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# WAR DIARY

## German Naval Staff Operations Division

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PART A      VOLUME I

15 AUGUST to 30 SEPTEMBER 1939

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WAR DIARY OF THE GERMAN NAVAL STAFF

(Operations Division)

PART A

Chief, Naval Staff:	Grand Admiral Raeder Dr.h.c.
Chief of Staff, Naval Staff:	Rear Admiral Schniewind
Chief, Operations Division, Naval Staff:	Captain Fricke

Volume I

begun: 15 Aug. 1939  
closed: 30 Sept. 1939

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OFFICE OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE

Washington, D.C.

Foreword

1. The Office of Naval Intelligence has undertaken to translate important parts of the War Diary of the German Naval Staff. The present volume, the initial one of the war, is the first one for 1939 to be translated. Sixteen volumes for 1941, 1942, 1943, and 1944 have appeared earlier. Others will follow shortly.

2. The War Diaries, Part A, are important because they contain a day by day summary of the information available to the German Naval Staff and the decisions reached on the basis thereof. Together with the Fuehrer Conferences on Matters Dealing with the German Navy, 1939-1945, and the Fuehrer Directives, 1939-1945, which have been published by this office, the War Diaries should provide valuable material for the study of naval problems arising from total war. The War Diary, Part A, is also a useful index to the German Naval Archives of World War II; references may be found in the micro-film library of Naval Records and Library.

3. Due to the cost of publication, only a limited number of copies could be made; it is therefore desirable that the copies which have been distributed are made available to other offices which may be interested.

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1948

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In addition to this Part A, the War Diary of the Naval Staff contains the following volumes:

Part B: Weekly Surveys and Considerations of a General Military Nature:

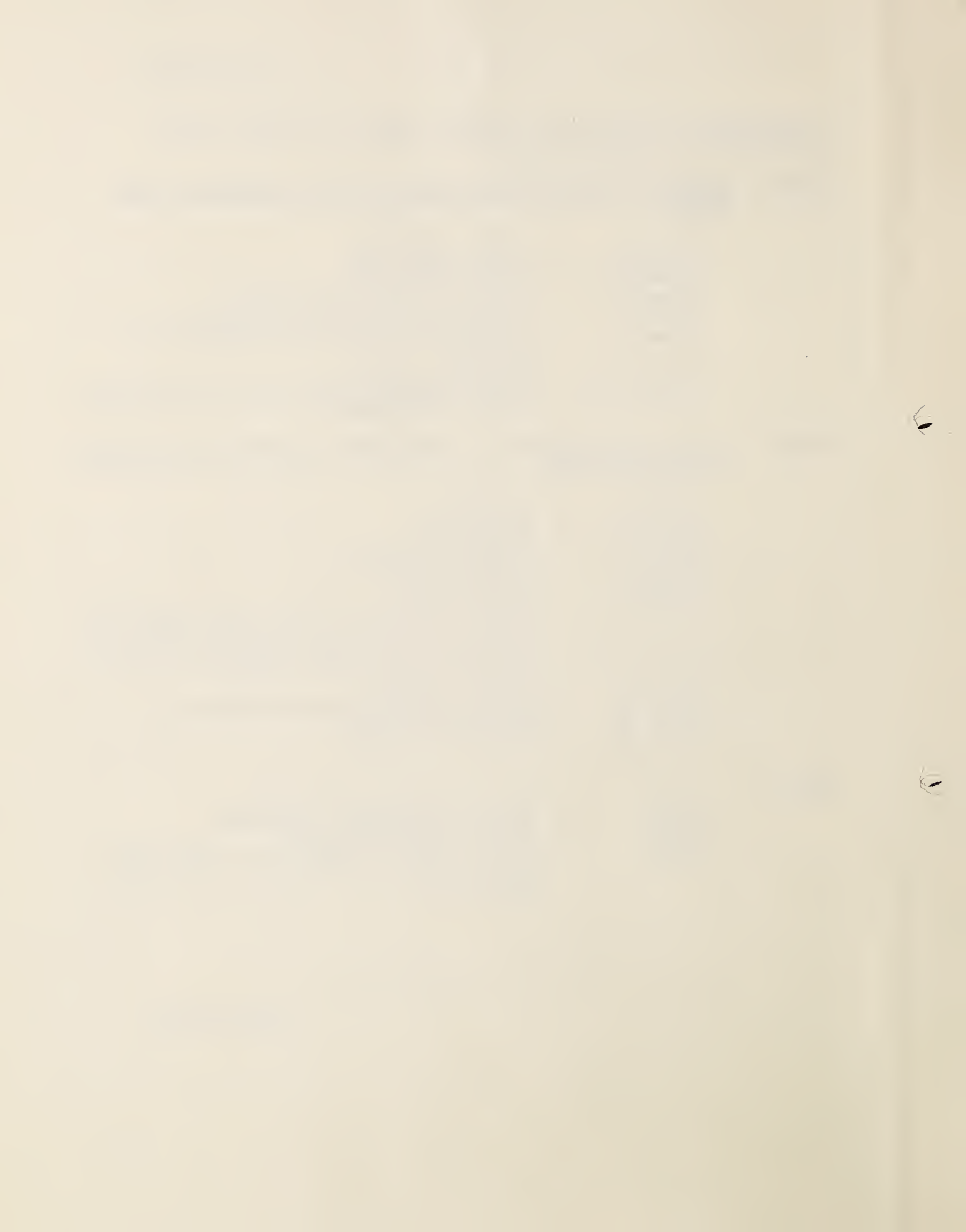
- Volume I : Survey Atlantic.
- Volume II : Survey North Sea.
- Volume III : Survey Baltic Sea.
- Volume IV : Survey on Submarine Warfare.
- Volume V : Miscellaneous annexes to Part I.
- Volume VI : Remarks concerning the Communications Service.
- Volume VII : Merchant Shipping.
- Volume VIII : Weekly Survey on Politics, International Law, and Propaganda.

Part C: Special Considerations on Individual Questions and Problems of Naval Warfare:

- Volume I : Atlantic.
- Volume II : North Sea.
- Volume III : Baltic Sea.
- Volume IV : Submarine Warfare.
- Volume V : Aerial Warfare.
- Volume VI : Mine Warfare.
- Volume VII : Considerations of Chief, Naval Staff and Notes on Conferences with the Fuehrer.
- Volume VIII : Warfare in accordance with International Law; Propaganda and Politics.
- Volume IX : Supply Problems.
- Volume X : Coastal and anti-aircraft defense.
- Volume XI : Merchant Shipping.
- Volume XII : Economic Warfare.

Part D:

- Volume : Radio Monitoring Reports.
- Volume : Items of Political Importance.
- Volume : Foreign Press Reports.
- Volume : Daily situations (Atlantic, North Sea, Baltic Sea, Aerial Situation, Merchant Shipping).





Begun: 15 Aug. 1939

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Operation "Weiss"  
(War against Poland).

The following measures were carried out up to 15 Aug. 1939 in preparation for Operation "Weiss":

1. 1 Aug. 39 : Assembly of the 12th Submarine Chaser Flotilla (North Sea) and of the 17th Submarine Chaser Flotilla (Baltic Sea).
2. 1 Aug. 39 : Setting up of railroad Battery "Gneisenau" in the area of Pillau (ready for action from 15 Aug.)
3. starting  
1 Aug. 39 : Assembly of eight vessels of the Reserve Patrol Flotilla can be carried out within three days.
4. 5 Aug. 39 : Supply ship ALTMARK as supply ship for the GRAF SPEE left for Port Arthur (U.S.A.) to take on Diesel oil.
5. 7 Aug. 39 : 1st and 3rd Squadrons of 506th Group transferred to Lochstaedt.
6. 15 Aug. 39 : 300 reserves of the 1st and 3rd Naval Artillery Battalions transferred to East Prussia to the 5th and 7th Naval Artillery Battalions.

The following measures have been prepared:

1. from 15 Aug. 39 on : The GRAF SPEE and Atlantic submarines ready to put out.
2. from 22 Aug. 39 on : Supply ship WESTERWALD (for the DEUTSCHLAND) ready to put out.
3. from 25 Aug. 39 on : The DEUTSCHLAND ready to put out.
4. by 23 Aug. 39 : Assembly of the 5th Motor Minesweeper Flotilla along with the ELBE.
5. by 23 Aug. 39 : Assembly of the harbor defense flotillas in the Baltic Sea and Kiel Canal.
6. by 22 Aug. 39 : Bringing the Staffs of Commanding Admiral, Baltic and Commanding Admiral, Defenses, Baltic up to mobilization strength.

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7. by 22 Aug. 39 : Carrying out measure "Aufbau" (Mobilization).
8. by 22 Aug. 39 : Setting up communications on a mobilization basis.
9. by 25 Aug. 39 : Establishment of harbor and coast patrol stations on the Baltic Sea and North Sea coasts.
10. : Establishment of war-time lights and buoys and war pilot service.
11. : Manning of sea target batteries on the North and Baltic Seas, as far as is possible with active personnel.
12. "Y"- 1 day : Establishment of coastal anti-aircraft defense (by preparatory measure).

∟The measures prepared for Operation "Weiss" (War against Poland) are in compliance with the instructions issued by Armed Forces High Command, according to which an extension of the conflict to the west is considered unlikely and all forces of the Navy are being concentrated in the east. In the west only unobtrusive security measures with submarines and naval air force formations are provided<sup>7</sup>.

The naval forces in readiness for the Baltic Sea correspond to the forces required by Group Baltic. (For details, considerations etc. see file: Preparations for Operation "Weiss").

Thus the following active forces are placed at the disposal of Group Baltic:

Commanding Admiral, Scouting Force with four cruisers; Commander, Torpedo Boats (Baltic) with four destroyer divisions, three torpedo boat flotillas, one PT boat flotilla.

Commander, Submarines (Baltic) with ten submarines; Commander, Minesweepers (Baltic) with escort flotilla, one minesweeper flotilla, Minelaying Experimental Command Unit, Mining and Harbor Defense Training Unit, two motor minesweeper flotillas. Also Training Flotilla of Commanding Admiral, Defenses, Baltic.

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Commander, Naval Air (Baltic) with ten coastal patrol squadrons.

(For details see file: Operation "Weiss").

In compliance with instructions the preparation of reserve units has also been carried out mainly for the Baltic Sea. Since, according to the instructions, the Navy need not prepare for operation "X" too, simultaneously with the outbreak of hostilities, the provision in advance of the following small number of units has been carried through or is being prepared:

For the Baltic Sea: 17th Submarine Chaser Flotilla, all harbor defense flotillas, 5th Motor Minesweeper Flotilla, 8 reserve patrol boats.

For the North Sea : 12th Submarine Chaser Flotilla.

According to the instructions, the due departure of forces into the Atlantic beforehand is ordered. Accordingly the supply ship ALTMARK has been supplied with provisions and spare parts (no ammunition) for the SPEE and ordered to the United States to take on oil; preparations have been made for the departure of the SPEE and DEUTSCHLAND with supply ship WESTERWALD and of 14 submarines at first. The SPEE is to operate in the south Atlantic, the DEUTSCHLAND in the north Atlantic. During the crisis, waiting areas are planned for the SPEE and the ALTMARK southwest of the Canaries, for the DEUTSCHLAND and WESTERWALD east of Greenland. The waiting positions of submarines in an area west of Gibraltar up to west of Ireland are their operational areas at the same time. (For details and considerations see Part C, Vol. I, Atlantic and Vol. IV, Submarine Warfare).

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15 Aug. 39 Receipt of decision by the Fuehrer:

Preparations for Operation "Weiss" are to be continued. The following is ordered:

1. The SPEE and DEUTSCHLAND are to be made ready for departure.  
The SPEE is to leave on 21 Aug. 39 at 2100.  
(The DEUTSCHLAND reports midnight on 25 Aug. 39 as earliest time of departure).
2. Fourteen submarines are to be equipped for the Atlantic. They are to leave on 19 Aug. 39.

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\* See Fuehrer Directives 1939-1941, Office of Naval Intelligence, Washington, D.C., 1948, p. 9.

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3. All naval forces are to be ready for Operation "Weiss" in the evening of 22 Aug. 39.
4. The supply ship WESTERWALD is to leave in the morning of 22 Aug. 39.
5. From the morning of 21 Aug. 39 on, the GRILLE is to be placed at the disposal of Commanding Admiral, West (for minelaying operations).
6. The HORST WESSEL and GORCH FOCK are to be in the western part of the Baltic Sea from 23 Aug. on (at present in the central part of the North Sea and eastern part of the Baltic Sea).
7. The WESER (at present in Scotland) is to report observations on British forces.

A decision as to the departure of training ships will be made later; the ships will continue equipping as planned. It is planned to have the SCHLESWIG HOLSTEIN operate in Danzig.

She is to go to Danzig instead of the KOENIGSBERG, which has been announced there for about six months and, if necessary, use her heavy batteries against Hela and Gdynia. Action against the Westerplatte is also possible. The SCHLESWIG HOLSTEIN is to remain in shallow water in the harbor, so that even in the case of heavy bombs or hits by gunfire she cannot sink completely.

In case of need the SCHLESWIG HOLSTEIN is assigned to Commanding Admiral, Baltic (ordered on 17 Aug. 39).

Setting up of commands is ordered as follows:

1. Naval Communications Officer, Berlin by 22 Aug. 39
2. Harbor Defense Flotilla, Baltic Sea and Kiel Canal by 23 Aug.
3. 5th Motor Minesweeper Flotilla and the ELBE by 23 Aug.
4. Coastal and harbor patrol stations by 25 Aug.

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18 Aug. 39 Order to assemble the Reserve Patrol Flotilla for Commanding Admiral, Baltic within the three days provided. Order to charter 10 fishing steamers (with civilian crew and supercargo) for Commanding Admiral, West by the evening of 20 Aug.

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In view of the lack of light naval forces in the North Sea a balance is to be achieved thereby for reconnaissance and patrol operations for Commanding Admiral, West.

Report from Armed Forces High Command:  
Concentration of the Army begins on 19 Aug. 39.  
Bound for the Atlantic:  
19 Aug. 39 Put out from Kiel: Submarines U "45", "46", "47", "48",  
midnight "52".  
0800 Put out from Wilhelmshaven: Submarines U "37", "38", "39",  
"40", "41".  
Put out from Wilhelmshaven: Submarines U "28", "29", "33",  
"34".

Order: Carry out measure "Aufbau" by 22 Aug. (Commanding Admiral, Baltic will still be Admiral Carls; for the time being 2nd Admirals are not to be called in).  
1st Coastal Defense Squadron and 3rd Coastal Multi-purpose Squadron of the 506th Group transferred from Lochstaedt to Pillau-Neutief.

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20 Aug. 39 1st Coastal Defense Squadron of the 306th Group transferred to Dievenow.

Report from the ALTMARK: "19 Aug. 0730 after departure, off Port Arthur (U.S.A.). Starting return passage in accordance with operational order but keeping south of the merchant shipping routes"

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21 Aug. 39 Order to the DEUTSCHLAND to leave if possible on 24 Aug. (The DEUTSCHLAND reports earliest date 25 Aug. 1200).

Order to Commander, Submarines to send four further boats (submarines U "30", "27", "26", "53") to the Atlantic as soon as possible after completion. Submarine U "26" is to be equipped for a minelaying operation in the English Channel.

Order: The higher staffs to be filled permanently from 21 Aug. on.

Equipment of training ships will cease.

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21 Aug. 39 Allocation of tankers: the DITHMARSCHEN for Commanding Admiral, West, the THALATTA and SCHWARZES MEER for Commanding Admiral, Baltic.

Staff of the 706th Coast Patrol Group, 2nd Coastal Defense Squadron of the 306th Group, 3rd Coastal Multi-Purpose Squadron of the 106th Group transferred to Dievenow.

Staff of Commander, Naval Air, Baltic transferred to Dievenow; special duty staff of Commander, Naval Air Units (Commander, Naval Air, West) transferred to Jever.

1900 Naval air units are under the command of the Navy. (As provided in the instructions for Operation "Weiss").

Order to Commanding Admiral, West: 21 Aug. evening reconnaissance and 22 Aug. morning reconnaissance by naval air forces on the outgoing route of the GRAF SPEE. (The GRAF SPEE leaves at 2100 on 21 Aug.)

Deputy for Maritime Shipping, Hamburg reports: British steamer bound for Hamburg is ordered to Rotterdam.

Report of Radio Monitoring Service on alarm measures of the French Fleet.

Our evening reconnaissance on the outgoing route of the SPEE reports only general movements of British naval forces engaged in a British maneuver.

Order: War-time lights and buoys in the Baltic and North Seas are to be made ready.

2315 Radio report regarding imminent conclusion of a Russo-German non-aggression pact.

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22 Aug. 39 0130 The supply ship WESTERWALD put out from Wilhelmshaven for waiting area east of Greenland. Outgoing route, if necessary, north around Iceland.

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22 Aug. 39 Put out from Wilhelmshaven into the Atlantic: submarine  
0300 U "30".

Radio Monitoring Service reports: further French alarm measures.

The Foreign Office reports from Finland: Shipping companies take out war insurances (premiums not yet increased).

1200 Conference of Commanding Admirals and Admirals of Groups (including Commanding Admiral and Admiral, Fleet) with the Fuehrer at the "Berghof".

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23 Aug. 39 Order for immediate establishment of the command of a special deputy of Commander in Chief, Navy in East Prussia.

2300 Put out from Wilhelmshaven: submarine U "27". Attitude of the Western Powers stiffer but not yet clearly defined.

1000 Order for the assignment of minelayers COBRA and ROLAND to Commanding Admiral, Baltic and of five mine-exploding vessels to Commanding Admiral, Defenses, North in order to have suitable vessels available should minelaying and minesweeping become necessary in the North Sea.

The following are put at the disposal of Commanding Admiral, West:

The remaining 8 submarines of the Submarine School and 6 submarines of Commanding Admiral, Baltic from operation "Ulfilas" and 3 submarines from operation "Gotland". Owing to the pact with Russia the security operations against her in the Baltic Sea ("Ulfilas" and "Gotland") are abolished. Thus Commanding Admiral, West has at his disposal: 1st Submarine Flotilla (7 boats), 3rd Submarine Flotilla (6 boats), 5th Submarine Flotilla (3 boats), Submarine School (8 boats), altogether 24 boats.

Order for day and night duty even of subordinate offices starting 24 Aug.

Order: permanent manning of sea target batteries with active personnel, in a state of readiness starting 24 Aug. Report batteries provided.

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23 Aug. 39 Order: transport exercise "Luebeck" without measures against Russia (patrol of Danzig Bay only by air forces and submarines) to be carried out on 23 Aug. at 1200.

Order to supply ship ALTMARK: Proceed to scheduled waiting area.

Order to Group Baltic, Group West, Air Force General attached to Commander in Chief, Navy: Operation "Weiss", 24 steamers will participate from 0430 on. ("Y" date 26 Aug. 0430). Measures in the North Sea only by special order of Naval Staff.

Order to the DEUTSCHLAND to put out as soon as possible. (DEUTSCHLAND reports departure probably 24 Aug. 1600).

Order to Group Baltic: Instead of the KOENIGSBERG the SCHLESWIG HOLSTEIN is to put into Danzig "for a visit" in the morning of 25 Aug.; assault detachment from Memel to be taken aboard beforehand. Anti-submarine escort by two torpedo boats.

Order to the GNEISENAU: proceed to the North Sea immediately by way of the Kiel Canal. (Enters the Canal on 24 Aug. 0720).

The following measures are being taken for the security of the tankers at sea chartered by the Navy:

- a. German tankers are gradually being diverted to harbors on the west coast of Spain;
- b. cargo loaded on neutral tankers will at once be sold to Sweden and diverted to Malmoe.

Reports of the Radio Monitoring Service: Progress of alarm measures by the French Fleet up to the 3rd degree. British and French minelaying off harbors.

Deputy for Maritime Shipping etc. report: British ships break off passage to Germany or sojourn in German harbors.

1600

Order for immediate setting-up of the whole anti-aircraft defense of the coast by measures in advance (23,000 reserves.)

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1800 Commanding Admiral, Baltic reports: Apparently Polish patrol of Danzig Bay by destroyers, submarines, etc.

The Fuehrer reserves the right to decide on all measures against the West.

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24 Aug. 39 Order to Commanding Admiral, West: Start of measures "Ulla" and "Falke" only on special order from Naval Staff.

Report on Polish mobilization.

Commanding Admiral, Baltic issues order for mines to be taken on for anti-submarine barrages off Hela. ("Schweden" 1 - 3).

1500 The DEUTSCHLAND left Wilhelmshaven.

Evening and morning (25 Aug.) reconnaissance by Commander, Naval Air, West on the outgoing route.

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25 Aug. 39 By decision of the Fuehrer: Order for submarine patrol  
0030 in the eastern entrance of the Channel (Special command "Ulla") extended to northern harbors and the Great Fisher Bank. Operation "Falke" not yet decided.

The Fuehrer approved the warning to German merchant shipping: Measure 1 ordered (maintain large fuel supply; observe radiogram instructions).

1015 During the night of 24 Aug. the SCHLESWIG HOLSTEIN will take on near Stolpmuende the assault detachment from Memel. Purpose of the assault detachment: Protection of the berth of the SCHLESWIG HOLSTEIN and further tasks according to developments in the situation.

The SCHLESWIG HOLSTEIN berthed in Neufahrwasser.

Decision by the Fuehrer: Warning to merchant shipping is approved for High Command, Navy (see above).

0900 Warning to German merchant shipping:  
Measures 5 and 6 (5: return passage home, with the exception of ships in the Baltic Sea, otherwise seek

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- 25 Aug. 39 friendly harbors. 6: Leave customary routes, avoid the English Channel. Use radio code "H").
- Radio Monitoring Service reports: German and Italian steamers are being watched and reported by France.
- Forces of Commanding Admiral, Scouting Force on the way for Operation "Weiss".
- 1030 (By decision of the Fuehrer: Order to Commanding Admiral, West and Commander, Naval Air, West "Special Command Falke": minimum distance from the English coast 50 miles).
- 0815 Plane engaged in air patrol of Danzig Bay fired on by a Polish battery on Hela.
- 1400 The extension of submarine patrol to harbors in the north of Scotland, as intended by Commanding Admiral, West, is restricted. In the north the boats are not to pass 0° to the west. If necessary, operations with the patrol line on the Great Fisher Bank.
- 1300 Instruction to the Groups: Decision on "Y" date will be reached today, 25 Aug., by 1700.
- 1530
- Decision by the Fuehrer: "Y" date 26 Aug. at 0430; at the same time operation "X" for the Army (not including parts of the replacement army) and for active naval forces, naval air forces, the naval shore units which are to be put into operation and the naval reserve units which are to be set up in accordance with the instructions of Commander in Chief, Navy; for the German Air Force not including schools and air training regiments.
- 26 Aug. at 0430 start of operations Gdynia - Danzig Bay. Navy in the West: Security measures in the North Sea as planned.
- 1800 Commanding Admiral, Baltic sends out evening reconnaissance over the Kattegat and Skagerrak up to 8° E. Returning from there at 2000. Is to be repeated daily from 26 Aug. on, as evening reconnaissance. (Result: No special sighting reports, sea area free of naval forces).
- Commanding Admiral, Baltic provides the BREMSE and the Minelaying Training Unit for minelaying in the southern outlet of the Belts.

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25 Aug. 39      Decision of Commander in Chief, Navy (to Groups  
1800              West and Baltic):

The GNEISENAU and SCHARNHORST will remain in the North Sea. (SCHARNHORST ready on 25 Aug. at 2100 with three screws is to enter the Elbe).

2020              Air reconnaissance "Falke" reports two surfaced submarines 40 miles northwest of the Great Fisher Bank (possibly our own boats of the patrol line). In the Baltic Sea positions of Polish forces are reported.

2330              Coastal defense service and coastal and harbor patrol stations established. Active personnel for the 11th Naval Artillery Regiment has been ordered to leave for Offenhoeften.

2030      Owing to the change in the political situation (close alliance Great Britain - Poland at noon on 25 Aug. and statement by the Duce that he will keep his word, but must necessarily ask for a large amount of raw material) new decision by the Fuehrer: "Y" date for 26 Aug. 0430 is cancelled. On no account start hostilities against Poland. Stop all movements, no large-scale withdrawals from the frontier. "X" measures will proceed further.

Order to this effect to Commanding Admiral, Baltic: Commanding Admiral, Scouting Force will remain west of Stolpe Bank for practices at sea; PT boats and Commander, Torpedo Boats to remain in Pillau. Measure "Luebeck" cancelled. Submarines ("Schweden" and "Luebeck") will proceed to Memel. Naval air units ("Luebeck") at one hour's notice. (To Commanding Admiral, Baltic and Commanding Admiral, West: Unobtrusive security measures "Ulla" and "Falke" and reconnaissance by fishing steamers in the Baltic and North Seas, also air reconnaissance of the Skagerrak and Kattegat will continue).

2330              Report of Commanding Admiral, Baltic that all forces are stopped or diverted. The report is forwarded to Armed Forces High Command and the Fuehrer's staff.

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26 Aug. 39 0100 Instruction of forces in the Atlantic on the situation to the effect that hostilities against Poland will not be started. Further passage into areas assigned.

0200 Ministry of Transportation reports detention of German steamers in England because of "difficulties regarding customs".

Ships at sea report their positions and intentions.

0015 The COBRA has been commissioned for Commanding Admiral, West and is proceeding to Cuxhaven.

(Even now the political situation still leaves open the possibility of an active intervention by the Western Powers.

Long-range reconnaissance in the North Sea is to be extended. The bulk of light forces is to remain in the Baltic Sea for the blow shortly to be dealt against Poland.)

1300 The following decisions by Commander in Chief, Navy are issued to the Group:

1. The GNEISENAU and SCHARNHORST will remain in the North Sea.
2. One long-range reconnaissance squadron will be transferred to the North Sea. (Reconnaissance boundary between groups: Skagen - Paternoster).
3. Still no transfer of light forces (one cruiser, one destroyer division) to the North Sea.
4. The SCHLESWIG HOLSTEIN remains in Danzig, possibly longer than 28 Aug., as her use for support against Gdynia and Hela and, if necessary, against Westerplatte is still intended.
5. Forces of Commanding Admiral, Scouting Force will remain at sea; other forces in harbor without shore communications.

1400 Order to Commander, Submarines, Naval Staff: Submarine U "26" is to be equipped for minelaying operation (waiting position western outlet of the Channel, departure probably 28 Aug.). Submarine U "53" for torpedo operation in the Atlantic (departure probably 29 Aug.)

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- 26 Aug. 39 1400 By telephone to Commanding Admiral, Baltic: Spare forces during exercises; if necessary withdraw further in view of submarine danger. Refuelling without shore communication.
- 1930 Inquiry from Armed Forces High Command: May control of merchant shipping be relaxed or new instructions given to improve their positions.
- Answer from High Command, Navy: No new instructions possible and also not necessary.
- 1900 The Tannenberg festivities and Party Day are cancelled.
- Measures by the French Fleet are proceeding very slowly, even calmly.
- No security measures by Italy.
- Commanding Admiral, Baltic announces new intentions for barrages in the Sound and Belts. (Separate barrages to be laid against all vessels even in neutral territorial waters in case of "emergency").
- Decision by Commander in Chief, Navy on 27 Aug. at 1200: Minelaying against surface forces and any minelaying in neutral territorial waters only by order of Naval Staff.
- However, minelayers TANNENBERG and HANSESTADT DANZIG are to be made available immediately and, if necessary, already moved up. (Will be made available on 28 Aug.)
- 
- 27 Aug. 39 0230 Torpedo boat TIGER was rammed by the MAX SCHULTZ near Bornholm and sank (two dead, three wounded, the rest saved).
- The MAX SCHULTZ is being towed into Swinemuende.
- 1200 Decision of Commander in Chief, Navy: Strict secrecy regarding the TIGER incident.
- 1300 New decision by Armed Forces High Command concerning merchant shipping:
- The following ordered: Try to reach German or friendly neutral harbors within the next four days.

