bomber formations were screened to the north and the east by strong fighter groups. (See Daily Situation about the damage caused). Dislocations in the transport installations especially in the railway stations are considerable.

In the night of 30 Sept. 40 to 50 Mosquitoes approached by way of the Heligoland Bight for a raid on Hamburg. Additional 50 Mosquitoes raided Aschaffenburg while some single planes raided Heilbronn.

In the Danish area six planes, apparently supplying agents, were observed.

Mediterranean Theater:

Special enemy operations surpassing the usual activity are not to be noted. Our reconnaissance activity also moved within the usual limits.

East Area:

On 29 Sept. 384 of our own and 1,310 enemy planes were reported on missions with 16 enemy planes shot down, whereas three of our own failed to return to their bases.

By day on 30 Sept. the coastal approaches and the coastal area of Drontheim-Kristiansand-South-Mandal were approached by 75 enemy planes nine of which were "Liberators" engaged in sub-

marine hunt. An anti-aircraft gun position south of Stadlandet was raided with gunfire.

In the night of 30 Sept. 16 enemy planes were observed in the same area on submarine hunt in the coastal approaches while eleven planes were spotted supplying agents.

According to aerial photography reconnaissance over the Kola Bay on 30 Sept. in the forenoon the following vessels were observed there: One battleship, one apparently light cruiser, five destroyers, twenty-six freighters, one tanker. Compared with the findings of 26 Sept. one battleship as well as two auxiliary aircraft carriers are missing which possibly were not in the area covered by the photograph.

VII. Warfare in the Mediterranean and in the Danube Area.

1. Area of German Naval Command, Italy:

Enemy Situation:

In the forenoon of 29 Sept. one auxiliary cruiser, one transport, 16 loaded and three empty freighters as well as four corvettes departed from Gibraltar for the Atlantic.

In the afternoon of 29 Sept. a convoy of 43 freighters, ten tankers with one auxiliary cruiser and five corvettes passed through the Gibraltar Straits. Course data were requested.

Air reconnaissance was not carried out during the night of 29 Sept. due to the weather. Six vessels were spotted by instruments south of San Remo outside of the barrage, presumably increased destroyer and gunboat patrol. The patrol by day by three (apparently) destroyers was carried out off Mentone.

On 29 Sept. the harbor of San Remo was also shelled by destroyers in addition to Bordighera and Ventimiglia; naval guns returned the fire.

Own Situation:

Convoy and escort duty along the Italian west coast was

carried out as planned. In the Albenga Bay three mine naval landing craft laid another barrage section using 125 KMA mines.

2. Area Naval Group, South:

Adriatic Sea:

The intended reinforcement of Drvnik was not possible due to the weather. Enemy artillery shelled our batteries without special results. On 29 Sept. the enemy landed by day in the Barsenica Bay west of Trogir in unknown strength.

The channel in the Grado-Caorle canal is blocked by three lighters which were sunk in a fighter-bomber raid.

Our operations were hindered by the weather situation. Three motor coasters sank in a Bora sotrm. A tanker peniche was damaged. Another motor coaster sank near Punta Nera.

The blocking of the Laurana harbor in the Quarnero Gulf was carried out.

Aegean Sea:

Admiral, Aegean Sea holds the break-through of the enemy through the barrage between Amorgos and Levitha to be confirmed by reason of the shelling of Syra by a cruiser and a destroyer on 29 Sept. For fuel reasons the carrier group apparently turned southeastward on 30 Sept. and was no longer detected by air reconnaissance. A cruiser and a destroyer heading south were sighted at 0920 northeast of Stampalia. Apparently the same unit was observed from Suda at 1636 heading west, shelling Malemes on Crete at 1855, then putting into Kythera for refueling. The air and naval situation has become less tense.

Two torpedo boats of foreign origin are at sea for a mining operation between Syros and Psara.

The blocking of the Rhion-Patras Narrows and the mining of the Corinth Canal were carried out as planned. Thus the Corinth Canal is also closed to our shipping.

Convoy vessel GA "78" is engaged in a mining operation in the Eleusis Bay. Two light PT boats are screening the evacuation of Stampalia with forces of the Naval Shore Commander, Dodecanese.

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On account of the enemy situation Admiral, Aegean Sea plans the mining of the Steno Pass by a minelaying group of the Coastal Defense Flotilla Attica.

The evacuation of Stampalia for Leros is planned for the night of 2 Oct.

The harbor of Piraeus was for the greater part evacuated.

On the Piraeus-Dodecanes route 14 vessels of altogether 3,365 tons capacity have been lost since 11 Sept. among which were valuable vessels such as mineship DRACHE, war transport PELIKAN as well as tankers ELLI and DRESDEN. Lately only the passage of two naval landing craft and one naval artillery lighter was successful.

According to a Fuehrer decision as many German soldiers as possible were to be flown from Crete and Rhodes abandoning the materiel. It is the task of the Navy to try with regard to this order to evacuate from the islands primarily heavy arms The Fuehrer confirmed that the concentration of freight ships for operations be shifted to the Piraeus-Salonika route. Admiral, Aegean Sea, therefore, intends to let only the ships still under way proceed to the Dodecanese, to stop shipping equipment for assembly at Leros that is becoming available as a result of the disbandment of isolated posts in the Dodecanese and to bring all shipping space to Salonika.

Danube Situation:

On 30 Sept. no dropping of mines and no minesweeping were reported.

The northern group of the Danube Flotilla reported that on 30 Sept. Ilok near km 1301 and Sarengrad near km 1309 were taken by partisans. The Danube is blocked in this area as theresult of fighting between Hungarians and Partisans. FR "9" sprang a leak on 29 Sept. by a mortar shell and was beached for repair. The vessel broke in two near km 1301 early on 30 Sept. The employment of a gun carrier in this area is urgently necessary as half the escort vessels are now out of action.

The southern group of the Danube Flotilla reported that the BECHELAREN, upon request of the Army, carried out a heavy bombardment of the heights southwest of Milanovac.

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The Special Representative Danube requested the operation of Hungarian monitors in the Sarengrad-Ilok area.

VIII. Situation Far East.

Nothing to report.

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