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27 Aug. 39  
1300 Additional note: Passage in the Baltic and to Norway, Belgium and Holland unrestricted. (The order to single ships sailing north around Great Britain to turn away to neutral harbors and needing, of course, more than four days for this is cancelled by new instruction: first attempt return passage home).

1200 The "Schweden" submarines moved further away after the first start of Operation "Weiss" are again being brought in nearer and are proceeding to waiting positions outside the submarine chase area. ("Irmgard" and "Gotland 4" boats will remain in position).

Measures have been taken in order to make the start of actions for Operation "Weiss" possible at short notice.

1230 After agreement with the Air Ministry the following decision as regards floating air bases has been taken:

1. The OSTMARK is to proceed from Bathurst to Bizagos (Portuguese Guinea) and later to Las Palmas.
2. Ships in home waters (probably two, as one is in dock) and planes based on them are to be requested from the Minister for Air and Commander in Chief, Air Force for Commander, Naval Air, West.

They will be put under command of the Navy by the Minister for Air and Commander in Chief, Air Force on 28 Aug. at 1100.

Report to Armed Forces High Command: Naval forces are in positions according to date "X" - 8 hours.

Political situation: Henderson arrived in London with message from the Fuehrer. Exchange of letters between Daladier and the Fuehrer.

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28 Aug. 39  
1100 Radiogram from the GRAF SPEE: Position northwest of the Azores; request line of rendezvous II with the ALTMARK on 1 Sept. (is forwarded to the ALTMARK and confirmed by the SPEE).

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28 Aug. 39 High Command, Navy sends a request to Armed Forces  
1200 High Command that position according to "Y" - 12  
hours may be taken up. ("Y" - 15 hours is granted).

Decision is taken as follows: Forces in the Baltic Sea are to put in by turns, half each for refuelling or overhaul. On 30 Aug. at 1600 all forces are to be back in position. (Commanding Admiral, Baltic orders: 1 cruiser, 1 flotilla will remain west of Stolpe Bank, 2 torpedo boats at the southern outlet of the Sound, the rest of the forces of Commanding Admiral, Scouting Force in Swinemuende at 3 hours' notice.)

Decision of Commander in Chief, Navy: Heavy ships are still to remain in the North Sea, no reinforcement of Group West by light naval forces yet. Exercises in the Heligoland Bight (also full caliber practice, for instance against the HESSEN).

For the time being the SCHLESWIG HOLSTEIN will remain in Danzig "in order not to be forced to appear in Danzig Bay during the crisis". (Polish press starts campaign against this).

1400 Five submarines for measure "Ulla" at the northern outlet of the Channel are being withdrawn by 50 miles off Outer Silver Pit - Terschelling Bank. (Request of Commander, Submarines, West).

Measure "Falke" in the evening of 28 Aug. is to be cancelled in order to save forces.

1500 Decision of Commander in Chief, Air Force and Minister for Air: for the time being the Transocean Air Service is to be continued.

The OSTMARK will remain in position. In case the Transocean Service is abandoned the OSTMARK is to proceed to Las Palmas and planes are to return home.

2230 Henderson returns from London bringing the answer of the British Government to the Fuehrer.

Three submarines of the Kattegat patrol off Laesoe proceeding to refuel in Kiel.

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29 Aug. 39 Submarine U "26" (carrying torpedoes and mines) left  
1130 Wilhelmshaven and is off the west coast of England or in the Atlantic.

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29 Aug. 39 Submarine U "53" (carrying torpedoes) left Kiel for  
1200 the Atlantic.

1300 Order to Commanding Admiral, West: Restrict measure  
"Ulla" to 2 submarines in the Hoofden (northeastern  
entrance to the English Channel Tr.N.) and 3 in the  
Great Fisher Bank. Provide for relief schedule.  
(In addition Commanding Admiral, West is leaving  
the two submarines off the Firth of Forth and Firth  
of Moray).

(Measures have been ordered so as to have fully equipped  
submarines available at once for a new, longer operation  
if the situation becomes more serious).

1830 Order to Commanding Admiral, Baltic: Forces of Commanding  
Admiral, Scouting Force and the "Koenigsberg" Group which  
are in harbor (without "Pillau" Group) on one hour's  
notice from 30 Aug. 0900. Await order to put out by  
Naval Staff, Operations Division.

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30 Aug. 39 Order to Commanding Admiral, Baltic: Departure of forces  
1030 of Commanding Admiral, Scouting Force unnecessary. On  
31 Aug. at 0900 same readiness as ordered for 30 Aug.

In order to place more submarines at the disposal of Group  
West, order:

Submarines U "1", "3", "4", "36" of the Submarine School  
are placed at the disposal of Commanding Admiral, West.

1430 Radio Monitoring Service reports: 2 GROM; 1 WICHER-  
type destroyers left Gdynia.

1640 Submarine U "31" 30 miles north of Rixhoeft reports  
the three destroyers on northerly course, proceeding  
at high speed.

2000 Patrol boat "7" reports the three destroyers 30 miles  
northeast of Bornholm, course northwest.

At about 1700 Commanding Admiral, Baltic had warned  
all forces and ordered them into patrol line etc.

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31 Aug. 39 Group "Koenigsberg" sights the three destroyers off  
0020 Falsterboe Riff lightship.

starting Starting 0530 the destroyers are continuously detected  
0530 by air reconnaissance.

0945 The three Polish destroyers are off Skagen.

New directive of Armed Forces High Command: Offensive measures by the Navy are to meet the changed situation caused by the departure of the three Polish destroyers and to be limited to the extent necessary. Attempt to manage in the Baltic Sea with a minimum number of forces. War-time lights and buoys may be established.

0930 Order to Commanding Admiral, West: Measure "Ulla" to be carried out at once to its full extent, northern boats not to operate further west than 0°.

1000 Order to Naval Staff, Service Division, Organization Branch: Establish war-time lights and buoys in the North and Baltic Seas immediately.

1100 Order to Commanding Admiral, Baltic and Commanding Admiral, West:

1. Commanding Admiral, Scouting Force with the NUERNBERG, LEIPZIG, KOELN, KOENIGSBERG, three destroyers, 5th and 6th Torpedo Boat Flotillas at the disposal of Commanding Admiral, West.
2. Commander, Torpedo Boats, Baltic (active Commander, Torpedo Boats) is Commanding Admiral, Baltic.
3. "Schweden" submarines U "31", "32", "35" at the disposal of Commanding Admiral, West.
4. Agree to cancellation of minelaying operation against Gdynia ("Daenemark") on "Y" date.
5. Operation by submarines U "14" and "18" in the southern outlet of the Sound is left to discretion.

Order to Naval Staff, Service Division, Organization Branch to ready the TANNENBERG for Commanding Admiral, Baltic.

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31 Aug. 39      One Polish destroyer (type WICHER) spotted off  
1030              Gdynia.

1230              Order to Commander, Submarines: Active Commander,  
Submarines becomes Commander, Submarines, West or  
Commander, Submarines, Naval Staff, in Wilhelmshaven.

1240 Receipt of Order No. 1 of Armed Forces High Command for  
warfare: Solution by force in the east. Offensive against  
Poland 1 Sept. 0445. (In the West responsibility for  
starting hostilities definitely left to Great Britain and  
France. Strict observance of the neutrality of Holland,  
Belgium, Luxemburg and Switzerland. Western boundary is not  
to be crossed. No war or war-like actions at sea. The  
Air Force is only to defend.)

If hostilities are started by the Western Powers: Only defense,  
sparing forces. Beginning of offensive operations not decided  
on. The Army will hold the West Wall. The Navy is to carry  
out war against merchant shipping, concentrating on Great  
Britain. The announcement of danger zones can be expected  
in order to increase the effect. Prepare plans for these  
and submit. The Baltic Sea is to be secured against an enemy  
break-through. The decision regarding mining of the Baltic Sea  
entrances for that purpose will be taken by Commander in  
Chief, Navy. The Air Force is to prevent any operations by the  
enemy air force against the German Army and German territory.  
Action against Great Britain, especially against supplies by  
sea and, under favorable conditions, against concentrated  
forces of the Fleet. Attacks against London are to be decided  
by the Fuehrer.

1700              Order to Groups and Atlantic forces on instructions  
from Armed Forces High Command:

1. Beginning of hostilities against Poland in home  
waters on 1 Sept. 39 at 0445.
2. Attitude of the Western Powers is uncertain.
3. If the Western Powers enter the war, start  
hostilities by our forces only in defense against  
enemy attacks or by special order.
4. For the present pocket battleships and Atlantic  
submarines are to remain in their waiting area.  
For the time being also no actions against Polish  
merchantmen.

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31 Aug. 39 Order to Groups: Danish, Belgian and Dutch neutrality is to be respected strictly, as Great Britain, on her part, has made observance dependent on their neutrality not being violated by Germany.

Order to Commanding Admiral, Baltic: Decision on the laying of the projected anti-submarine barrages in the Baltic Sea entrances is to be taken by Commanding Admiral, Baltic in compliance with operational instructions. Such an intended minelaying is to be reported promptly to Naval Staff.

1900 Reports on British mobilization are confirmed by the British radio.

2100 The German radio transmits reports on the German offer to negotiate and the items involved. Poland did not make use of the offer.

2000 Three Polish destroyers were last detected in grid square 2718 E , course 330°, speed 20 knots. Commander, Submarines, West sends submarine U "19" further north to the route of the Polish destroyers (probably to Scapa).

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- 0545 Report from Commanding Admiral, Baltic: The SCHLESWIG HOLSTEIN carried out surprise fire; assault detachment broke into the Westerplatte and is fighting there.
- Air attack on Putzig and Rahmel.
- 0930 Measure "Ulla" carried out: four submarines northern outlet of the Channel, five Great Fisher Bank, two off Scotland, one off Utsire, six available in Wilhelmshaven.
- 0700 The fight for the Westerplatte as well as for the Polish post office building continues.
- 0730 Radio announces the union of Danzig with the Reich.
- 1000 Polish destroyers announce their arrival in Rosyth for 1 Sept. 1300; at 0938 they were at 57° N 0°.
- Warning given for sea area of Danzig Bay and change of seamarks on the German coasts. Pilots are to be taken aboard.
- The Army is fighting for Dirschau; Dirschau bridge was blown up by the Poles at about 0600.
- Owing to destruction of the bridge at Dirschau the necessity of using more shipping transports instead of traffic on the railroad becomes imperative. (Preliminary considerations are being undertaken).
- 0900 Report from the SCHLESWIG HOLSTEIN through Commanding Admiral, Baltic: First attack on the Westerplatte unsuccessful. At 0900 second surprise fire and attack by the assault detachment together with SS troops. Air reconnaissance observed: Gdynia roads: 1 destroyer, 3 minesweepers, 1 gunboat; Gdynia harbor: 2 submarines, 5 minesweepers.
- It has become necessary to place more patrol and minesweeper forces at the disposal of Group West.
- The following new dispositions are ordered:  
4th, 6th Minesweeper Flotillas  
10th, 12th Patrol Boat Flotillas  
Harbor Defense Flotilla Borkum, Wilhelmshaven, Cuxhaven.  
One group of mine-exploding vessels, North Sea.

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1130 Order for submarines U "2", "8", "10" to remain with the Submarine School in immediate readiness.

1200 France orders mobilization for 2 Sept.

On account of the weather the 1st Air Division does not intend to carry out the air attack on Gdynia until 1300.

1430 Report from Group Baltic: Second attack by the SCHLESWIG HOLSTEIN did not succeed. 8.8 cm guns protected by concrete, the existence of which was unknown, are halting the attack. Ship's guns cannot reach buildings protected by bunkers.

The SCHLESWIG HOLSTEIN requests bomber planes. Commanding Admiral, Baltic provides two multi-purpose squadrons for 1745; the SCHLESWIG HOLSTEIN will report time of operation.

Air attack on Gdynia at about 1400. The bridgehead in Dirschau taken by the Army advancing from Danzig and East Prussia. Zoppot is being shelled from Gdynia. Troops of General Eberhard are fighting against a Polish naval battalion just before Gdynia. For the time being they are not advancing but are awaiting German attacks from the west.

Italy declares her absolute neutrality. Attitude of the Western Powers: Demand that German troops be withdrawn as otherwise their treaty of alliance becomes effective. (Written answer of the Fuehrer will be transmitted on 2 Sept.)

German advance in Poland everywhere according to plan; some strong resistance.

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0010 Report of the SCHLESWIG HOLSTEIN through Commanding Admiral, Baltic: Westerplatte most strongly fortified. So far losses amount to 35 % (80 men). Bombing attack by multi-purpose squadrons not carried out.

Naval Staff orders: The Fuehrer does not wish any assault; new attack only with strong forces of the Army (if necessary on 3 Sept.). The Army is to have charge of the attack, with the Navy cooperating. (Attacks by Stukas and bombing attacks accordingly). Naval forces off Danzig Bay did not sight anything on 1 Sept.

0150 Commanding Admiral, Baltic has ordered forces off Danzig Bay to shadow Polish submarines proceeding on northeasterly course, 80 miles north of Danzig Bay. Submarine U "18" is keeping contact under water.

0215 until 0340 Naval air forces carried out single attacks on the harbor of Gdynia. The effects of hits could not be determined.

0130 until 0215 Night battle at the southeastern point of the Westerplatte. The Poles were thrown back without losses to ourselves.

The assault company was reinforced by SS anti-tank platoon, 1 heavy trench mortar and one SS guard platoon. Most forward patrol in the area of Moewenschanze.

From 0430 to 0600 the SCHLESWIG HOLSTEIN moved to firing position on the eastern bank opposite Vistula Station. (Safety distance for Stuka attacks).

Fired so far: 112 - 28 cm, 425 - 15 cm, 355 - 8.8 cm, 11,000 - 2 cm.

Losses: 83 men, including 10 - 15 dead, company leader was heavily wounded (died later).

forenoon Destroyers shell the southern point of Hela, are attacked by submarines three times without success; depth charges fired. The SCHLESWIG HOLSTEIN had an exchange of fire with Hochredlau.

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1200 Discussions as to whether a declared area should be announced for the southern outlet of the Belt without actual minelaying. Question is postponed.

1400 Order on instructions from the Fuehrer: Order for an immediate assault attack on the Westerplatte together with Army reinforcement and Stukas is given to Commanding Admiral, Baltic.

1530 Attack is postponed to 3 Sept.  
Later scheduled for 4 Sept.

1500 Order to the Ministry of Transportation: Shipping in the Baltic Sea is sanctioned as follows:

1. Coastal shipping west of the Polish coast.
2. Other shipping from the west as far as Bornholm and Swinemuende and north and east thereof, utilizing neutral territorial waters.
3. Traffic with East Prussia may not yet be resumed.
4. No official announcement.

1440 Order to Commanding Admiral, Baltic: During the general attack destroyers are also to participate in shelling the Westerplatte.

1800 Order to Commanding Admiral, Baltic: The V. ARNIM and BRUNO HEINEMANN are to proceed to Wilhelmshaven at the disposal of Commanding Admiral, West. There they are to be made ready for operation. (At present engine trouble).

afternoon Apparently submarine attack on one of our torpedo boats in Tromper Wik. Depth-charging without result.

afternoon Attack by 60 Stukas on the Westerplatte (50 - 500 kg bombs and incendiaries). No substantial effect was observed.

evening Evening air reconnaissance from the Skagerrak up to Skagen - Langesund Fjord: No naval forces, about 40 steamers.

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2200 In order to enable an extensive patrol in the Baltic Sea to be carried out the following order is issued:

New disposition of:

3rd, 7th, 11th, 13th Patrol Boat Flotillas and Commander, Patrol Boats, Baltic Sea. 11th Submarine Chaser Flotilla, 5th Minesweeper Flotilla (remaining boats, if necessary, allocation to other flotillas), 11th Motor Minesweeper Flotilla, minelayer KAISER. 10 fishing steamers.

2230 until  
0345

Continuous single attacks by multi-purpose squadrons on Hela and Gdynia harbors.

Result not established, no losses on our part.

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0650 until 0706      Gunfire by destroyers on the naval harbor of Hela. The fire was returned. Result not determined. During that time channel sweeping by forces of Commander, Minesweepers, Baltic.

                  Commanding Admiral, Baltic orders on 3 Sept. that destroyers are to take up night blockade positions also by day.

                  Minesweeper units sweep channels from Danzig Bay up to Neufahrwasser and to the west.

1000            Information from Armed Forces High Command: British ultimatum to Germany will expire on 3 Sept. at 1100.

morning        Engagement between destroyers and the Hela batteries. One hit on the LEBERECHT MAASS.

                  Stuka attack (carrier squadron) on the harbor of Hela. The GRYF received a hit in the stern.

                  Shelling of the Hela battery again by the FRIEDRICH ECKOLDT.

1130            From the Liaison Officer to the Fuehrer, by telephone to the Groups: "Great Britain considers herself to be at war with Germany. For the time being action by German forces in defense only."

1150            To forces in the Atlantic: Ultimatum expired at 1100.

1215            Following the British uncoded radiogram of 1117, the same wording was transmitted uncoded: Beginning of hostilities with Great Britain immediately. (Confirmed in code to Atlantic forces).

1000            Order to the Groups: One multi-purpose squadron to be transferred from the North Sea to the Baltic Sea; one long-range reconnaissance squadron, in turn, to be transferred from the Baltic Sea to the North Sea. Boundary of reconnaissance of Group West in the Kattegat to the south as far as 56° N.

                  To the Groups: The 5th Torpedo Boat Flotilla is not to be transferred back to the Baltic Sea. (Anti-submarine protection of the Heligoland Bight).

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Torpedo-recovery vessels of the Submarine School and of Commander, Submarines will be made available to Commanding Admiral, Baltic for the escort of transports.

1400

To Atlantic submarines: War against merchant shipping at present in compliance with prize regulations.

To Commander, Submarines, Naval Staff: Weather submarines should be ordered to transmit weather reports. Commander, Submarines is to reach an agreement with the 2nd Air Force.

Decision of Commander in Chief, Navy: (to be forwarded to the Groups as an order): Decisions were caused by verbal directives of the Fuehrer to Commander in Chief, Navy. Confirmation followed later by written Order No. 2 of Armed Forces High Command.

1. Immediate mining of declared area in the North Sea is sanctioned (100 %). Announcement not until two thirds of the project have been carried out.
2. Anti-submarine barrages in the inner Heligoland Bight sanctioned. Warning to fishing vessels.
3. Surface and underwater barrages in the southern outlet of the Sound and Belts, except territorial waters, sanctioned. (Announcement and diplomatic steps with Sweden and Denmark).
4. Minelaying operation "Ulla" by submarines at present only sanctioned against England. (See below: case of war with France).
5. Production plan on a mobilization basis to be commenced.
6. The BREMEN is ordered to proceed to Murmansk; the COLUMBUS is to proceed to Mexican harbors.
7. Operation "Westerplatte" is postponed.
8. Commanding Admiral, Baltic is to carry out strong attacks on 3 Sept. Starting 4 Sept. destroyers,

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1400

with the exception of the destroyers assigned to Commander, Torpedo Boats and one destroyer division, are to transfer to the North Sea at the disposal of Commanding Admiral, West.

Order No. 2 for warfare: The present aim of warfare is the victorious conclusion of operations against Poland. Principles for warfare in the west in compliance with Order 1. The Navy may carry out offensive actions against England; for the time being war against merchant shipping in compliance with prize regulations. Prepare intensification until zones of danger are announced. Baltic Sea entrances outside neutral territorial waters to be mined; carry out projected minelaying operations in the North Sea. Offensive operations by the Air Force in harbors and at sea against troop transports are not sanctioned until there are such British offensive operations in the air; attacks against the British Isles and merchantmen still reserved. As for France, the opening of hostilities is left to her. Offensive operations by the Navy not until these are started by France. Offensive operations by the Air Force only after started by France. Fighting power is to be maintained for decisive action after the defeat of Poland. "X" order for all Armed Forces. See Part C, Vol. VII for considerations of Commander in Chief, Navy on the beginning of the war.

To Groups and Atlantic: France considers herself to be at war with Germany from 1700; operations against the enemy at present only in defense (this applies also to operations against merchantmen). (Order to Group West: Minelaying operations by the "Ulla" submarines not to be directed against the French coast).

According to new considerations, the declared area in the North Sea is to be announced already on 4 Sept. at midnight (see Part C).

Order of the National Defense Committee: "X" operation for all Armed Forces.

1st "X" day of the Navy ordered for 4 Sept.  
Commanding Admiral, West reports:  
Minelayer Unit, North Sea put out from 1330 - 1415,  
beginning of minelaying scheduled for 2100.

1800

No warning of anti-submarine barrages. The Naval Attachés Section is taking steps with Holland and Denmark, through their Attachés, to see that their fishing vessels are withdrawn.

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Whereabouts of the HOOD and the ARK ROYAL after leaving the Channel and of the DUNKERQUE and STRASSBOURG unknown.

1830 Radio Monitoring Service reports: The BREMEN was captured by the British. (Reported also by the foreign press and radio). No confirmation from our side, as for instance by radiogram etc.

The HIPPER is ordered to proceed to the North Sea immediately after repairs.

In the evening The ZENKER and the 1st Destroyer Division are ordered to proceed to the North Sea as soon as possible where they will be assigned to Commanding Admiral, West.

Submarines on the Great Fisher Bank are spaced further apart and advanced 30 miles further to the northwest.

Complete evening reconnaissance over the southern and central parts of the North Sea spotted only one British submarine 100 miles west of List.

afternoon By Stuka attacks (carrier squadron) on Hela harbor the WICHER is sunk and the GRYF heavily damaged. One hit on a Polish minesweeper.

2040 Submarine U "14" (Lt. Wellner) sinks a Polish submarine 40 miles north of Rixhoeft.

Commanding Admiral, Baltic reports: Beginning of minelaying in the Sound and Belts at dawn on 4 Sept.

Unconfirmed report that Australia considers herself to be at war with Germany.

2200 The Foreign Office reports that the British Government has reported the names of four hospital ships through the Swiss Government. (To be forwarded to the Groups, Atlantic forces and Minister for Air and Commander in Chief, Air Force).

The Foreign Office reports that the British Government has informed the Danish Government of a mined area on

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the west coast of Jutland, Heligoland area.  
Entrance to Esbjerg for Danish ships is still  
free in the north.

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- 0730 Commanding Admiral, Baltic reports: the 1st Minesweeper Flotilla has carried out an attack with depth charges on a Polish submarine north of Danzig Bay; the submarine was probably destroyed.
- 0745 Receipt of a radio monitoring report that the British liner ATHENIA (1,100 passengers, including many Americans) was allegedly torpedoed by a German submarine 200 miles west of the Hebrides.
- 1000 Order to Group: Commander, Naval Air, Baltic is to transfer one naval squadron and one multi-purpose squadron to Group West and himself becomes Commander, Naval Air, West in place of the former Commander. Further transfer of forces from the Baltic Sea with the exception of one multi-purpose squadron, 3 naval squadrons and one Stuka squadron is ordered (i.e. transfer of one long-range reconnaissance and two multi-purpose squadrons).
- noon The torpedoing of the ATHENIA by a German submarine is to be rejected definitely as a British atrocity report. Even the most northerly of our submarines cannot have been in this area, as the northern boundary of its area of operations lies 70 miles further south. This "LUSITANIA" incident is probably an attempt by Great Britain to draw America into the war. Discussion to this effect with the Fuehrer's staff. The State Secretary of the Foreign Office issues a definite denial.
- Commanding Admiral, Baltic reports: Laying of the Great Belt barrage and of the Sound barrage, Parts 2 and 3. Laying of Part 1 after taking on more mines planned for the morning of 5 Sept.
- 0710 The Greek steamer KOSTI (4,000 tons) ran on to the Sound barrage which has just been laid. (Heavy list).
- The Danish Government announces that Denmark is mining the Drogden Rinne, Konge Dybet and Hollaender Dybet.
- Instructions to German merchantmen to break through in the area of the Shetlands - Norway, to darken ship by night, to seek Norwegian territorial waters by day and, if necessary, to await misty weather. Proceed further through the Little Belt and the Baltic Sea.

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After the elimination of the WICHER and the GRYF the presence of destroyers in the Baltic Sea is no longer necessary; therefore order to Groups:

Commander, Torpedo Boats, Baltic, the remaining destroyers of the Escort Flotilla and the 1st PT Boat Flotilla are to proceed to the North Sea to be at the disposal of Commanding Admiral, West. Commanding Admiral, Defenses, Baltic becomes Commanding Admiral, Baltic.

(To Group West: Naval air forces may be used for combatting submarines in the declared area West and in the closed area for our own submarines, also for direct support during naval engagements).

America puts neutrality legislation into force.

Order to Groups: Submarines U "18", "14", "22" (until now in the Baltic Sea) are to be exchanged for two submarines of the 5th Submarine Flotilla (until now in the North Sea). (More experienced commanders to the North Sea).

Submarine U "57" is ordered by Commanding Admiral, Baltic to reinforce the Laesoe boats. Submarine U "32" is to put out for minelaying off the west coast of England on 5 Sept. At first it was ordered to proceed through the Channel, later to the north around the British Isles.

(Minelaying operation against St. George's Channel).

Decisions of Commander in Chief, Navy:

1. For the time being the HIPPER is to remain in the Baltic Sea for training.
2. After completion of minelaying in the North Sea, short training of the battleships in the Baltic Sea is approved.
3. A large number of mines and explosive buoys will at once be transferred from the Baltic Sea to the North Sea.

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4. Establishment of an urgent submarine construction program, if necessary of a Submarine Office, is to be considered at once.

1700

To Group Baltic and Ministry of Transportation:  
From 5 Sept. merchant shipping may proceed to East Prussia. The area off the Polish coast remains closed except for one controlled channel. Ships coming from the west are recommended to take the route close to the Pomeranian coast and then north of the closed area or in the swept channel.

1800

Attack by about 16 British bombers on German naval forces in the Schillig and Wilhelmshaven roads. The SCHEER shoots down three planes, the EMDEN one, the steamer V. ROEDER one, and anti-aircraft guns and fighters three or four more. No bomb hits apart from three duds on the SCHEER; one plane crashed on the forecastle of the EMDEN, causing casualties amounting to nine dead and several wounded. It has not been determined whether hits were also made by our anti-aircraft defense guns from shore on the EMDEN.

The GNEISENAU is attacked by three bombers in Brunsbuettel roads but repulses the attack. A pilot boat picks up two British wounded and one dead.

Later on a British plane drops bombs on Esbjerg (Denmark).

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0030

On account of foreign propaganda regarding the ATHENIA incident, receipt of an order from the Fuehrer that submarines may not attack any passenger ships, even if proceeding under enemy escort.

The order is transmitted to Atlantic forces.

As on previous days the Radio Monitoring Service reports the rendezvous points and course instructions announced by the British Admiralty for ships coming in from the Atlantic southwest of England or Ireland.

(Transmitted to submarines in the Atlantic).

about 0600

A German naval reconnaissance plane (type He 115) shoots down a British coastal reconnaissance plane south of Dogger Bank and rescues one survivor.

0830

Minesweeper M "4" reports the destruction of one Polish submarine in the Danzig Bay. (Reported destroyed so far: 1 submarine by submarine U "14", one by minesweeper M "4", probably one on 3 Sept. by two destroyers, one on 4 Sept. by unit of Commander, Minesweepers). On 5 Sept. another report on sighting of a submarine.

1200

Owing to bad visibility the SCHEER shoots down one approaching Ju 52 on Schillig roads (7 dead, including Capt. Kluender).

1300

Considerations on the strange delay by Britain and particularly by France in starting the war and on the probable intentions of our leading politicians to draw France away from the side of Great Britain are transmitted to the pocket battleships in the following instructions: (Intentions will be reported to the Fuehrer by Commander in Chief, Navy on 7 Sept. and opinions and measures confirmed by him.) (See 7 Sept. 39).

Transmitted to the pocket battleships:

1. Information on the political situation, situation on the eastern front and naval situation; friendly neutral attitude of Russia.
2. New order:
  - a. Cautious attitude of France and still hesitant warfare by Great Britain render operations by pocket battleships inappropriate at present.

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- b. Through the obvious cessation of enemy trade and presumable enemy actions according to plan against pocket battleships, operations will at present be undesirable and unfavorable in proportion to prospects of success.
- c. Break off war against merchant shipping and withdraw far away from operational areas, to Northern Waters, Southern Atlantic, Indian Ocean. Radio silence.

Considerations of Naval Staff, Operations Division on the possible consequences of Ireland's neutrality. (Danger that British ships are flying the Irish flag or that all cargoes are declared as destined for Ireland and are then certainly shipped to England).

Radio Monitoring Service reports:

- a. British tanker ADDA at 25° 41' N, 21° 6' W sends out SOS on 5 Sept. at 0710. Reports at 1525: "All well". Admiralty warns against raider. French radio reports search lasted for several hours.
- b. 5 Sept. at 0900 British steamer BOSNIA sends out SOS at 45° 29' N, 9° 45' W. Was sunk by submarine after rescue of the crew.
- c. On 5 Sept. at 1450 the crew of the British steamer BROWNING (5,332 tons) was ordered by a submarine to abandon ship. Sank at 1458 at 46° 39' N, 14° 55' W.
- d. The British steamer ROYAL SCEPTER at 46° 23' N, 14° 59' W "in a dangerous situation" at noon on 5 Sept.
- e. According to a Reuter report: The German steamer CARL FRITZEN (6,593 tons) was seized in the area of Buenos Aires and sunk (probably scuttled); crew saved.
- f. The German steamer OLIVA was seized by the British cruiser AJAX and sunk (probably scuttled). The crew landed in Montevideo.

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g. On 5 Sept. at 1930 French steamer PLUVIOSE at 38° 38' N, 17° 32 ' W (off Lisbon) SOS, gunfire by submarine".

6 Sept. 39  
0130 In view of this last radio monitoring report, the following order is transmitted to submarines in the Atlantic:

Regarding Radiogram 1743 of 3 Sept. (report on the attitude of France from 3 Sept. 1700):

Situation as far as France is concerned still obscure. Our operations against the enemy, even against merchantmen, still only in defense. Merchantmen identified as being French are not to be stopped. Incidents with France are to be avoided at all cost.

5 Sept. 39  
1200 The following targets are assigned to the Air Force as reprisals for the attack on Wilhelmshaven, ordered by the Fuehrer: 1) Scapa or Rosyth, 2) Portsmouth.

1700 (Radio Monitoring Service reports: the bulk of the British Home Fleet in Scapa. The 2nd Air Force observed 2 battleships, 3 cruisers and several small ships in Scapa).

Plans for carrying this out (1 flight of Ju 88) are postponed to 6 Sept. because of the weather.

During the night of 5 Sept. minelaying operations by forces of Commanding Admiral, West in declared area West.

2100 Order to Commanding Admiral, West: In view of serious danger from the air no anchoring in regular formations. Ships in harbors are to be dispersed as far apart as possible.

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0315 Submarine U "17" reports: Minelaying operation Downs carried out as planned.

Commander in Chief, Navy:

1. Reference is made to the shortage of depth-charges. Stock: 4,000 (so far 450 drawn from depots).
2. Mines detonated immediately after laying (11 in the North Sea, 7 in the Baltic Sea).
3. In the Baltic Sea only two anti-submarine barrages will be laid in the southern outlet of the Great Belt.
4. Double net barrage in the southern outlet of the Little Belt will be laid in the morning of 7 Sept.
5. The question of withdrawing submarines from the Atlantic is being examined (for relief schedule).
6. Submarines and planes are not to carry a large amount of secret material (mine charts etc.).

0800 Report that the BREMEN put into Murmansk on 6 Sept. The report will not be published. Did not sight any warships.

After repair and change of command the EMDEN is to proceed to the western part of the Baltic Sea for training from 11 to 23 Sept. From 25 Sept. at the disposal of Commanding Admiral, West.

1500 Order to the north Atlantic submarines: area limited by one degree of latitude to the south.

In order to avoid any extension of the enemy press campaign on the "ATHENIA" incident which still continues, no operations will be carried out in this area at the moment.

Instruction to merchant shipping:

1. By way of representatives in foreign countries to ships in neutral harbors, except in Italy, Spain, Russia and Japan:

Ensure in good time that ships are properly destroyed before sudden seizure.

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2. Radiogram "Break-through to Murmansk promises success."
3. Report from Rotterdam that several German ships with cargo for Germany are asking to be picked up in Dutch territorial waters.

In the morning the operational Air Force sights the British seaplane carrier ALBATROS east of Hull. The report did not reach Group West until three hours later. Thus an operation by naval air forces was no longer possible.

Air reconnaissance observed four mine surface failures in the western and southern part of our own declared area. Even after the second confirmation flight it was not yet established whether they were our own or enemy mines. (Navigation in the plane not perfectly accurate).

night  
6 Sept.

Two minelaying ships of Commanding Admiral, West: NUERNBERG, LEIPZIG, 4 destroyers and the GRILLE, 4 destroyers, 2 torpedo boats. Minelaying in the declared area.

Submarines U "15", U "16" carried out minelaying operation "Ulla". (All four "Ulla" operations against England completed).

Order to Group Baltic: Multi-purpose planes are no longer to operate against heavily protected objectives on land.

The use of multi-purpose planes for long-range reconnaissance operations in the North Sea is more urgent; thus the planes are to be spared during operations in the Baltic Sea which are still necessary for the time being.

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After previous shelling and combat reconnaissance from 0420 to 0730 by naval assault detachment, engineers, and SS formations the Westerplatte is surrendered by the Poles at 1100.

To Ministry of Transportation and Commanding Admiral, Baltic:

Fishing in the Baltic Sea and Kattegat is sanctioned.

The area is no longer endangered; fishing in the Kattegat is even desired in order perhaps to obtain reports on any enemy movements.

To the Groups:

The boundary of air reconnaissance is fixed on a line from Skagen to Paternoster.

Carry out probing air reconnaissance in the Skagerrak and Kattegat as frequently as possible. Carry out probing air reconnaissance up to the Shetlands - Norway sea area, if possible daily.

This order is to enable continuous observation of these sea areas and a certain control over British measures.

Commander in Chief, Navy has decided:

- a. The GNEISENAU and SCHARNHORST are to proceed through the Kiel Canal for exercises in the Baltic Sea. Commanding Admiral, Fleet remains Commanding Admiral, West even during sojourn in the Baltic Sea. Deputy, the most senior Commanding Admiral present in the North Sea area. The JAGD remains at the disposal of Commanding Admiral, West.
- b. Commander, Submarines is to withdraw ten submarines from the Atlantic for relief schedule. Return passage without delay to be utilized for reconnaissance.
- c. The torpedo boat flotilla requested cannot be made available to Commanding Admiral, Baltic. The Gjedser Channel can be closed by a net barrage according to the opinion of Commanding Admiral, Baltic.

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- d. The three submarines of Commanding Admiral, Baltic, U "14", "18", "22", are to be exchanged for small submarines (with less experienced commanders) U "56", "58", "59" which are proceeding into the Baltic Sea by way of the Skagerrak.

Commander, Submarines, Commodore Doenitz in Berlin for discussions: Question of the Submarine Office was discussed. Operations by submarines in the North Sea against possible "Northern Barrage" measures by the British.

2200 After the withdrawal of ten submarines from the Atlantic new disposition for the patrol areas in the Atlantic is ordered: Two submarines off the North Channel, five off St. George's Channel and western outlet of the English Channel.

Forces in the Atlantic are informed of the situation in Poland and the attitude of the neutral countries and France.

The Foreign Office reports that the steamer FRANKEN was bombed by a British plane in Dutch territorial waters when entering Padang. Only slight damage. (Being transmitted to the Propaganda Office).

1800 Submarine chaser "125" reports the destruction of a British submarine southwest of Heligoland. The report is being investigated by sending out a salvage vessel with diver. (Later not confirmed by diver's observations).

Commander in Chief, Navy was with the Fuehrer on 7 Sept. for discussion of the following questions:

1. In view of the political and military caution of France and the still hesitant conduct of the war by Great Britain, the pocket battleships should be withdrawn temporarily from their operational areas. Apart from that, it seems that British trade is being stopped and British naval forces are being sent out against German merchant raiders according to plan; prospects of success, therefore, do not justify operations.

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2. In view of the political situation - hesitant attitude of France, on the whole impartial attitude of the neutral countries, U.S. profession of definite neutrality at present, to outward appearances, - submarine warfare is to undergo the following restrictions:
  - a. No operations against the French.
  - b. Passenger steamers even under escort are to be spared.
  - c. Some of the boats are to be withdrawn for the present in order to have a relief ready also for later.
  
3. Commander in Chief, Navy considers the political situation:
  - a. Great Britain does not succeed in drawing France into the war unconditionally.
  - b. France does not see any point in carrying on a war and tries to keep out of it.
  - c. After the collapse of Poland, to be expected soon, it is possible that France, and then maybe Great Britain also, will be willing to acknowledge to a certain extent the situation which has arisen in the east.
  - d. Therefore offensive operations are not to be forced and our forces are to be spared at the moment.

The Fuehrer agrees with the views and measures of Commander in Chief, Navy and furthermore decides the following:

1. Do not make any attempts to clear up the ATHENIA incident until the submarines have returned home.
2. Submarines in the Atlantic are to spare passenger steamers and the French.
3. For the time being the SPEE and DEUTSCHLAND are still to hold back and withdraw.

General tendency: Hold back until the political situation in the west is less obscure. (In about one week).

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0330

Submarine U "22" destroys a large Polish submarine north of Hela.

The steamer NEW YORK puts into Murmansk.

Air reconnaissance of the operational Air Force and the Radio Monitoring Service report apparently heavy transport activity in the Channel and suitable escort by concentration of naval forces in the Channel area.

The Irish Government announces that Irish ships may only fly the Irish flag (green-white-yellow colors vertical).

The SCHARNHORST and the GNEISENAU proceed through the Kiel Canal to Kiel for exercises.

Since 7 Sept. heavy transports of troops and materiel have been proceeding between Stettin and Koenigsberg. Commanding Admiral, Baltic requests more escort forces. He receives from Commanding Admiral, West the remaining two torpedo-recovery vessels of the Submarine School and the GRILLE in exchange for the HANSESTADT DANZIG. (The TANNENBERG has already been assigned to Commanding Admiral, West). The remaining demands for a torpedo boat flotilla and minesweepers of Commanding Admiral, West must be rejected.

The office of the Special Deputy for East Prussia of Commander in Chief, Navy is dissolved. The staff is transferred to the new office of the "Deputy of the Navy for Danzig and the coastal area of the former Polish corridor" (Chief: Vice Admiral von Arnauld de la Perrière).

Submarines sent out in the North Sea:

Already in position:	1 east of Firth of Forth
	1 off Horns Riff
	1 off Utsire
new assignment	4 east of Scotland
	1 Fair Island - Shetlands

Report of Group Baltic:

The small German steamer HELFRIED BISMARCK ran into the Sound barrage and sank.

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Afternoon A Dutch minesweeper strikes a British mine off Terschelling. (Later statement by the Attaché: A Dutch mine was involved).

On 8 Sept. and during the night of 8 Sept. British planes drop leaflets over the Kiel Canal, north-western Germany, and over Padborg and Hadersleben (Denmark).

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0200 Order of Commander, Submarines, Naval Staff to submarine U "47" in the Atlantic to transmit a weather report. The report is transmitted by submarine U "47" at 0330 (west of southern Ireland).

Norwegian tankers with cargo for Germany are lying outside Swedish territorial waters off Malmoe. They are to be unloaded by German tankers.

The British Information Office announces through Reuter that Germany has started unrestricted submarine warfare.

Group Baltic reports: as soon as the GRILLE arrives in the Baltic Sea (after completion) in exchange for the TANNENBERG, the HANSESTADT DANZIG, can also be put at the disposal of Commanding Admiral, West.

Decision of Naval Staff, Operations Division: The projected two light auxiliary cruisers (only two 15-cm. guns, 3 months' endurance) are not to be built up any further; instead, laying down of a further (4th) heavy auxiliary cruiser. Preparation of transport ships type "K" (three North Sea, three Skagerrak - Kattegat).

(Group West reports that in its opinion the ships can be used only in the Baltic Sea, Skagerrak and Kattegat, and off the Norwegian coast).

afternoon In the afternoon at about 1600 (?) weather planes of 2nd Air Force "Braunschweig" observe five large British battleships with submarine escort east of Hull proceeding at slow speed on southerly course.

(Five hours were necessary until the confirmed report reached Operations Division, Naval Staff; will be remedied).

Of the submarines leaving for the North Sea for the operational area provided (see 8 Sept.) two were attacked by British submarines at the western boundary of the German declared area with two or three torpedoes which missed.

Submarine chase and search is ordered in the area north of Borkum.

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evening Air reconnaissance observed numerous steamers (almost exclusively neutral ones) in the central and northern parts of the North Sea up to the Shetlands; no naval forces.

The Radio Monitoring Service reports: French naval forces were ordered not to stop the Italian steamers REX and AUGUSTUS putting out for North and South America.

1300 Receipt of Order No. 3 from the Fuehrer:  
In spite of the irresolute opening of the war by Great Britain and France, all former restrictions in the west - particularly regarding submarine and aerial warfare - are to remain in force.

1800 Request by Naval Staff to Armed Forces High Command:  
In view of the start of hostilities - although only to a limited extent - by the French in the west and reports on the passage of mixed Anglo-French convoys, permission is asked for:

- a. attacks against French warships and merchantmen,
- b. minelaying off the French coast,
- c. attacks on convoys, even French ones, north of the latitude of Brest.

2340 Decision by the Fuehrer:  
In view of the present political situation Order No. 3 (see above) remains in force. Attacks against convoys, also with French or mixed Anglo-French escort, north of the latitude of Brest are permitted. However, submarines may not operate against passenger ships even if escorted.  
(Transmitted to Commander, Submarines, Naval Staff and submarines in the Atlantic.)

Submarines U "31" and U "35" put out into the Atlantic through the English Channel.

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1200

Decisions of Commander in Chief, Navy:

1. As soon as Commanding Admiral, Baltic opens the Baltic Sea again for exercises, the STRAHL is to be assigned to Commanding Admiral, West.
2. New vessels similar to the STRAHL are to be made available immediately.
3. Mine warfare by submarines is to be intensified against the east coast of England.
4. Measures are to be initiated in the North Sea to protect German steamers in Norwegian coastal waters.

Chief of Staff, Naval Staff has started preparations for 3 and 4.

5. On 9 Sept. the following items were agreed between Commander in Chief, Navy and Gauleiter Forster in Danzig:
  - a. Danzig will be an Army station; the Navy will only have dockyards.
  - b. Gdynia will become a harbor for the Navy only; perhaps transfer of schools (Submarine School, Torpedo School?) there.
  - c. The Navy is to take over coastal fortifications.
6. The 1st Minesweeper Flotilla is to be transferred to the North Sea after the capture of Gdynia at the latest.
7. The GRILLE is to be transferred to the Baltic Sea at once (even before provision of the TANNENBERG) in exchange for the HANSESTADT DANZIG. (If necessary arrange visit by the Fuehrer to Danzig).

1300

Order to Group Baltic:

1. During operations by ship's guns and bombs the harbor installations of Gdynia are to be spared as far as possible.
2. No operations by multi-purpose planes against targets on land.

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Report of Group Baltic on insufficient instruction of German ships on minefields, pilot service etc. Naval Staff again calls this to attention of Ministry of Transportation and Deputy for Merchant Shipping; further warnings over Ruegen radio. To Commanding Admiral, Baltic, proposal to dispose patrol boats at the northern outlet of the Baltic Sea entrances.

Submarine chase in the Baltic Sea did not spot anything further; from the afternoon of 10 Sept. the western part of the Baltic Sea is opened by Commanding Admiral, Baltic for exercises.

Order to the Groups: The STRAHL now at the disposal of Commanding Admiral, West. Submarine chase in the North Sea is being continued.

Further reports from agents and Radio Monitoring Service on alleged troop transports from England to France and Africa to the Atlantic coast of France.

A British plane shot down on 4 Sept. was raised. A British reconnaissance table salvaged; by means of this the Radio Monitoring Service establishes the ARK ROYAL, NELSON, and SHEFFIELD (Home Fleet) to be near Dundee on 10 Sept.

The GRILLE is at once placed at the disposal of Commanding Admiral, Baltic in exchange for the HANSESTADT DANZIG. (Arrival in Swinemuende scheduled for 11 Sept. 1400).

Air reconnaissance up to the area of the Shetlands locates many steamers but no British naval forces. The Attaché in Stockholm reports that the situation in Norway is favorable for our shipping; so far only rumors, but no confirmation of the presence of British naval forces. German steamers coming from the Atlantic or Narvik and still lying in Norway are ordered to break through southward to Germany.

Submarine U "20" is ordered to cover German ore ships coming from Narvik in its area off Utsire.

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Considerations and discussions with the Foreign Office on the list of conditional contraband have progressed so far that a decision is to be expected today.

The Groups (copy to Commander, Submarines, Naval Staff) are ordered to bring in at once for search all ships with cargo for England or those Dominions which have declared war or broken off diplomatic relations. For the Atlantic the former regulations remain in force.

0630

Submarine U "59" returning from the North Sea to Kiel was fired on in Samsø Belt by an enemy submarine from Danish territorial waters with two torpedoes, but was able to avoid them.

Group Baltic demands that on the basis of this incident the agreement with Denmark on submarine diving areas be abolished. Also that Denmark, Sweden, and Norway be informed that vessels proceeding without lights during the night and not answering recognition signals must be treated as enemy ships.

1200 Decision by Commander in Chief, Navy on the following questions:

- a. According to the press and agents' reports a German submarine is said to have been destroyed during minelaying in the Channel. Submarine U "26" does not answer radio call-up.

Since it is possible that submarine U "26" was lost in shallow waters off Portland and there is danger that the British will raise the boat, new codes are being issued to all naval forces immediately; for the time being also 2 reserve drums are to be adopted for the purpose of making possible attempts at decoding more difficult; however, they, too, are on submarine U "26". Communication with pocket battleships only by means of code "Stab" starting at midnight on 13 Sept.

- b. Naval Staff is to submit a new request to Armed Forces High Command for permission to sink without warning all ships definitely identified as British.

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Reich Minister Hess warns against the present partial and small-scale use of magnetic mines by submarines. The enemy can develop defensive measures by the time a large-scale use of this weapon by planes is possible, thereby weakening the effect of the heavy blow. Since, however, the prospects of using submarines for this task are becoming less and less and so far the use of these mines is operationally possible only by the submarine, Naval Staff wishes to adhere to minelaying operations as before.

According to reports via the Foreign Office, six German ships have so far put into Murmansk. Most of the crews, with the exception of the ILLER, (intended as an auxiliary cruiser or supply ship) will be shipped home by way of Russia. Dispatch of two "K.d.F." (Strength through Joy. Tr.N.) ships to Leningrad for this purpose.

The SCHLESWIG HOLSTEIN is shelling Polish positions near Gdynia as support for advancing infantry, and batteries on the southern point of Hela. The Stuka squadron destroyed one antiaircraft battery near Gdynia.

Naval squadron effectively put into operation during the advance against Grossendorf.

South Africa declared herself to be at war with Germany, as Canada did earlier.

According to a report from the Radio Monitoring Service, strong forces of the British Mediterranean Fleet are being transferred from the eastern Mediterranean to the Gibraltar area. (Report later unconfirmed).

1300 Group West is ordered to prepare the return of seven German steamers from Rotterdam to Germany without committing large forces.

1520 The HIPPER sighted a submarine telescope just west of the Fehmarn Belt lightship. Group Baltic again closed the western part of the Baltic Sea for exercises by naval forces.

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F "8" reported the destruction of a submarine off Wangerooge. Investigation by diver is ordered.

2000

As the decision of the Foreign Office on the list of conditional contraband is delayed, the order issued this morning that steamers with cargo for England be brought in and searched at once was cancelled. (Partly in consideration of the current meeting of the Scandinavian countries for preservation of their neutrality).

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1200 Decisions by Commander in Chief, Navy.  
Discussion between Commander in Chief, Navy, and Minister for  
Air and Commander in Chief, Air Force:

- a. Suggestion to provide for submarines to be sent out into the Mediterranean against reviving British trade there, in connection with later heavy operations by submarines. (At present it seems that there are agreements on merchant shipping between the Western Powers and Italy). According to the opinion of Naval Staff, the blow should not be dealt until, in the course of military and political developments, sinking without warning of British ships is permitted.
- b. If necessary provide for minelaying in the Mediterranean by German merchantmen at present lying in Italy. Commander in Chief, Air Force also suggested minelaying in the Sea of Marmora as a later possibility.
- c. Submarines are to continue mining the English coast as much as possible.
- d. Commanding Admiral, Fleet will probably report his ships ready for action by 23 Sept. Commander in Chief, Navy intends the first operation as soon as the Fuehrer sanctions full freedom of action against England.

1300

To the Groups: The 3rd multi-purpose squadron of the 506th Group is assigned to Commanding Admiral, West; transfer to the North Sea is permitted. After the defeat of Gdynia the Stuka squadron will also be put at the disposal of Commanding Admiral, West.

(To Air Force General attached to Commander in Chief, Navy: For reasons of tactical command Naval Staff no longer needs a Commander, Naval Air, Baltic for the Baltic Sea.) (Reduction of staff and less senior personnel). The boundary between the Groups for the reconnaissance area is fixed at 56° 40' N (off Anholt).

The countries along the Baltic Sea request through the Foreign Office the introduction of a German safe-conduct system with German control commissions.

(Favored by Naval Staff, and plans are being drawn up.)

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Request of the Groups for new disposition of minesweepers is decided. (5th Minesweeper Flotilla does not come into question; ships for the Minelaying Experimental Command and the Minelaying School will be withdrawn).

1220

Submarine U "12" reported being 100 miles west of the Channel on 12 Sept. at 1220; has carried out mine-laying operation Portland.

Submarine U "35" reports that she was forced to turn back when proceeding through the Channel, as defense was too strong.

1431

Radiogram from submarine U "30" (west of the northern outlet of the North Channel); weather and visibility unfavorable; traffic slight. British steamer BLAIRLOGIE sunk.

In the course of morning reconnaissance one German plane of Commander, Naval Air, Baltic flew over Drogden. It was fired on by the Danes. Apology is being sent by the Minister for Air and Commander in Chief, Air Force.

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1200 Decisions and suggestions of Commander in Chief, Navy:

- a. It seems to be possible for the SCHLESWIG HOLSTEIN to leave the mouth of the Vistula and advance nearer to Gdynia and particularly Hela through an area clear of mines for use of her ship's guns. (Commander in Chief, Navy personally informs Commanding Admiral, Baltic of this).

Group Baltic is to operate against the Polish gunboats which fired on German positions in the area of Rewa and which are still in the Putziger Wiek (Commanding Admiral, Baltic intends to send out Stukas. The ships were sunk by Stukas in Heisternest on 14 Sept.)

- b. A barrage balloon battery for Holtenau locks is also to be requested from Commander in Chief, Air Force.
- c. Italian neutrality allows the British to withdraw their naval forces from the Mediterranean. The war against merchant shipping by pocket battleships in the Atlantic will probably be impaired by this. Does it not seem advisable therefore to have the DEUTSCHLAND proceed to the south now? Result of the investigation of this question: No; the effect of the DEUTSCHLAND is much greater in the north even with less practical successes. If necessary, she can withdraw as far as Murmansk. For the time being no new order, especially as the political situation remains fundamentally unchanged and the last order has hardly gone into effect.
- d. Should a pocket battleship operate together with a submarine for protection in all eventualities?

Result of the investigation: (1.) Too few submarines already for other tasks.  
(2.) As the surface speed of the submarine is not sufficient, co-operation is questionable and dependent on communication by radio.

- e. Mines to be laid by submarines off the control harbors for merchant shipping which will be established by Great Britain.

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- f. What would be the effect of any support by Italy, Japan and Russia? Thus far Italy has only stated that she is willing to assist in principle; she agrees to the delivery of oil to German steamers provided that the ships are unarmed. Support by the Russians seems to be forthcoming. There has been no reply to the inquiry to Japan.

According to a Swedish report, Sweden is establishing a control service from Oeland up to Trelleborg. New navigable channel north of the Sound barrage is marked by buoys (depth 6 m).

A submarine chaser reports that on 12 Sept. at 0600 an unidentified steamer struck a mine in the Sound barrage. This was presumably the Greek steamer KATINGO, whose radiogram concerning "torpedoing" was received south of Falster. The Greek ship was later towed off by Danish tugs.

Submarine U "18" is proceeding to waiting position in the Samsøe Belt for submarine chase.

Commanding Admiral, Baltic opens the western part of the Baltic Sea for exercises.

afternoon

The SCHLESWIG HOLSTEIN took part again in the fight for Gdynia with her guns. Gdynia is expected to fall on 14 Sept. Motor minesweepers were again fired on from Hela while sweeping mines.

The 1st Minesweeper Flotilla effectively supported the advance of Army troops on the Hela peninsula by gunfire.

2100

Evening reconnaissance over the North Sea observed mine surface failures in rows in the northwest corner of the declared area. (Possibly our own; investigation by photograph and exact statement of position and time is urged).

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Submarine U "35" reports that she turned back in the English Channel as defense was too strong, and is proceeding north around the British Isles.

Radio Monitoring Service reports: At 1439 a British destroyer reported a German submarine in the western outlet of the Channel, course west (possibly submarine U "31").

If necessary submarines should be sent to pick up German ships still lying with valuable cargo, for instance, in Spanish harbors. (No rendezvous at sea, since this is too inaccurate.)

Group Baltic reports intention:

1. "Jade 1" and "5" are to be laid as net and not as mine barrages. ("Jade 5" still reserved by Commanding Admiral, Baltic).
2. After the laying of the net barrage in the Sound is completed, the Gjedser Channel is to be closed with double nets. (Carrying out still reserved by Commanding Admiral, Baltic).
3. One loaded minelayer each in Kiel and Swinemuende on 3 hours' notice for operations in case strong enemy forces penetrate into the Baltic Sea.

The Fuehrer approves the proposed list of conditional contraband. To go into effect on 14 Sept. at midnight.

Commanding Admiral, Defenses, Baltic seizes the Danish steamer SEINE with carbon black for France and the Panama steamer EVELINE MARION with a cargo of wood for England. (The German captain of this ship already announced his arrival on 9 Sept. and asked to be picked up.)

afternoon

A reconnaissance plane was approached out of the sun by a Dutch naval reconnaissance plane 6 miles outside Dutch territorial waters off Ameland. Not recognizing the plane as Dutch it shot it down, landed on the water beside it and rescued four of the crew (only slightly injured). The Dutch admit their fault. Apology by the Air Force.

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midnight The new German list of contraband established in reply to British measures becomes effective. (Published on 13 Sept. at 2200 in the form of a law).

Thus the list of absolute contraband is extended to cover all means of transport and traffic, fuel and heating materials, gold, silver, money, equipment and materials for production or use for war requirements, for instance ores, metal, rubber, leather, wood suitable for war requirements, pit wood.

The following are classed as conditional contraband: food, including live animals, food and fodder, articles of clothing and materials used for their production.

(For wording of the law see Part C, Vol. VIII).

The Fuehrer also sanctioned attacks on convoys escorted by the French or with mixed Anglo-French escort in those cases in which such convoys are encountered north of the latitude of Brest.

The Naval Attaché in Washington reported on 13 Sept. that he entered a protest, both written and oral, with the Navy Department on account of the ATHENIA incident and the accusation of German unrestricted submarine warfare.

According to reliable Italian reports, British merchant shipping has resumed the passage through the Suez Canal. Passage through the Mediterranean under escort. On 11 Sept. a convoy of ten steamers passed Gibraltar, westbound.

1045 Order to Group Baltic to release the torpedo-recovery ships of the Submarine School temporarily placed at its disposal at once, since the ships are urgently needed by the Submarine School for training.

Group Baltic thereupon reports the necessity of using the Torpedo Training Flotilla for escort of transports as a replacement for the torpedo-recovery ships. As a consequence the war against merchant shipping at present carried out by the Torpedo Training Flotilla will cease while troop transports are being escorted.

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1100 Telephone call from Lieutenant Commander v. Puttkammer regarding Gauleiter Forster's report on the capture of Gdynia.

The report is supplemented by reports of Group Baltic. According to these, the first Army troops penetrated into Gdynia this morning. Simultaneously at 0830 the Coastal Defense Group Danzig (Lieutenant Commander Hornack) put into the southern harbor of Gdynia from the sea. Polish resistance from light guns was slight. The town and southern harbor were taken in the course of the day. The naval harbor and the Oxhoeft Kaempe are still in Polish hands. The advance by the Army is being supported by the 4th Stuka Squadron of the 186th Group with attacks on Gdynia, Heisternest, and Grossendorf. At the same time support by the 1st Minesweeper Flotilla against objectives on the Hela Peninsula. Participation by the SCHLESWIG HOLSTEIN impossible because of the danger to our own advancing troops. Naval assault detachment sent in with Army troops against Gdynia.

According to a report of the Stuka squadron, planes were machine-gunned on 13 Sept. from the quarantine station east of Amalienfelde (marked by a large red cross on white ground), thereby violating International Law. Definite observation. Thereupon fire was returned.

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1130 Conference on the Situation with Commander in Chief, Navy:

Special Items:

1. Report of Submarine Group on the strengthening of our submarine weapon to be expected shortly in view of the Submarine Construction Program.

Investigations carried out to the extent so far possible show already that a substantial increase in new submarines and an adequate continuous monthly replacement of about 12 submarines may not be expected before the beginning (or middle) of 1941. In the most favorable circumstances only 22 Atlantic submarines

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and three for other areas can be counted upon as reinforcements on 1 July 1940 (not ready for operation until 1 Oct. 40). Even with the utilization of further dockyards, reducing the general shipbuilding program, production cannot be increased (question of periscope optics and production of engines). If, in addition to the types fixed so far, others should be requested (special boats) this would entail a very decisive delay. The Submarine Group suggests that only Types IX and VII be produced. According to its views the number of submarines becoming ready shortly, on the basis of the observations made, is so low that the purchase of additional boats from Italy and Russia is considered necessary and is proposed. Commander in Chief, Navy agrees in principle and orders that the efficient dockyard of Blohm & Voss be used in any case for submarine construction. He will ask for the Fuehrer's decision on the question of purchasing submarines. (See also Part C).

2. For considerations on operations by our forces in the North Atlantic in view of ice conditions and the possibility of using the northern Russian harbors of Murmansk, Polyarnoye, and Archangel see Part C, Vol. I.

1400

In view of the observations of the last few days the attention of the Danish, Swedish and Norwegian Governments is drawn to the fact that vessels proceeding without light outside neutral territorial waters expose themselves to the danger of being regarded as enemy ships.

The necessity of this is confirmed the same evening. When returning from a thrust into the Kattegat the RICHARD BEITZEN sights a submarine proceeding without lights on course 50° in the Flint Channel (Swedish territorial waters) at 2330; nationality unknown.

According to further information the destroyer RICHARD BEITZEN unfortunately failed either to use her searchlights or to carry on an exchange of recognition signals owing to the short time taken to pass the submarine; this would have been necessary to establish its nationality definitely. She failed to regain contact with the submarine by all possible means. On the grounds of observations by day the commander was firmly convinced that it was a Swedish submarine. Since one engine

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of the RICHARD BEITZEN is at present out of action, she could not turn back at once in the narrow passage of the Flint Channel.

According to a report from Aalesund, fishermen in that area sighted four destroyers and two submarines at 63° 12' N and 5° 48' E (60 miles west of Trondheim Fjord), on southwesterly course. (Exact date still unknown).

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Submarine Situation:

At present in the North Sea operational area:

off the Firth of Forth: U "13", "21", "23"  
east of the Firth of Moray: U "36"  
southwest of the declared area: U "3"  
Area Shetlands - Norway: U "20"

Approaching the western outlet of the Skagerrak:  
U "14", U "16", U "24".

Nine Atlantic submarines on return passage between the Shetlands and the Kattegat.

U "47" will put into Kiel this evening.

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Merchant Shipping:

1. The Naval Attaché in Spain and Armed Forces High Command, Foreign Division IV for agents in Iceland receive instructions for shipping that the attempt to return home by German ships lying in Spain, Portugal, the Canaries, the Azores and Iceland (particularly those with valuable cargo) is desired. It is left to them to put out when conditions are favorable; they are to pass west or east of Iceland, approach Norway no further south than 63° N; follow the island route south to Skudesnaes Fjord; report arrival there and await further instructions.
2. The German steamers lying in harbors of southern Norway are instructed to put out for the Baltic Sea before dark.

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3. The shipping of ore from Sweden is in full progress. At present 66 ships are engaged in the Swedish ore traffic (61 of them alone on the run to Lulea).
4. According to a report of the Ministry of Transportation, the fishing steamer companies are very anxious to fish in the White Sea. Their efforts are to be supported. The departure of ten further fishing steamers is sanctioned.

According to various reports from New York, Amsterdam etc., the following further sinkings (or confirmations of sinkings) of British ships by our submarines can be assumed:

The tanker BRITISH INFLUENCE (8,431 tons), the MANAAR (7,242 tons) (crew asserts that they were torpedoed without previous warning?), the PUKKASTEN, the WINKLEIGH (5,000 tons), the REGENT TIGER.

According to the estimates of Naval Staff, 27 ships totalling 162,953 tons (including 33,000 tons of tankers) have been sunk so far, up to and including 13 Sept., by submarines. An exact list cannot be made before the return of the submarines from their operations.

2100

According to radio monitoring reports, lively convoy activity between Casablanca and France must be expected.

Based on data from the Radio Monitoring Service, the following disposition of British aircraft-carriers can be assumed:

the	COURAGEOUS	:	western entrance of the Channel - Biscay
"	ARK ROYAL	:	northern part of the North Sea or Shetlands area
"	HERMES	:	Channel area
"	EAGLE	:	East Asia
"	GLORIOUS	:	Mediterranean
"	FURIOUS	:	questionable
"	ARGUS	:	Channel area.

It is a strategic task of prior importance for the Radio Monitoring Service to obtain exact data on the whereabouts and operations of the enemy aircraft carriers and fast

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battle cruisers. Naval Staff is particularly anxious to learn whether the activity of the aircraft carriers is confined to the coast for protection of sea communications from all points and traffic centers, or whether the movements of the aircraft carriers are for the purpose of shadowing the trade routes over large sea areas and therefore operations against German merchant raiders (submarines, pocket battleships and auxiliary cruisers).

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Polish Submarine ORZEL

Put into Tallinn according to a report of the Naval Attaché in Helsingfors. The boat was interned by the Estonian Government; the crew (65 men) are completely exhausted and some of them sick.

The Naval Attaché was ordered to obtain further details on the equipment of the boat, previous operations, field of activity, any minelaying etc.

Submarine U "46" reported sighting a foreign submarine, proceeding without lights, on northerly course in the Little Belt on 15 Sept. at 0200.

An inquiry was directed to the Danish and Swedish Governments through the Attaché as to whether those submarines reported by U "46" and the RICHARD BEITZEN can have been Danish or Swedish. It was again pointed out that vessels without lights expose themselves to the danger of being treated as enemy vessels.

Group Baltic regards the reports on submarines proceeding without lights in the Baltic Sea entrances as a confirmation of the suspected presence of British submarines in the Kattegat; since no submarines can be made available without weakening the northern position in the Kattegat, Group Baltic urgently requests the assignment of a PT boat flotilla for operations off the northern outlets of the Sound and Great Belt. At the moment the disposition of submarines in the Baltic Sea is as follows:

U "57", U "10" in waiting position off Laesoe  
U "18" in waiting position Samsøe Belt  
U "56" northern outlet of the Sound.

After the elimination of Polish naval bases and the clearing up of the mine situation in Danzig Bay, Commanding Admiral, Baltic considers the following allocation of forces necessary as a minimum for maintenance of naval control in the Baltic Sea:

1. For war against merchant shipping and defense in the Kattegat: one destroyer division

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2. For war against merchant shipping in the northern and eastern parts of the Baltic Sea (including Aaland and Gulf of Bothnia): four small auxiliary cruisers.

3. For the protection of merchant shipping in the Kattegat and, if necessary, the eastern part of the Baltic Sea: four decoy ships (ships of the 1st Patrol Boat Flotilla).

4. For minesweeping duties:

Apart from auxiliary units, two motor minesweeper flotillas and one active minesweeper flotilla (7th Minesweeper Flotilla).

5. For submarine chase:

- a. Three new minesweepers with echo-ranging set or three fishing vessels with echo-ranging set.
- b. One PT boat flotilla for patrol of the northern outlets of the Sound and Belts. With the assignment of a PT boat flotilla and patrol of the western outlet of the Skagerrak by submarines of Group West, it will not be necessary to draw on submarines in the area of Group Baltic.
- c. For reconnaissance and combat operations:  
1 long-range reconnaissance squadron, 1 Stuka squadron, 3 naval squadrons.

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1100 Conference on the Situation with Chief, Naval Staff.

Special Items:

1. Request of Commanding Admiral, Baltic:

The demands of Commanding Admiral, Baltic - particularly the necessity of a thorough patrol of the Baltic Sea entrances - are recognized in principle by Naval Staff.

The assignment of a destroyer division for conduct of the war against merchant shipping in the Kattegat would be of great value. The frequent appearance of German forces in

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the Kattegat and Skagerrak is all the more necessary in this connection since it would bring to the attention of the neutral states repeatedly that trade in this sea area is under German protection but likewise also subject to German control.

In view of the urgent operations in the North Sea and the difficult industrial and technical situation of our destroyers, resulting in the present small number available, the request of Group Baltic for permanent allocation of a destroyer division and a PT boat flotilla cannot yet be met. However, frequent temporary assignment is to be provided.

The demands for auxiliary cruisers and decoy ships seem to be justified and are being considered further by Naval Staff.

Owing to the fact that the situation in Danzig Bay has cleared up almost completely, there are no objections to the withdrawal of vessels for submarine chase and motor minesweepers to the North Sea. Thus the 3rd Motor Minesweeper Flotilla and three minesweepers of the 1st Minesweeper Flotilla are to be assigned to Group West at once.

In view of the fact that the main task now lies in the North Sea, the change of Commanders, Minesweepers is considered necessary, so that the active Commander, Minesweepers is to transfer to Group West. Time of change is to be left to the Groups.

For considerations on the future conduct of the war in the Baltic and North Seas, see Part C .

2. Regarding the question of putting the pocket battleships in the north and south Atlantic into operation, Commander in Chief decides that for the time being no new instructions are to be transmitted to the pocket battleships. They are not to be recalled to the operational areas until the time has come for them to be used for sudden and heavy operations against merchant shipping.

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Commander in Chief again points out the necessity of keeping strictest secrecy on all questions connected with the operations of the pocket battle-ships and restriction to the smallest circle of persons concerned.

3. Result of the discussions of Commander in Chief, Navy with the Italian Naval Attaché:

The Attaché admits that Great Britain has promised great advantages to Italy regarding the treatment of her merchant shipping, cessation of the searching of ships etc. The possibility that Great Britain will intensify her pressure on Italy so as to draw her to the side of the Western Powers must be reckoned with.

The Attaché was instructed that the German Navy is counting on strong support from Italy, primarily on the procurement of information, as well as support of warfare in the Mediterranean - should this become necessary - by ensuring the necessary supplies as far as this is possible without compromising Italy.

The Attaché was privately informed (also for information of Admiral Cavagnari) that the possibility of Germany purchasing Italian submarines might be taken into consideration.

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The following information on the situation is sent out to forces in the Atlantic and the Groups:

1. The political leaders are still endeavoring to cut France off and to isolate Great Britain.

The attitude of Russia neutralizes the Balkan States and Turkey. The desire of the neutral countries to maintain their neutrality is intensifying.

The British blockade arouses neutral resistance.

2. No news yet on further Russian measures following mobilization.

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3. Spain and Italy very cautious in order to give evidence of their neutrality. At present support only by provision of information. Final attitude of Japan still obscure.
  4. U.S.A. still cautious and neutral.
- 

According to reports from the Sound patrol, heavy merchant traffic is proceeding through Swedish territorial waters north of the Sound barrage. Traffic by way of the barrage gap has decreased considerably (15 Sept. only 3 ships in each direction). At present the Swedish survey ship SVELAN is sounding out the channel with depths over 5 m. Preliminary surveys of the channel, which is marked at present only provisionally, are said to have shown depths of 10 - 11 m with the exception of one point of 8 m.

These facts prove that an efficient control of merchant traffic proceeding through the Sound and successful operations against merchant shipping cannot be achieved if present conditions continue. A substantial improvement will probably be achieved if the political leaders decide no longer to acknowledge the Swedish claim for a territorial limit of 4 miles, but only guarantee observation of the 3 mile limit, making reference to the necessity of an effective control of trade. Investigations on this are being carried out by Naval Staff.

In addition to the reports on the insufficient control of trade in the Sound, reports are increasing on the further passage of shipping out of the Baltic and the Scandinavian countries from the Skagerrak to Great Britain. There is news on the formation of convoys from the Skagerrak and on very heavy shipping from Norway to Great Britain.

Heavy operations by units of merchant raiders soon against these British sea communications in the Kattegat as well as on the south and west coasts of Norway are urgently necessary. For details regarding this question see Part C, Vol. II. In view of the information confirmed by returning submarine U "9" on considerable steamer traffic east and west to and from Britain, submarine U "36" is ordered

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to take up a grid square further south than previously, about 80 - 100 miles north of the Dogger Bank; opportunities for attacking merchant shipping in compliance with prize regulations are to be exploited.

0700

Submarine U "31" reports a convoy in grid square 1253 (south of Ireland), mean course 240°, speed 10 knots. The same convoy is reported later also by submarine U "26".

On the question of escorting merchant shipping proceeding from Holland to Germany, Group West suggests at first the transfer in two groups as soon as possible of steamers lying in Dutch harbors. Rendezvous northeast of Schiermonnikoog. The transfer should be effected without Dutch and German naval forces evidently coming into contact with each other.

In the future this matter will be arranged directly between Group West and the Attaché in Holland.

So far the war against merchant shipping in the Baltic Sea between Gotland and Kurland by the BREMSE and torpedo boats T "108" and T "111" has been without result.

Submarine U "30" was attacked by planes of the ARK ROYAL while capturing a fishing vessel. The submarine was slightly damaged by a bomb on the bow and two torpedo tubes are out of action. Two planes of the ARK ROYAL crashed in the course of the attack. Two officers were taken prisoner.

The submarine asks to be allowed to put into Reykjavik for disembarkation of one man badly wounded and treatment of some slightly wounded.

Permission is granted. The report confirms the news of the presence of the aircraft carrier ARK ROYAL in the area north of the British Isles.

Since 13 Sept. no more instructions from the British Admiralty on meeting points for British merchant ships have been intercepted. After several sinkings on the approach routes to the convoy rendezvous in the Bristol Channel, it is assumed that these announcements have been restricted or

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completely discontinued in order not to give German submarines any data for operations. However, it is also possible that now most of the merchantmen en route at the outbreak of war have arrived at their harbors of destination.

Radio Monitoring Report: Niton Radio announces a dangerous wreck at about 50° 32' N and 2° 16' W. Ships entering and leaving Weymouth Bay are to keep away from the wreck by at least two miles.

The wreck may possibly be a result of the mines laid by submarine U "26" off Weymouth.

Danzig Bay:

Fighting continues for the Gdynia naval harbor and the Oxhoeft Kaempe with support by the guns of the SCHLESWIG HOLSTEIN. - Minesweepers in Danzig Bay have swept a channel 400 m wide and 5 m deep from Neufahrwasser up to the southern entrance of Gdynia (some submarine-laid mines were swept). During the sweeping they were shelled by the Hela battery. The Stuka squadron successfully attacked Polish positions on Hela and destroyed a field battery and ammunition dumps.

According to reports from Murmansk, five further ships arrived, so that twelve German ships are now lying there.

It seems advisable to stop the flow of ships to Murmansk. All German merchant ships at remote and close range are instructed no longer to approach Murmansk but to proceed southward within the Norwegian islands and to report arrival in Koperwik. The same instruction is given to the five steamers newly arrived in Murmansk.

Several attempts to break through to Germany are reported from overseas (departure of German ships from Buenos Aires, Montevideo, Santos). Three ships coming from overseas reached Norway.

By order of the General Staff of the Minister for Air and Commander in Chief, Air Force, transocean planes in Germany and those returning home are to form the Special Squadron (Transocean) at once. Base: Travemuende. (For its use see Part B, Vol V. page 14).

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1800 The Ministry of Transportation requests resumption of shipping to Danzig. The decision is left to Group Baltic.

Group Baltic allows shipping with specific sailing directions.

night - In the North Sea laying of a further anti-submarine barrage off Hornsriff by three minelayers escorted by destroyers and torpedo boats. Evening reconnaissance sent out in the direction of the Great Fisher Bank - Dogger Bank without result. Channel sweeping and exploratory sweeps by minesweeper units according to plan. No mines established.

In the course of 15 Sept. the following submarines returning from long-range operations put into Kiel: U "45", "46" (U "47" already in Kiel)

into Wilhelmshaven : U "37"  
Sinking figures: U "37", U "45", U "46" : -----  
U "47" : 8,200 GRT.

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0800

Intensified British radio traffic, mostly of an urgent nature, in the Channel area indicates lively activity of the escort and patrol service as well as of anti-submarine defense. The aircraft carrier HERMES was spotted in the west part of the Channel area escorted by destroyers.

According to reports of the Radio Monitoring Service, the closing of channels, diversion of ships, formation of convoys, and establishment of control stations for the examination of contraband has obviously resulted already in very serious difficulties for the maintenance of British steamer traffic. The Downs are apparently overcrowded by ships. It is also possible that this accumulation may be ascribed to transports of troops and material to France. Reliable information from various sources speaks of very active troop transport traffic to Calais and Dunkirk.

At this time Naval Staff is greatly hampered by the restrictions imposed by political leaders, banning all offensive naval operations against France. In view of the apparently intensified military activity by French troops in the west Naval Staff has several times - last on 9 Sept. - asked political leaders to permit offensive operations against French naval vessels and merchantmen as well as against the French coast (mine warfare). At present an extremely paralyzing effect could have been effected particularly by mines laid by submarines in the French harbors disembarking British troop transports.

However, according to Order No. 3 of the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces dated 9 Sept., offensive naval operations against France are still not to be carried out.

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Special Reports on the Enemy.

According to statements by travelers, the French mine-cruiser PLUTON sank in Casablanca as a result of the detonation of our mines. A considerable number of dead and wounded is reported. (Certain confirmation of the report has not yet been received.)

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According to Italian information, a convoy consisting of 107 vessels carrying French colonial troops and proceeding under British escort passed Gibraltar on 15 Sept. Further British military transports followed, two of them bound for France.

An agent reports British forces (destroyers and submarines) in the area of Narvik.

This report gains importance in connection with the information on the departure of heavy enemy ore transports. Our planes and submarines should carry out reconnaissance for the purpose of starting operations against merchant shipping.

According to the statement of an observer in Skagen and a radio monitoring report, a convoy escorted by naval vessels passed Skagen at 1000 bound for England.

Ships' captains returning from Denmark report that, according to statements of Danes, British submarines have been frequently observed during the past week in the southern part of the Kattegat, Samsøe Belt, and off the northern entrance to the Sound.

According to an official report, a Russo-Japanese agreement was signed in Moscow aimed at settlement of the Russo-Japanese conflict on the border between outer Mongolia and Manchukuo.

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1100 Conference on the Situation with Commander in Chief:

Special Items:

1. For considerations on warfare in the Baltic and North Seas see Part C.
2. Question of the use of the Danube Flotilla.  
Available: Guard boat BIRAGO  
6 river motor minesweepers  
6 auxiliary river motor minesweepers.

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At present the Navy has no influence on the use of the Danube Flotilla, which is under the 14th Army Corps. The tasks falling to the Flotilla at present are as follows:

1st Group: Auxiliary river motor minesweepers and escort ship with command of the Flotilla in Bratislava: guarding of the harbor and bridges. Guard boat BIRAGO: bridges of Bratislava and Engerau.

2nd Group: River motor minesweepers:  
On the March river south of Marchek for guarding of the railway bridge.

Any offensive use of the Flotilla which may become necessary will only come into question in tactical conjunction with the advance of the Army. (See also Part B, Volume V. Page 35).

1430 In partial reply to the request of Group Baltic of 15 Sept. and in compliance with the considerations regarding control of the Baltic Sea entrances and intensified operations against merchant shipping in the Kattegat, the following is ordered:

- "1. The 2nd PT Boat Flotilla is temporarily assigned to Group Baltic for short operations into the Kattegat.
2. Patrol of the Kattegat by submarines will be discontinued. Commander, Submarines is accorded the right to make use of submarines of Commander, Submarines, Baltic.
3. Light forces of Group Baltic at present in the Baltic Sea for exercises are to make occasional thrusts into the Kattegat to carry out operations against merchant shipping with the agreement of the Groups."

The following considerations are decisive for the withdrawal of submarines from the Baltic Sea:

1. In view of the present military situation, the complete lack of objectives, and urgent submarine tasks in the North Sea, further operations by submarines in the Baltic Sea are no longer justified.

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2. So far reconnaissance by submarines in the Kattegat has been without result. Their task (preventing a surprise penetration of enemy surface forces into the Kattegat and Baltic Sea by prompt report) can and must under the present circumstances be taken over by auxiliary surface forces which are now available for that purpose. Apart from that, the presence of our submarines in the Kattegat cannot be expected to prevent enemy submarines from penetrating into the Baltic Sea.

Group Baltic however considers continuous submarine patrol by Group West in the Skagerrak a necessary condition for transfer. Undoubtedly this is very desirable but considering the priority of submarine operations in the North Sea must be restricted at present to single operations only.

(For considerations regarding future naval warfare in the Baltic and North Seas, see Part C.)

In view of the orders issued, Group Baltic is withdrawing the submarine patrol in the Kattegat. Only submarine U "18" remains at waiting position in Samsøe Belt for the time being.

Commander, Submarines assigns the four submarines of the 5th Submarine Flotilla to Commander, Submarines, West and the training submarines to the Submarine School. In the future two boats of the Submarine School will be used in the North Sea.

after-  
noon

Baltic Sea:

Situation in Gdynia unchanged.

Naval harbor and Oxhoeft Kaempe still in Polish hands. Minesweepers are supporting the advance of Army troops on Hela by firing at Polish positions. Successful Stuka attacks by the 4th Squadron of the 186th Group on the command post of the Polish staff (70 % hits) and ammunition dump in the Hexengrund.

North Sea:

Nothing special to report on minesweeping and submarine chase activities. No mines were established during an exploratory sweep to the north over the border of the British declared area.

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Air reconnaissance in the direction of the Shetlands - Norway and sea area Orkneys - Firth of Moray established only eight trawlers east of Pentland Firth and east of Peterhead.

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Merchant Shipping:

1. On account of the fear of mines in the outlets of the Belts and the western part of the Baltic Sea, Danish transports of cattle from Copenhagen and Gjedser to Flensburg are being discontinued. Danish ship captains also refuse to proceed to Luebeck because of mine danger in Marstal Bay, particularly in view of the sinking of the German ship HELGA SCHROEDER (8 Sept., Marstal Bay).

Immediate guarantee of safe traffic through the Belts and the western part of the Baltic Sea and the dispersal of Danish fears is urgently necessary in the interest of German economic supplies. Group Baltic receives instructions to this effect.

2. Three further ships put into Murmansk, so that there are 15 German ships there at present.
3. Two ships returning from Norway reached Danish waters in the Kattegat.

Group Baltic is ordered to meet the ships and bring them through the Great Belt.

4. Considering the very high expenses arising through lying in foreign harbors, the Ministry of Transportation urges that as many ships as possible return home from foreign countries, also from overseas. The Ministry of Economics likewise urges their return on account of cargoes of military importance.

The motives of the Ministry of Transportation for recalling numerous German merchantmen from overseas are fully acknowledged. However, protection of the returning ships is impossible. Possibilities of a safe return undoubtedly exist on the route north and south of Iceland, Norway, Skudesnes Fjord, and further into the Kattegat.

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1700

The following information on the situation is sent out to the Atlantic forces and to the Groups:

1. The Army in the east has reached the line Bialystok, Bielsk, Brest, Siedlce, Otwock, Pulawy, Krasnik, Zamosc, Lemberg. Encircled Polish divisions are still fighting in the areas of Kutno, Warsaw and Modlin. On the western border unsuccessful French attacks up to the strength of a regiment near Saarbruecken. Good successes in our war against merchant shipping.
  2. Japanese/Russian agreement is reached on the conflict about the border in Manchuria.
  3. At a meeting of Congress on 21 Sept. Roosevelt will try to abolish the ban on the export of war material.
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0300 Report of Armed Forces High Command, Foreign Division on information from the German Ambassador in Moscow that the Red Army will cross the Russo-Polish borders on the whole line this morning at 0600 Russian time. For the present the border between the combat areas of the Russian and German Air Forces will lie on the line Bialystok, Brest-Litowsk - Lemberg.

In conjunction with the Russo-Japanese agreement concluded yesterday, the fact of the Russian drive with strong forces along the Polish front from north to south is to be regarded as an event of far-reaching importance. Details of the possible consequences in the political, economic and military sphere cannot yet be perceived, but are estimated as very considerable and particularly favorable for Germany. Their evaluation may not be confined only to the effects of a direct support of German warfare in Poland, but must also take into consideration the considerable difficulties arising for the Western Powers, as well as the extremely strong effect upon Russia's neighboring states (Turkey and Rumania).

0500 Submarine Warfare:

1. North Sea: Submarines in position according to plan.
2. U "41", returning home from a long-range operation, reports the seizure of two Finnish steamers 120 miles east of Peterhead with absolute contraband for Britain. The steamers were boarded by a prize crew and ordered to proceed to Wilhelmshaven.
3. U "48" entered Kiel from a long-range operation.

Sinking figures: 14,800 tons  
U "52" entering the Little Belt  
U "41" entering the Heligoland Bight.

4. According to British reports, the Belgian ship ALEX VAN OPSTEL (5,969 tons) sank in the Channel near the Shenble lightship (off Weymouth) either by torpedo or mine explosion during the night of 15 Sept. Allegedly British mines cannot have been involved.
  5. The British steamer FANADHEAD (5,200 tons) was sunk by a submarine.
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1030 Conference on the Situation with Chief, Naval Staff.

Special Items:

1. (In view of the assessment of the general enemy situation in the North Sea and of news of a considerable flow of supplies still from the east to England, Commander in Chief attaches special importance to large-scale activity by our forces in the North Sea and heavy operations against merchant shipping by light naval forces. These must start already before the battleships have been made completely ready for action and before the restoration of the full readiness of all light naval forces).

Considerations on future warfare in the North Sea lead to the "Instructions to Group West for Warfare in the North Sea" of 17 Sept. 39. (See Part C, War Diary).

2. Commander in Chief again expresses his opinion on the employment of German battleships and pocket battleships in the further course of the war and on the measures to be taken against Great Britain after the further development of the war is clarified. He orders consideration of the effects of a sudden commitment of all available forces, paying special attention to the combined effect of submarine warfare in the North Sea, Atlantic and Mediterranean, thrusts by the Fleet into the North Sea, and operations by our pocket battleships in the north and south Atlantic.

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Special Reports on the Enemy:

- a. Located off the east coast of South America: the cruisers AJAX and EXETER.
- b. In the area off the west coast of Africa for cruiser war: the cruiser NEPTUNE.
- c. In the Atlantic off Funchal: 1 British cruiser.
- d. French vessels in the western part of the Mediterranean are being used more and more for convoy escort. French flotilla commanders are patrolling the northern part of the Bay of Biscay.

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Armed French fishing trawlers off the west coast of Spain. Reports have been received on various westbound convoys in the Mediterranean.

- e. Apart from the usual British patrol forces off the east coast of England, the Radio Monitoring Service today established only an unidentified vessel in the western outlet of the Skagerrak. This is possibly a British submarine which unsuccessfully fired a torpedo on submarine U "36" in the course of the afternoon.

2000

North Sea:

Minelaying operation by the minelayers KOBRA, DANZIG, and the 6th Torpedo Boat Flotilla was carried out in the southeast corner of the declared area according to plan.

Another exploratory sweep by Commander, Minesweepers, West beyond the northern boundary of the British declared area established no moored mines. Submarine chase in the Heligoland Bight without result.

(Projected long-range reconnaissance could not be carried out because of heavy seas. Considering the small number of long-range reconnaissance planes, Group West abandons take-off by catapult, as reconnaissance entails full commitment, and an emergency landing would mean total loss).

Baltic Sea:

Owing to the weather, operations against merchant shipping and blockade of Danzig Bay have to be discontinued. Forces put into Pillau and Memel. The weather likewise makes interruption of the pilot service at the Sound barrage necessary. No air reconnaissance.

The situation in Gdynia is unchanged. The most advanced line of Group Eberhard is in Gdynia harbor (America Quay - free port area) opposite Oxhoeft Heights. In the afternoon the Stuka squadron dropped leaflets over Oxhoeft Kaempe with a demand for surrender.

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Minesweeping units swept the coastal route from the light buoy at Stutthoff as far as Pillau up to a depth of 20 m without result.

Group Baltic has sanctioned the announcement of safe channels for neutral shipping through the Little Belt and Great Belt.

Submarine Warfare: For considerations on submarine warfare of 16 Sept. see War Diary, Part C.

a. North Sea:

Submarines in position as planned.

In the North Sea operational area: U "3" southwest of the declared area  
off the Firth of Forth : U "13", U "21", U "23"  
off the Firth of Moray : U "14", U "24"  
between the Shetland Islands and Norway: U "20"  
central part of the North Sea up to the Skagerrak:  
U "36"  
off Skudesnes : U "16"

b. Atlantic:

1. Still eleven submarines in the operational area.
2. Put into Kiel returning from long-range operations: submarines U "52", U "48"  
Sinking figures: U "52": 8,826 tons  
U "48": (space blank, Tr.N.)  
On return passage from the Atlantic:  
U "38", U "39", U "40".

c. U "32" carried out the minelaying operation in the Bristol Channel as planned. The submarine is in position "C" (western outlet of the Channel).

d. U "27" reports detonation of G 7a torpedo 250 m. in front of the bow. Slight damage in the submarine.

Speedy investigation of reasons for the failures, which have now occurred already several times, in case of G 7e torpedoes as well as now also in the case of G 7a is to be undertaken with all possible means. Not only the military

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disadvantages of these failures but particularly also the highly undesirable psychological loss of confidence on the part of the submarine crews in their weapon necessitates immediate investigation of the reasons and their removal. (For details see War Diary, Part B, Vol. IV).

Merchant Shipping:

1. Four German steamers are returning home from Dutch harbors. There are various reports on attempts by German ships to break through from overseas.
2. From Batavia it is reported that German ships lying in Dutch harbors are being seized at the instigation of London banking houses.
3. According to Swedish reports, the channel near Falsterboe off the Swedish coast is to be deepened to such an extent that passage for ships up to a draught of 6 m. will be possible.
4. The Naval Offices are instructed by the Reich Commissar at the Supreme Prize Court, Berlin to make a point of carrying out measures in accordance with prize regulations, when clearing prizes brought in, as quickly as possible so as to spare neutral interests.
5. The "Etappe" in Murmansk is established with two supply ships.

The British Ministry of Information points out that ships which voluntarily report at the contraband bases are given priority in the examination of cargoes. Neutral shipping companies are advised to send in copies of the freight lists beforehand.

In reply to the German accusation of the illegality of the British blockade, it is argued that food and materials are only seized if there is reason for the assumption that they are used by the enemy for war purposes.

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This method was practised by Great Britain and the United States during World War I.

1700 Information on the situation to Atlantic forces and the Groups:

This morning Russian troops started to advance along the whole Polish/Russian border. Operations on the eastern front are progressing successfully. No changes on the western front.

For statements of the American Naval Attache in Berlin concerning the law of neutrality see Part B, Volume V, Page 1.

0330 The Polish submarine ORZEL escaped from internment in Tallinn. The crew, with the exception of the commander and one man, both in the hospital, are on board. According to a report of the Naval Attaché, 14 of its 20 torpedoes were unloaded and there are 6 which are still live aboard. Gun breeches and ammunition were surrendered. The Estonian guards were overpowered and taken along. The submarine rammed the mole when putting out. Owing to damage, the possibility of the six torpedoes stored in the bow tubes being used is questionable. Later on the boat was shelled by an Estonian shore battery from the island of Aegna. Estonian naval forces are pursuing the submarine. She was once more sighted from Oesel on 18 Sept. at 1415 surfacing and proceeding on westerly course.

The possibility of desperate offensive operations by the Polish submarine in Danzig Bay and the central part of the Baltic Sea against naval forces or merchantmen must be reckoned with. However, considering the new situation which has arisen in Poland by the intervention of Russia, it is more likely that it will prefer internment in Sweden and will try to reach a Swedish harbor.

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Chief, Naval Staff goes to Wilhelmshaven and Kiel by plane for discussions with Commanding Admiral, Group West and Commander, Submarines as well as to welcome the submarine crews returned from long-range operations.

1. The discussion with Commanding Admiral, Group West, Admiral Saalwaechter, results in complete agreement on future plans for warfare in the North Sea. On account of the inadequate condition of the individual vessels of the Fleet as regards material and training, reported by Commanding Admiral, West, and the increased combat training thus still necessary, no large-scale operation by naval forces with the battleships participating can be contemplated before 5 Oct. 39. In addition there are at present no worthwhile targets for an extensive offensive by heavy forces in the northern part of the North Sea, according to reports of air reconnaissance. However, Commanding Admiral, Group West sees the possibility of a surprise operation by destroyers in the near future against merchant shipping on the route from the Skagerrak to England, which is still very much in use. However, in order to render such an operation as effective as possible, Group West wishes to send out at least ten destroyers. The operation is at present scheduled for 26/27 Sept. in the form of a thrust from the North and Baltic Seas into the Kattegat and Skagerrak. If, as a result of this thrust, the enemy forms convoys, Group West considers this a favorable possibility for operations by battleship groups and destroyer units at a later time. Group West is also at present looking into the possibility of a thrust by the 1st PT Boat Flotilla for minelaying in the Downs and off the Thames.

Chief, Naval Staff fully agrees with the suggestion of Commanding Admiral, Group West. The instructions to Group West of 17 Sept. for warfare in the North Sea will remain fundamentally unchanged. However, in agreement with the views of Commanding Admiral, Group West, minor operations by destroyers from the Baltic Sea, before the large-scale operation planned by Group West for 26/27 Sept., are not considered appropriate, as carrying out such raids would necessarily have a paralyzing effect on merchant traffic of neutral countries and therefore have a disadvantageous effect on the

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prospects of success of the intended operation against merchant shipping on 26/27 Sept.

As a result of the detailed discussion with Commanding Admiral, Group West, Chief, Naval Staff is convinced that all offensive warfare and the operational use of Fleet forces even in the Skagerrak and Kattegat must remain the task of Commanding Admiral, Group West and thus be subject to one single authority. His considerations are particularly based on the fact that an assignment of forces of the Fleet to Group Baltic during their temporary sojourn in the Baltic Sea and thus occasional use of these forces by Group Baltic in the Kattegat and Skagerrak, independent of operations in the North Sea, would necessarily lead to difficulties and undesirable effects (particularly regarding the state of readiness of the forces) on the operations planned by Group West in the North Sea.

The fact that Group West has sole operational command over the Fleet forcedoes not exclude frequent thrusts being carried out by destroyers and PT boats of Group West, which are in the Baltic Sea for exercises, from there against merchant shipping in the Kattegat and Skagerrak, after previous agreement between the two Commanding Admirals of the Groups. However, they are not to take place until after the first operation against merchant shipping (26/27 Sept.).

2. Discussion with Commander, Submarines:

Special Items:

- a. Commander, Submarines plans to send out a submarine with torpedoes to Scapa Flow, since the evaluation of photographic reconnaissance by the operational Air Force indicates that such an operation would be very promising. Chief, Naval Staff agrees with this but orders an investigation as to whether it would not be more advisable and effective to have the operation carried out by a minelaying submarine, and reserves a definite decision on its execution for himself.
- b. The next Atlantic submarines leaving for major operations are to be sent out against French

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convoys on the west coast of Spain, provided, however, that the political leaders sanction offensive operations against France.

3. In the course of the welcome given to the submarines returned from long-range operations, Commander in Chief was able to assure himself of the excellent spirit and the particularly satisfactory, confident, and cheerful state of mind of the submarines' commanders and crews.

During the welcome ceremonies to submarine crews the first awards of Iron Crosses for successful operations were made.

1145 Naval Attaché in Stockholm reports that the Polish submarine RYS put into Sandham (off Stockholm) this morning at 0530 and was interned.

Thus previous reports on the positive destruction of three Polish submarines and the probable destruction of a further one are disproved. It is confirmed that during attacks on submarines with depth charges the observation of large air bubbles or oil patches alone is no positive indication of destruction.

The two Polish submarines RYS and SEMP now in Sweden are to be transferred to Vaxholm where they will be under the control of Swedish coastal guns.

1200 The British Radio announces that the aircraft carrier COURAGEOUS was sunk by a German submarine. The report is confirmed by the British Admiralty at 1300: "Admiralty regret to announce that H.M.S. COURAGEOUS has been lost by enemy submarine action."

The report sent out at the same time by the British Radio that the German submarine was destroyed is disproved by the report of submarine U "29" with Radiogram 1819: "COURAGEOUS destroyed, U "29" homeward bound."

The crew of submarine U "29", (Commander: Lieutenant Schuhart) is awarded the Iron Cross by Commander in Chief (Commander - Iron Cross 1st Class, crew - Iron Cross 2nd Class). According to later announcements of the British Admiralty the COURAGEOUS sank within 20 minutes; 681 of the crew of 1260 are said to have been rescued by the escorting destroyers and by merchantmen.

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Reports on the Enemy:

Great Britain:

The Radio Monitoring Service detects increased reconnaissance activity by British air formations between the Shetland Islands and Norway. For the first time various squadrons were established which have not appeared in this area up to now.

At 0800 submarine U "27" reported an aircraft carrier with three escorting destroyers 120 miles west of the Firth of Clyde, course 200° (apparently the ARK ROYAL, presumed to be in the area north of the British Isles).

France:

The second French division of old battleships left Gibraltar and put into Oran today at 1500.

According to an Italian report, the DUNKERQUE and STRASSBOURG left Brest on 14 Sept. Whereabouts unknown.

It is assumed that the two battleships are in the area Biscay.- west coast of France for protection of the route from North Africa to France.

According to a Radio Monitoring report, a French convoy left Casablanca on 16 Sept. for British harbors.

North Sea:

Nothing to report on submarine chase and minesweeping duties. The KOELN and KOENIGSBERG are temporarily transferred to the Baltic Sea for exercises.

Air reconnaissance had to be abandoned because of the weather. Group West plans departure at noon on 19 Sept. of a unit consisting of the LEIPZIG, two destroyers, and two torpedo boats for laying of a dummy barrage in the declared area.

Baltic Sea:

Danzig Bay: The SCHLESWIG HOLSTEIN left Neufahrwasser for gunfire support of advancing Army troops and

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anchored 2 miles east of Redlau for the shelling of Alt and Neu Oblusch and Ostrowgrund with medium and heavy guns.

The slow progress of operations against Gdynia and on Hela causes Naval Staff to request from Armed Forces High Command the allocation of heavy weapons (heavy guns, howitzers, mortars) to Frontier Sector Command Kaupisch, which is engaged in the fight. The early seizure of the harbor and the quick restoration of its traffic facilities lies in the special interest of German economy, particularly as regards the export of coal from the industrial area of the eastern part of Upper Silesia. In comparison with this even the significance of a speedy occupation of Gdynia for the Navy is of secondary importance.

The 1st Motor Minesweeper Flotilla was shelled by light shore batteries during minesweeping off Gdynia. No further mines were established.

War against merchant shipping: not yet resumed because of the weather.

Western part of the Baltic Sea: Group Baltic intends to lay the net barrage off the southern outlet of the Sound, south of the minefield, when the weather improves.

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The Danisch Government confirmed the cancellation of the German/Danish agreement on submarine diving areas in the Baltic Sea.

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Submarine Warfare.

1. The following, returning from long-range operations, put into Wilhelmshaven: U "38", U "40". Sunk by submarine U "38": 16,600 tons.
2. On return passage from the Atlantic: U "26", U "29", U "33".

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Thus the following are still in the operational area:

- 1 submarine : outlet of the North Channel
  - 4 submarines : western outlet of the Channel, entrance to the St. George's Channel
  - 1 submarine : sent out for a thrust into the English Channel from the west.  
(U "35")
3. Submarine U "7" left in the morning of 18 Sept. for the operational area of the Norwegian coast north of Utsire with the assignment: attack on naval vessels, operations against merchant shipping, protection of our own steamers.

Merchant Shipping:

1. Shipping to Norway is proceeding as planned. Several ore ships which came through the Norwegian island route south as far as Skudesnes Fjord and were recalled from there, arrived home.
  2. Further ships coming from overseas arrived in Norway.
  3. Eighteen German ships are now lying in Murmansk; the majority of them has been ordered home by the Ministry of Transportation.
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Conference on the Situation with Chief, Naval Staff.

Special Items.

1. Chief, Naval Staff orders creation of the submarine award and that it be conferred after three long-range operations.
2. The suggested organization of the newly established Group, Submarines (Naval Staff/Submarine Division) Chief - Captain S i e m e n s - is approved. (See War Diary, Part B, Vol. V, page 3).
3. The former Commander, Submarines (Commodore Doenitz) receives the title of Commanding Admiral, Submarines at once. For the time being, however, the tasks of Commander, Submarines/Naval Staff and Commander, Submarines, West remain in the hands of Commanding Admiral, Submarines.  
  
Commanding Admiral, Submarines with his staff forms the "Commanding Admiral, Submarines, Operations Division". The "Commanding Admiral, Submarines, Organization Division" in Kiel (at present Captain von Friedeburg) is put under his command. The Submarine School and the Anti-Submarine School will come under the Organization Division.
4. As Naval Staff foresees no further submarine tasks in the area of the Baltic Sea in the future, the staff of Commander, Submarines, Baltic is to be dissolved.
5. The protection of the Baltic Sea entrances against a penetration of British submarines is again designated by Chief, Naval Staff as the main task of present warfare in the Baltic Sea. Group Baltic is to be instructed to take all measures aimed at preventing a penetration of enemy submarines into the Baltic Sea. The question of recognizing only the 3 mile territorial limit of Sweden and the question of closing the Sound passage within Swedish territorial limits by anti-submarine barrages are to be subjected to a speedy investigation with the Foreign Office.
6. Rear Admiral Hintzmann is to be sent to Holland as soon as possible as Naval Attaché with the Embassy in The Hague; it is also planned that he be Naval Attaché in Brussels.

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The Naval Attaché in Stockholm reports that, according to information from the Swedish and Danish Navies, the submarine sighted during the night of 14 Sept. proceeding without lights in the Flint Channel cannot have been either a Swedish or a Danish one. Besides that, Danish naval vessels have been instructed to fly the ensign by day and night. Outside the territorial limit they carry lights during the night and in addition the ensign is lit up.

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Reports on the Enemy:

morning  
and  
afternoon

Great Britain:

Our complete air reconnaissance over the North Sea, Skagerrak and Kattegat established no naval vessels; however, enemy reconnaissance planes were reported about halfway between the Orkneys and Norway. Enemy land-based planes over the sea avoid aerial combats with German long-range reconnaissance planes by climbing into the clouds.

At 1145 five British planes were sighted over Skagen.

The cruiser COLOMBO put into Gibraltar coming from the Canaries.

Radio Daventry reported the towing in of a heavily damaged passenger steamer, the CITY OF PARIS (11,902 tons), today at 0900.

The ship was bound for Liverpool.

It is possible that the ship struck one of the mines laid by our submarines.

France:

Nothing to report.

2000

North Sea:

Air reconnaissance established lively steamer traffic on the line Hanstholm - Edinburgh and Skudesnes - Nosshead.

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Apart from heavy concentrations of steamers in the Downs, reconnaissance carried out by our operational Air Force in the English Channel revealed nothing.

The dummy barrage operation was carried out as planned by the LEIPZIG, two destroyers and two torpedo boats.

The minelayers HANSESTADT DANZIG and KAISER are assigned to Group Baltic.

Baltic Sea.

Danzig Bay: Shelling by the SCHLESWIG HOLSTEIN of battery positions at Oxhoeft, ammunition dumps near Oxhoeft Point and Ostrowgrund as well as Polish batteries on Hela. Forces of Commander, Minesweepers and of the Naval Air Force support the advance of Army troops against the Oxhoeft Kaempe. At 1730 seizure of the naval harbor of Gdynia and of the Oxhoeft Kaempe. Air reconnaissance over Danzig Bay, the Baltic Sea entrances and the Kattegat without result.

The SCHLESIEN with three boats of the Torpedo Training Flotilla are under way in Danzig Bay. Group Baltic intends a joint operation by the guns of the SCHLESIEN and the SCHLESWIG HOLSTEIN against Hela. As Commander of Naval Forces in Danzig Bay, Rear Admiral Schmundt has taken over command.

Control of the Sound: Was taken over by the Training Flotilla of Commanding Admiral, Defenses, Baltic. Nothing to report.

Submarine Warfare:

North Sea submarines in position as planned. U "4" put out for the operational area in southern Norway with the assignment: attacks on naval vessels, operations against merchant shipping, protection of our own shipping.

U "20" and U "23" on return passage; the position of U "20" off Skudesnes Fjord will be taken up by U "16" and that of U "23" off the Firth of Forth by U "13".

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U "12" and U "15" put out for the operational area in the Channel for operations against British Channel transports; U "35" is also engaged in these from the western outlet of the Channel.

Atlantic: still five submarines in position; of these U "30" put into Reykjavik today at 0900 and put out again at 1215 after disembarking one man badly wounded. On return passage from the Atlantic: six submarines.

Baltic Sea: U "18" in Samsøe Belt in waiting position.

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The British and French public is calmed by official reports on the destruction of several German submarines. A French report tells of the destruction of a German submarine in the evening of 18 Sept. British reports state that several German submarines have been destroyed by bombers and coastal reconnaissance planes.

It is said that in France and Great Britain special units of light forces and armed sloops have been formed for combatting German submarines.

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#### Merchant Shipping.

1. From reports and interrogations of captains it is seen in what an excellent and determined manner some captains have brought their ships back home, often under most difficult conditions as regards navigation and weather, and with insufficient charts and shortage of fuel. On the other hand, some news also regrettably shows the negligence and indecision of other captains. Several revealed a regrettably defeatist attitude for instance in Vigo, where numerous ships had turned off after the issuance of Instruction No. 9 (return home within the next four days); rumors about the presence of British naval vessels off Vigo Bay were disseminated and instructions from home declared to be fraudulent. An investigation of these cases is necessary and is urged by Naval Staff.

(For details see War Diary, Part B, Vol. Merchant Shipping).

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2. Various ships recalled from Norway arrived home safely.
  3. Norway intends to resume traffic from Trondheim to Hamburg through the Kattegat this week. Traffic from Hamburg to Sweden, Finland, and the Baltic States as well as the whole service in the Baltic Sea is very lively. Russian shipping to Hamburg has not yet been resumed.
  4. Since the outbreak of war with Great Britain 28 ships have so far arrived home from overseas, Holland and Norway. During the same time 44 ships from overseas put into Norway and Murmansk, 22 of them during the last week.
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- 0030           The Naval Attaché in Spain reports among other things:
1.    Today conference with the Secretary of the Navy who has just returned. The attitude is more friendly as a result of the impression caused by the successes in Poland and the intervention of the Fleet (the obvious liking of the Spanish Fleet for Germany is meant).
  2.    The port commander in Vigo has received personal instructions from the Minister to make concessions to German ships.
  3.    British patrol on the Vigo coast has apparently decreased.
  4.    British order: submerged submarines in the Strait of Gibraltar are to be attacked immediately by day; submarines proceeding surfaced by night and carrying lights are to be allowed to pass.
- 0735           The first Transocean plane Do 26 SEEFALKE coming from overseas landed in Friedrichshafen. It will join the Special Squadron (Transocean) in Travemuende. (For considerations on the use of planes of the Lufthansa see War Diary, Part B, Vol. V. page 14).
- 0800           Commissioning of the cruiser BLUECHER.  
Commander Captain W o l d a g.
- 
- 1100           Conference on the Situation with Chief, Naval Staff.
- Special Items:
1.    Instructions are issued to clear up the tasks of the Commanding Admirals of the Groups and the commanders of the naval forces under them; these instructions set out clearly the responsibility of the Commanding Admirals of the Groups for operations by the naval forces, at the same time however authorizing the commanders of the naval forces to submit proposals and suggestions for operations or to express objections in view of the suitability and readiness

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of the naval forces to be used for certain tasks. (For instructions see War Diary, Part B, Vol. V, page 4).

2. Chief, Naval Staff orders considerations and preparations to be worked out for unrestricted submarine warfare after the declaration of danger zones since, according to previous experiences, operations against merchant shipping by submarines in accordance with prize regulations will encounter more and more difficulties while prospects of success will become less in view of the start of strong enemy anti-submarine measures, arming of merchantmen, and the fight against submarines by coastal air forces and aircraft carriers during seizure of ships.

3. Chief, Naval Staff considers that the time has come when the pocket battleships at positions in the north and south Atlantic should be recalled to the operational area and put into action. However, this is possible only if the political leaders order an intensification of warfare and particularly relax the restrictions still existing as regards France. As soon as the political situation shows prospects for successful operations by the pocket battleships they must be put into action, their commitment still being considered by Naval Staff as an offensive means of very considerable effect. There are possibilities for operations as far as the military situation is concerned. It is most desirable to send them out soon also in view of the psychological effects on the crews of the pocket battleships.

4. The question of sending a Russian Naval Attaché to Berlin is to be investigated with the Foreign Office.

1200

Chief, Air Force General Staff expresses the urgent desire to be allowed to order the assignment of the 3rd Carrier Stuka Squadron of the 186th Group (previously the 4th Squadron) to the 1st Air Force.

The Liaison Officer attached to Air Force General Staff receives the following reply:

"a. Naval Staff considers that there is still a limited number of tasks for the Stuka squadron in the Baltic Sea area at present, not only as support for the fight on Hela, but also for possible employment in the fight against submarines etc.

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- b. Some time ago Naval Staff issued an order that this squadron is to be assigned to Group West for tasks in the North Sea as soon as there are no more tasks in the Baltic Sea.
- c. The Naval Staff believes that if this squadron were assigned to the 1st Air Force in the course of the general transfer of air forces from the east to the west, the Stukas would not immediately be able to operate against land targets there. On the other hand the Naval Staff sees possibilities for using this squadron in the North Sea theater against sea targets. As a matter of fact possibilities for such operations have already presented themselves.
- d. However, if it appears in the further progress of the war against Great Britain that, owing to limited range of the Stukas or to lack of opportunities for attack, the squadron is in the wrong place, Naval Staff will at once make it available.
- e. Naval Staff therefore asks to have the 3rd Stuka Squadron of the 186th Group left with the Navy at present."

1300

Telephone conversation with Chief of Staff of the Deputy for the Navy in Danzig on the result of the Fuehrer conference in Danzig:

1. The Army considers the attack on Hela very difficult because of minefields and wire entanglements. Prospects of success by Stuka attacks are questionable. The Fuehrer does not wish that the attack be forced, using a large number of men, but suggests the starvation of the peninsula.
2. The Fuehrer has decided that in the end Gdynia is to become purely a war harbor. At present, use of the port installations for the export of coal is still necessary.
3. The Fuehrer has ordered that the whole civilian population of Gdynia is to be evacuated as quickly as possible.
4. Gdynia is to receive the name "Gotenhafen".  
(For details see War Diary, Part B, Vo. V, page 5).

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1500

On the basis of reports from Danzig, Group Baltic receives the following instructions:

1. According to reports available here, the capture of Hela by Army troops alone will be very difficult.
2. The use of landing troops, suggested by the Army, is out of the question.
3. The seizure of Hela is not urgent, so that the Poles can be starved out.
4. There are no objections to shelling by the SCHLESIEEN and SCHLESWIG HOLSTEIN provided that the ships are protected against mines and submarines.

1530

Special Reports on the Enemy.

Great Britain:

- a. In the evening of 19 Sept. the battleship NELSON with Commanding Admiral, Home Fleet and two destroyer flotillas were established by the Radio Monitoring Service at sea, probably off the west coast of Scotland.
- b. According to a report from Copenhagen, British forces are controlling merchant shipping between the Faroes and the Shetlands.

These statements, together with the negative results of our air reconnaissance in the area Shetlands - Norway lead to the assumption that the enemy home forces are exercising their control, if at all, west of the line Orkneys - Shetlands - Faroes.

There are repeated reports on the formation of convoys and the appearance of enemy forces off Narvik.

On 19 Sept. the cruiser EXETER put into Montevideo.

According to a Spanish report, a British battle-cruiser is lying in Gibraltar.

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This is probably the RAMILLIES and not a battle-cruiser. Detailed investigation is necessary as establishment of the position of the battle-cruisers is of the greatest importance with regard to our pocket battleships.

According to report from Denmark, British destroyer units were repeatedly sighted in the northern part of the Kattegat off Laesoe during last week. Danish sailors report danger from British drifting mines north of Fuenen and Zealand.

Group West is informed that three large British blubber boiling ships are lying in Bergen ready to put out.

France:

French cruisers and destroyers off the west coast for convoy escort.

French report states that French naval forces are taking an active part with British forces in fighting submarines.

Poland:

No new reports of the Polish submarine ORZEL. The Russians are accusing Estonia of instigating the escape of the ORZEL from internment.

The presence of enemy (Polish and, as asserted, also British) submarines in the northern part of the Baltic Sea has caused Soviet Russia to send out destroyers and PT boats as far as the outlet of the Gulf of Finland for patrol and submarine chase.

1700

Speech by the Fuehrer in D a n z i g .

2000

Own Situation 20 Sept.:

North Sea: Nothing to report. Submarine chase and minesweeping duties according to plan.

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Baltic Sea: In the course of the day anti-submarine barrage "Jade 6" was laid southeast of the Great Belt. Laying of net barrage "Jade 1" (southeast of the Little Belt) has begun.

Laying of the net barrage south of "Undine" barrage (Sound) has been started. Barrage patrol of the Sound by the Training Flotilla of Commanding Admiral, Defenses, Baltic, of the Great and Little Belts by an anti-submarine unit.

Danzig Bay: Nothing to report.

Merchant Shipping. General mine control and submarine chase was not carried out because of the lack of forces.

The minelayers HANSESTADT DANZIG and KAISER are lying in Swinemuende; Group Baltic requests that they be armed for use in the war against merchant shipping.

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Submarine Warfare.

Baltic Sea:

U "23" returning from the North Sea was unsuccessfully attacked this morning by an enemy submarine with two torpedoes about 6 miles west of Schultzgrund lightship. U "18" (at waiting position in Samsøe Belt) was sent out against the enemy by Commander, Submarines.

North Sea:

Three submarines in the sea area of Utsire - Lindesnes ; one each southwest of the declared area, off the Firth of Moray, off the Orkney Islands, off the western outlet of the Skagerrak; two off the Firth of Forth .

U "36" reports: British steamer (974 tons) sunk, 19 neutral ships stopped.

U "23" has observed heavy incoming and outgoing traffic in the Firth of Forth (many Norwegian ships).

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Still in position in the North Sea: altogether  
9 submarines.

Atlantic: At present still five submarines in the  
operational area (U "28", U "31", U "32", U "35",  
U "53").

Homeward bound:

8 submarines, five of them still west of Scotland -  
Ireland.

In home waters:

18 submarines.

At the Submarine School:

7 submarines.

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Merchant Shipping:

Two further ships coming from overseas arrived in  
Norway. One ore ship from Narvik arrived home and  
further ships from Norway are under way.

Twelve of the 18 ships lying in Murmansk are to return  
home after refuelling etc. Six will remain in Murmansk,  
three of them being reserved for further use by the  
Navy (the CORDILLERA, ILLER, PHOENICIA).

2200

Official announcement in London that during the  
weekend of 17/19 Sept. about 110,000 tons of contraband  
were held back. Total value  $\frac{1}{2}$  a million Pounds Sterling.  
The total amount of manganese and oil seized by  
Great Britain since the outbreak of war is said to  
amount to more than 35,000 tons, i.e. about 7 % of  
the German annual import.

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morning      The Polish submarine ORZEL landed the Estonian guards in Gotland and put out again, allegedly with the intention of breaking through to England. According to information from Estonia, the submarine's bow was heavily damaged by ramming the quay wall when leaving Tallinn, so that the bow torpedoes may be assumed out of action.

1000      Submarine U "A" (submarine constructed for Turkey) was commissioned in Kiel and joined the 7th Submarine Flotilla.

1100      Conference on the Situation with Chief, Naval Staff:

Special Items:

1.      The assessment of the situation in the Baltic Sea after elimination of the Polish bases and naval forces makes a new order to Group Baltic for warfare in the Baltic Sea necessary.

Aims of warfare in the Baltic Sea are now as follows:

- (1.)      Protection of the Baltic Sea against the penetration of British submarines and therefore protection of the training area of the Fleet and of our merchant shipping.
- (2.)      Protection of our merchant shipping in the Kattegat.
- (3.)      War against merchant shipping in the Baltic Sea and Kattegat.

Regarding protection of the Baltic Sea, patrol is to be concentrated in the Baltic Sea entrances into the Kattegat. To this the escort service - even long-range escort - for transports to East Prussia must take second place in view of the number of forces available. This is quite possible since up to now no enemy offensive operations have taken place. Group West is likewise ordered to include the Kattegat also, apart from the North Sea and the Skagerrak, in the area of operations of the Fleet forces of Group West.

(For order to Groups Baltic and West see War Diary, Part C, Vol. III).

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2. Chief, Naval Staff orders the post of naval attache at Copenhagen filled at once.

1200

Information on the situation to forces in the Atlantic and to the Groups:

"Except for the fight for Warsaw, operations in the east are substantially completed. Begin of the relief of German troops by Russian forces according to plan. Final line of demarcation not yet fixed at all points; news on German-Russian controversies are enemy propaganda.

On the western front still only very slight combat activity by the French; three captive balloons and eight planes shot down.

Special reports on the enemy 21 Sept.:

Great Britain:

Atlantic:

The cruiser EXETER put into Montevideo on 19 Sept. for refuelling after escorting a convoy of eight ships. A stay of 24 hours was granted.

During the night of 20 Sept. a convoy left Gibraltar for England. According to a Spanish report the Strait of Gibraltar was patrolled by five destroyers on 19 Sept.

North Sea:

The large-scale and complete reconnaissance of the North Sea up to the area east of northern Scotland did not establish any enemy surface forces. However, shipping through the North Sea was established to an even greater extent than before. Altogether 268 ships were sighted, about 120 of them being steam trawlers. There were concentrations of trawlers, primarily in the Hoofden (northeastern entrance to the English Channel. Tr.N.) and east of the Wash. No formations of convoys were observed. Previous observations

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regarding air reconnaissance in the northern part of the North Sea and the presence of patrol vessels off the east coast of England were confirmed.

The commander of the naval dockyard at Halifax (Nova Scotia) reports that an enemy submarine was sighted off the coast of Nova Scotia and that destroyers took up the chase.

France:

Reports state that France will no longer embark her troops in Casablanca, but in Port Lyautey.

According to reports from Tetuan, German submarines are reported off Casablanca. Thereupon transports which had left returned to port. (At present there are none of our submarines in this area).

For detailed radio monitoring report of Naval Intelligence Division, Communications Intelligence, Radio Monitoring Reports (closed on 21 Sept. 39), with a survey on the activity of the main units, on convoys, and a summary of minelaying and disposition of forces see Part B, War Diary, Volume Radio Monitoring Reports.

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2000

Situation in the North Sea 21 Sept.:

Nothing to report.

Baltic Sea:

Kattegat: Submarine chase by the 2nd PT Boat Flotilla.

Western part of the Baltic Sea: Net lighter VALENCIA is laying the net barrage in the Sound; net lighter GENUA is still on the way. Barrage patrol in the Little Belt only by two motor minesweepers.

Central part of the Baltic Sea: Mine control service

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in connection with the escort of troop transports between Pillau and Swinemuende.

Danzig Bay: 1400 - 1540 shelling of the southern point of Hela and of the Polish batteries there by the SCHLESWIG HOLSTEIN and SCHLESIEN. Minesweeping by forces of Commander, Minesweepers.

Eastern part of the Baltic Sea: Russian forces at sea in and off the Gulf of Finland. According to press reports, the entrance to the White Sea and the entrance to Kronstadt have been mined by the Russians. Details as to the closed areas were given.

The minelayers HANSESTADT DANZIG and KAISER are to be equipped with guns as requested by Group Baltic and have been sent to Stettin and Hamburg for this purpose.

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Merchant Shipping:

1. The following is a survey of the disposition of German merchantmen as on 21 Sept.:

at home	:	493 ships	-	58 %
in neutral harbors	:	337 ships	-	39 %
at sea	:	9 ships	-	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ %
unknown	:	5 ships	-	$\frac{1}{2}$ %
reported lost	:	8 ships	-	1 %

Steam trawlers in Northern Waters or on the way from and to the fishing grounds: 9 ships

2. A further ship coming from overseas arrived in Norway.
3. All ships in Norwegian waters have been ordered to proceed by island route to Kopervik; there they

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are to wire their arrival and await the order to leave.

4. The Ministry of Transportation wishes to maintain regular ore traffic with Narvik, in order to have it run to its full capacity if Lulea fails through icing-up. The Norwegian ore traffic must be maintained also in the interest of shipping ore containing only small quantities of phosphorus from Kirkenes and Fordalen. Naval Staff is interested in the Narvik run in view of auxiliary ships to be brought out later and their unobtrusive absorption into merchant traffic. (For special experiences as regards the control, direction and escort of merchant shipping see Part C, Vol XI).

Submarine Warfare:

Atlantic:

U "28" on return passage from the Atlantic, so that there are still four submarines in the operational area of the Atlantic.

North Sea and Baltic Sea:

Situation unchanged. U "23" put into Kiel coming from the North Sea.

Special Items:

1. The British Ministry of Information announced that a British steamer, the name of which is kept secret, fired two rounds from her guns on a German submarine pursuing her. The submarine gave up the pursuit.
2. The captains of returned submarines report the following valuable experiences:
  - a. Merchant shipping established in the Atlantic in north-south direction west of the normal routes; in east-west direction no adequate observations. Convoys were observed.

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- b. British, also some neutral, steamers zigzag sharply, some without lights. British steamers immediately radioed SSS with exact position when stopped. British planes were then sent out to combat submarines.
  - c. British steamers repeatedly tried to escape. Some are armed. One returned fire.
  - d. So far no misuse of neutral steamers.
  - e. Patrol: In the Bay of Biscay single French submarines and destroyers. In the area of the Faroes - Shetlands single destroyers and patrol boats. No patrol established in the areas Faroes - Iceland and Shetlands - Norway.
3. A British report to Sidney speaks of a decrease of the blockade during the second week of the war. During the first week 30 Allied merchantmen are said to have been sunk and since then only ten further British merchantmen.

Chamberlain spoke before the House of Commons on 20 Sept. (For excerpt of the speech see War Diary, Part B, Volume V, page 6). Press comments emphasize the determination of Great Britain and France to strive by all possible means for final victory even through a long war.

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1100 Conference on the Situation with Chief, Naval Staff.Special Items:

1. Submarine Warfare: The fact that orders were issued to our submarines to desist from any offensive operations against France - which means also, for instance, not attacking French battleships such as the DUNKERQUE and STRASSBOURG - creates impossible situations for the submarines, which are operating under most difficult conditions. Considering the present French attitude, this order is no longer justified. Chief, Naval Staff will request the Fuehrer to amend it.

The fact, observed several times, that British merchantmen when stopped by our submarines call in planes for their defense by emergency call SSS by radio, as well as the fact that British merchantmen are seen to be armed for the purpose of combatting submarines, and the necessity of regarding ships proceeding without lights as enemy ones, force us to intensify the war against merchant shipping. According to previous statements, the Foreign Office has no objections to such an intensification. Chief, Naval Staff will also report these questions to the Fuehrer.

2. According to reports of our air reconnaissance, merchant shipping of neutral countries from the Skagerrak and Norway to Great Britain has taken on such proportions that any delay in drastic operations against merchant shipping by surface forces also is to be avoided at all costs. Chief, Naval Staff attaches the greatest importance to the offensive blow against merchant shipping, so far scheduled by Group West for 26/27 Sept., being carried out soon, even if there are not yet ten destroyers available. Later on, the continuous harassing of merchant traffic in the Kattegat and Skagerrak is to be attempted by all possible means.

Upon enquiry regarding the latter point, Group West considers an advance in the date of the operation impossible in view of the state of readiness of the destroyers.

3. Chief, Naval Staff orders considerations on the imminent formation of submarine escort flotillas since, according to the experiences during World War I, several such units are needed, and they should be made available so that they will be ready if needed.

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Special Reports on the Enemy 22 Sept.

Great Britain:

Atlantic:

The British Radio warns the population against the rumor that the battle cruisers HOOD, RENOWN, and REPULSE have been sunk.

It must be assumed that the British battle cruisers have been at sea already for some time, possibly for operations against German Atlantic forces and that rumors have now arisen, in connection with the sinking of the COURAGEOUS, on the whereabouts of these ships.

The attention of the Radio Monitoring Service is again drawn to the special importance of establishing the position of the British battle cruisers.

A British aircraft carrier (probably the HERMES) was in the western part of the Channel on 19 Sept.

According to a report of the Naval Attaché in Argentina, the behavior of British warships off the coast of South America points to the fact that the enemy is less interested in intercepting German merchantmen than in escorting his own, possibly in view of the presumed presence of German submarines.

North Sea:

Our air reconnaissance flown at noon for the observation of steamer traffic again sighted no naval vessels, but lively steamer traffic from Skagen in a westerly direction. Reports from Denmark indicate that shipping from Esbjerg to Harwich is being planned systematically.

News on the formation of convoys from Jutland and southern Norway is not yet confirmed.

Various reports speak of British patrol (armed trawlers) off the Norwegian coast.

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Baltic Sea:

No reports on the enemy.

France:

According to Radio Monitoring reports:

Patrol activity off the west coast of France.  
A bearing was taken on two French submarines in the direction of the Bay of Biscay - northwest coast of Spain.

It is possible that convoys and important transports are escorted by submarines.

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Special political events:

1. The German Ambassador in Ankara reports that although negotiations between Turkey and Great Britain on the settlement of final treaties of alliance are making progress, the contents are restricted considerably compared with earlier ones. Should a conflict in the Mediterranean arise between Italy on the one side and Great Britain and France on the other, Turkey will remain neutral and regard the treaty as becoming effective only if herself attacked.
2. Greek-Italian declaration on the continuation of friendly relations.
3. The Copenhagen conference of the Scandinavian countries ended with the decision on a strictly uniform policy of neutrality by Denmark, Norway, Finland, Sweden, and Iceland. By means of negotiations with both sides they hope to reach an agreement whereby their trade relations (also with the belligerents) will be respected. (For details see War Diary, Part B, Volume V, pages 8/9).
4. Roosevelt spoke before Congress on 21 Sept. in favor of the amendment of the Law of Neutrality and the

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lifting of the embargo on arms. The amendment of the Law should be effected while maintaining the neutral attitude of the United States. The speech seems to be restrained in view of the general trend.

Military Situation:

a. North Sea: Nothing to report. The scheduled operation against merchant shipping by the 1st PT Boat Flotilla had to be given up on account of the weather.

(Air reconnaissance carried out to locate shipping in the central part of the North Sea has again proved very informative. It seems quite possible that during operations by surface forces against merchant shipping, planes of the naval air formations acting as shadowers can guide the surface forces engaged in these operations to worthwhile objectives).

b. Baltic Sea:

Sound: Barrage patrol in the Sound is reinforced by boats of the 2nd PT Boat Flotilla. The rest of the Flotilla is engaged in submarine chase off the southeast coast of Sweden. The net barrage in the Sound is being completed.

Danzig Bay: Continuation of minesweeping off and in Gdynia; the sea area up to the 10 m. line was found to be free of mines.

Situation on Hela unchanged.

Naval Air Force: Air reconnaissance carried out over the central part of the Baltic Sea and Sound, Belts, and Kattegat did not sight the enemy but gave a survey of steamer traffic. Photographic reconnaissance was carried out over Hela.

A reconnaissance He 60 plane made an emergency landing off the Swedish coast and is drifting in territorial waters. The plane and the crew are to be interned. It is requested that this should not be done since, according to its report, the plane made the emergency landing outside territorial waters.

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Eastern Part of the Baltic Sea: Russian forces at sea in the Gulf of Finland.

New Units: The 7th Patrol Boat Flotilla, at present consisting of seven ships, and the 11th and 17th Minesweeper Flotillas were commissioned.

c. Submarine Warfare:

Atlantic: U "53" and U "32" on return passage. Thus there are only two submarines (U "31" and U "35") left in the operational area.

There is no news from U "39".

According to plan the submarine ought to have returned home already. The absence of any news from U "39" (Commander- Lieutenant Glattes) in spite of several calls to report its position, gives rise to great anxiety. In connection with the fate of the submarine, a British radio report on the arrival of the first German Navy prisoners at a London station deserves attention.

The effects of submarine psychosis are expressed in Roosevelt's speech, in which he speaks of two unidentified submarines off the Canadian coast, as well as also in the news of submarine-chase and submarine combat by French and British forces in the Mediterranean.

North Sea: Submarine situation according to plan. U "12" leaves for the English Channel for attacks on troop transports and warships in the Channel area.

The British report that a German submarine was overrun by a steam trawler in the course of the sinking of the British steamer AKENSIDE, and that two warships had warned the steamer beforehand, seems to indicate that armed (possibly camouflaged) steam trawlers are being employed off the Norwegian coast for systematic submarine chase.

Baltic Sea: Nothing to report.

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d. Merchant Shipping:

1. The Ministry of Transportation has recalled eleven further ships from Spain, South America and East Africa.
2. Transportation Group, Maritime Shipping reports that for the time being there is no lack of ore ships. Even for the future very adequate transport space is available.
3. The Swedish Navy inquired whether Germany would allow neutral ships to pass through to neutral harbors overseas. The Attaché replied that it would be dangerous if the neutral ships pass through British control harbors, as for instance Kirkwell, since in that case our commanders would rightly have to presume the cargo to be bound for the enemy.
4. There are signs that, apart from the lively traffic off the Swedish coast north of the Sound barrage, considerable merchant traffic is proceeding from harbors in eastern Sweden over land to harbors in the west of Sweden and Norway and from here on to England. The extension of present merchant control to the Kattegat and Skagerrak is therefore necessary.
5. Returned from overseas: one steamer; arrived as far as Norway: one steamer. Various steamers on the way home from Norway.

In view of the presence of enemy submarines in the Baltic Sea (the ORZEL), the Russian Navy offered to provide escorts for our K.d.F ("Strength through Joy") ships sent to Leningrad (to fetch the crews of the Murmansk ships).

In our reply we thanked Russia, accepting the escort if Russia believes this necessary, since we ourselves are not in a position to judge the situation in the Gulf of Finland. It is not planned to have the ships met later by German escorts, however. Thereupon Russia dropped the idea, pointing out that the Polish submarine ORZEL has in the meantime been sighted off Gotland.

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The Irish Government announced its intention to:

1. prohibit operations within Irish territorial waters, harbors and roads,
2. prohibit sojourn in territorial waters, save in cases of emergency (up to 24 hours),
3. prohibit armed submarines to proceed through territorial waters,
4. prohibit planes to fly into Irish territory.

(For detailed announcement as well as statements of the Embassy in Ireland regarding submarine warfare see Part B, Volume V, page 12).

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morning            Flight of Chief, Naval Staff to Danzig for a  
discussion with the Fuehrer:

Based on experiences and considerations gathered from warfare so far, Chief, Naval Staff submits the following fundamental questions to the Fuehrer:

1. The restriction issued by the political leaders to desist from offensive operations against France is no longer strategically justified for submarines in the long run, considering the present attitude of France and its effects which greatly limit submarine warfare and impair its successes. It is requested that operations against France to the same extent as up to now against Great Britain be sanctioned. The Fuehrer consented.

2. The experiences in the war against merchant shipping have made it necessary to regard vessels proceeding without lights and such as help the enemy by sending out radio signals when seized (for instance, call up enemy planes for combatting submarines) as enemy vessels and to sink them immediately. The Fuehrer agreed.

3. Operations without warning against merchantmen definitely recognized as enemy vessels because of assumed armament (except definite passenger ships). The Fuehrer agreed.

4. Measures against Great Britain in case the war against Great Britain and France is to be fought to its end. Plan for a "Siege of Britain."

5. Use of the pocket battleships in the war against merchant shipping.

6. Plans for use of the battleships.

7. Large-scale extension of the submarine construction program up to an increase of 20 to 30 submarines monthly.

8. Transfer of submarines of foreign navies to Germany. Equipment of auxiliary vessels in neutral harbors. Entry into Russian harbors.

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(For details see notes of Chief, Naval Staff on the discussion with the Fuehrer, War Diary, Part C, Vol. VII.)

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Reports on the Enemy 23 Sept.

a. Great Britain:

Apart from the declared area in the Heligoland Bight, announced already at the outbreak of war, the British Admiralty announced a further declared area off the east coast of England. The area extends from the latitude of Newcastle up to about the latitude of the Humber. There is a strip about 20 miles wide at a distance of about 15 miles parallel to the English coast.

The position of this declared area is obviously aimed at protecting by minefields that area on the east coast of England which was particularly vulnerable to shelling by German forces according to the experiences of World War I.

Regarding enemy activity in the North Sea, the Radio Monitoring Service reveals the usual picture. Reports of returning fishermen confirm previous information that there are no British patrol forces between Iceland, the Faroes, and Norway, but that air patrol is being carried out. The waters around Iceland are said to be free of enemy patrol forces.

The British patrol vessel KITTIWAKE (Channel) struck a mine and was heavily damaged; there were also casualties.

The cruiser ACHILLES put into Callao (Peru) on 21 Sept. and put out again after taking on provisions.

The British steamer QUEEN MARY with British reserves aboard is to put out from New York for England in about a week. (The ship has been painted grey).

The cruiser YORK, previously off the Canadian coast, is now in home waters.

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b. France:

Three old French battleships (the BRETAGNE, LORRAINE, PROVENCE) were observed in Gibraltar. Commanding Admiral, Atlantic Fleet (probably aboard the DUNKERQUE) at sea on 23 Sept. about 120 miles southwest of Brest. The aircraft-carrier BEARN is in the Bay of Biscay area (probably near the battleships).

According to an agent's report, four French submarines of the SFAX class are said to be operating in the North Sea.

Heavy convoy activity is reported in the Mediterranean.

Group West received the following information by telephone:

"There is great interest in the cutting of British cables in the North Sea as well as of the overseas cable off Land's End.

According to information from the Marine Cable Works at Nordenham, this will be quite possible with special grapnels lying in Nordenham.

Nordenham has experienced ships' officers (former submarine officers or reserve officers) who are willing to assist.

Group West is asked to arrange matters accordingly regarding the North Sea, to communicate with the Marine Cable Works at Nordenham which has exact cable charts, and to inform Commanding Admiral, Submarines regarding the transocean cable off Land's End. This measure is considered very effective above all for making the convoy system more difficult."

Order from Naval Staff to Organization Division to carry out certain demobilization measures in the area of the Navy in the Baltic Sea.

In the interest of concentration for further operations and utmost economy in all fields it is necessary - now that military operations in the east are substantially reduced - to carry out certain demobilization measures from the point of view that only such tasks of a military, organizational, and administrative nature must be maintained in the east as are necessary in view of the general naval situation.

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Purely tactical measures (for instance transfer of naval forces, exchange or transfer of anti-aircraft guns) will still be dealt with by Naval Staff. At present the measures in question involve demobilization and restrictions in certain fields, such as permanent manning of coastal batteries, manning of naval artillery battalions on the coasts of East Pomerania and East Prussia, establishment of sub-depots, commandeering of motor vehicles, horses etc., in favor of other tasks or of economy.

Since there are at present no important tasks in the North Sea for the pocket battleship ADMIRAL SCHEER (speed limited), the SCHEER, which is to be transferred from Group West to the Baltic Sea for exercises and use as gunnery training ship and target ship, is assigned to Group Baltic for use in the war against merchant shipping.

However, owing to the shortage of ships for anti-submarine escort and the fact that the Polish submarine ORZEL is still in that area, Group Baltic does not yet see any possibility at present of using the SCHEER against merchant shipping.

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Military Situation 23 Sept.:

a. North Sea:

Nothing to report.

b. Baltic Sea:

Western Part of the Baltic Sea:

Laying of the net barrage in the Sound was delayed by the weather. Only part of the barrage has been laid. Barrage "Jade 1" was laid. Patrol north of the Sound barrage was withdrawn because of the weather. Submarine chase in the Sound by the 2nd PT Boat Flotilla.

Danzig Bay:

The battleship SCHLESSEN and SCHLESWIG HOLSTEIN shelled Hela South from 0930 to 1400. Hits observed.

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The 1st Minesweeper Flotilla supported a reconnaissance thrust by the Army on Hela by shelling the Polish 7.5 cm battery at Ceynova.

Continuation of minesweeping by units of Commander, Minesweepers under cover of fire from the battleships. The 3rd Stuka Squadron of the 186th Group attacked railroad installations near Kussfeld on Hela.

c. Submarine Warfare:

Atlantic:

No changes.

North Sea:

Submarine activities off the south coast of Norway resulted in more successes. Two Finnish steamers with contraband were seized and, as bringing in was impossible, sunk.

U "3" on return passage from waiting position at the southwest point of the declared area.

Baltic Sea:

U "18" returning from Samsoe Belt, so that there are now no more boats in position in the Baltic Sea and in the Kattegat.

d. Merchant Shipping:

1. The German steamer LEIPZIG encountered the cruiser ACHILLES in the harbor of Callao (Peru) on 21 Sept. The attempt of the cruiser to intercept the LEIPZIG was frustrated by the intervention of the Peruvian port commission.

2. According to a report from Goeteborg all lines from there to England are still being run by Swedish ships so far without disturbance. The cargoes consist mainly of iron, steel, paper, and cellulose.

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3. Shipping from Esbjerg to Harwich is to be resumed at first by two ships weekly. Departure at night.

4. The British Government shows great interest in the chartering of ships of neutral Baltic countries.

5. The German packet steamer services to Sweden are busy. Shipping to Finland is to be increased owing to large amounts of cargo.

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1100 Conference on the Situation with Chief, Naval Staff.

Special Items:

1. Decision: Gdynia is to become a naval harbor and will be assigned a fortress commandant. Preparations are to be made immediately.

2. Chief, Naval Staff agrees with the view of Group Baltic that the pocket battleship SCHEER should not be used in the war against merchant shipping at the moment owing to the lack of anti-submarine escort, as any setback in the Baltic Sea must be avoided and sinking of the ship by the Polish submarine ORZEL, which is still in that area, must be quite out of the question.

3. Chief, Naval Staff gives a survey of discussions with the Fuehrer; the new instructions necessary in view of the Fuehrer's approval are to be issued. Effective at once the war against merchant shipping is also to be launched against France. Measures against France the same as against Great Britain. The naval air force may be used in the war against merchant shipping in compliance with prize regulations. The necessary preparations for carrying out a new, extended submarine construction program are to be made. Investigations are to be made as to what restrictions can be made in the armament program in favor of submarine construction. The building of minesweepers and escort destroyers is to be continued at all events.

4. Sanctioning of measures against France does not mean that the Fuehrer has no hopes still of dividing France and Great Britain and achieving an early peace. The Fuehrer does not expect strong military intervention by Great Britain. He intends within the next weeks to put before the Commanders in Chief of the branches of the Armed Forces further developments in the political situation and the line to be followed in military matters. Preparations for the "Siege of Britain" are to be made in case the war with Great Britain must be fought to its end.

1530 In view of the Fuehrer's approval the Groups and Commanding Admiral, Submarines receive the following order:

"1. Naval warfare against France the same as against Great Britain. Procedure against French warships, war planes,

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convoys, troop transports, merchantmen in and out of convoy, French goods and contraband to France as against Great Britain.

2. Attacks on enemy passenger steamers even under escort is prohibited as before; exception only if definitely recognized as troop transports.

3. Use of mines against France is sanctioned.

4. Armed force is to be used against all merchantmen using radio after being stopped. They are subject to seizure or sinking without exception. Rescue of the crews is to be attempted."

The naval air forces are permitted to carry out war against merchant shipping in compliance with prize regulations.

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Special Reports on the Enemy:

1. Great Britain:

North Sea:

- a. Submarine U "24" reports: One destroyer torpedoed on 24 Sept. (submarine was off Pentland Firth).
- b. According to reliable reports, Denmark, Sweden and Norway have forbidden their ships to participate in convoys.
- c. A Finnish report reveals that there are no enemy minefields between Norway and England.

Atlantic:

According to a report from Gibraltar of 22 Sept., a British destroyer of the D class was sunk by a submarine probably in the area of Gibraltar.

On 23 Sept. a British convoy consisting of 20 ships and escorted by destroyers left Gibraltar.

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According to a report of the Attaché in Buenos Aires, enemy merchantmen proceeding under escort put out from Montevideo to the north.

2. France:

Fast armed submarine chasers are said to be operating off the west coast of France camouflaged as old fishing smacks.

3. Poland:

- a. A Polish destroyer of the GROM class put into Gibraltar on 22 Sept. (for patrol duties?).
- b. A later report from Tallinn states that before its internment the Polish submarine ORZEL had patrolled between Gotland and Latvia for some time. The submarine is said to have had strict orders not to attack merchantmen. Apparently, for some reason, it did not go into action at all.

Own Military Situation:

Atlantic:

Nothing to report.

North Sea:

Minesweeping and submarine chase affected by bad weather.

Baltic Sea:

War against Merchant Shipping between Landsort and Trelleborg by two reserve patrol boats.

Danzig Bay:

Shelling of batteries on Hela South by the SCHLESIIEN and SCHLESWIG HOLSTEIN. Good hits. Continuation of minesweeping. Photographic reconnaissance by the naval air force.

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Central part of the Baltic Sea:

Transfer of the 23rd Infantry Division from Koenigsberg to Stettin escorted by the BREMSE and boats of the Torpedo School and the 7th Minesweeper Flotilla.

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Submarine Warfare.

Atlantic:

Sinking of a British tanker north of the Faroes.

North Sea:

U "24" returns from its area of operations after sinking a British destroyer.

U "36" is engaged in operations against merchant shipping off Aalesund and Kristiansund.

A Swedish freighter with contraband (cellulose) is sunk off the Norwegian coast. Capture of a steamer carrying pit-props off the Skagerrak.

Special Items:

Commanding Admiral, Submarines reports that on 6 Sept. the British steamer MANAAR tried to escape after a warning shot, when ordered to stop by submarine U "38"; the steamer sent out a radio message and opened fire from her stern gun. She was not abandoned until hit 4 or 5 times and was subsequently sunk.

Submarines receive the following order by Commanding Admiral, Submarines:

1. Previous special orders regarding warfare against France are cancelled. Warfare as against Great Britain.
  2. No operations against passenger steamers, even proceeding under escort, unless definitely recognized as troop transports.
  3. Merchantmen using their radio after being stopped are to be captured or sunk.
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Merchant Shipping.

1. Resumption of Norwegian shipping to England, though not under British escort, is confirmed.
2. The Ministry of Transportation reports that the question of coaling in Norway has been solved. German ships are to receive coal in compliance with a special agreement.
3. Various German ships are returning from Norway.

In the future ore shipping to Norway will be carried out according to plan. The Ministry of Transportation has instructed the Vereinigte Kohlenwerke to have one or two ships proceed to Norway weekly.

4. At present there are 19 German steam trawlers fishing in Northern Waters or under way there.

The sinking of the two Finnish ships on 23 Sept. and today's sinking of the Swedish ship gave rise to great agitation in the Scandinavian countries. The press asserts that it was not definitely known that cellulose is contraband and concludes from the sinkings an intensification of German war against merchant shipping.

The Naval Staff has the impression that the Foreign Office has, without informing Naval Staff, given certain assurances to the Scandinavian countries as to the possible continuance of trade connections with the countries at war with Germany. There can be no doubt that the continuance of merchant traffic may only extend to non-contraband. Any assurance other than that must lead to extremely undesirable political and military consequences. It must be the task of the Navy to operate against British sea communications in a ruthless manner. Military and economic warfare against Great Britain must be aimed at complete interruption of any merchant traffic.

Discussion and settlement of these questions with the Foreign Office is urgently necessary.

The railway battery "Gneisenau" will be handed back to the Navy by the Army. Group Baltic intends to use it against Hela. Transports are intended by the ferry DEUTSCHLAND as the Dirschau bridge is not yet restored.

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Commander in Chief, Air Force orders that the 3rd Stuka Squadron of the 186th Group be put under the 2nd Air Force at once.

The withdrawal of this squadron is opposed to the demand of Naval Staff who will feel the loss of the squadron for breaking resistance on Hela peninsula as well as for operations against naval targets in the North Sea all the more as, by order of Armed Forces High Command, the naval air units are tactically assigned to Commander in Chief, Navy and the order of Commander in Chief, Air Force is, therefore, contradictory to the basic instruction issued in agreement with the Fuehrer.

On enquiry Russia stated her agreement to the equipment of the steamer ILLER as an auxiliary warship.

No reply to the same enquiry has yet been received from Japan.

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Items of Political Importance.

France:

Enthusiasm of troops and population for the war is slight. Intensified war propaganda. There is still no data on a large-scale attack against the West Wall. According to agents' reports the French Government is calling for greater use of British forces on the continent and is of opinion that without more active warfare the morale in France cannot be preserved for very long.

Great Britain:

Confused, disunited attitude; to some extent angry frame of mind against the Government. Greater readiness for action in the military sphere is scarcely to be expected. Emphasis on economic warfare; delaying tactics only. Seditious propaganda.

Russia:

There are no doubts of the thoroughly honest attitude towards Germany. Stronger pressure on the Baltic States and the Balkans

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is to be expected. Great Britain is trying to draw Russia to her side through Turkey.

Rumania:

According to various reports, Great Britain looks upon the game there as lost. The British guarantee is considered without value in Rumania. Fears with regard to the attitude of Russia, particularly with regard to Bessarabia. Association with Germany is sought. The new Prime Minister is pro-German. At the moment there are no doubts as to the neutrality of Rumania.

Hungary:

Very disturbing border conflicts with Slovakia. Attitude of the moneyed classes pro-Polish, of the poorer classes partly Russian-Communist. No clear attitude towards Germany.

Yugoslavia:

Neutral. Greatly impressed by the Russian advance in Poland. At present no reason for fears.

Bulgaria:

Possibility of an agreement between Russia and Bulgaria. Subject the Dobrudzha. Attitude towards Germany satisfactory.

Turkey:

Stronger tendency to complete neutrality. Attempt to improve relations with Russia. Great Britain apparently forced to abandon Turkey.

Spain:

Attitude that of a friendly neutral. However, tendency to give positive support to Germany is slight in view of Great Britain.

1100 Conference on the Situation with Chief, Naval Staff.

Special Items:

1. Considerations are to be worked out immediately regarding

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the use of the pocket battleships in the war against merchant shipping at present. Possibilities regarding repair, retreat and equipment in foreign harbors (Russia, Japan) are to be investigated; results are to be reported to the pocket battleships.

(For considerations on the use of the pocket battleships see Part C, Vol. I).

2. The form of a warning to neutral countries against ships proceeding without lights, in zig-zags and against making use of their radio when stopped etc. is to be discussed with the Foreign Office. It must not reveal the intentions of Naval Staff regarding the future war against merchant shipping.

3. At the same time the question of the necessity of sparing friendly neutral countries (Russia, Japan, Italy, Spain) when carrying out the war against merchant shipping is to be discussed with the Foreign Office.

4. The Fuehrer has ordered that the skilled workers in the Armed Forces who are urgently needed by the armament factories are to be released on request. This order is of special importance for the Navy in view of the submarine construction program.

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Considerations on the use of the Danube Flotilla.

Considerations of Naval Staff and discussions with the Commander of the Danube Flotilla have revealed that at the moment there are so few tasks for the Flotilla, and that in the near future also the number of these will be so limited that a further expansion of this Flotilla-with the exception of the completion of escort ships and minesweepers and the construction of armored motor boats- does not appear justified at the moment.

The following tasks remain:

1. Continuation of control and patrol activity near Bratislava.
2. Maintenance of the present strength of vessels and shore installations.

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3. Commissioning and short trial as well as maintenance of the guard ship BECHELAREN, of the two minesweepers and of the two escort ships. In view of the necessity of saving personnel to the greatest possible extent, these vessels can be commissioned one after the other. Commissioning is to be made as short as the most necessary trials allow.

The Flotilla as such is to be maintained for carrying out these assignments. A reinforcement of personnel is unnecessary with the exception of the experts needed for the trial of the newly constructed vessels. Present personnel is to be reduced to the number necessary for the above tasks.

At the beginning of the winter lay-up the Flotilla is to be put into a kind of reserve state, reducing personnel further.

1700

In accordance with the plan for sending out the pocket battleships, the following preliminary order is sent to the DEUTSCHLAND and GRAF SPEE:

"Radiogram 1643/25: The resumption of operations against merchant shipping is to be expected shortly."

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Special Reports on the Enemy:

Great Britain:

1. Atlantic:

- a. On the patrol of the Strait of Gibraltar it is reported from Spain:

Permanent patrol service by three sub-divisions of two destroyers each.- No fixed positions - control of papers in the Strait, thorough search of merchantmen off Gibraltar. - Apart from the harbor entrance so far no laying of nets or barrages observed.

A convoy leaves Gibraltar on the average every night.

- b. The heavy cruiser YORK, so far in home waters, on the way to Canada.

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Disposition of British Atlantic forces is presumed to be the following according to information available:

aa. Assigned to the newly established headquarters of Commander in Chief, South Atlantic:

off the west coast of Africa:

the cruisers NEPTUNE, CAPETOWN, DANAE,  
submarine CLYDE,  
two gunboats,

on the east coast of South America:

the cruisers AJAX, CUMBERLAND, EXETER, DESPATCH,  
the destroyers HOTSPUR, HAVOCK  
submarine SEVERN.

bb. Operating on the Canadian coast:

the cruisers BERWICK, YORK  
the destroyers SAGUENAY, SKEENA

cc. West Indies, Bermuda:

the cruisers ORION, PERTH  
the destroyers LAURENT, FRASER  
two gunboats.

dd. Area of the Azores, Canaries:

two cruisers, several destroyers.

(Survey is transmitted to the pocket battleships in the Atlantic).

c. Naval forces in the south Atlantic receive an important report (apparently on the departure of German ships from neutral harbors).

2. North Sea:

According to radio monitoring reports received in the afternoon, the British Home Fleet was at sea



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this morning in the strength of five battleships, three cruisers, and numerous destroyers. Courses: south to southwest. Speed: 20 knots. Inquiry regarding position indicates the area west of Norway. Apart from strong enemy air reconnaissance (in the direction of the Skagerrak) our air reconnaissance sighted enemy destroyers southwest of the Dogger Bank and about 90 miles west of Lindesnes. Our planes believe they determined use of the German recognition signal by enemy destroyers.

Group West and Commander, Submarines are informed of the possibility of the presence of heavy enemy forces off the west coast of Norway.

France:

According to radio monitoring report: two French submarines proceeding to the West Indies.

According to a report from the Naval Attaché in Madrid, armed French steam trawlers are off the southwest coast of Spain. Guns are camouflaged by boards.

Submarine-cruiser SURCOUF in the area between Cape Verde and the Canaries.

Neutral countries: The American cruiser TRENTON and two destroyers (Commander Rear Admiral Courtney) put into Lisbon on 23 Sept. Two further destroyers put into Ponta Delgada on 24 Sept.

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Military Situation 25 Sept.

Atlantic:

Nothing to report.

North Sea:

One of our planes was fired on by an enemy destroyer south of the Dogger Bank. A squadron was sent out to the area

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of the northern part of the Hoofden (northeastern entrance to the English Channel. Tr.N.) - Dogger Bank for further reconnaissance, in order to spot the enemy destroyer and maintain contact. British planes avoid aerial combat when meeting our planes. British destroyers call up German planes with the German call sign "Fl ar" and German recognition signal, so that our own planes allow themselves to be deceived. Thus a change in the recognition signal code is necessary.

Baltic Sea:

Western part of the Baltic Sea:

Patrol of the Sound and of the Belts by forces of Commanding Admiral, Defenses, Baltic according to plan.

Central part of the Baltic Sea:

Transfer of eleven troop transports from Pillau to Stettin under escort of boats of the Torpedo School and minesweepers.

Danzig Bay:

Shelling of Polish batteries on Hela by the SCHLESIEIN and SCHLESWIG HOLSTEIN with heavy and medium guns from distances of 140 - 165 km. Strong resistance by 15 cm shore batteries.

Continuation of minesweeping north of Gdynia. The Stuka squadron was sent out for destruction of the railway line Heisternest - Kussfeld.

Change in the disposition of forces:

The 11th Submarine Chaser Flotilla was commissioned. The Anti-Submarine Unit at the disposal of the Submarine School.

The Torpedo School Flotilla likewise at the disposal of the Submarine School as torpedo-recovery unit from 27 Sept.

Submarine Warfare:

Atlantic:

U "31" on return passage owing to a lack of fuel,

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so that at present only U "35" is operating in the western part of the Channel.

U "26" returning from a long-range operation put into Wilhelmshaven.

North Sea:

U "24" on return passage from Pentland Firth. Transfer to the position of U "24" was suggested to U "14".

The Radio Monitoring Service reports further successes in the war against merchant shipping. The British radio announces the sinking of a French collier (2,700 tons).

The Swedish steamer SILESIA was seized and sunk this afternoon when proceeding from Goeteborg to Hull with piece goods and boards.

Merchant Shipping:

1. Twelve German steamers homeward bound in the Atlantic; one steamer coming from overseas reached home.
2. According to various reports, Goeteborg has been selected as the main port of transshipment for shipping between England and the Baltic States.
3. Great Britain is looking for Spanish ships for the transport of her Spanish pyrites. Spain, however, has prohibited shipping with the belligerents, so that Great Britain will probably have to draw upon her own shipping.
4. Reports from Gibraltar speak of a continuous confiscation of goods from neutral and also Italian ships by the British.

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afternoon

Discussion between Naval Staff and the Foreign Office in order to clarify the views taken by both sides on the practical conduct of the war against merchant shipping and its effects on the neutral countries. (For further details see Part C, Vol. VIII).

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1100 The considerations of Naval Staff as to whether the pocket battleships are now to be used in the war against merchant shipping, or whether it is more appropriate to keep them away still, have led to the following conclusion:

1. The pocket battleships have been in the Atlantic since the outbreak of war. Owing to the lack of prospects because of cautious warfare against France, the hesitant conduct of warfare by Great Britain, and the stoppage of enemy merchant traffic they were ordered on 5 Sept. to withdraw far from the area of operations and thus not to participate in the war against merchant shipping. As a result of their present complete withdrawal they are not in a position to exercise any operational effect on the enemy. They have consumed already over a quarter of their fuel; after about 1½ months more the time will come when it will no longer be possible to use them in operations against merchant shipping as overhauling of their engines will become necessary; thus there is danger that they will waste their force without having taken part in operations. The psychological effect of their inactivity on the crews may not be overlooked. In addition no submarines are engaged in the war against merchant shipping in the Atlantic at present, so that for this reason alone it is desirable to send out the pocket battleships soon to harass enemy sea communications.
2. Meanwhile the restrictions so far existing for warfare against France have been cancelled by the Fuehrer's decision; thus a substantial motive for withdrawal of the pocket battleships is eliminated.
3. The news on large-scale commencement of enemy merchant traffic in the form of convoys justifies the expectation that particularly valuable targets will now offer themselves to the pocket battleships.
4. The British battle-cruisers, the main enemies of our pocket battleships, have been established by the Radio Monitoring Service and air reconnaissance to be in home waters or in the North Sea, so that they do not represent any direct threat to the pocket battleships at present. The French battleships DUNKERQUE and STRASSBOURG have also been established near home waters.

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5. Naval Staff is convinced that the moment has now come when the pocket battleships must be sent out for a heavy thrust against enemy merchant traffic. The success of operations by the pocket battleships and the diversionary effect on the enemy will be all the stronger if the pocket battleships appear both in the North and South Atlantic at the same time. Their present positions are unknown to Naval Staff. If both ships are in the South Atlantic or one in the South Atlantic and one in the Indian Ocean, it is imperative for the achievement of quick successes to have them advance to that area which they have chosen themselves as their operational area. Instruction of the pocket battleships on their disposition as assumed by Naval Staff (the DEUTSCHLAND assumed to be in Northern Waters, the SPEE in the South Atlantic) is necessary so that the commanders may understand the basic ideas of Naval Staff when issuing further instructions.

The order to the pocket battleships, transmitted by radiograms 1743/26 and 1822/26, thus reads as follows:

1. War against merchant shipping to be resumed by thrusts into the area of operations in accordance with operational order. Former special orders concerning France are cancelled. Warfare as against Great Britain.
2. Naval Staff presumes: The DEUTSCHLAND in Northern Waters, the GRAF SPEE in the South Atlantic. If assumption is wrong on no account make correction by radio but advance into the area of operations intended there.
3. In case of engagement with the enemy or being reported by merchantmen report position and intentions.

(For detailed review of the enemy situation and our own situation see War Diary, Part C, Vol. I).

1400

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Since food supplies in enemy countries are largely government controlled, and in retaliation for the ruthless British blockade, the following is ordered:

"Food, with the exception of fruit and fresh vegetables, bound for enemy countries is to be assumed as destined

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for the State, even if papers read to order or to individual persons."

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Special Reports on the Enemy 26 Sept.

Atlantic:

According to radio monitoring reports, forces in the South Atlantic have been reinforced by the cruiser VINDICTIVE and the submarine REGENT. The seaplane carrier ALBATROSS was spotted in the area of West Africa.

There was a British aircraft carrier near the Isle of Wight on 26 Sept. (probably the HERMES).

North Sea:

Reconnaissance carried out at 0900 for the purpose of establishing shipping off the Skagerrak contacted heavy enemy forces at 1045 about 100 miles west-southwest of Lindesnes. Further reconnaissance reports reveal the following picture:

In the central part of the North Sea three groups of enemy forces on westerly courses, medium speed:

- 1st Group: 2 battle cruisers, 1 aircraft carrier and destroyers;
- 2nd Group: 2 battleships (NELSON), 1 aircraft carrier, several light cruisers and destroyers;
- 3rd Group: Cruisers and destroyers about 100 miles southwest of the heavy forces.

According to later examination of all reports, it is possible that only one aircraft carrier was engaged in the operation. In this case it was the ARK ROYAL or FURIOUS. Both battle cruisers were positively identified as such and their presence in the North Sea is also confirmed by the Radio Monitoring Service. Since photographic reconnaissance spotted a battle cruiser of the REPULSE class in Scapa the same

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afternoon, it must have been the HOOD and a REPULSE class ship.

Own Situation:

In the morning our air reconnaissance contacted the heavy enemy forces north and west of the Great Fisher Bank. Despite strong enemy fighter defense and anti-aircraft gunfire the shadowing planes succeeded in guiding four Stukas Ju 88 and one squadron of He 111's of the 10th Air Division to the attack by sending out direction-finder signals.

Result:

One 500 kg bomb by a Ju 88 hit on an aircraft carrier.  
Two 250 kg bombs by He 111 hit on 1 battleship.  
One miss by a Ju 88 on a cruiser.

Results of hits by a Ju 88 on another battleship and a second aircraft carrier (?) were not observed owing to interception of the plane. The fate of the hit aircraft carrier, which was not sighted again by further air reconnaissance, is unknown. If not sunk at least heavy damage is presumed by the effect of the 500 kg bomb.

Own losses:

Attacking formation: none.  
Reconnaissance formation: 2 Do 18's.  
(One of them made an emergency landing and was salvaged by our own forces; the other made an emergency landing off the Firth of Forth).

(For action report of the Air Force see War Diary, Part C, Vol. V).

In view of the present disposition of the forces of Commanding Admiral, West it is not possible to send out our surface forces; however, destroyers lying in immediate readiness are being sent out first of all to List on northerly course. Further commitment even of PT boats is reserved. It must be taken into account that the first sighting report was made at a distance of 300 miles from the river mouths and the enemy was moving

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away from there at medium speed. The weather (stiff north winds) considerably reduced the possibilities of operations by light naval forces.

Submarines in the North Sea are informed of the presence of the enemy; the submarines off the northern bases are ordered to expect the arrival of heavy enemy forces (position off the Firth of Moray unoccupied at present).

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It is possible that the operation by the enemy, which took place outside the range of the bomber formations of the Naval Air Force, and which did not give the impression that a further penetration into the Heligoland Bight was intended, was aimed by the enemy at putting an end to his own inactivity and forming an idea of our reaction to such thrusts. Protection of traffic from Norway to England or from the Skagerrak to England cannot have been the motive, since so far there has been no reason for this. It cannot be denied, however, that our intention to carry out the war against merchant shipping in the North Sea now also with surface forces became known to the enemy by his agents, especially as the beginning of such operations was scheduled for 26 Sept. The strictest secrecy regarding all operational intentions, greatest care during telephone conversations, avoidance of the mention of any fixed dates in operational orders, teletypes etc. is a necessary condition for successful and surprise operations by us and is once more impressed upon all commands.

The success of the aerial attack by the operational Air Force without any losses, entailing a distance of over 300 miles, is most satisfactory. It must be rated all the higher, since it was the first operation of the war by the British Fleet in the North Sea, which has shown it in a very impressive manner the dangers of an approach to the German coast and, beyond that, the striking power of the German Air Force which threatens it. Any attempt by surface forces to penetrate into the Heligoland Bight or through the Kattegat and Baltic Sea entrances into the Baltic Sea must appear completely hopeless to the British Fleet after today's experience - if it should be included at all in its operational plans.

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The disposition of the bomber formations of the operational Air Force - providing for only four Stuka Ju 88 planes on Westerland at present out of the small number so far available - rendered a more extensive use of the particularly suitable Stuka formations impossible. This must be regretted all the more as, after today's experience, the British are not likely to repeat the operation, and the use of stronger Stuka formations would probably have had an annihilating effect.

The co-operation of the reconnaissance formations of the Naval Air Force with the attacking formation of the operational Air Force, which is still rather inexperienced in flying over the sea, is particularly satisfactory; they stubbornly maintained contact with the enemy with remarkable persistence and despite the strongest fighter defense.

Our Radio Monitoring Service worked well. In addition to the observation of heavy enemy forces in the North Sea yesterday, it was possible to gain important information as to course and speed of certain enemy groups by the decoding of enemy radiograms to enemy planes.

The enemy anti-aircraft defense was of medium strength. The enemy fighters proved inadequate as to speed and daring.

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Situation in the Baltic Sea 26 Sept.

1. Laying of net barrages in the Sound; barrage patrol and escort of transports according to plan.
2. Danzig Bay: Minesweeping by Commander, Minesweepers under the protective fire of the SCHLESWIG HOLSTEIN.
3. Units: the 15th Patrol Boat Flotilla and single ships of the 15th Minesweeper Flotilla were commissioned. The 3rd Stuka Squadron of the 186th Group was assigned to the operational Air Force.

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Submarine Warfare:

Atlantic: Nothing to report.

The following put into Wilhelmshaven from long-range operations:

U "26" carried out minelaying operation.

U "29": sinking figures:  
aircraft carrier COURAGEOUS and  
19,507 GRT.

U "34" 11,357 GRT and one steamer of 4,600 tons brought in.

North Sea:

U "24" on return passage.

The two Finnish prizes brought into Hamburg were released by the Prize Court since apparently the Finns were not aware of the fact that wood is contraband. The cargo was confiscated.

Churchill announced in the House of Commons that up to today 141,000 tons of British shipping have been sunk by submarines:

1st week	65,000 tons
2nd week	46,000 tons
3rd week	21,000 tons
last six days	9,000 tons.

The British Government announced the following further hospital ships:

Motor ship DORSETSHIRE	No. 23	9,656 GRT
Steamer ST. ANDREWS	No. 24	2,702 GRT
AMARAPOORA	No. 7	8,173 GRT
OXFORDSHIRE	" 6	8,646 GRT

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Merchant Shipping:

1. Air reconnaissance in the Skagerrak established 60 neutral ships concentrated under the Norwegian and Danish coasts.

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2. From Norway and Latvia there is news of directives issued by the Governments which prohibit the preparation and dissemination of news on the movements of warships and merchantmen.
3. Emden harbor is temporarily closed for ore ships because of overcrowding.

Commanding Admiral, West requests that the pocket battleship SCHEER (at present maximum speed only 22 knots owing to material faults in the auxiliary engine) be repaired with all available means and as soon as possible, so as to have the ship ready again for her main task - operations against merchant shipping in the Atlantic.

The request conforms with the intentions of Naval Staff. The matter is already being investigated with Naval Staff, Service Division. Repair is scheduled for the earliest possible time.

evening      Start of the first operation against merchant shipping with destroyers in the Kattegat for interruption of heavy merchant traffic between the Scandinavian countries and England. In view of the enemy situation in the North Sea the original intention of Group West to send out the eleven destroyers available in two groups simultaneously, one each from the western part of the Baltic Sea and from the Heligoland Bight, unfortunately cannot be realized. The operation will be carried out only from the Baltic Sea with four destroyers and one torpedo boat flotilla. The forces will put out after twilight and will advance at dawn on 27 Sept. from the southern part of the Kattegat to the north for operations against merchant shipping in compliance with prize regulations.

Naval Staff does not put much faith in such a single operation, especially as in the Kattegat and Skagerrak contraband can be carried on small and medium-sized steamers almost exclusively in neutral territorial waters. Nevertheless the appearance of German forces for operations against merchant shipping in the Skagerrak and Kattegat will exercise a discouraging and hampering effect on the readiness of the neutral countries to allow shipping of contraband to proceed in this area.

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However a lasting effect can be expected only if German light forces (even in small numbers) continuously operate in this area as raiders, thus effecting a continuous control of merchant shipping. Orders to this effect have been issued to the Groups.

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Order No. 4 of the Fuehrer and Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces contains for the Navy the sanctioning of extended measures for the war against merchant shipping, as already given verbally by the Fuehrer on 23 Sept. as a result of the report by Commander in Chief, Navy.

The Naval Attaché in Rome reported confidentially that agreements have been reached between Italy and France regarding generous and liberal treatment of Italian merchant shipping during control and search.- The questions put by Commander in Chief, Navy to the Italian Naval Attaché in Berlin (purchase of submarines, supplying of German vessels, provision of information) are at present being examined in Rome. It may be expected that German wishes will be met to a great extent.

The question of the purchase of Russian submarines was thoroughly discussed with the Naval Attaché in Moscow, Commander von Baumbach. The Attaché considers the purchase very promising. There will probably be no objections by the Russians since Russia has already agreed to the equipment of German auxiliary cruisers. No detailed assessment of the state of readiness of the Russian submarines is available, but technical deficiencies and breakdowns must be reckoned with.

The question will first be discussed with the political authorities in the course of the visit of the Foreign Minister to Moscow; an inquiry will then be made by the Attaché.

The Attaché confirms the prevailing opinion that the Russian Government is convinced of the necessity of co-operating with Germany and is determined to adhere honestly to the agreements made. Russia firmly believes in the gradual decline and fall of British Imperialism.

1400

The following radiogram was transmitted in order to inform the pocket battleships of the situation regarding their operations against merchant shipping: "British battle cruisers spotted in home waters. South Atlantic forces reinforced by the cruiser VINDICTIVE and submarine REGENT. Formation of convoys off the east coast of South America. Friendly neutrals: Russia, Japan, Italy

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Spain. When sending out first radiogram report endurance."

In a later radiogram the pocket battleships were informed of the presence of heavy British forces, including battle cruisers, in the North Sea, and of the successful air attacks directed against them on 26 Sept.

Special Reports on the Enemy.

Great Britain:

Atlantic: According to a report from Reykjavik there is a British destroyer near the Vestmann's Islands off the west coast of Iceland.  
(This information is transmitted to the DEUTSCHLAND).

The cruiser EXETER (so far in the area of South America) is apparently bound for the West Indies (Trinidad).

A convoy consisting of 28 merchantmen, mostly tankers, left Gibraltar on 27 Sept. westbound and under escort including one Polish destroyer.

North Sea:

According to various radio monitoring reports, parts of the British Home Fleet are still at sea but were not detected by air reconnaissance of Commander, Naval Air, West.

Own Situation:

1. Two squadrons of He 111 of the 10th Air Division (Major General Geisler) succeeded at 1120 in attacking a group of British cruisers and destroyers in the outlet of the Firth of Forth and in scoring a hit by a 250 kg bomb on the forecastle of a cruiser by stick bombing. The attacking formation and reconnaissance planes returned without losses.
2. The operation against merchant shipping in the Kattegat proceeds according to plan. It is noteworthy that Danish lightships are reporting the movements of our forces in great detail.

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A note on this to the Danish Government demanding that Danish lightships stop reporting the activity of German forces is drawn up by the Foreign Office.

Baltic Sea:

Western Part of the Baltic Sea: Nothing to report.

War against Merchant Shipping, Submarine Chase, Mine Control Service: no forces out on operation.

Danzig Bay:

Shelling of Hela South by the SCHLESWIG HOLSTEIN and of Heisternest by the SCHLESIEN. The shore battery on Hela scored one hit on the SCHLESWIG HOLSTEIN (6 wounded).

Minesweeping by Commander, Minesweepers. A channel was cleared of mines so that battleships may also use their 15-cm guns.

New Units: The 9th Patrol Boat Flotilla was commissioned.

Gulf of Finland:

According to Russian reports, the Russian steamer METALLIST was torpedoed today at 1800 by an unidentified submarine in Narva Bay. Torpedoing appears most unlikely.

Submarine Warfare:

Nothing to report.

Atlantic:

U "30" put into Wilhelmshaven from a long-range operation. Sunk: 9,699 tons.

North Sea:

On the way into the operational area: North Sea (Scapa) U "10". Left for operations against merchant shipping in the Skagerrak and Kattegat: U "3".

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that the main interest of Group Baltic at present is directed, apart from the undoubtedly most important patrol of the Baltic Sea entrances, to the escort of transports and to minesweeping in Danzig Bay. Naval Staff believes that, considering the lack of any enemy action in the Baltic Sea and overestimating the activity of the Polish submarine ORZEL, which, though still in that area, is damaged, the Group is employing numerous forces for carrying out transport escorts which, in the opinion of Naval Staff, could be better used in operations against merchant shipping at the moment.

By pointing this out to the Group again, Naval Staff aims at achieving an intensification of the war against merchant shipping in the Baltic Sea. (For survey on the development of the war against merchant shipping in the Baltic Sea up to now see Part C, Vol. III).

In a Russian statement concerning negotiations between Estonia and the Soviet Union, the matter of the Polish submarine ORZEL, which escaped from Tallinn, is again taken up and it is stated as likely that the Estonian authorities made it easy for the submarine to escape. In connection with this a demand is made for security measures for the protection of Soviet waters.

According to information from the German Ambassador, the Estonian Government, under heavy pressure of a threatening assault, is willing to enter into a military alliance with Russia. In the fight for her sovereignty and inner national security Estonia is trying to meet Russia's wishes. Proposal: Fleet and air bases to be made available only in case of war, when the obligation to render support becomes effective.

The Russians demand Tallinn but appear to be willing to settle for Baltic Port or a harbor on Oesel. The Estonians wish to grant airfields only on the island.

The torpedoing (?) of the Russian steamer METALLIST gives the Russians a welcome pretext to insist on their demands.

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Special Reports on the Enemy.

Great Britain:

Atlantic:

The cruiser CAPETOWN, so far off the west coast of Africa, put into Gibraltar.

According to an agent's report, the following were lying in Kingston on 25 Sept.: a light British cruiser, a French submarine, 26 tankers, and 12 freighters laden with wood.

A Spanish report states that British ore ships usually leave Huelva by night and try to join convoys from Gibraltar. Single ships proceed as far as possible within the 3 mile limit.

According to reports of the Naval Attaché in Washington, heavy traffic consisting of British and neutral ships is starting from America to England. According to press reports, convoys are formed between Halifax and England for the greater part of the ships leaving the United States and Canada.

(The pocket battleships are informed of this).

North Sea:

According to radio monitoring, the main body of the Home Fleet is probably lying again in Scapa Flow. One cruiser (the GLASGOW?) near Rosyth in the evening of 27 Sept.

According to the British radio, the thrust of British naval forces into the central part of the North Sea on 26 Sept. was carried out for the purpose of picking up a damaged submarine. The British assertion that the ARK ROYAL is lying undamaged in harbor is maintained. As the FURIOUS also was detected at sea on 26 Sept. it remains an open question which of the two carriers was attacked by our Stukas. Further investigations are being made.

France:

Radio monitoring report: an unidentified minelayer has laid a minefield off the west coast of France. It was ordered to proceed to Lorient. (Probably barrage off Lorient or Ile de Groix).

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For survey of the enemy situation according to the Radio Monitoring Service (period 19 - 27 Sept.) see Radio Monitoring Report No. 4 War Diary, Part B, Volume (Radio Monitoring Reports).

Own Situation:

Atlantic:

Nothing to report.

North Sea:

Continuation of the operation begun on 26 Sept. against merchant shipping in the Kattegat and eastern part of the Skagerrak. Result so far is still unknown.

By order of Naval Staff the operation from the North Sea by seven destroyers under Commander, Torpedo Boats, West will be continued from west to east into the Skagerrak. Departure of the destroyers during the night of 28 Sept. The operation will be supported by air reconnaissance west and northwest of the operational area and over the Skagerrak. Cruisers and the remainder of the destroyers will be in immediate readiness from dawn.

An additional order of Commanding Admiral, West of 27 Sept. provides that the commitment of the destroyers is to be confined to their appearance off and in the Skagerrak and Kattegat. Thus the operation originally planned in the central part of the North Sea and west of our own declared area unfortunately cannot take place.

Baltic Sea:

Western Part of the Baltic Sea:

Barrage patrol in the Great and Little Belts reports an increase of steamer traffic. Continuation of laying of the net barrage off the Sound.

Central Part of the Baltic Sea:

Escort of troop transports of the 23rd Division by the BREMSE, FUCHS, and boats of the Minelaying Experimental Command.

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Danzig Bay:

The battleships took on ammunition. Mine control by forces of Commander, Minesweepers.

The Polish garrison on Hela has been asked to surrender. and lay down arms after 29 Sept. at 1000; so far no answer received. The attack against Hela is to begin on about 2 or 3 Oct. after the arrival of the railway battery "Gneisenau". A naval assault company and signal sections of the Navy are made available for this operation.

New Units: The 15th Minesweeper Flotilla was commissioned. The 13th Minesweeper Flotilla was commissioned but is not yet ready to proceed because of conversions.

Submarine Situation:

Atlantic:

Nothing to report.

U "35" western outlet of the Channel.

U "33" returning from long-range operation put into Wilhelmshaven. Thus six of the Atlantic submarines on return passage are still missing, including U "39" which is overdue and must now be assumed destroyed. It is possible that the crew was taken prisoner by the British. (The British radio reported the arrival of a large number of German submarine men in a PW camp).

North Sea:

Positions of North Sea submarines:

U "7"	north of Utsire
U "16"	off Skudesnes
U "13" }	off the Firth of Forth
U "21" }	

U "10" }	on the way into the operational area of the Orkneys
U "19" }	
U "22" }	

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U "20" }  
U "23" } on the way into the operational  
area of the Pentland Firth

U "3" Operations against merchant shipping  
off Bovbjerg

U "24" }  
U "14" }  
U "4" } on return passage from operational  
U "36" } areas.

The Swedish steamer NYLAND was sunk off Stavanger.

The following sinkings of British tankers by German submarines have become known from neutral sources:

1. REGENT TIGER  
(U "29") 10,200 GRT, 13.5 knots,  
14,000 tons of cargo,  
built 1938 in England.
2. KENNEBEC 5,500 GRT, 10 knots,  
7,400 tons of cargo,  
built 1919 in Scotland.
3. BRITISH INFLUENCE  
(U "29") 8,400 GRT, 12 knots,  
12,000 tons of cargo,  
built 1939 in England.
4. INVERLANE 9,100 GRT, 12.5 knots,  
13,000 tons of cargo,  
built 1938 at Bremen  
Vulkan dockyard.
5. INVERLIFFEY 9,500 GRT, 12.5 knots,  
13,000 tons of cargo,  
built 1938 at the Deutsche  
Werft.
6. CHEYENNE 8,800 GRT, 11.75 knots,  
12,300 tons of cargo,  
built 1930 in England.

These six ships total 51,500 GRT; they were all loaded as stated and were flying the British flag; the cargoes totalled 71,700 tons of oil.

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War against Merchant Shipping:

1. German losses in merchant shipping so far:

21,634 tons.

Seized by the enemy during the first 2 weeks:

3 ships totalling 13,196 GRT

In the most unfavorable case 2 further ships must be added, totalling 8,438 GRT  
altogether 21,634 GRT

4 further ships were scuttled by their crews before seizure, altogether 19,255 GRT

Thus lost at most altogether: 40,889 GRT

2. According to new Swedish hydrographic maps with the coastal channel newly marked with buoys, in Hanoë Bay east of Aarhus the buoy line extends to about 12 miles outside Swedish territorial waters so that here there is a possibility of searching suspicious vessels otherwise sailing within the 4 mile zone.

The British radio announced statement by the Admiralty, according to which a destroyer was involved in the air attack on a heavy cruiser reported by Germany; it is stated that no hit was scored.

According to a proposal of the Foreign Office, the following order is transmitted to the Atlantic forces for the purpose of sparing the interests of the friendly neutrals:

"Italian, Spanish, Japanese and Russian ships are merely to be stopped and the nature and destination of the cargo determined. No seizure or sinking. The prevention of contraband transports will be achieved by political means."

Groups Baltic and West receive an additional order:

"The order applies also to the forces assigned to the Groups. Facts regarding transport of contraband by ships of friendly nations are always to be reported immediately."

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In view of the fact that submarines run unnecessary risks or at least reveal their position unnecessarily when stopping steamers which they may not sink in any case because of political obligations, the directives issued are supplemented on 29 Sept. by an order to Commanding Admiral, Submarines to the effect that submarines may not stop ships of the above mentioned friendly nations at all, if they are recognized as such.

evening

The following decisive agreements are signed as a result of the negotiations of the German Foreign Minister in Moscow:

1. Joint political declaration of the German Government and the Soviet Government.
2. Russo-German border and alliance treaty.
3. Russo-German economic plan.

(For texts of the agreements see War Diary, Part B, Vol. V, page 13).

The Foreign Affairs Committee of the American Senate approved the Pittman Bill, providing for abolition of the embargo on arms, by 16 to 7 votes.  
(For further suggestions of the Chairman of the Senate Committee, Pittman, and brief report on the situation by the German Chargé d'Affaires see War Diary, Part B, Vol. V. Page 10).

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Conference on the Situation with Chief, Naval Staff:

Special Items:

1. Operations by the Pocket Battleships:

The main idea when sending out the pocket battleships at the present time is achievement of the greatest possible effect on the enemy in economic and military respects. The activity of the pocket battleships is to consist of a blow at the trade communications of the enemy. A direct effect by the seizure and sinking of numerous merchantmen and by the destruction of enemy convoys is hoped for. Beyond that an indirect effect is to be expected for some time by paralyzing enemy and neutral merchant traffic. Naval Staff is aiming at quick and decisive successes by sending out the pocket battleships, but is by no means willing to purchase such successes by the early loss of a pocket battleship. The enemy, through his hesitant conduct of the war, is undoubtedly trying to make the least possible sacrifices and to risk as little as possible. He would gain a great deal of prestige if he succeeded in intercepting and destroying the German pocket battleships with superior forces and without any risk to himself.

Any gain in prestige by Great Britain at present must be avoided. Thus operations by pocket battleships may consist only of short thrusts into the operational area. We must expect that soon the presence of the pocket battleships will become known because of seized ships, and that superior enemy forces will be sent out. Before, as a result of this, it becomes possible to surround and endanger the pocket battleships, these must shift their operational area and disappear into the wide expanse of the ocean.

While operations in the North Atlantic must take the great threat from heavy enemy forces into account, and therefore can only be introduced for a short time, conditions in the South Atlantic - where the SPEE is believed to be - are judged to be far more favorable. Here, enemy activity being slighter, longer operations against merchant shipping can be reckoned with.

Chief, Naval Staff desires that the pocket battleships be bound as little as possible to detailed orders from Naval Staff; he rather believes that extensive freedom of action must be given to both commanders who are to be regarded as

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particularly suited for their task. The directives issued to the pocket battleships as a supplement to the operational orders are, therefore, to serve as a guide from Naval Staff, which will make the commanders conversant with the opinion of Naval Staff, but otherwise leave them full freedom of operation.

Radiogram 1438/29, Radiogram 1612/29:

"Directive for operations by pocket battleships:

- a. Try to achieve the greatest possible effect, but no all-out engagement. Great Britain needs successes at present, thus any gain in prestige by her undesirable.
- b. Restriction to operational areas in accordance with operational order Par. No. 8 cancelled; all sea areas sanctioned.
- c. As to operational order Par. No. 18: Our own submarines are operating between 20° N and 64° N up to 20° W.

Naval Staff".

a n d

Radiogram 1552/29, Radiogram 1702/29:

"Guide for action in accordance with operational order Par. No. 7:

- a. In the North Atlantic sending out of battle cruisers and aircraft carriers to be expected after the pocket battleship is reported; thus make only short thrusts into various areas. Withdrawal to area free of traffic necessary before arrival of superior enemy forces near the position of the pocket battleship is possible.
- b. In the South Atlantic and Indian Ocean only slight enemy activity is to be expected, thus a longer sojourn in the operational area is possible.

Naval Staff."

(For further details on operations by pocket battleships see Part C, Vol.I).

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2. Considerations on the equipment and use of auxiliary cruisers:

At first the equipment of six auxiliary cruisers is planned, three of them being motorships and three turbine ships.

Armament: Six 15-cm., 2 twin-torpedo tubes (with G 7 v torpedoes), for one ship 1 triple tube (with G 7 a), two planes (He 114), 4 machine-guns C/30.

All auxiliary cruiser will receive installations for taking on 400 mines. It is, however, intended at first to equip only two auxiliary cruisers with 400 mines each, while the rest of the ships are to receive only a load of 60 mines.

Strength of the crew: 284 men including the prize crews. The ships need altogether about 60 days for conversion and about 2 - 3 weeks for exercises, so that departure of the first auxiliary cruiser may not be expected before the middle or end of November.

Fuel supply for about 40,000 miles. Endurance of twelve months from own supplies; beyond that supply from the "Etappe"\* is necessary.

Assignments: War against merchant shipping and minelaying.

Areas of operations planned: Indian Ocean, South Atlantic, Pacific Ocean.

Chief, Naval Staff considers the anti-aircraft armament so far planned to be too weak and orders an investigation as to whether it is possible to take on at least two 3.7-cm twin anti-aircraft guns.

3. Chief, Naval Staff orders the speedy erection of submarine shelters (concrete pens) for the submarine berths in the bases most vulnerable to air raids (Wilhelmshaven, Heligoland).

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"Etappe": Secret German naval organization for providing German naval units with information and supplies from foreign bases.

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Special Reports on the Enemy 29 Sept.Great Britain:Atlantic:

According to a Spanish report a convoy, consisting of 17 British merchantmen, 7 British tankers, and one Italian and Yugoslavian merchantman each, under British escort, left Gibraltar on 26 Sept. westbound.

Reports of the Attaché in Washington indicate that merchant traffic from harbors in North America is starting again to an increased extent.

North Sea:

In addition to the usual vessels in the area of the Orkneys the Radio Monitoring Service established radio traffic between four enemy destroyers and enemy planes engaged in a joint submarine chase northwest of the Shetlands.

Regarding the enemy air attack carried out as far as the Heligoland Bight (see Own Situation), the British Admiralty announced by radio that a number of planes failed to return. Successes were not mentioned.

There are further reports on armed enemy steam trawlers between Bergen and Aalesund, which are also said to be providing escort.

France:

Observations according the Radio Monitoring Service:

Calm situation unchanged. This is mainly attributable to:

- a. Good organization of the convoy traffic prepared in peacetime and quickly started after the outbreak of war.
- b. Overcoming of the nervousness of the first weeks caused by numerous submarine warnings. Single French vessels in the area of the west coast of Africa were sent out against German ships which were reported in the area of the Atlantic Islands some days ago.

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The French presume a German convoy.

The submarines AGOSTA and OUESSANT put into Fort de France (Martinique) on 29 Sept.

The French Agency Havas speaks of a new phase of operations at sea: Relief of German submarines after their radius of action has elapsed, formation of British and French convoys, extension of anti-submarine defense, arming of merchantmen.  
(For excerpt see War Diary, Part B, Vol V, Page 17).

Poland:

A surfaced submarine was sighted by different observers 2 miles east of Kollic, course northwest, speed about 10 knots.

The report sounds credible. Possibly it was the Polish submarine ORZEL.

Group Baltic sent out the 2nd PT Boat Flotilla for submarine chase and patrol of the area off the Sound and the Gjedser Channel.

Own Situation 29 Sept.:

Atlantic:

Nothing to report.

North Sea:

Completion of the first operation against merchant shipping by three destroyers and the 6th Torpedo Boat Flotilla as planned.

As was expected, merchant traffic in the Skagerrak and Kattegat which could be seized was slight, since contraband and suspicious shipping uses the territorial waters and is often escorted by neutral naval vessels. Despite that, the initial success thus far achieved must be regarded as satisfactory. Forty-five steamers were searched, many of them not carrying contraband or proceeding in ballast. Four steamers were brought in (wood, cellulose, food).

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The effects of the war against merchant shipping in the North Sea have resulted in many neutral ships refusing to proceed to England. On the other hand, escort of neutral ships by neutral naval vessels until they are met by British warships is being considered.

Thrust against merchant shipping by Commander, Torpedo Boats, West from the North Sea is begun as planned, supported by continuous air reconnaissance in the area west of Hanstholm - Utsira and morning reconnaissance in the Skagerrak and Kattegat.

In the morning of 29 Sept. two groups of British bombers flew into the Heligoland Bight and carried out an unsuccessful attack on destroyers south of Heligoland. When withdrawing to the southwest one group came into contact with planes of the 26th Heavy Fighter Wing of the 1st Air Corps. Five enemy planes were shot down.

Baltic Sea:

Barrage patrols and escort of transports as planned. Nothing to report.

Danzig Bay:

No answer has yet been received from the Polish garrison on Hela to the demand for surrender. At 1700 the enemy resumed his activity.

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Submarine Situation:

Atlantic:

U "35" western outlet of the Channel.

North Sea:

U "22" reported the sinking of a British submarine west of our own declared area. (The submarine was recalled by Commanding Admiral, Submarines, since there is only one torpedo left aboard and the commander has been taken ill).

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U "21" on return passage from the Firth of Forth  
reported sinking an enemy destroyer on 22 Sept.

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War against Merchant Shipping by Submarines.

On 29 Sept. the Norwegian steamer SOLAAS (1,368 tons)  
was sunk.

The dissatisfaction of the Scandinavian neutrals on their shipping losses through submarine warfare is increasing and expresses itself in protests as well as in requests to allow certain ships to pass through.

The Danish Government has asked Germany not to hinder Danish export of food to Britain so that Denmark will be able to import fodder by way of the British Isles which will, in turn, bring about the necessary condition for export of food to Germany. Great Britain allegedly has sent approval to the Danish Government that she continue her export program to Germany until the end of 1939. Thus Germany faces a decision of far-reaching political consequence.

Chief, Naval Staff insists in principle on the strategic demand to carry on war against Great Britain ruthlessly and without any concessions either to her or to any neutral country. However, in consideration of the present uncertain political negotiations, Naval Staff temporarily withdraws its demands. Chief, Naval Staff reports to the Fuehrer that the concession to Denmark means a break in the blockade of England and is possible only until such time as, in the course of further developments in the political situation, political attitudes are clearly defined and the "Siege of Britain" begins. (See Part B, Vol. V, Page 25).

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Merchant Shipping:

1. Own Shipping:

Three ships coming from overseas returned home by way of Norway.

According to the Radio Monitoring Service, the steamer CHEMNITZ which left Las Palmas on 23 Sept. was seized on 29 Sept. by the French submarine

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PONCELET west of the Azores and is to be brought into Casablanca as a prize.

2. Neutral Shipping:

- a. Traffic in Swedish territorial waters in the Sound is still very lively (28 Sept. 16 ships suspected of carrying contraband proceeding westward). The demand for a possibility of controlling merchant shipping in the Sound is becoming more and more urgent. The question of restricting the recognition of the Swedish territorial limit to 3 miles and the extension of our Sound barrage up to that limit is at present still the subject of a thorough investigation with the Foreign Office. Previous considerations have shown that Sweden will need at least two or three months, probably even more considering the weather in autumn and winter, in order again to withdraw merchant traffic from German control by dredging a new navigable channel within the 3 mile zone. (For details see War Diary, Part C, Vol. VIII).
- b. German control measures are resulting in a restriction of neutral shipping to England. According to Danish reports, Great Britain has allegedly been asked to send her own ships to Denmark to take on the cargoes.
- c. Up to 200 ships are lying in the Downs waiting to be cleared by the British merchant control authorities. The anchorage is mainly within the British 3 mile zone. A very large part of the goods passing the Channel is subject to ruthless confiscation following control. Churchill declared in the House of Commons on 26 Sept. that during the first two weeks of the war Great Britain confiscated 67,000 tons of cargo more than were lost by the sinking of British ships.

Final settlement of the treaty of alliance between Soviet Russia and Estonia:

The Russians receive the right to lease bases for the Navy and a certain number of airfields for the Air Force on the Estonian islands of Oesel and Dagoe and in Baltiski (Baltic Port).

Estonia remains a sovereign state. (For wording see War Diary, Part B, Vol. VII).

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Special Reports on the Enemy 30 Sept.

Great Britain:

Atlantic:

28 Sept. 1900: a convoy consisting of 15 ships left Gibraltar, westbound.

Seaplane carrier ALBATROSS was spotted in waters off the west coast of Africa.  
(Transmitted to the pocket battleships).

North Sea:

The Radio Monitoring Service states:  
Commander of the Battle Cruiser Squadron not in Scapa on 30 Sept.; Commander, 8th Destroyer Flotilla in Scapa.

30 Sept. 1100 unsuccessful attack by a British submarine on a German submarine, with planes participating in the submarine chase.

In the morning of 30 Sept. British bombers were over the area of the North Frisian Islands. One unidentified submarine near Borkum.

It has become known from a special source that Great Britain will not repeat air attacks on the North Sea coast until flight over a less heavily defended area than this coast is possible by the transfer of suitable air forces to France. Attacks are then to be carried out one after the other by single planes.

This information is viewed as very unreliable since a more favorable possibility of approach to the North Sea coast than that from the sea cannot be seen, unless the enemy sees a difficulty that is hard to overcome in crossing over the North Sea into an area where weather conditions are not known.

France:

Nothing to report.

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Own Situation 30 Sept.

Atlantic:

The only submarine still in the Atlantic, U "35", reports that it has been in the area of Portland - Casquets, Dieppe - Hastings for a week. It has encountered very heavy patrol by planes, submarines and small surface forces. Large warships, transports, or convoys were not met. There was heavy traffic off the English coast and very slight traffic off the French coast, even off Le Havre. War against merchant shipping in compliance with prize regulations was impossible in the Channel on account of enemy patrol. South of the Scilly Islands a convoy was attacked and two successes were probably achieved. Slight damage was caused by depth charges.

The pocket battleship GRAF SPEE reports that she sank the steamer CLEMENT 120 miles southeast of Pernambuco. As the steamer made use of her radio she was machine-gunned by the ship's plane.

The report lifts the veil that has lain until now over the position of the SPEE. The fact that the South Atlantic pocket battleship first comes to the notice of the enemy is considered most favorable regarding its effect on his decisions. The more strongly enemy counteraction is concentrated on the pocket battleship off the east coast of South America - which is at present still not very dangerous - the more favorable may be the prospects of success for the DEUTSCHLAND, which is probably in the north, and the stronger will also be the effect on the enemy of the second German pocket battleship which appears.

North Sea:

Continuation of the operation against merchant shipping in the Skagerrak and Kattegat. Partial result achieved so far: 49 ships stopped, seven of them brought into Kiel. No mines were established during the exploratory sweep of Commander, Minesweepers, West with the JAGUAR and the 6th Torpedo Boat Flotilla (night of 30 Sept.) in the Heligoland Bight.

Early in the morning of 30 Sept. two British planes (of American origin) were shot down above the clouds by fighters over the North Frisian Islands. (Numerous charts were salvaged).

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Baltic Sea:

Western Part: Second line of nets of net barrage "Jade 1" was laid. Barrage patrol by motor minesweeper flotillas and the 17th Submarine Chaser Flotilla.

Submarine chase by PT boats and motor minesweepers in the western part of the Baltic Sea.

War against Merchant Shipping: Beginning of an operation against merchant shipping by the GRILLE, BREMSE, minesweeper M "82", and six ships of the 13th Patrol Boat Flotilla in the area of Hanoë Bay, east coast of Sweden, Gotland - Oeland. Support by two squadrons of the Naval Air Force.

Danzig Bay: Continuation of the blockade and minesweeping. On the land front occupation of Ceynowa. In the morning air attack on Heisterneest harbor by a naval squadron.

Submarine Situation:

Atlantic: U "32" and "53" returned home from long-range operations.

North Sea:

U "23" put into Wilhelmshaven again owing to breakdown of the fuel pump. U "19" was also ordered to return because of damage to the fuel tank.

Still in position in the North Sea:

U "7" north of Utsire  
U "13" off the Firth of Forth  
U "3" south of the Skagerrak  
U "16" off Skudesnes  
U "21", "22" and "19" on return passage.  
Bound for area of operations:  
U "10" and U "20".

U "36" put into Kiel. Sinkings: 2,800 tons.  
Captured: The Swedish steamer ALGERIA 1,540 tons.

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Merchant Shipping:

According to a radio monitoring report, the French submarine PONCELET reported the steamer AMASIS off Gibraltar on 25 Sept.; she had left Las Palmas homeward bound on 23 Sept. with a valuable cargo.

According to a survey of the Ministry of Transportation, 69 German ships totalling 244,205 GRT were engaged in shipping ore in the Baltic Sea on 22 Sept.

According to a report of the captain of a Swedish steamer, many ships are lying in Goeteborg waiting for assembly of convoys south of the Norwegian coast.

Passage to Norway: A Consulate report from Trondheim reveals that Norwegian pilots are bound to absolute neutrality and silence as to the movements of German ships. Furthermore all Norwegian pilots are interested in the continuation of German shipping in Norwegian waters.

Special Items regarding Operations against Merchant Shipping by Submarines.

- The British radiowarned British merchant shipping of the expected change in German submarine policy which allegedly intends to regard merchantmen as warships. Merchantmen are to prepare themselves to counter it.

Considerations on the sinking without warning of merchantmen definitely recognized as enemy vessels, which are being drawn up together with the Foreign Office, have not yet been concluded (the Fuehrer approved this measure in principle on 23 Sept.):

1. The statements of enemy Governments and press commentaries show that the majority of enemy merchantmen is now armed. Though, in accordance with International Law, the armament as such is intended only as a means of defense and does not give the ship the character of a warship, several statements of enemy leaders that armed steamers would represent a decisive means in the fight against the submarine menace and orders to this effect to the merchantmen show a fundamentally different view, which makes it appear almost impossible for submarines to carry on the war against merchant shipping strictly in compliance with prize regulations.

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There is also the fact that air patrol in the area of the British and French coasts constitutes a further heavy threat to our submarines, especially as attacks by planes on submarines engaged in stopping steamers must be regarded as a very powerful weapon.

2. Under these conditions it must be the goal of Naval Staff to free submarines from the restrictions of the war against merchant shipping in compliance with prize regulations as soon as possible and to carry on operations against merchantmen as ruthlessly and vigorously as possible. However, the current political negotiations do not yet allow of the fulfilment of these military demands.
3. The number of our submarines is very small. Naval Staff must, therefore, endeavor to secure the greatest possible number of submarines for German naval operations when political restrictions are removed and it comes to the decisive battle against Great Britain, so that the "Siege of Britain" then becomes an urgent necessity. In view of this it is of secondary importance whether at the present time of pending negotiations our submarines miss single neutral or enemy steamers, the gain of which for Great Britain is in no relation to a submarine loss for Germany which might result from intercepting the steamers.

The question as to whether under these conditions it is advisable now already to discontinue operations against merchant shipping by submarines completely (except against convoys and troop transports) is not to be decided until after discussions with Commanding Admiral, Submarines during the next few days. In principle, however, it seems to be appropriate to issue new instructions for operations against merchant shipping in the North and Baltic Seas. The demand of the Foreign Office is aimed at avoiding the sinking of neutral ships, in order not to aggravate the present political and economic negotiations (particularly with the Scandinavian countries). However, instead of sinking, extensive use should be made of the possibility of bringing in neutral ships for search and, if possible, confiscation of the cargo.

This demand makes it necessary to forego operations against merchant shipping by submarines in the Baltic and North Seas at present, as they are not in a position to bring in merchantmen owing to lack of prize crews, and instead to intensify

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operations by surface forces in these areas.

The considerations are laid down in the following orders of Naval Staff to the Groups and Commanding Admiral, Submarines:

I. Most secret teletype:

- "1. In view of current political negotiations no sinkings of neutral shipping in the North and Baltic Seas.
2. Discontinue operations against merchant shipping by submarines in the North and Baltic Seas.
3. Special importance is attached to the continuation of intensive operations by surface forces in the North and Baltic Seas.
4. Protection of merchant shipping off Skudesnes - Lindesnes by submarine remains effective."

II. Most secret teletype as an annex to I.:

"Submarines are prohibited further operations against merchant shipping in the North and Baltic Seas, as far as they consist of stopping and searching. Attacks on enemy convoys, troop transports, and ships taking measures which endanger the submarine are still permitted."

1430 Group West and Commander, Submarines, Naval Staff are informed that Naval Staff attaches great importance to the cutting of enemy cables in the North Sea as well as overseas off Land's End. Reference is made to the preliminary instruction of 23 Sept. Report intentions.

2330 Radiogram from the SPEE:

"Engines ready. Heavy Diesel oil 9,500 tons, carbonic acid and arctic oil for cold-storage plant up to the end of November. Radio reception only by night."

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This report needs later investigation regarding supplies of carbonic acid and arctic oil, since the ship was to have been equipped for six months. Evidently consumption is higher in the tropics than was originally expected. It is intended to ensure supplies from South America or Mexico.

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GLOSSARY FOR AUG./SEPT. 1939

Etappe Secret German naval organization for providing German naval units with information and supplies from foreign bases.

"Gotland" } Security operations against Russia in the Baltic  
"Ulfilas" } Sea. Abolished by pact with Russia.

"Stab" (code) A machine code used for top secret matter by staff officers only.

"Ulla" Submarine patrol in the eastern entrance of the Channel. Extended to northern harbors and the Great Fisher Bank. Later minelaying.

"Weiss"  
operation War against Poland.

(Bremen)





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